The Tasmanian Advantage
natural and cultural features of Tasmania

a resource manual aimed at
developing knowledge and interpretive skills
specific to Tasmania
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The Parks and Wildlife Service, DTPHA, gratefully acknowledges the time, enthusiasm and information supplied by specialist staff from the Nature Conservation Branch, DPIWE. Without such specialist support there would not be a scientifically informed Parks and Wildlife Service, able to share such a wealth of information with the tourism industry.

Many and varied people have contributed information ideas and assistance to the creation of this manual: from tour operators and accommodation providers to government agencies. Thanks to all those who have assisted with this compilation, for your support, enthusiasm and direction during the many and varied stages.
Foreword

The Tasmanian Advantage
Natural and cultural features of Tasmania

On behalf of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, I am pleased to present *The Tasmanian Advantage*, an informative interpretation manual of interest to everyone involved in the environmental tourism industry.

This compilation of resources available from various government agencies will assist the environmental tourism industry to expand their knowledge and better their practices for the long-term sustainability of tourism in Tasmania.

As identified in recent strategies such as *Tourism 21* and the *Tasmanian Experience Strategy*, there is growing demand on tourism operators in Tasmania to meet and exceed the expectations of visitors to the State. The Parks and Wildlife Service has broadly expanded on some of the key attributes that visitors come to Tasmania to experience – nature and cultural heritage. By using this manual and better understanding the values of the natural and cultural features of Tasmania, the industry will be more able to sustain the growth of tourism in Tasmania.

The manual is the first comprehensive information resource produced by the Parks and Wildlife Service for the environmental tourism industry and will prove to be useful for the experienced operators and staff, as well as those who are not so familiar with Tasmania’s many unique natural and cultural values.

This initiative was made possible through financial support from the Environmental Tourism Training and Employment Program with assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs and the Tasmanian Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training.

Jim Bacon MHA
Premier
*Minister for Tourism, Parks and Heritage*
*Minister for the Arts*
1. Introduction

Tasmania is one of the world’s premier travel destinations. Its magnificent natural attractions, rich cultural history and industries such as craft, food and wine combine to draw people to the State. It is not surprising that environmental tourism has become a significant contributor to the State’s economy.

Either directly or indirectly, the natural and cultural values of Tasmania impact upon all those involved in the tourism industry in this State. Whether you run a guided walk, a bed and breakfast house, or are employed in the service industry, being able to understand, share and appreciate the natural and cultural attributes of Tasmania are vital aspects of your business.

The aim of the manual

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service has compiled this manual with the aim of benefiting the environment, the tourism industry, employees, and visitors by:

- setting a basic standard of knowledge of the natural and cultural features of Tasmania in a concise resource that will include specific information;
- developing the interpretive skills of tour guides, operators, activity leaders and customer service staff;
- sustainably combining tourism within national parks, reserved areas and involving flora, fauna and cultural sites through the adoption of appropriate practicess;
- increasing the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the diversity of Tasmania’s flora and fauna;
- helping to provide enriching experiences for visitors to Tasmania while minimising their impact on the environment.

For the purposes of this manual the State has been divided into three regions. The regions are a combination of areas already defined by Parks and Wildlife Service, Tourism Tasmania and Forestry Tasmania:

a) South and Central Plateau— including Hobart, the Huon Valley, the Derwent Valley, Mt Field National Park, the Southwest, Port Arthur and the Central Plateau.

b) East and Northeast— including Maria Island, Freycinet, the Midlands, Mt William National Park, Bridport, Launceston, the Tamar Valley and Ben Lomond National Park.

c) West and Northwest— including Lake St Clair–Cradle Mountain National Park, Queenstown, Strahan, Corrina, Narawntapu National Park, the Meander Valley, Smithton, Rocky Cape National Park and Wynyard.

The Islands of Tasmania are included in the appropriate geographic region.
HOW TO FIND NOTESHEETS

This symbol, when shown in the sidebar, refers to a notesheet relating to the subject in the text.

All notesheets are included in the back of the manual. There are various categories of notesheets including:
- Caring for nature
- Geodiversity
- Great bushwalks
- Living with wildlife
- Natural values
- Parks & places
- Plants
- Threats
- Threatened habitats
- Threatened species
- Visiting ...
- Walking notes
- Wildlife

Notesheets

The notesheets provide concise, factual information and also refer to sources where more detailed information can be found. The notesheet series was produced by Parks and Wildlife in collaboration with Nature Conservation Branch and the Tasmanian Heritage Office and are available in PDF format from the Parks and Wildlife website.

<www.parks.tas.gov.au>

Notesheets are continually created and altered and we recommend that you check the website regularly and print a hard copy of each new/updated notesheet in order to maintain an up-to-date reference folder.

How to use the notesheets

- Training resources: use these notesheets as training material for your staff.
- Visitor information: with access to this manual, visitors will be able to gather accurate facts and information to suit their interests.
- Research: the notesheets contain references to further sources of information and contacts for those who wish to gather more detailed information.
- Customer handouts: photocopied sheets will provide your guests with information as well as a souvenir of their stay in Tasmania.

We encourage you to photocopy and distribute the notesheets to your staff and visitors to enable them to better understand and value our natural areas more fully.

Interpretation tips and useful references

Throughout the manual there are many and varied hints, stories and facts to assist in livening up the information you are passing to your guests. Most importantly meet and talk with local people and specialists and spend time in your local libraries and history rooms.

We encourage you to look up the USEFUL REFERENCES, in the reference section in the back of the manual, where each reference is listed in more detail.

Occasionally you will notice an INTERPS TIP on the side of the text. This is a brief interpretation tip to assist with interpretive ideas.
Minimal impact tourism

Every time we visit our national parks, forests and state reserves we have an impact on the habitat and creatures we have specifically come to see. However, as tour operators, if we can encourage our guests, employees and fellow operators to stick to the following philosophies and guidelines we will assist in the preservation and conservation of the environment.

FUEL STOVE ONLY AREAS – FSOA

Within some reserves there are areas where portable cooking stoves are to be used instead of campfires. These include the entire Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and other national parks and reserves that have signs indicating they are fuel stove only areas (FSOA). FSOA are designated to reduce the risk of wildfire and to minimise the impact of firewood collection and fireplace scarring. We suggest that you minimise impact by using a fuel stove instead of a campfire at all times. In particular, do not light fires on days of total fire ban or on islands with roosting or breeding seabirds.

PACK IT IN – PACK IT OUT

Do the bush a favour and take your rubbish out with you. Rubbish looks terrible and spoils the experience for those who follow. Most rubbish won’t decompose and animals often try to eat it. Rubbish includes food scraps and wrappers, twist ties and sanitary products.

WALK SAFELY AND SOFTLY

Try to minimise your impact with every step you take. Always stay in the centre of the track and be prepared to go through the mud—attempting to skirt bogs only makes them bigger and causes more environmental damage. It is also usually much quicker to walk straight through. Keep your party size to a minimum to reduce social pressure and environmental impact. Alpine vegetation is particularly sensitive to trampling and is extremely slow to regenerate. You can assist in minimising damage by stepping on rocks rather than vegetation whenever possible.

RESPECT YOURSELF

Ensure everyone in the group carries plenty of water. It is easy to become dehydrated. Take high-energy food with you as well. A first aid kit and sunscreen are essential, and take suitable clothing to cope with rapid changes in weather. For your own safety always wear a helmet when biking or riding.
WASH YOUR GEAR

Root rot, Phytophthora cinnamomi, is present in Tasmania. It is transmitted in mud and soil and can kill native plants. To help stop the spread of Phytophthora make sure you start your adventure with clean equipment including pack, bike (tyres, frames and gears) and tent poles and pegs and shoes. When you return home be sure to wash everything thoroughly and remove all the dirt.

RESPECT OTHERS

Give way to other users on a trail. If you are riding, slow down to their pace and let them know you are there well before you pass. Be particularly careful near horses on shared trails: stop and let the horses pass you. Ride at a pace that allows you to stop within the distance you can see. Ride in single file where the track is narrow or when passing other users. Riding at off-peak times will minimise encounters with other users. Heed all directional and access signs, and leave gates as you find them.

DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE

Experiencing wildlife in its natural environment brings us in touch with a different world where people are the outsiders. Wildlife live by natural rules, not by human values. If we try to feed or pat a wild animal this will have an impact on it, particularly as more and more people visit our natural areas.

Feeding wildlife does them no favours. Every time an animal has 'just a little scrap of food', it loses a little more of the wildness that makes it so special. The tamer a wild animal becomes the more likely it is to turn into a pest or a ‘pet’ and the less likely it is to live a natural life.

WILDLIFE ON THE ROAD

Visitors to Tasmania are often distressed at the high number of road-killed animals they see. Wildlife often cross Tasmania’s country roads at night. Being aware of this and taking care could save an animal’s life and avoid damage to your car. Local populations of native animals have been known to become extinct due to road mortality. If travelling at night, scan the sides of the road for wildlife (this will also help you keep alert). Remember that animals such as Tasmanian devils are very hard to see against a black bitumen road, particularly when it is wet. Driving more slowly at night will give both you and the animal a better chance of avoiding a collision. Take note of wildlife warning signs. They are there to advise you of known ‘hot spots’. Animals react differently to approaching cars and it is best to let the animal move off first before passing.
ON THE BEACH
Between September and March some of the 21 species of seabirds mate and breed along the Tasmanian coastline and offshore islands. It is important to avoid seabird breeding colonies: where there are concentrations of seabird burrows avoid walking nearby. Penguin ‘runways’ (the area between penguin burrows and the water) should be kept clear, especially at dawn and dusk between September and March, as there may be nests, eggs and chicks in the vicinity. Hooded plovers, terns and other shore nesting birds also use the beaches to breed. It is important to walk well below the high tide mark, as the birds tend to nest and hide above the high tide mark. If visiting offshore islands or areas where there are breeding seabirds, please use fuel stoves and do not light fires.

USEFUL REFERENCE
Many publications offer guides to minimise the impacts of various activities. These include:

IN THE RIVERS
The many rivers that flow throughout Tasmania provide vital habitat for a variety of native fauna and flora. The freshwater habitat of Tasmania provides our native fish with somewhere to live, food and shelter. Such habitat is created by natural formations and debris in rivers. Various species of fish, lobster and other fauna live and lay eggs inside submerged hollow logs, and the decomposition of vegetation adds to the available food. At times this debris can block and alter water flow, however it is important that it is not removed; it should be dragged to the side of the river or adjusted to assist the water to flow.

In some regions of Tasmania native woody debris is being placed in modified water courses as a step towards improving the habitat for native fauna populations.
2. Tasmania in brief

Until roughly 12,000 years ago, Tasmania was joined to the mainland of Australia which, in part, explains both the similarities and the differences between their flora and fauna. During the Great Ice Age, the sea level was much lower and Bass Strait was mostly dry land. As the ice melted, the sea level rose, separating Tasmania from the mainland and creating many small islands, which are the tops of the underwater ridges rising from the floor of Bass Strait.

The Furneaux Group of islands at the eastern tip of Tasmania and King Island at the western tip are remnants of the link that once existed. The flora and fauna of Tasmania and mainland Australia have evolved independently since the time of separation of the two land masses.

Location

Tasmania is 240 kilometres south of the Australian mainland. Located between 40°S and 43.30°S, it is the island state of Australia, surrounded by the Southern Ocean (to the south and west), the Tasman Sea (to the east) and Bass Strait (to the north). Tasmania comprises numerous islands, from the Furneaux Group in the northeast, down to Macquarie Island located far south of Tasmania at 55°S.

Size

At 68,000 square kilometres Tasmania is less than one-third the area of Victoria (the smallest mainland Australian state) and in total comprises just 0.9 per cent of the Australian land mass.

Tasmania is comparable in size with the Republic of Ireland, West Virginia (USA) and Hokkaido (Japan).

Despite being a small island, Tasmania boasts eight mountains that are greater than 1,500 metres in height and 28 mountains that are more than 1,220 metres high. It is estimated that there are over 330 offshore islands surrounding Tasmania.

Climate

The temperate maritime climate of Tasmania results from the absorption and storage of heat by the surrounding oceans, causing mild winters and cool summers. No point on the island is more than 115 kilometres from the sea.

Tasmania has more variation in landscape over short distances than any other part of Australia due to topographical variations such as mountains, hills and valleys. The topography also affects the wind intensity, rainfall and other aspects of Tasmania’s climate.

The prevailing westerly winds, the Roaring Forties, are laden with moisture as they are forced to rise over the western, central and southern highlands. The winds cool and release much of their moisture before reaching eastern Tasmania. This westerly pattern occurs for much of the year, producing various amounts of precipitation, mostly during winter and early spring. It also results in often cloudy and wet conditions in the south and west. The north and east of the State are much drier.
The east coast and adjacent ranges can experience heavy rainfall, usually during spring and summer.

The annual rainfall gradient throughout Tasmania ranges from more than 2,400 mm (95 inches) near Queenstown on the west coast to as low as 560 mm (22 inches) on the east coast.

Snow can occur in highland areas above 900 metres at any time of the year. The heaviest falls tend to be between July and August. Although there is not a permanent snow line in Tasmania, the snow often remains in the highlands until well into the summer months.

On average, Tasmania experiences an 8°C difference between summer and winter maximum temperatures; the small variation is due to the proximity of the ocean. Variation in temperature throughout the day, however, is governed more by elevation and distance from the coast. On the coast, the daily temperature varies by about 7°C, but inland the variation is almost double.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average temperatures of Tasmania’s seasons</th>
<th>max</th>
<th>min</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer (December, January, February)</td>
<td>21°C (70°F)</td>
<td>12°C (54°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn (March, April, May)</td>
<td>17°C (63°F)</td>
<td>9°C (48°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter (June, July, August)</td>
<td>12°C (54°F)</td>
<td>5°C (41°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring (September, October, November)</td>
<td>17°C (65°F)</td>
<td>8°C (46°F)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population**

It is estimated that there were between 5,000 and 10,000 Aboriginal people living in Tasmania before the arrival of Europeans. European settlement began in 1803 and there were 70,000 European people living in Tasmania by 1847 (of which 35,000 were convicts, or former convicts). By the 1870s, the European population had more than doubled to 147,000.

Today the population of Tasmania is approximately 472,000 and it has the lowest population growth (regularly below 1 per cent) of all states and territories in Australia.

The population of Tasmania is now largely decentralised and many Tasmanians live outside the cities. The population distribution is roughly: 49 per cent live in Hobart and the south of the State; 28 per cent in the north and 23 per cent in the northwest.

**Populations of Tasmania**

- Greater Hobart Area 184,000
- Launceston 94,000
- Devonport 26,000
- Burnie 21,000
National parks in Tasmania

Tasmania was promoted very early in its development as an island with restorative powers and an invigorating climate. As a result, in the 1890s over 18,000 tourists were recorded as having visited Tasmania during the summer months.

The call for sizeable national parks to protect flora and fauna as well as encourage recreation became louder. In 1904 Crown lands at Schouten Island and Freycinet Peninsula were made into reserves. A wide variety of flora and fauna were represented there, and although the land held very little commercial potential, the picturesque scenery, delightful walks and opportunities for recreation were ideal for tourism ventures.

Today Tasmania boasts 19 national parks.

From the first national park declared at Mt Field in 1916 through to the latest in the Kent Group of islands in Bass Strait during 2001, the following list details the dates of declaration of each of Tasmania’s 18 national parks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt Field</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freycinet</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartz</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mole Creek Karst</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Lomond</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strzelecki</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Cape</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Island</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount William</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narawntapu</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls of Jerusalem</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Apsley</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bruny</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savage River</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasman</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Group</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA)

The WHA is the Australian stronghold of temperate rainforest and alpine vegetation. The landforms are of immense beauty and reveal a rich and complex geology. Aboriginal occupation for more than 36,000 years, combined with nearly two centuries of European settlement, has shaped the natural environment considerably.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is made up of a number of national parks and other reserves. These include:

- Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park
- Southwest National Park
- Wild Rivers National Park
- Hartz Mountains National Park
- Mole Creek Karst National Park (part)
- Walls of Jerusalem National Park
- Central Plateau Conservation Area
- Devils Gullet State Reserve
- Meander Forest Reserve
- Liffey Falls Forest Reserve (part)
- Drys Bluff Forests Reserve

Marine reserves

Tasmania has approximately 5,400 kilometres of coastline straddling the climatic zone known as cool temperate. The State has more coastline per unit area than any other state in Australia due to the fact that it is surrounded by islands and includes a myriad of bays and estuaries.

The flooding of Bass Strait, the geographical location at the southernmost extremity of Australia and the effects of the winds, seas, swells and tides have generated a number of strikingly different marine communities that are recognised as some of the most biologically diverse in the world. Marine fauna include delicate basket stars and sea dragons, rarely seen endemic handfish, playful dolphins, seals, penguins, great white sharks and even whales on their way to more southerly waters.

Conserving and appropriately managing our marine ecosystems is important to the Tasmanian lifestyle and economy for they support valuable fishing, aquaculture and tourist industries. Most reserves declared before 1960 were wildlife sanctuaries for wading birds. It was not until 1991 that the Tasmanian Government announced a strategy for marine conservation and declared four marine reserves throughout the State. The marine nature reserves comprise 3.4 per cent of the State waters and include areas such as Governor Island (50 ha), Maria Island (1,500 ha), Ninepin Point (60 ha) and Tinderbox (45 ha). A marine reserve at Macquarie Island (75,000 ha) was proclaimed in July 2000.
Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)

Australia’s national forest policy statement of 1992 set out broad goals for managing forests for conservation as well as for timber production. The federal and state governments agreed upon these goals. To put this national forest policy into practice, the governments then drew up agreements for managing and using these specific forest regions. These are the Regional Forest Agreements or RFAs, and they cover 12 different forest regions in Australia. Victoria, for example, has five RFAs.

Tasmania was the first state of Australia to be fully covered by one RFA that applies to all public and private forests. The RFA of Tasmania was signed in 1997 creating a 20-year agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments, which is to be reviewed every five years through an independent body.

HOW THE RFA WORKS IN TASMANIA

The RFA set up a framework for the way Tasmania’s forests are to be managed and used. It had three main objectives:

• to establish a reserve system, based on nationally agreed-upon criteria, that is “comprehensive, adequate and representative” (the CAR System, see below);

• to ensure forest resources are managed in a sustainable manner;

• to foster a timber industry that is innovative and internationally competitive.

The CAR system covers more than 40% of Tasmania’s forests. By definition:

• Comprehensive means the reserve system covers the full range of different forest types in the State

• Adequate means it incorporates areas large enough to sustain the long-term survival of animal and plant populations

• Representative means it reflects the full diversity of forest life.

The system ensures that there are adequately preserved forest ecosystems thriving in their natural state, free from major human impacts.

WHERE TO NOW?

Each RFA contains social, environmental and economic obligations for the federal and state governments to meet and is reviewed every five years to ensure these obligations and objectives are met. The ongoing sustainable management of Tasmania’s forests involves aspects such as:

• maintaining Tasmania’s commitment to provide 300,000 cubic metres of sawlogs per annum;

• creating new plantations with management programs to more than replace the amount of timber locked in reserved areas;

• the removal of Commonwealth controls on woodchip exports to improve harvesting and minimise waste.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Tasmanian Sea Shells, Vol 2, 1992, Richmond, M.

Between Tasmanian Tide Lines, a field guide. 1999. Tasmanian Marine Naturalists Associations


<www.fishonline.com.au>

<www.parks.tas.gov.au>

INTERPS TIP

Tasmania exported 8232 million worth of forest products in 1995-96—about 27 per cent of Australia’s total earnings from forest product exports. Some $180 million of this came from woodchips.
This manual will assist tour operators, guides and employees to use their knowledge, interpretation skills and personalities to create a great experience for visitors. To successfully balance these skills and deliver quality interpretation, it is necessary to understand the following core attributes (outlined in Figure 1):

1. A sound and accurate understanding and awareness of your ‘product’ (this could be the entire State, the history of your town or the life cycle of the little penguin).

2. Practical experience and understanding of the principles of effective interpretation (this can be as simple as understanding your guests, and allowing them to experience the silence of the area, assisting their understanding of local history, or encouraging them to experience the touch and smell of their surroundings).

3. Involving appropriate characters for your business (suiting individual characters to an appropriate task – for example, is your ‘charismatic talkative guide’ more suited to guiding the cycle tour, rather than the bird watching tour?).

4. Managing your group by being aware of clients’ comfort and safety at all times. This may involve limiting group size, advising a colleague of your planned itinerary, telling participants before the tour how long it will take and whether they need to bring food and water. It is vital to advise your group of any potential dangers, and, if necessary, make some group rules for their safety.

**Figure 1. Core attributes of high quality interpretation**

The following text is by no means an interpretive training course, but it does outline and examine some major areas that will assist in gaining strong interpretive skills.
Freeman Tilden, the founder of interpretation, outlined principles of interpretation:

- Interpretation should relate to the audience;
- Interpretation should reveal something to the audience;
- Interpretation is an art;
- Interpretation should provoke something in the audience (emotions, thoughts, discussion et cetera);
- Interpretation should be presented as a whole rather than a part;
- Interpretation for children should follow a fundamentally different approach than for adults.

Background

The art of interpretation was born in the United States of America towards the end of the 19th century. Nature guides such as Enos A. Mills (1870-1922) felt that their task was more than merely to guide, but to share and inspire visitors with a holistic appreciation and knowledge of the environment. Freeman Tilden, an American writer, travelled for many years observing the ways in which national park interpreters communicated with the public, analysing and assessing which techniques worked best. As a result of his research, Tilden published Interpreting Our Heritage in 1957, a publication that even today encapsulates the philosophies, goals and principles of interpretation.

Today, natural and cultural heritage educators in many parts of the world adopt the principles of interpretation to enhance the quality of their presentations, to increase the relevance and immediacy of the information or ideas they wish to express and to introduce visitors to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the area they are visiting.

An old Chinese proverb that captures the spirit of interpretation:

I hear, I forget.
I see and hear, I remember.
I see, hear, and do, I understand.

What is interpretation?

Interpretation is more than education, more than just giving names and providing facts. It is an important part of sustainable tourism operations. There have been many and varied research studies about what makes communication successful. However what makes interpretation effective is less easily explained!

Tilden’s principles outlined below can assist you in enhancing the interpretative aspects of your operation. Through effective interpretation, tourism has the opportunity to bring benefits to the community, the visitor, the place itself and the operation.

All definitions of interpretation explain, somewhere, the desire to share with others your enthusiasm for something that you feel is special, such as a place, a building, or some part of history.

Whatever the definition, interpretation is all about communication.

USEFUL REFERENCE


What is the aim of your operation?

In order to consider interpreting, developing themes and planning, your operation must document and express defined aims and objectives that outline the reasons you are operating. Such aims and objectives can be identified by expanding on simple questions such as:

**Why are you running this tour?**

**What do you want to achieve from running the tour?**

**How would you like your audience to think, feel and behave?**

**What would you like your audience to take away from your tour?**

Your responses to these questions will help clarify the reasons you are operating, which can provide focus and direction for your tour planning, delivery and even recruitment. It is important to keep all staff informed of the objectives of the business, so that they are able to develop their own understanding and knowledge to complement the business.

Principles of interpretation

In order to distinguish interpretation from other forms of information transfer, there are four general qualities, defined by Ham (1992), that can be combined to develop an interpretive approach:

- Interpretation should be **pleasurable**
- Interpretation should be **relevant**
- Interpretation should be **organised**
- Interpretation should use a **theme**

USEFUL REFERENCE


INTERPS TIP

Interpretation using themes can be one of the most potent ways to help visitors connect with Tasmania’s natural and cultural features. It helps people to develop appreciation and therefore support the protection of the many special features.
Sam Ham has developed three easy steps to help with writing theme statements:
1. Describe the topic in general terms.
2. State it in more specific terms.
3. Write the theme as a complete sentence.

INTERPS TIP
Using a theme can steer you away from less engaging actions such as:
- Merely giving dates;
- Lists of happenings in the area;
- Identification without an explanation.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Outlined below are very brief summaries of the four general principles of interpretation. For further understanding and development of these principles, you are encouraged to gather additional information and references.

PLEASURABLE
Entertainment isn’t the interpreter’s main goal; however, it is one of the essential qualities that help people enjoy any experience. All good communication needs to be entertaining, in a sense, to hold people’s attention. But remember, entertainment does not have to be complicated; it can be as simple as smiling, using active verbs, creating vivid descriptions or using analogies.

RELEVANT
Information that is relevant to your audience needs to be both meaningful and personal. If the information is meaningful, it provides a connection with something everyone is aware of. Quite often meaningful information is lost among technical terms, but information can be made meaningful through analogies, comparisons and examples.

Personal information relates to something the audience cares about, which involves getting them to relate what you are talking about to something they are familiar with. This can be as simple as using phrases like ‘Have you ever …?’ ‘Remember the last time you …?’

ORGANISED
In order to communicate effectively with groups, any interpretation must be presented in a manner that is easy to follow. People need to know early on whether the benefits of your tour/talk/conversation will be worthy of their attention and then, throughout the presentation, information needs to be linked and flowing, otherwise it is hard work for people to keep up with what’s going on.

THEME
If your interpretation has a main point, then it is likely to have a theme. Themes and stories have similar qualities: a beginning, an end and a message/moral.

A theme is not a topic or a subject. A topic is just the subject matter for a presentation, whereas a theme is a specific message that you want to get across; the meaning of your conversation/tour/story. A presentation with a theme is easier to follow and can be more meaningful than non-thematic presentations.

There can be confusion between topics and themes as they are related yet quite different. A sound way to distinguish between a topic and a theme is highlighted in the following example.

Information regarding the thematic interpretation was reproduced with permission from the Parks Victoria Draft Information, Interpretation and Education Manual, 2002
Your guided walk may focus on the topic of ‘birds’.

You can expand on this topic and make it into a theme; something that your guests will remember.

A theme relating to the topic of birds could be a sentence such as, ‘Many birds we meet on the walk today are unique in that they are endemic to Tasmania, which means they exist nowhere else in the world.’

Reinforce your theme by using examples that highlight it, such as, ‘This tree provides a home and food for one of our endemic birds. If we plant some of these trees in our own gardens then the birds will eventually have more opportunity to survive and breed.’

For example, stating: ‘This is an Athrotaxis selaginoides ...’ is likely to leave your guests thinking: SO WHAT?

Whereas, if you begin a discussion with: ‘This King Billy pine is one of the oldest growing trees in the word and it is found ONLY in Tasmania ...’. Chances are you will spark some interest among even the least botanical of your clients!

You can check that what you have written is in fact a theme by remembering the following tips:

• A theme must be a complete sentence. It can be more than one sentence, but it is best if it is expressed simply.

• A complete sentence means it has a subject, a verb, and a full stop.

For example: This King Billy pine is one of the oldest growing trees in the world and it is found ONLY in Tasmania.

• It should communicate only one or two main ideas. (It’s OK if you need more than one sentence to communicate your one idea.)

• The theme should have a message (or two) that the visitors can take home and implement in their every day life.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Nature and Ecotourism Accreditation Program, NEAP
<www.ecotourism.org.au/neap>

INTERPS TIP

How can YOU interpret successfully and simply?

There are four critical elements that, if applied, will lead to developing a successful interpretation program:

1. Understand your audience.

2. Research the content you intend to talk about.

3. Structure the content into a meaningful story (using a theme).

4. Be entertaining.


USEFUL REFERENCES

<www.snh.org.uk>

<www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au>

2003 3. Interpretation & tips
From this example, the guests would take home the fact that this tree, right in front of them, is found only in Tasmania and is a member of one of the oldest species in the world. Enforcing the significance of the preservation and conservation of the trees you are talking about, is also important. It may be appropriate, when talking about the King Billy pine, to introduce the dangers of root rot and the dire consequences this pathogen has for the ancient plants of Tasmania, or maybe discuss the logic behind Fuel Stove Only areas because of the dangers fires pose to the ancient King Billy forests.

Planning to interpret

An interpretive plan will help make your communication more effective, efficient and fun for both employees and guests. It will assist you in realising the full potential of your operation in relation to your target audience. A completed interpretation plan can also be used to familiarise new employees with your reasons for running the operation, what you want guests to take away with them, and how you see each person’s role in the operation.

In order to develop an interpretive plan you will need to consider various aspects of your operation including:

- Why do you want to interpret something?
- Who should be involved in the interpretive process?
- What are you interpreting?
- Who are you interpreting for?
- What messages do you want to communicate?
- What are your specific objectives?
- Which medium will you use?
- How will your interpretation be implemented?
- How will it be evaluated?
- How will it be maintained?

Are there benefits to interpretation?

Immediate rewards from interpretation may not be obvious. However an interesting and engaging interpretation program will eventually:

- attract higher customer numbers;
- establish your operation’s environmental credentials;
- influence the behaviour of people to conserve flora, fauna and the habitat;
- differentiate your operation from the mainstream;
- encourage behaviour that ensures the experience you offer is sustainable;
- enrich the visitors’ experience and satisfaction—which will result in word-of-mouth advertising.

‘Do not satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things’

Anatole France
Conducting your walk/tour

A smooth introduction and beginning to a trip/tour or overnight stay can set the mood for the rest of the experience. When you are embarking on each new trip/tour or meeting each new guest, try to keep in mind the following practical tips:

- Be sure all information relates to the aim of the tour and is accurate;
- Arrive early to greet early arrivals;
- Establish a friendly and relaxed atmosphere;
- Gather your group together before you start speaking;
- Introduce yourself and any others working with you;
- Explain clearly and concisely what you plan to do, how long it will take, expectations you have of the group (for example keeping together);
- Assess each person’s ability to complete the walk/tour (physical condition, appropriate clothing and equipment);
- Conduct the tour in a safe and secure environment and manner;
- Speak clearly, ask whether everyone can hear you.
- Identify with your group (ask where they come from, what their interests are, etcetera);
- Count your guests and keep track of ALL of them for the duration of the tour;
- Last, but not least, introduce your theme(s) and have fun!

DON’T OVERLOAD PEOPLE

Too little is better than too much. The human brain, it would seem, has a very limited capacity to store information, especially when people are on holiday! Each of your stops should revolve around a specific aspect of the wider theme that you are interpreting. Give just a few of the most interesting, relevant, special features of the object concerned. Don’t stop at everything and try to describe it in a way that might do it justice, you’ll never get home! Encourage people to ask you if they want more information.
INTERPS TIP

Don’t limit yourself to books and library sources; talk to the local characters who have influenced the town, or kept track of the weather for many years—people tell the best stories and can paint the most vivid pictures.

USEFUL REFERENCE


TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNEXPECTED EVENTS

Nature is full of surprises. If an eastern quoll wanders by while you’re interpreting something completely unrelated, don’t ignore it and continue with your talk. Be flexible enough to interrupt what you are doing to take advantage of those typically fleeting glimpses of animals or scenery. If you are driving, stop in a safe spot and take advantage of the situation.

Be sensitive to the interests and knowledge of your group. If you have a thylacine expert in your group, use him or her. If someone visited your area in 1962, encourage him or her to share that experience. The beauty of this approach is that you will be constantly learning and adding to your collection of stories—and you never know, you may have a world expert holidaying with you!

TRY DIFFERENT APPROACHES

Stop talking and think of some other ways that could assist in getting your message across. Sometimes by involving people’s senses, you can provide the most effective interpretation. Encourage your guests to touch the moss that cloaks the myrtles. Smell it. Listen to the silence of the rainforest. Feel its cool and damp atmosphere. They may remember these things long after they have forgotten the names of the plants.

Silence can often be the most effective interpretation tool.

PUT PEOPLE INTO YOUR PICTURE

Whether you are interpreting natural or cultural heritage it is likely that the ears of your audience will prick up at the mention of human involvement. Stories of characters and their lives, from areas you are working in or near, can bring a valuable personal perspective to your story.

There seems to be an unspoken message that wilderness is devoid of humanity. Try to make a link between the many positive human interactions, perceptions and experiences with nature. For example, what do you imagine were the perceptions of escaping convicts when they found themselves confronted with the rugged mountains of the west coast or the surrounding waters of Eaglehawk Neck? What were the perceptions of the early piners who worked deep in the forests? What are your own perceptions today as a tour operator or a visitor?

INTERPRET BY EXAMPLE

Those nice old adages about taking nothing but photos and leaving nothing but footprints are the heart of minimal impact bushwalking. Let your guests know why you are walking through the middle of the mud puddles. At times suggestions can be a lot more effective than a ‘rule’.
Research your content

The topics you present in your tour will to a certain extent be a reflection of the surroundings—for example, if you drive through a historic town, it may be appropriate to mention some of the history of the town, and/or some of the characters that have lived there. Whatever you decide to talk about, you need to ensure it is true and interesting.

Research is a never-ending process; over time you will accumulate more information, facts will change and expertise will broaden. Be sure to stay linked to these changes and keep your interpretation ‘moving with the times’.

Remember interpretation is not about facts and figures; it is the related facts woven into a story that has a message your guests can take home with them.

A vital aspect of interpretation is to provide an interesting and fun experience. Those people who participate in tours do so by choice rather than obligation. They want to be involved. A good interpreter involves his or her audience and allows the audience to guide how much or how little information is presented.

Manage the potential risks

When considering the risks associated with your business, reflect on the likelihood of something happening and then the consequences if it does happen. Risk involves interaction between a hazard (something that may cause damage), people (who may be injured) and the environment (which may increase or decrease the risk).

Once the risks have been identified internally, it is the responsibility of the company to advise all employees and clients, where appropriate. Awareness of risks associated with your tour may be achieved through brochures, other advertising material and booking procedures as well as staff training sessions. It may also be part of your employees’ role to brief clients and prepare them for expected and unexpected risky encounters.

Many insurers require companies to have a documented risk management policy. It can be useful for staff to be made aware of the finer details of this and at times it may also be appropriate for clients to be made aware of risks associated with their holiday experience.

INTERPS TIP

Risk management involves planning, organising, directing and controlling resources and activities so that accidents are minimised.
Evaluate your tour

Gathering feedback and changing your approach if necessary are keys to successful interpretation. Giving the same talk every day will become boring for both you and your guests: changing the talk to meet the needs of your visitors will keep you refreshed and give your clients incentive to return.

There are many and varied ways to gather feedback and, depending on your operation, some will be more effective than others. Some methods to gather feedback include:

- **Observations.** A discrete and independent observer takes note of people’s reactions to the tour. This method of evaluation involves studying the audience: their facial reactions, body language, level of interest etc. It can be carried out formally or informally and will bring positive and negative responses.

- **Surveys/questionnaires.** Provide a questionnaire that can either be completed there and then, or posted/faxed back. It is important to keep the survey short and to the point and it must have the option of being confidential and anonymous.

There are many ways to gather feedback about your operation. Those outlined above are simple and effective but, depending on your operation, you may need to consider issues such as how much time is involved in completing the questionnaire, how long it will take to return it and how information will be taken from the questionnaires and effectively used.
Commercial operators information

Why does the Parks and Wildlife Service have a Licensing System?

Manager of public estate, the Parks and Wildlife Service has responsibilities relating to tourist activities and our natural areas. These responsibilities include the protection and conservation of the land, animals and overall biodiversity, ensuring visitors enjoy a safe and rewarding experience while developing a better understanding of the natural environment. Such responsibility is shared with tour operators who also aim to provide such experiences for their clients.

Licensing operators enables Parks and Wildlife to monitor the access and use of the lands and water under its management and ensure that the conservation values of these areas are maintained.

Similarly, the ability to control the quality of operations within Parks and Wildlife managed land is important for the longevity of the tourism industry.

Commercial operators working within Tasmania’s national parks and reserved areas play an important role in promoting the State’s natural and cultural values. Operators and employees are in a position to educate visitors to appreciate and value the significance of our reserved areas and encourage interaction, with as little impact as possible.

What is a Commercial Operation?

A commercial operation is described as an operation, person, partnership or company that sells any product or service for reward or other consideration.

Some types of activities that can be conducted commercially on Parks and Wildlife Service managed land include:

- vehicle tours;
- guided walks;
- adventure activities (such as rock climbing, rafting);
- minor facilities such as souvenir shops and tearooms;
- charter tours;
- and many others.

The implementation of standards for commercial ventures operating within Tasmania’s national parks and reserved areas ensures there is a safeguard to maintain the high quality of tourism operations working within the sensitive reserved areas.
CVS LICENCE SYSTEM

The PWS licence system has evolved to include Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and Wellington Park. This joint agency is intended to benefit the many businesses that operate on the different land and water tenures throughout the State.

The licence system requires one application to be made to work on land and waters managed by the above agencies.

Each agency approves the application and polices the areas it manages under the relevant legislation.

PLEASE NOTE: Hydro Tasmania is not currently involved in this joint agency system.

When is a commercial visitor’s licence required?

Operators of commercial guided leisure and recreation activities within national parks, State reserves, Wellington Park, other Crown land and State forests must obtain a Commercial Visitor Services (CVS) Licence or Lease prior to commencing operations. It is a fineable offence to operate on areas managed by the above agencies without a licence.

Commercial operators who are granted exclusive use (for example, a kiosk) will require a lease. All other operators require a licence.

How does the commercial operators’ licensing system work?

A Commercial Visitor Service (CVS) Licence or Lease is granted to authorise a commercial visitor service to be carried out on an area managed by the Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS), Wellington Park Management Trust (WPMT) or Forestry Tasmania (FT).

The purpose of the commercial visitor services multi-tenure licence system is to:

• encourage the involvement of the private sector in the development of recreation and tourism opportunities on Tasmania’s public lands;

• meet visitor service demand and enable wider visitor enjoyment in a manner compatible with the purpose and objectives for which public land is managed;

• provide visitor services that are ecologically sustainable in the long term;

• develop a ‘one stop shop’ approach for operators who provide recreation and/or tourism services (on a commercial basis) on land managed by the above-mentioned agencies.

What’s in all this for YOU – the operator?

By safeguarding the beauty and diversity of Tasmania’s natural environment and by complying with these requirements, you will be helping the managing agencies to ensure that the beauty and diversity of Tasmania’s natural environment and its natural attractions, upon which your business is based, are not diminished.

Being an approved Commercial Visitor Services Operator provides you with many varied benefits that include but are not limited to:

• the legal right to carry out your proposed activity on public lands managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service, Wellington Park Management Trust, and/or Forestry Tasmania;

• formal relationship between you and the managing agencies;

• security of tenure for the term of your agreement, provided that you comply with the conditions of your approval.
4. Natural advantage

The most recent land bridge connecting Tasmania to the mainland existed some 12,000 to 13,500 years ago. It disappeared long enough ago to prevent the arrival of the dingo in Tasmania. The absence of such a predator has resulted in the survival of many species that once occurred on the mainland, such as the thylacine, devil, eastern quoll, Tasmanian pademelon and bettong. Many of these species are now rare or extinct elsewhere in Australia and the recent introduction of foxes poses huge threats to Tasmania’s unique wildlife.

Over time the waters of Bass Strait have acted as a biological filter for Tasmania. The surrounding water has limited the dispersal of plants and animals, ultimately leading to the development of the unique and interesting flora and fauna now present.

Tasmania’s Antarctic connection

Tasmania’s connection with Antarctica predates all historical records. As one of the last landmasses to break away from the Gondwana super continent, Tasmania’s geology bears a strong similarity to geological formations found in Antarctica.

The fossilised remains of plant species, now unique and endemic to Tasmania, have been found in Antarctica. Typical of these is the deciduous beech (Nothofagus gunnii), still found in the temperate rainforests of Tasmania, as well as other species such as tree ferns (Dicksonia sp.), myrtle (Nothofagus cunninghamii) and huon pine (Lagarostrobus franklinii).

The historical discovery of Antarctica has reaffirmed Tasmania’s association with the Antarctic continent. From the time Captain Cook crossed the Antarctic Circle and then called into Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, Hobart has acted as host to the majority of explorers engaged in east Antarctic exploration. France’s Dumont d’Urville, England’s James Clark Ross, Norway’s Carsten Borchgrevink and Roald Amundsen and Australia’s Douglas Mawson all left their mark on Hobart as they passed through on their way to Antarctica. The announcement to the world of Amunsden’s success as being the first man to reach the geographic south pole in 1911 was made from the steps of the Hobart GPO while his vessel Fram was moored in the Derwent River. Tasmania’s own astronomer and physicist, Louis Bernacchi, was the first Australian to over-winter in Antarctica on the voyage of the Southern Cross from 1898-1900.
INTERPS TIP

Try using similes (things people can relate to), such as: the pressure under the Earth was just like a can of beer being shaken; the pressure got higher until the surrounding mountains erupted.

Geodiversity

The Earth’s geological history is awe-inspiring and deserves as much attention as we give to the world of plants and animals. In fact, geological features are arguably in greater need of conservation because damaged areas cannot grow back, so any use that has a detrimental effect is unsustainable.

Tasmania’s landscape is significantly different from the rest of Australia and the world due to its geological origins. Its rugged mountains, dramatically craggy coastline and hundreds of glacial lakes and tarns are results of the island’s unique geology. Even Tasmania’s vegetation, dominated by forests of nothofagus and ancient conifers, is linked to the ancient super-continent of Gondwana.

The evolution of the Earth in terms of geological events is outlined below.

If we envisage an ERA as one year, then each month in that year would equate to a PERIOD, and each week within a month would be comparable to an EPOCH.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>EPOCH</th>
<th>TIMESCALE millions of years ago</th>
<th>Relevance to Tasmania</th>
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<tr>
<td>PRECAMBRIAN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000–4500</td>
<td>oldest Tasmanian fossils</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600–1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MESOZOIC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cretaceous</td>
<td>65–135</td>
<td>current shape of Tasmania</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurassic</td>
<td>135–195</td>
<td>formation of limestone in Tasmania</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Triassic</td>
<td>195–225</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PALAEZOIC</td>
<td>Permian</td>
<td>225–280</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carboniferous</td>
<td>280–345</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Devonian</td>
<td>345–395</td>
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<td>Silurian</td>
<td>395–435</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ordovician</td>
<td>435–500</td>
<td>Australia near equator—the formation of limestone in Tasmania</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cambrian</td>
<td>500–600</td>
<td>development of southwest folded mountains</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAINOZOIC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pliocene</td>
<td>2–7</td>
<td>glaciations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>Miocene</td>
<td>7–26</td>
<td>development of the Nut–Stanley</td>
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<td>Oligocene</td>
<td>26–38</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eocene</td>
<td>38–54</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Palaeocene</td>
<td>54–65</td>
<td>current shape of Tasmania</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarternary</td>
<td>Holocene</td>
<td>0–2</td>
<td>creation of dunes and coastal cliffs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleistocene</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. Natural advantage
The separation of Gondwana took place in the Tertiary Period (60 million years ago). The break of the ‘super-continent’ left Australia isolated and saw the beginning of the evolution of the flora and fauna that is now unique to Australia.

**GONDWANA**

The great southern land mass of Gondwana formed as a result of the division of a much larger super-continent known as Pangea about 250 million years ago. The other part, known as Laurasia, later developed into Europe, Asia and North America. The Gondwana landmass started to break up about 165 million years ago. This caused great tension in the Earth’s crust and volcanic activity followed as conduits were created in the continental crust, tapping the molten rocks in the mantle as the continents ripped apart. The resulting dolerite formations that feature over extensive parts of central and eastern Tasmania are evidence of how much the continents have moved. In fact, they are still moving: the Australian plate is moving northwards by about three to six centimetres per year.

**GLACIATION**

Tasmania has probably experienced up to six glaciations in the last two million years. The State is presently in an interglacial period; the last interglacial was about 120 thousand years ago.

Tasmania has not been shaped to any great extent by ice, although glaciers and ice caps have moulded the higher plateaus and peaks. The legacy of the last glaciation, which peaked about 20,000–36,000 years ago (in the Jurassic period when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth) –covers most of the Central Plateau, the east coast and southeast of Tasmania. It is dolerite that gives Tasmania’s spectacular mountains their rugged character, as well as providing cragginess to the coastline that makes it unlike other coastline profiles in Australia. Examples can be seen at Cape Hauy and Cape Pillar on the Tasman Peninsula.

**INTERPS TIP**

**What’s so special about dolerite?**

Tasmania is one of only three places in the world to have large amounts of dolerite; the others are Antarctica and South Africa.

A huge dolerite sheet covers about 40 per cent of Tasmania.

Dolerite—igneous rock that intruded from beneath the surface about 170 million years ago (in the Jurassic period when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth)—covers most of the Central Plateau, the east coast and southeast of Tasmania.

It is dolerite that gives Tasmania’s spectacular mountains their rugged character, as well as providing cragginess to the coastline that makes it unlike other coastline profiles in Australia. Examples can be seen at Cape Hauy and Cape Pillar on the Tasman Peninsula.
USEFUL REFERENCES


WHY IS TASMANIA AN ISLAND?

Tasmania has not always been an island. It probably developed into an island about 45 million years ago during the final break-up of Gondwana. The tremendous tensions developed in the Earth’s crust that were associated with this event produced a group of block faults across the Bass Strait which then formed a lowland area.

These faults tenuously anchored Tasmania to the rest of Australia; otherwise it could have become part of the icy south. The lowland of Bass Strait has also been exposed a number of times in the last two million years due to falling sea levels that were a consequence of worldwide glaciations, the last of which peaked about 18,000 years ago. The water from the oceans was stored in extensive ice caps and glaciers, and the sea level is estimated to have fallen about 120 metres, exposing Bass Strait. The resulting plain allowed the earliest inhabitants to cross the land bridge to Tasmania. It has also, on a number of occasions in the last two million years, permitted plant and animal migrations to and from the State. The dingo arrived in Australia too late (3,500 to 4,000 years ago) to cross the land bridge.

MOUNTAINS

In comparison with most of Australia, Tasmania is rugged and mountainous, but the highest peaks are fairly modest by world standards. The highest point in Tasmania is Mount Ossa (1,617 metres) followed by Legges Tor on Ben Lomond (1,572 metres) and Pelion West (1,560 metres).

The different sizes and shapes of the mountains are a result of different geological histories and the different rock types, which provide the foundations for Tasmania’s spectacular highland areas. Mountains composed of granite in the east have gentle curves and steep slopes while the dolerite mountains and plateaus in central areas are flat–topped with steep slopes and cliffs surrounding their highest points. Perhaps the greatest contrast to these are the jagged ‘fold’ mountains in the west and southwest, composed largely of quartzite.

These three sets of basic mountain types have been shaped predominantly by water and ice. Ice had a major impact in central and western areas over about the last two million years during glacial events. Water, in the form of creeks and rivers, has been the main erosive agent for the last 45 million years in both highland and lowland areas.
KARST AND CAVE SYSTEMS

Tasmania has a remarkable diversity of karst and cave systems with spectacular cave decorations and glowworm displays. The rocks in which they have formed include limestone and dolomite, which are soluble in acidic water. The limestones formed about 430 million years ago when the Australian Plate was close to the equator; the dolomites were deposited in shallow seas about 600 million years ago.

There are many hundreds of caves in the State. High rainfall, acid soils and the depth of the limestone (up to two kilometres) have all contributed to the development of extensive karst systems. Some of the caves began to form and grow decorations about 30 million years ago, but in some limestone there is evidence of even more ancient palaeokarst. The oldest dated cave decoration is 400,000 years old and it is thought that many of the cave deposits and decorations evident today were heavily influenced by glacial events over the last two million years.

Marine environment

The marine flora and fauna of tropical Australia and Indonesia mixed some 20 million years ago when the continental plates collided. However, the flora and fauna of southern Australian waters have remained isolated for over 60 million years, resulting in some of the highest levels of marine endemism in the world.

Further south, the drowning of Bass Strait and the effects of winds, seas, swells and tides have generated a number of different marine ecological communities in Tasmanian waters. The Bass Strait Islands and the northern, northeastern and western coasts of the main island all display markedly different habitats, largely as a response to the differing physical conditions experienced on each coastline.

The diversity is enhanced by the subantarctic influences, the barrier placed by Bass Strait and the isolation of the large drowned river valleys and estuaries (such as Bathurst Harbour–Port Davey, Huon River, Tamar River and Macquarie Harbour).

The marine environment of southern Australia has internationally significant levels of biodiversity and endemism for many of the same reasons that Australia’s terrestrial fauna and flora are unique and biologically diverse. Such diversity throughout Tasmania’s marine environment has come about for many reasons including: long periods of geological isolation and the general lack of ice along the south-facing coastline, the State’s expansive coastline (relative to the landmass), the variety of coastal and marine habitats and oceanographic conditions, and Tasmania’s geographic location as the southern most extremity of Australia.

Tasmanian coastal waters are composed of two distinct zoogeographic areas: Bass Strait, a mix of warm and cool temperate species; and the remaining eastern, southern and western waters, which typically harbour cold temperate species. The two regions are distinguished by a number of factors, but most obviously by the numbers of fish that occur abundantly in each area, but are absent or found in lower numbers in the other regions.
INTERPS TIP

Kelp leaves, called fronds, can grow up to 30 centimetres a day.
Kelp forms dense canopies up to 35 metres above the seabed.
Most of us eat kelp regularly, by consuming ice cream or jelly.
Products made from kelp are used to thicken these foods, and other products like toothpaste.
In Australia, giant kelp is harvested from the beaches of King Island in Bass Strait.
[^Website1]

PARKS & PLACES

WILDLIFE

INTERPS TIP

If you work near a beach or lagoon, keep an eye on the weather and, after a day or two of warm, still weather, go exploring for ‘night lights’ following your evening meal.
Encourage your guests to try wading in the water after dark and watch their delight as their movements light up!
If there are no shining lights in the water, look up and explore the stars, or look down and search for animal tracks in the sand. Carry a torch covered with red cellophane—this makes the torch light more subtle for the animals eyes. Try spotting some nocturnal animals, the most easily spotted and slowest creatures are the night spiders and bugs, so you are guaranteed to see something.

SEaweeds

Tasmanian cold temperate species of macro algae include the largest Australian seaweeds, and most notably the giant kelp, bull kelp, strap kelp, common kelp. These seaweeds have close relatives throughout the southern latitudes including species in New Zealand, South America and the subantarctic islands. They all require cold nutrient-rich waters to survive.

The size and number of giant kelp beds in Tasmania have greatly fallen over the last 30 years. Only about five per cent of the original area remains, and the kelp forests are threatened with local extinction in some areas. Scientists think that a number of factors may be causing this decline, including the over-harvesting of seaweeds in some areas, the fall of dissolved nutrient levels in the ocean waters of Tasmania, and the increase in water temperature off eastern Tasmania: a rise of 1.5°C since the 1960s.

INvertebrates

The marine invertebrates of Tasmanian waters and southern Australia comprise 80-90 per cent endemic species. For example, of the 500 sponges recorded in southern Australia, 60 per cent are recorded only in Tasmanian waters. Each year almost 5,000 tonnes of black-lip abalone are harvested in Australia, of which some 2,500 tonnes come from Tasmanian waters.

There are several endemic species of seastars, sea urchins and other echinoderms found in Tasmanian waters including *Patiriella vivipara*.

Phosphorescence

Microscopic single-celled ( unicellular) algae called dinoflagellates cause phosphorescence. These are present throughout the ocean, and emit light when they are mechanically disturbed, for example by a boat paddle, the arm of a swimmer or wave action. This leads to a chemical reaction within the organism, resulting in light production. Dinoflagellates breed all year round; however, there are a number of factors that promote growth and reproduction. These are: light, water quality, temperature, availability of nutrients, and depth or tidal exposure. As dinoflagellates depend on photosynthesis to get their energy for growth, light is a major factor in their survival. The intensity of phosphorescence from photosynthetic dinoflagellates is strongly influenced by the intensity of sunlight the previous day, i.e. the brighter the sunlight, the brighter the flash. If the preceding few days are sunny, and the ocean is calm so that the dinoflagellates are not disturbed, this can result in a build-up of phosphorescent 'potential'. This build-up, when released, can look like fireworks in the water. High nutrient levels in the water, most often caused by runoff of pollutants such as sewage, can increase the number of dinoflagellates.
FISH

The waters surrounding Tasmania offer habitat to over 600 fish species. Commercial fisheries utilise over 50 species, yet just 20 species contribute to most of the annual fishery catch from Tasmanian waters. Most of the fish present in Tasmanian waters are also common in Victorian, South Australian and the southern reaches of Western Australian waters.

The far south of Tasmania provides habitat to a number of species that are found nowhere else. Such areas include the southeastern embayments such as the Huon Estuary and Port Davey. Port Davey provides a unique environment because the surface layer of brackish tannin-stained water blocks light penetration to the salt water below, greatly affecting normal ecosystem processes. Within shallow waters sharks, skates and rays that are common at depths of 50 metres on the continental shelf replace the normal mixture of wrasses, leather jackets and other common coastal reef fish. One large skate, the Port Davey Skate, appears to be restricted to Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour, having close relatives in New Zealand; it is possibly a relict from when the continents were joined as Gondwana.

One fish unique to the southern waters of Tasmania is the handfish. Of the seven species found in Tasmania five are endemic to Tasmanian waters and Bass Strait. All species of handfish in Tasmania are protected and prone to predation due to the fact that they lay eggs in localised areas, which are then vulnerable and open to predation by fish and introduced seastars. Other endemic and rare species found in Tasmanian southern waters include pipe fishes, seadragons and seahorses (belonging to the family Syngnathidae). Such species are in danger due to trawling, destruction of habitat and collection for aquaria.

The spotted handfish (*Brachionichths hirsutus*) has been recognised as Tasmania’s only critically endangered marine fish. It is the first to be listed under the Federal Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. Spotted handfish are endemic to Tasmania. They are only found on sandy sediments towards the mouth of the Derwent estuary and adjoining bays. They ‘walk’ slowly on their pelvic and pectoral fins, which look rather like hands.

USEFUL REFERENCE


INTERPS TIP

When walking along the beach suggest your guests watch the waves and determine:
- which way they are coming from? Do they come in sets? Is there a pattern?
- Whatever responses your group offers, you may now have an opportunity to explain how waves originate, the changes they cause to beaches, the reason some waves deposit shells on the beach and the ever-changing beach environment.
- If you are familiar with the beach you are walking on, explain how high the tide was in that storm a few years ago, how different the dunes were just last month!
INTERPS TIP

Hooded plovers lay their eggs in sand scrapes above the high tide line or in sand dunes behind beaches (the eggs are spotted and coloured for camouflage). The adult birds gather in groups, running ahead of walkers until the walkers reach the end of the birds’ territory, then the birds tend to fly back to the nesting sight along the shallows.

USEFUL REFERENCE


Edgar, G.J. (2000). *Australian Marine Life: the plants and animals of temperate waters*

MARINE REPTILES

The leathery turtle, an endangered species, is quite regularly observed near King Island in the northwestern waters of Bass Strait. Unfortunately, these turtles are often caught in cray-fishing lines and die. Three species of tropical turtles do occur irregularly in Tasmanian waters: the loggerhead, hawksbill, and green turtle. All species are threatened and protected and are rarely observed.

SEABIRDS

Marine birds include seabirds, shorebirds, and waders. Seabirds are known as pelagic feeders: they feed offshore, while shorebirds and waders feed from coastal mudflats, lagoons, and estuaries above low tide. Seabirds breed on 90 per cent of Tasmania’s 350 offshore islands. There are 15 species of marine birds listed as threatened in Tasmania. Two threatened species—the shy albatross (endemic to Tasmania) and Austalasian gannet—are carefully monitored in terms of population, distribution, and abundance.

Albatross are threatened species because of two main factors. Firstly, they are very slow to mature; some species take up to ten years to reach reproductive maturity. Then they only lay one egg every two years. Secondly, their lifestyle is inherently risky. Albatross are great fliers, they leave their nest sites as juveniles and spend up to five years at sea. Albatross catch fish by diving under the water. These techniques have stood them in good stead for thousands of years, however, human fishing practices have taken an incalculable toll on these seafaring birds. Longline fishing is a huge threat to them, it is estimated that up to 1,500 shy albatross are killed each year on longlines out of a total breeding population of 12,000. Albatross get caught on the still floating fish bait, become hooked and are then dragged under the water and drowned. There have been studies of shy albatross populations for the past fifteen years. A Nature Conservation Branch (DPIWE) wildlife officer has been developing practical and economically viable solutions to reduce the mortality of albatross from longline tuna fishing. These include an automatic bait caster, which consistently throws the bait further from the boat. Lines thrown closer to the boat are pushed to the surface by the action of the propeller.

INTERPS TIP

Before you embark on a bird-spotting adventure with your guests, make sure you have checked the area for commonly seen birds. Be sure to ask if any of your guests are ‘birders’, as they could have a wealth of knowledge to share. Try to explain to your guests a distinguishable feature of just a few species, so they can at least identify one. For example: the way shearwaters fly is quite distinctive. So is the tail movement of the wrens and the call of the shrike thrush.

Birds can be tricky to identify, but if you have some idea of the species you are likely to see beforehand you can help steer everyone in the right direction!
MARINE MAMMALS

Seals

Two species of seal breed in Tasmanian waters: the Australian fur seal and the New Zealand fur seal. The Australian fur seal is the world’s fourth rarest seal species. Hunted to the brink of extinction last century, the population’s recovery has been slow and all seals are now wholly protected. Both Australian and New Zealand fur seals were subject to exploitation by Europeans, who hunted for their pelts and oil. The sealing industry commenced in 1798 and ended in 1923. Elephant seal and sea lion populations in Tasmanian have never recovered, while New Zealand and Australian fur seal populations are slowly recovering. Elephant seals do visit Tasmania, although irregularly. Other seals including the crabeater, Australian sea lion and subantarctic fur seal are sighted irregularly in Tasmanian waters.

Today, the Tasmanian fur seal can be found as far north as Port Macquarie in NSW, but breeds only on nine of the Bass Strait Islands. The seals have haul-out sites distributed along the coast of Tasmania, mostly on the east and south coasts. The New Zealand fur seals breed only on the Maatsuyker Group of islands, raising only about 100 pups each year. Pups are born between November and December and are weaned 10-11 months later, although some clingy mothers may suckle a pup for up to four years.

During the first 15 months about 15 per cent of seal pups die, and throughout the rest of their lives seals have a high mortality rate, often a result of human activities and deliberate intervention. Following the breeding season, female seals remain at the colony suckling the young, while adult males and non-breeding males migrate south, occupying haul-outs along the coastline.

Tourism ventures should never visit breeding colonies, as it is likely to frighten the mothers, causing a stampede and the likely death of many of the young pups from being crushed, drowned or abandoned.

Whales and dolphins

Whales and dolphins, known also as cetaceans—the Latin taxonomic description for marine mammals (excluding seals)—are a major and conspicuous group of marine mammals found in Tasmanian waters. As with the seal population, whales were once abundant in Tasmanian waters but hunting practices of the early settlers dramatically reduced their population numbers, so much so that three species are now listed as endangered and are fully protected (the blue whale, southern right whale and humpback whale). Common and bottlenose dolphins are the most frequently seen cetaceans in Tasmanian waters.

The larger baleen whales—the southern right and humpback whales—tend to migrate close enough to the coastline to enable us to see them from land; for example from east coast vantage points such as Frederick Henry Bay and Great Oyster Bay. Other species migrate far out along the continental shelf.

Humpback whales travel northward to breed off the coast of Queensland between May and July and return southward to the subantarctic feeding grounds between September and November. Southern right whales travel north from June to September to the waters of the southern mainland, returning south during September and late October. Some right whales are known to calve in Tasmanian waters.
All whale sightings should be reported to Marine Conservation Tasmania;
Phone:  0427 WHALES  
       (0427 942 537)

Whale and dolphin strandings and injuries should also be reported by calling the same number.

Watching whales, dolphins and seals

Whale, dolphin and seal watchers, tourism operators and wildlife managers must ensure that tourism activities focusing on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) do not harm the animals involved. This has brought about the need for clearly defined standards of all human activity around cetaceans to ensure that people are aware that their actions may disturb the animals and that they know how to minimise such effects.

SEAL WATCHING

**Approach quietly:** vessels should lower all sails, reduce speed to under 10 knots and venture no closer than 200 metres to the colony or if it is possible, stay below five knots and approach to within no less than 100 metres of a seal colony. Seals have an acute sense of smell, so vessels should only approach down-wind, slowly and quietly. Keep your distance!

**Never land on a seal colony, a haul out zone or a breeding colony:** seals are easily disturbed and the young are very vulnerable. Swimming with seals can be dangerous—sharks patrol seal colonies and regularly prey on seals. Using a glass bottomed boat or perspex dive tube is much safer.

**Take all your boating rubbish home with you:** plastics and other debris can strangle or be accidently swallowed and kill seals.

INTERPS TIP

**Haul-out sites** are where the adult male and juvenile male seals gather, and are generally safe places to view the seals.

**Breeding colonies**, with pups and mothers, should not be approached, as the mothers may become frightened and trample, drown or crush the pups while trying to get into the safer water.
WATCHING CETACEANS

Cetaceans can potentially be disturbed by activities tens or even hundreds of kilometres away. The potential for disturbing them at shorter distances (as when observing from a vessel) is much greater.

When watching cetaceans the following guidelines should be observed:

- **Whales** should not be approached any closer than 100 metres; the ideal caution zone is 300 metres.

- **Dolphins** should not be approached closer than 50 metres; the ideal caution zone is 150 metres.

- Vessels should not be allowed to drift within the approach limits.

- If the animals are disturbed the vessel should immediately withdraw, at a constant, no-wake speed, to the outside of the caution zone.

**How to approach cetaceans**

- Have a dedicated lookout on board your vessel.

- Approach parallel to the animal and slightly from the rear. Do not approach from directly behind. Alternatively, place the vessel well in front of the animal, slightly to the side, and wait for its approach.

- Always leave an open path in front of cetaceans to allow them a trouble-free exit.

- Do not box the animals in, among vessels or people.

- Cetaceans should not be chased, nor should the vessel drive through the middle of a pod.

**Who do the guidelines apply to?**

These guidelines apply to everyone interacting with cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and seals— including commercial tour operators, commercial fishermen and the general public.

**INTERPS TIP**

While viewing seals, whales and dolphins you should keep in mind the following tips:

- Allow the animals to continue whatever activity they are engaged in without coming into direct contact with people or vessels—unless they choose to do so.

- If interaction between the vessel/people and the animal occurs, always allow the animal to determine the extent and nature of the interaction that takes place.

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2003 4. Natural advantage
Plant Communities

Two major influences have shaped Tasmania's native vegetation: the Antarctic or Southern Ocean climate and the Australian climate. Many of the plants in Tasmania, including the two nothofagus species, are derived from Gondwana ancestors. Gondwana, the giant super-continent, linked what are now South America, Australia, New Zealand and India, until separation took place about 95 million years ago.

Other plants resemble vegetation on mainland Australia, particularly eucalypts, acacias and pea flowers. Tasmanian flora is constantly changing due to fire, agriculture, urban spread, swamp drainage and forestry practices.

ENDEMIC PLANTS

Approximately 1,600 native species of flowering plants are known to occur in Tasmania. More than 350 species are endemic to Tasmania and many of these occur in the alpine areas. Listed below are just some of Tasmania's endemic plants.

- Tasmanian snow gum: Eucalyptus coccifera
- Lemon-scented boronia: Boronia citriodora
- Scoparia: Richea scoparia
- Cushion plants: Dracophyllum minimum
- Leatherwood: Eucryphia lucida
- Pandani
- King Billy pine: Athrotaxis selaginoides
- Pencil pine: Athrotaxis cupressoides
- Huon pine: Lagarostrobos franklinii
- Waratah: Telopea truncata
- Christmas bells: Blandfordia punicea
- Richea pandanifolia: Drawing by Richard Hale

Tasmania's plant communities vary considerably due to many environmental factors that are found throughout the small, mountainous island. These include the climate, geology, fire regimes and physical disturbance. The vegetation communities found in Tasmania can be divided into simple categories, defined briefly below. More detailed information is available from each associated notesheet.

For the plants sake and your own safety, please stick to the formed track. If the track is braided or wide, stay in the middle.
RAINFOREST COMMUNITIES

Tasmania supports about one-third of the total area of rainforest in Australia. Many of the rainforest communities are unique to Tasmania, with some of the dominant species being endemic. Some Tasmanian species have a greater affinity with plants found in South America and southern New Zealand than with rainforest species elsewhere in Australia, such as in the tropics. Rainforests are restricted to the higher rainfall areas in the west and northeastern highlands, although patches can be found in wetter microclimates throughout the State (some of these restricted patches include the Dazzler Range, Maria Island, Bruny Island and Mt Cameron). The cool temperate rainforests of Tasmania are dominated by the following plants: Myrtle and deciduous beech (*Nothofagus spp*.), sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*), celery top pine (*Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*), King Billy and pencil pine (*Athrotaxis spp.*) and Huon pine (*Lagarostrobus franklinii*).

INTERPS TIP

Different coloured heath species’ flowers are pollinated in different ways.
Plants with red or pink flowers bloom in winter, attracting birds such as spinebills and honeyeaters while their usual food source (insects) is scarce.
White flowered heaths tend to bloom in spring, attracting native insects such as flies, bees and beetles.
INTERPS TIP

Wherever your tour ventures, chances are you are walking among some of our endemic plants. Take the time to work out what the plants are, if they have ancestors in South America or New Zealand. Ask if any of your guests remember a similar plant overseas. Do you know why they have remained in Tasmania and nowhere else?

PLANTS

THREATENED HABITATS

USEFUL REFERENCES


INTERPS TIP

Sixty per cent of Tasmania’s alpine plants are endemic. And, as a rule of thumb, the number of endemic plants increases with the distance from the mainland.

WET AND DRY EUCALYPT FORESTS

Wet and dry eucalypt forests show some overlap of species and are often geographically close, so at times they can be difficult to distinguish. Wet forests tend to be dominated by eucalypts and/or rainforest species and require a high and reliable rainfall and mild temperatures. Eucalypt forests have been heavily used throughout Tasmania’s history. Extraction of timber and clearance to create agricultural land have been major factors affecting the composition and extent of forested areas.

In the absence of fire, wet forest communities will progress to form rainforest communities, while infrequent fires allow the wet eucalypt forests to re-establish. Dry sclerophyll forests flourish in regions receiving less than 1,000mm of rain each year. These are the typical ‘Australian’ elements of our vegetation communities: eucalypt trees associated with understorey such as scrub. Fire, soil with low nutrient levels, and low rainfall are some of the environmental factors that lead to the development of dry sclerophyll communities. A large number of plants endemic to Tasmania occur in dry eucalypt forests. In cool temperatures such as in the subalpine areas, the eucalypt forests are referred to as dry forests, despite the relatively high rainfall experienced in these areas.

ALPINE/ SUBALPINE VEGETATION

Tasmania is the custodian of over half the snow country in Australia, that is country occupied by alpine and treeless subalpine vegetation. Tasmania has some of the most pristine alpine areas in the world. Alpine vegetation is defined by the fact that it grows at high altitudes, where there is not enough warmth for plants to grow to the stature of a tree; hence areas with alpine vegetation are treeless. Such areas cover less than 0.15 per cent of Australia. Fortunately, alpine vegetation is one of the best-reserved communities throughout Tasmania. Degradation is largely confined to localised areas, as a result of past grazing practices and trampling—such as can be seen in areas on the Central Plateau. The greatest threats are from fire and the potential effects of global climatic change. The placement of radio towers continues to threaten our alpine areas.
COASTAL VEGETATION

Coastal vegetation has adapted in shape and function to tolerate salt spray. It is also affected by the geological diversity and climatic diversity of the coastal environs. Since European settlement, grazing and other associated impacts have modified approximately 8 per cent of Tasmania’s coastal vegetation. Roughly 20 per cent of the State’s coastline is within reserved areas.

NATIVE GRASSLANDS

Prior to the arrival of Europeans native grasslands of the Poa genus dominated Tasmania. Today 90 per cent of the grassland has been lost to agricultural practices. Remnants of the native grasses survive mainly in high altitudes and on steep slopes. Generally, grasslands dominate where there is a lack of dense shrubs or trees and flourish where extreme frost, flooding, grazing and fire occurs. Under these conditions trees and most other vegetation types are unable to grow. Tasmania’s most common grassland species is buttongrass, which is able to grow on some of the most nutrient poor soils in the world and is also one of the best fire-adapted plants to have evolved. Buttongrass moorlands cover about one million hectares of land in Tasmania.

WETLAND COMMUNITIES

Tasmania has proportionally more wetlands for its size than any other state of Australia.

Wetlands are areas of marsh, peatland or water. They may be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salty and can include inter-tidal zones (not more than six metres deep). Wetland communities are one of the most biological diverse habitat types. Waterbirds, fish, frogs, lizards, snakes and invertebrates use places among the rushes and reeds to feed, shelter and breed. Part of the fascination of wetlands is the way they change dramatically over time as water levels rise or fall and migratory birds come and go. During prolonged droughts, it is normal for shallow wetlands to dry out and water plants to die back. When rain returns, a flush of nutrients is released, the plants regenerate rapidly, and flocks of wildlife gather for the feast of varied algal flora and a diverse variety of plankton.

Wetlands have been an important resource throughout human history, providing food such as birds, eggs, fish and plants as well as water. Consequently most wetlands are surrounded by evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

THREATENED HABITATS

Relate facts to people’s every day lives: for example, ‘When you are setting up a veggie garden you have to be sure to prepare the soil so that it can support your seeds. The Australian bush is just like your garden—certain plants need the heat and smoke of fire to crack open their seeds before they can begin to grow.’
INTERPS TIP

**ENDEMIC:** Those creatures, plants and other organisms found only in a specific location.

**EXTINCT:** Those species presumed not to exist.

**ENDANGERED:** Those species in danger of extinction because their long-term survival is unlikely while the factors causing them to be endangered remain.

**VULNERABLE:** Those species likely to become endangered while the factors causing them to become vulnerable remain.

**RARE:** Those species with a small population in Tasmania that are at risk.

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**Threatened fauna species**

Threatened species throughout the world may be placed in one of five categories that indicate their level of extinction risk. These were developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The five categories, or risk codes, are listed in order of decreasing seriousness: Extinct, Extinct in the wild, Critically endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable. Tasmanian native species are assessed using these risk codes. Those that are nominated and fit the criteria listed by IUCN are protected in the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act (1995). They are listed in four categories of decreasing seriousness: Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable, and Rare.

Numbers of animals listed on The Tasmania Threatened Species Protection Act (1995).

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**IN TOTAL** 22 38 91 11 162

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**ENDEMIC SPECIES**

Tasmania’s vertebrate and invertebrate fauna have received national and international recognition for their uniqueness and visual splendour. The variety of forms reflects Tasmania’s diversity of habitats and topography, over 10,000 years of island separation, and our Gondwana origins. The State has a large complement of endemic species ranging from the Tasmanian devil, native hen and mountain skink, to the giant velvet worm and burrowing crayfish, all of which are important elements in our national and global biodiversity. The comparatively large tracts of undisturbed land and absence of exotic predators like the European fox, until recently, and the stoat has meant that many species now extinct or under threat on mainland Australia continue to survive and flourish in relative abundance. For example, the eastern quoll and Tasmanian bettong are now extinct on the mainland while the spotted-tail quoll, eastern barred bandicoot and ground parrot retain a stronghold in this State. Tasmania’s coastline and offshore islands are important breeding sites for many species such as the Pedra Branca skink, little tern, and internationally recognised albatross species. The New Holland mouse, orange-bellied parrot, forty-spotted pardalote and swift parrot inhabit a variety of habitats including coastal areas, rainforest and areas of old growth forest, on which their distribution depends. Our marine species, such as the spotted handfish, Port Davey skate and tiny seastars of the tidal zone are only now being recognised as essential elements of Tasmania’s unique biodiversity.
The task of assessing the conservation status of our invertebrate fauna is enormous considering there are an estimated 35,000 non-marine species alone. Approximately one-third of all invertebrates known in Tasmania are endemic, and some groups such as the stag beetles (Lucanidae), geometrid moths (Lepidoptera) and primitive syncarid crustaceans (Allanaspides) are of immense biological significance because of their ancient origins and evolutionary links. Many of the freshwater snails (Hydrobiidae) and cave invertebrates like harvestmen (Hickmanoxomma) display high local endemicity and occur only in one stream or one cave site.

The giant freshwater lobster, Astacopsis gouldi, occurs only in rivers across northern Tasmania. Having the distinction of being the largest freshwater invertebrate in the world, this creature is threatened by pollution of waterways, loss of stream vegetation, and recreational fishing.

EXTINCT SPECIES

Despite Tasmania’s extensive national park and reserved land system, our State is no different to other parts of Australia in having a long list of species whose numbers are declining due to human impact and other threatening activities. Ongoing clearance, degradation and alteration of native vegetation are recognised as major threats to the long-term survival of many of our unique and common animal species. Other factors such as pollution of waterways, poor commercial and industrial practices, inappropriate recreational activities, and even feral and exotic pests, collectively threaten our native wildlife. In some cases it is our own lack of knowledge that prevents us from better understanding and managing declining species. Tasmania’s reputation for the extinction of the world’s largest carnivorous marsupial, the thylacine, overshadows the fact that many other species are also officially extinct in this State. The Tasmanian emu, King Island emu, Macquarie Island rail and Macquarie Island parakeet all became extinct in the early 19th century either from hunting by early settlers or predation by feral pests. The Miena jewel beetle, known only on flowering shrubs in the Central Highlands, has not been collected since the 1920s despite active searching.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Mammals

Tasmania has 33 species of non-marine and 41 species of marine mammals (some of which were discussed previously). An additional 12 species have been introduced to the island, often to the detriment of the native mammals. Mammals are divided into three groups: monotremes, marsupials and placental. All three groups are found in Tasmania. Australia and New Guinea are the only countries in the world where all three groups of mammals occur.

MONOTREME

Monotremes are egg-laying mammals. There are only three types of the monotreme in the world: the platypus, short-beaked echidna (both found in Tasmania) and another variety of echidna found in Papua New Guinea. Females lay soft-shelled, leathery eggs but suckle young from numerous ducts (not nipples) in the skin of the mother’s abdomen.

MARSUPIAL

The word ‘marsupial’ comes from the Latin word marsupium meaning ‘pouch’. Marsupial young are born very small (about the size of a jelly bean) and not fully developed. They crawl through the mother’s fur to cling to a nipple that is normally inside a pouch where they stay until fully formed. Most native Tasmanian mammals are marsupials, including the Bennetts wallaby, spotted-tailed and eastern quolls, Tasmanian devil, eastern barred and southern brown bandicoot.

PLACENTAL (EUTHERIAN)

Placental mammals include most domestic animals as well as humans, rodents and bats. The young are carried inside the mother where they derive their nutrition from the placenta. They are born fully formed but require feeding from the mother’s nipples until they are able to fend for themselves. Placental animals found in Tasmania include the eight species of native bats, New Holland mouse, long-tailed mouse, water rat and broad-toothed rat.
Birds

Birds are among some of the most conspicuous animals to be seen in Tasmania and roughly 200 species can be considered to be regular inhabitants. Twelve species of bird are endemic to the State; these are:

- Green rosella
- Tasmanian thornbill
- Scrubtit
- Yellow wattlebird
- Yellow-throated honeyeater
- Strong-billed honeyeater
- Black-headed honeyeater
- Forty-spotted pardalote
- Black currawong
- Tasmanian native hen
- Dusky robin
- Shy albatross

Tasmania also has some endemic subspecies, which have diverged over time in isolation, and are now identifiable as different from their mainland counterparts (through certain physical features). These subspecies include the wedge-tailed eagle, clinking currawong and Tasmanian masked owl. Many of the subspecies are very similar to their mainland relatives and visitors will often see very little difference.

USEFUL REFERENCES


WILDLIFE

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

THREATENED SPECIES

INTERPS TIP

HEAD BANGING BIRDS

During November (spring) you may notice various birds incessantly banging their heads on windows, mirrors and other reflective surfaces.

Any territorial bird may behave in this way, but grey shrike thrushes, blue wrens and blackbirds are the most likely culprits. The birds are defending their territories against a perceived stranger.

They are only seeing their own reflections, but at times the banging is intense and prolonged because the imposter will not be intimidated and go away! The best way to stop these defending birds is to use shade cloth or fly screens in windows, to reduce reflection.
The ocellated skink basks in sunshine on granite boulders, always within reach of a sheltering rock crevice for safety. They mate in autumn and spring and during late summer they give birth to up to four active and self-sufficient young skinks.

**Reptiles**

Tasmania’s relatively cool climate and high mountain ranges provide certain challenges for reptiles, which usually raise their body temperature by basking or by absorbing warmth from rocks that have been heated by the sun. Most species only become active when the air temperature is well above 15°C. Consequently, some species of reptile enter a torpor over winter and most have developed strategies and adaptations to thrive in Tasmania’s cooler environment.

**LIZARDS**

Skinks (Scincidae) are the most successful family of lizards in the world. The group is well represented in Tasmania with 17 described Scincidae species, of which seven are endemic. Tasmanian skinks are poikilothermic (cold blooded and require warmth to be active) lizards, ranging in size from the delicate skink through to the blotched bluetongue. Skinks generally have glossy scales, each containing a small bone, or osteoderm, and enlarged head shields. Most species occurring in Tasmania give birth to live young.

Dragons (Agamidae) are poorly represented in Tasmania with only one species, the mountain dragon, occurring here. Dragons tend to have long hind limbs, small coarse scales and large heads. All dragons lay eggs and they are most numerous in the warmer parts of the east coast of Tasmania.

**SNAKES**

Tasmania has three species of land snake, all of which are poisonous and give birth to live young. The three snakes found in Tasmania are:

- Tiger snake
- Copperhead
- White-lipped snake

Most reptiles reproduce by laying eggs (oviparity), but about a quarter of all species of snakes give birth to fully formed live young (viviparity). Sometimes both types of reproduction may even occur within a single species, in different parts of its habitat range. Snakes that give birth to live young usually inhabit cooler climates, such as Tasmania. This is most likely due to the temperatures needed for eggs to hatch. In cold climates eggs laid in the soil will develop slowly and thus may not hatch before the first frosts, but if the eggs are retained in the female’s uterus they will be kept much warmer. The acceleration of embryonic development may mean that the babies will be born much earlier, giving them time to feed and seek shelter before the lower autumn temperatures.

Identifying a snake as it slides rapidly away can be difficult. Many people, quite sensibly, don’t want to get too close. Even if you get close enough to see that it is a snake there are still some difficulties with identification. For example, tiger snakes, despite their name, do not necessarily have stripes and there is a lot of overlap in the body colouration of the three species of Tasmanian snake. The most reliable distinguishing feature is the middle head scale; however, it is not recommended that you get close enough to recognise a snake by this feature!
Snake Fact and Not Fiction

- The forked tongue of the snake is not poisonous. It is actually a chemical brush used to transfer molecules to the Jacobson’s organ in the roof of the mouth, which gives the snake its sense of taste and smell. A widely forked tongue increases the snake’s sensitivity to prey.

- Snakes do not have ears and cannot hear sound. Instead they detect sound by sensing vibrations passing through the ground.

- Snake skin is not slimy. Normally it is dry.

- Snakes are not attracted to milk beyond the fact that it is wet and easy to find by smell.

- The venom toxicity of juvenile snakes is the same as that of an adult, although they usually produce less venom.

- Less than 10 per cent of newborn snakes survive to adulthood. Most are eaten by predators, such as birds or feral cats, or are killed by humans.

- In reality the danger presented by snakes is not nearly as great as perceived. Sporting accidents, dog attacks, lightning strikes and even peanuts cause more human deaths in Australia than snakebite.

- Tasmanian snakes are unlikely to attack people unless they feel trapped or threatened. It is easy to mistake a snake’s bluff or an attempt to reach shelter for an attack.

FROGS

There are some 4,000 known species of frogs throughout the world. All eleven species found in Tasmania are believed to have evolved on the ancient southern continent of Gondwana, when Australia and South America were linked. Therefore it is not surprising to find that Australia’s frogs have their closest affinities with South American species. Three species found in Tasmania are endemic to the State: the Tasmanian moss froglet, Tasmanian tree frog and Tasmanian froglet.

The 11 frog species found in Tasmania are:

- Southern toadlet
- Tasmanian froglet
- Green and gold frog
- Eastern banjo frog
- Moss froglet
- Striped marsh frog
- Brown tree frog
- Spotted marsh frog
- Tasmanian tree frog
- Smooth froglet
- Common froglet

Depending on where you live and whether you have ‘frog habitat’, keep an eye out during the night and you may see frogs feeding, from the windows of your house! If the light is on inside, frogs come to eat the bugs and moths that are attracted to the light. It can be an amazing way to watch these interesting creatures climbing as well as feeding, without disturbing them at all!

INTERPS TIP

Males make the frog calls we hear; the females are not known to call.

With a little practice all Tasmanian frog species can be identified from the distinctive calls of the males.

USEFUL REFERENCE

The call of each Tasmanian frog species is provided as a sound file on the Parks and Wildlife service website <www.parks.tas.gov.au>
Freshwater fishes

The freshwater fish population found in Tasmania is made up of 25 species of native fish and at least eight introduced species. An additional 15 species are marine/estuarine dwellers and can be found some distance inland at varying times of the year, making their classification as freshwater somewhat arbitrary. Of the native fish found in Tasmania 12 species are wholly protected under the Threatened Species Protection Act (1995) and most other species may not be taken without a permit.

Throughout Australia there are only about 180 species of fresh water fishes, which is a low number considering the range of freshwater habitats. Due to the small and inconspicuous nature of many of the species, research into freshwater species is a fairly recent science. Many of the native species are still not known to the general public and not easily identified unless they have commercial or recreational importance (for example, blackfish) while many of the introduced species are so common that they are sometimes believed to be native species for (example, trout).

Whitebait are well known native fishes, which were often taken in large quantities by commercial and recreational fishermen. The whitebait fishery was closed in 1974 following several years of poor catches, indicating overfishing. Whitebait are comprised six main species, with another three species occurring occasionally. The most common whitbait species are the Tasmanian whitebait, jollytail, Tasmanian mudfish and climbing galaxis.

Much of Tasmania’s native fish bear a close relationship with the fish fauna of south eastern Australia. Tasmanian fishes also resemble New Zealand fish, especially within the galaxiid group. It is believed that the New Zealand fish may have evolved from the Tasmanian species following migration across the Tasman Sea.

More broadly the galaxoid fishes (galaxiid, grayling and smelt) are closely related to similar groups of fishes in cool temperate areas of the northern hemisphere (trout, salmon, smelts and lampreys), which could indicate the common and ancient origins predating separation of the northern and southern land masses.
**Introduced species**

The low diversity of fish fauna, coupled with the fishes, generally small and inconspicuous nature, undoubtedly inspired early settlers to introduce species to supplement the limited native fauna and provide a sporting resource they were accustomed to. The brown trout is a well known species that was introduced in 1864. The rainbow trout, red fin perch and tench were also successfully introduced to inland waters in the early 1900s. Atlantic salmon and quinnat salmon were introduced unsuccessfully to Tasmanian waters, and are currently managed in commercial fisheries in marine waters, requiring freshwater hatcheries.

A less favoured introduction to Tasmanian waters in the 1960s was the European carp, which following a controlled poisoning campaign is gradually being removed from Tasmanian waters.

**Invertebrates**

Invertebrates are an important part of the ecosystem, they make up 95 per cent of the animal species found in Tasmania. Interesting facts about some of the invertebrate fauna of Tasmania include:

- The Giant Tasmanian crayfish is the world’s biggest crayfish, sometimes growing to 5 kg (11 pounds). A limited fishing season helps to protect the crayfish population, which has been threatened by over-fishing in our marine waters.

- The Tasmanian freshwater limpet, the granulated Tasmanian snail, the alpine dragonfly and the ptunarra brown butterfly are some invertebrates that can be found commonly throughout the State.

- Fossil records show that the tiny mountain shrimp *Anaspides tasmaniae* has hardly changed in the last 200 million years, and it is often referred to as a living fossil.

**Fire**

Fire has been an important part of the Australian environment for thousands of years. However, little is known about the frequency, intensity and extent of past fire regimes carried out by the Aboriginal people. Many plant and animal communities throughout Australia have adapted to fire (for example, buttongrass moorlands). Some are dependent on it for their survival (for example, eucalypt forest), and other plant communities are destroyed by it (for example, native conifers). Today, many fire-adapted communities adjoin fire-sensitive communities, which makes controlled burning more difficult. Peat soils, which take thousands of years to accumulate, underlie both fire-sensitive and fire-dependent communities and can be destroyed by high intensity fires.
For millennia, the Aboriginal people of Tasmania managed the land through the use of fire. However, the forced removal of Aboriginal people in the 1840s led to the end of this long and sophisticated regime of fire management. A notable feature of the Aboriginal pattern was the use of low intensity, moderate to high frequency firing. The aim was to increase the number of new green shoots for native animals to feed upon and so improve the hunting prospects, and also to hasten the flowering process and increase the edible food stocks.

From the 1830s, the first European settlers followed a policy of actively burning areas with high intensity, high frequency fires. Vast areas of Tasmania were burnt to allow for easy exploration and agricultural practices. In the 1850s large areas of highly fire-sensitive vegetation communities containing plants such as King Billy pine, Huon pine, deciduous beech and pencil pine were destroyed in these fires.

Since the 1940s, fire exclusion across Tasmania has been the dominant practice. As a result, there have been significant changes in ecosystems throughout Tasmania relating to the changes in fire frequencies and intensities. Some areas require frequent low intensity fires to allow for regeneration and seedling growth, so the complete exclusion of fire is not suitable for many ecosystems. In comparison, the many accidental high intensity fires in parts of the World Heritage Area have caused long-term changes to animal and plant communities (for example, reduction in the distribution of alpine vegetation, which generally does not recover from fires for thousands of years, if at all).

Fire management within our wilderness areas requires a fine balance between too little and too much, in terms of meeting the ecological needs of all the plant and animal communities. In order to manage the fire regime in a sustainable manner, the Parks and Wildlife Service has, since 1989, enforced the practice of ‘Fuel Stove Only Areas’ (FSOA) in areas with fire-sensitive vegetation and high visitation (for example, alpine areas, such as the Walls of Jerusalem, Cradle Mountain –Lake St Clair National Park and many others). The Fuel Stove Only Areas, protect many of our delicate alpine communities and can allow park managers to carry out prescribed firing at different time intervals and of varying intensities to sustain plant communities.
Threats

Outlined below are just some of the many threats and some of the ways you can assist in eradicating, controlling and increasing awareness of the harmful effects that various introduced flora and fauna cause to Tasmania’s native wildlife.

Foxes

Foxes pose one of the greatest threats to Tasmania’s wildlife. They can have devastating effects on wildlife, agriculture and tourism. Mainland Australia has the worst record of mammal extinction of any continent: having 50 per cent of the world’s extinctions during the past 200 years. Foxes have been implicated in the decline and extinction of many species of ground-dwelling mammals in inland mainland Australia, through predation and competition. Animals that are endangered due to the fox include the rock wallaby, numbat, brush-tailed bettong and bilby.

Control of established fox populations presents huge ongoing costs and health issues, as foxes also carry hydatids and other diseases such as rabies, which threaten human and animal health.

The Tasmanian bettong, Eastern barred bandicoot, Tasmanian native hen, and many other animals and birds are directly under threat from foxes. Over time foxes may also threatened other species such as the spotted-tailed quoll and the Tasmanian devil by competing with them for food.

Feral cats

Feral cats are now widespread throughout the state with sightings occurring in such remote areas as southwest Tasmania and the central highlands. Unfortunately unwanted domestic cats or kittens are often dumped by irresponsible owners. If they survive in the wild, these discarded pets join the feral population and will breed with other feral cats if they have not been desexed.

The cat is a carnivorous mammal and is very well adapted to hunting small mammals and birds. Being largely nocturnal hunters, cats may travel for several kilometres at night in search of prey. Cats have excellent eyesight, hearing and sense of smell and are also very able climbers. Small mammals, birds, reptiles (particularly skinks), frogs, fish and invertebrates are the most common prey of feral cats.

Domestic cats often continue to hunt, even when fed on a regular basis. This is because cats instinctively react to movement, particularly rapid jerky movements. The prey is often left uneaten and may be brought home. Surveys of domestic cats reveal that the list of prey matches that for feral cats. Hence,
domestic cats also impact negatively on native wildlife.

**Introduced tree frogs**

Accidental importation of animals into Tasmania is not as widespread as in the past, but it still occurs, mostly through travel as animals stowaway on ships. One of the most common cases is the arrival of Queensland tree frogs on imported bananas.

The introduction of mainland tree frogs is of major concern as they pose a threat to the health and survival of native Tasmanian animals and plants, primarily through the possible spread of pathogens and disease. Frog pathogens occurring in tropical environments differ from those in Tasmania. Local frogs and other animals may be vulnerable if exposed to these diseases.

**Introduced birds**

Twenty-one species of bird found in Tasmania are known to be introduced. While a number of these occur only in localised areas or in low numbers, some represent significant problems in terms of both the economic and ecological damage they cause. Some of the non-native species are so common that they have out-competed native species to the point where the native animals are rarely, if ever, seen.

Historically, many different groups have devoted their energies to introducing any bird that may have appeared ‘useful’. The prevailing concept of usefulness included ornamental, sentimental and pragmatic reasons. Birds were easily obtained, easy to transport and could be nurtured in aviaries before release into the wild. Introduced European birds include:

- Blackbird
- Common starling
- European goldfinch
- Greenfinch
- Skylark

One of the more destructive introduced species did not come from Europe, but from mainland Australia. The laughing kookaburra has dramatically reduced populations of some native reptiles, including the mountain dragon, across the north and east of the state.

**Coastal weeds**

Sea spurge and marram grass are introduced coastal plants that are spreading around Tasmania’s coastline and detrimentally affecting the native plant and animal communities.

They are mostly found along the northwest and west coasts, but are gradually extending their range. The rapid spread of sea spurge has been reported from many areas in the southeast of Australia over the last couple of decades, while the deliberate introduction of marram grass has created a statewide coastal distribution. Coastal weeds can rapidly change the shape of beaches and dune systems, the implications of which we are only just beginning to
appreciate; such as the loss of nesting sites for beach nesting birds, increased beach erosion and damage to Aboriginal heritage sites.

Root rot – Phytophthora
Phytophthora (root rot) is an introduced plant pathogen that attacks the roots of susceptible plants. In some native plant communities, epidemic disease can develop, causing the death of a large number of plants. In Tasmania the vegetation types most affected are heathland, moorlands, and heathy dry sclerophyll forest and scrub. It is easily spread by unsuspecting humans. People can give its deadly spores all kinds of opportunities to travel long distances and across natural barriers. Hidden in mud, root rot can hitch a ride on vehicles, walking boots, machinery, gaiters and tent pegs. Moving loads of soil or gravel can also spread it into new areas. To identify areas affected by Phytophthora look for dying grass trees in heathlands and dying white waratah and swamp heath in moorland areas.

Trout
The Inland Fisheries Service and the Parks and Wildlife Service play a role in conserving our native freshwater fauna. Trout are known to have a significant impact on native fish, either directly through predation or indirectly by competing for food and habitat. There is sometimes a conflict of interest between the two management objectives: native fish and habitat preservation, and sustainable management of a big recreational industry in trout fishing. The position of the Service is that where a trout fishery has been established over the years, it will be maintained as such in the future. However, there is an urgent need to reserve, for native fish species, the few remaining waters that are presently trout-free. Therefore, it is vital that trout are never introduced into a new water in Tasmania without the permission of the Service and that they are not transferred from one water body to another, even between two water bodies within the one stream.

Environmental weeds
The problem of weed invasion in our bushland is becoming serious throughout Tasmania, where there are hundreds of environmental weeds found in areas from coastal dunes through to temperate rainforests.

Environmental weeds are serious and vigorous invaders that smother native vegetation and eventually take over, excluding naturally occurring plants. Even Australian natives can be environmental weeds, if they spread from your garden into the bushland. The Cape Leeuwin wattle is one environmental weed that has spread rapidly after being brought to Tasmania from Western Australia.

Introduced plants have few or no predators, which enables them to spread more easily. Weeds usually have highly successful mechanism for reproduction. For example, one mature boneseed shrub can produce 60,000 seeds annually and these can lie dormant in the soil for many years. Other environmental weeds rely on birds, insects, wind and water to disperse the seeds, or spread vegetatively when they are dumped in local bush as garden waste.

It is advisable to use the precautionary principle: plant Tasmanian native plants and, to prevent the spread of environmental weeds, fast removal of weeds is vital.

INTERPS TIP
Environmental weeds have the potential to dramatically alter the environment and could potentially cause the extinction of some of our native plants and animals.

INTERPS TIP
A weed is simply a plant that is growing in a place where it is not wanted. An environmental weed is a plant that is not native to an area and that spreads quickly and invades bushland.
The whole of Tasmania can be considered a cultural landscape originally created by the Aboriginal people. Tasmania's pattern of forests and open plains is in part the product of thousands of years of 'firestick farming' by Aboriginal people burning the land for many varied reasons.

Since the 1800s, European settlers have imposed their own culture upon the environment. Unique landscapes resulted from land clearing and the planting of crops, such as the orchards of the Huon Valley, the grazing properties of the midlands with hawthorn hedges, and the high-country huts with eclectic log fences. Mining has created some unique landscapes, as seen at Queenstown and various other sites along the west coast. Forestry practices have altered the landscape over many years with plantations replacing cleared land.

In order to truly understand the culture of Tasmania you are encouraged to research your own information, stories and facts. Use the following information as a guide to gather more detailed and personal accounts that relate to your business.

**Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage**

The following text is a brief summary of part of the very long and interesting history of the Aboriginal Tasmanians. Keep in mind that their history is one of working in harmony with the environment and each other. The devastation that was caused by the European invasion was a tragic event that nearly destroyed their culture. However, the descendants of the Aboriginal Tasmanians offer us the opportunity to learn and respect the Aboriginal people’s culture, values and history, and in time, we may be capable of accepting and better understanding their unique culture.

**BACKGROUND**

Many thousands of Aboriginal Tasmanians, descended from the people who occupied the land more than 20,000 years ago, are still living in Tasmania. About 12,000 years ago, Tasmania was isolated from the rest of the world when the land-bridge connecting it to mainland Australia was flooded to form what is now called Bass Strait. While the people of Tasmania had a unique culture and society, it was still closely related to mainland Aboriginal culture. The Tasmanian Aboriginal communities were cohesive and hugely successful in existing in harmony with the environment. Each community, or tribe, had their own cultural groups, languages and consequently their own unique lifestyle, but each group shared similar Ancestral Creation traditions.

Sadly, however, little information survives on many aspects of Aboriginal life as it was before 1800. This is because the European invasion in the early decades of the nineteenth century was so brutal and devastating. The most detailed descriptions of Tasmanian life are found in the journals of George Augustus Robinson, who gathered up some of the survivors in 1829 and again in 1834, however by that time the culture’s social and religious life had largely been destroyed. Other accounts come from records kept by the early explorers, from the work of archaeologists, and from

**INTERPS TIP**

Try researching some of the mishaps of the early explorers in your region! For example, many people believe that Burke and Wills died from thirst. Research reveals that they actually ate a plant that contained poisonous enzymes – which unfortunately Burke and Wills were unaware of.

**USEFUL REFERENCE**


Drawing by Annette Sculthorpe
For many years, it was believed internationally that Tasmanian Aboriginal people were extinct and that Truganini, who died in 1876, was the ‘last Tasmanian’. However, many outlived her, both on the Tasmanian mainland and on the islands of Bass Strait. Their descendants form the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The Aboriginal Tasmanian community had successfully existed in the Tasmanian environment with an estimated population of 4,500-5,000 individuals for many thousands of years. Their success is a perfect example of their ability to meet their needs sustainably. The Aboriginal community consisted of a number of language groups (tribes), each with its own territory, sacred sites, language and culture. These tribes would trade resources, artefacts and tools using trade links which joined a number of tribes. For example, if a tribe from the high country needed shells, they would take advantage of an extensive supply chain that linked several tribes all the way to the coast.

There was little competition among Aboriginal people for the food sources in Tasmania and consequently there was no requirement for the Tasmanian Aboriginals to use complicated hunting tools such as boomerangs or to develop complicated hunting operations. Early records of Tasmanian Aboriginals’ clothing described their use of animal skins as coverings. Their continued use of fire as a heating source and the fact that the animal skins were sufficiently warm reduced the need for layered clothing.

Today the Tasmanian Aboriginal people continue to tell traditional stories and sing traditional songs. They know the names of their ancestors and the groups to which they belonged; they feel a strong bond with the land, which still yields traditional foods and medicines. They are reviving and preserving their important culture and values but at the same time, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to wage a constant battle for recognition of their very identity and of their rights as the original inhabitants of the land.

THE EUROPEAN INVASION

In 1642, the Dutch navigator Abel Tasman landed on the coast of Tasmania. He saw fires and heard human voices, but did not see any people. Tasman’s arrival signalled the end of 12,000 years of isolation for Aboriginal Tasmanians.

Several French and English ships visited the island after James Cook’s first contact in 1770. They included Nicholas Marion du Fresne in 1772, the first white man to see Tasmania’s Aboriginal people; James Cook returned in 1777; Bruni D’Entrecasteaux in 1792 and Nicholas Baudin in 1802. All except du Fresne had friendly meetings with the Aboriginal Tasmanians, and expressed their admiration for them.

As early as the 1790s, European sealers who had sailed down from Port Jackson (Sydney) began terrorising the Aboriginal communities of the far north and northeastern tribes by kidnapping women and taking them to some of the numerous Bass Strait Islands as ‘wives’. The sealers would often have as many as four Aboriginal wives working for them, skinning and trapping animals and seals. Because of these actions, a number of generations of Aboriginal-European children were raised on the outer Bass Strait Islands. It was not until the 1900s that these ‘Islanders’ were displaced and moved to Cape Barren Island, where later (about 1912) a ‘Half Caste Reserve’ was established. The descendants of these people are today’s Aboriginal Tasmanians.

In 1803, the first Europeans came to settle in Tasmania. From the beginning, tragic misunderstandings arose between Aboriginal people and the new arrivals. Aboriginal society is based on sharing and exchange. Allowing
Europeans to share their resources, the Aboriginal people received in return dogs (which quickly became highly prized), tea, sugar, blankets and other European goods. This arrangement became strained as the Europeans hunted out traditional foods. As European society is based on private ownership of property, Europeans did not understand what was expected of them. They described Aboriginal people as beggars and thieves. Moreover, they did not believe that Aboriginal people had any claim to the land because it was not farmed or fenced and the people roamed the bush. As happened elsewhere in Australia, the very intense, unique bond that Aboriginal people feel toward particular areas and places was not recognised until too late.

The first massacre of Tasmanian Aboriginal people occurred at Risdon Cove in 1804, when Lieutenant John Bowen and his troops fired on a large group that included women and children. By 1806, clashes between Aboriginal people and settlers were common. The Tasmanians speared shepherds and their stock. In retaliation, Europeans shot Aboriginal people or gave them poisoned flour, abducted their children to use as forced labour, and raped and tortured the women.

THE LAND WAR

During the 1820s, white settlers poured into what was then known as Van Diemen’s Land, bringing vast numbers of sheep and rapidly taking up land. Aboriginal resistance hardened. The colony fell into a state of panic as attacks from both sides became more frequent. In 1828, Governor Arthur proclaimed martial law—in effect, a declaration of war. This is the first and only time in Australia that war has been officially declared on the original inhabitants. Soldiers had the right to arrest or shoot on sight any Aboriginal person found in the settled districts (the central and southeastern areas of the island). The Aboriginal men adopted guerrilla tactics, striking with fire and spears when least expected and vanishing into forests, terrorising the small and scattered European population. Vigilante gangs of soldiers and settlers avenged Aboriginal attacks by killing men, women and children. Tasmanian Aboriginal people were naturally passive, friendly, non-threatening and were not familiar with brutal attacks; they were no match for the guns of the aggressive European settlers. Such attacks by the soldiers led to the almost total destruction of the Tasmanian Aboriginal society.

In 1830 a military operation known as the ‘Black Line’ was launched against the Aboriginal people remaining in the settled districts. Every able-bodied male colonist, convict or free, was to form a human chain across the settled districts, moving for three weeks south and east in a pincer movement until the people were cornered on the Tasman Peninsula. The Black Line captured only an old man and a boy.

In 1829 and 1834 George Augustus Robinson, known as the ‘Conciliator’, travelled Tasmania gathering the remaining Aboriginal people. He did this with the approval of the colonial government. Robinson thought he was saving the people—he wanted them to become Christians and to abandon their culture. Initially, 135 survivors from the mainland were sent to Wybalenna, a bleak
settlement on Flinders Island in Bass Strait. Over the following years, a total of 220 Aboriginal people were sent there. This action has proven to be one of the most destructive acts ever done to an aboriginal society throughout the world. The noble Aboriginal people were demoralised and mentally tortured as well as being exposed to the common European colds and influenzas to which they had no natural immunity. These people, having been forced to live, in confinement on Flinders Island and were effectively condemned to die.

On Flinders Island, the people were to be ‘civilised’ and Christianised. However, they were unused to living in overcrowded European houses. They were forbidden to practise the old ways, and were homesick for their lost country. Many died of respiratory disease, poor food and despair. Robinson left for Victoria before he could see the terrible consequences of his policy.

In 1847, the 47 survivors (30 adults and 17 children) of Wybalenna were transferred to Oyster Cove near Hobart. They were the only known group of ‘tribal’ people remaining. The deaths continued, however, a few managed to survive by leaving the reserve. Fanny Cochrane was one of the lucky ones. Born on Flinders Island in 1834, Fanny married a white man called Smith and left Oyster Cove in 1855. Another Aboriginal woman, Truganini, the last of this group, was for many years regarded as the ‘last Tasmanian Aboriginal’. She died in 1876.

By this time, however, a vigorous Aboriginal community had established itself on the Bass Strait islands. They were descended from people who had slipped through the government net and had been living on the islands well before the European colonisation of Van Diemen’s Land. These people were later to be known as the ‘Cape Barren Islanders’ or the ‘Islanders’.

NEW IDENTITY

After the Cape Barren Island Reserve Act expired in 1951, the Tasmanian Government began an assimilation program, encouraging the ‘Islanders’ to leave their land and join the wider Tasmanian community. Many of the ‘Islanders’ were coerced from their homeland with government offers of suitable housing, but without any educational, health or financial assistance. In the assimilation process, ‘Islanders’ and mainland Tasmanian Aboriginal people were brought closer together, resulting in a strong reassertion of their Aboriginal identity. Today, many living Aboriginal descendents have vivid memories of the authorities collecting them as children and forcefully taking them to mainland towns and cities to ‘care’ for them in white society. This
and destructive action has now been identified as a failure on the government’s part.

THE MODERN COMMUNITY

In 1971, students of the University of Tasmania set up a system to offer financial support to Aboriginal people wanting to study at university level, Abschol. It was not until 1973, when the Commonwealth Government was able to support the group financially and offer other services such as legal aid, that the Aboriginal community set up its first political organisation of modern times, the Aboriginal Information Service.

The Aboriginal Information Service was later renamed the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC). At the time, the living conditions of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people were dramatically lower than the average European family. Housing, health, education and employment services were almost non-existent, as was any form of government assistance to prevent the further decline of the Aboriginal community. Today, TAC, funded by the government, provides a range of services to the community and works for changes in political and social systems to bring about better conditions for Aboriginal people. There are other Aboriginal community-based organisations in Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands, operating programs dealing with issues such as childcare, housing and cultural heritage protection.

In 1990, the Commonwealth Government set up the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) as part of a rearrangement of the administration of Aboriginal affairs aimed at giving Aboriginal people more control over the government decisions that affect them. ATSIC is based on a group of 60 elected Regional Councils across Australia. Tasmania has one Regional Council, which in turn elects one Commissioner to sit on the 20-member ATSIC Board.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council (TALC) was set up in 1989 after election promises made by the then Labor government to return ownership of lands to the Aboriginal community. These promises did not come to fruition until 1995, when the Liberal government led by Ray Groom successfully introduced the Aboriginal Lands Bill which transferred 13 parcels of land to the Aboriginal community. Even today, the Aboriginal community faces long drawn out battles for the return of small sections of the lands that were forcibly taken from them.

HERITAGE PROTECTION

In the past, many Aboriginal gravesites were robbed by European academics for scientific research. The bones provided a thriving trade, especially to overseas markets. Grave robbers were particularly active in Tasmania since it was once thought that the Tasmanians were a unique and separate race, who had become ‘extinct’. The graveyards at Wybalenna and Oyster Cove were especially targetted. Consequently, large collections of Tasmanian Aboriginal remains were, and are still, held in museums and academic institutions both in Australia and overseas.

Aboriginal Tasmanians are now regaining control of their heritage items and sites. For many years the Tasmanian

INTERPS TIP

The Tasmanian Aboriginal community was one of the few native societies throughout the world to have successfully lived in and sustainably managed their environment for thousands of years, until the Aboriginal community and the environment were devastated by the European invasion of the early 1800s.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Aboriginal people have been campaigning for the return of these remains so that they can be given a proper burial. The remains of Truganini were returned for cremation in 1976; her ashes were scattered over D’Entrecasteaux Channel near Bruny Island, her birthplace. In 1984 and 1988, the Tasmanian Government handed over the remaining collections held in both museums in Tasmania. On 16 January 1984, as part of their campaign, the community reoccupied Oyster Cove, and on 4 May 1984 held a ceremony there to cremate the remains from the Crowther Collection, which had been held at the Tasmanian Museum in Hobart. Since then, other cremation ceremonies have been held.

Oyster Cove is a very important Aboriginal site, not only because of the reserve that existed there last century, but also because it was a much-used campsite in pre-contact days. It has a stone-tool quarry nearby, and fresh water is available from a creek on the site. Since reoccupying Oyster Cove the Aboriginal community has maintained a permanent presence and developed the site for Aboriginal and wider community use. Cultural cook-ups, youth camps and Sunday picnics are often held there. Preminghana in the northwest of Tasmania is another site of significance currently used by the Aboriginal community.

In recent years, Tasmanian people begun a prominent in a global campaign for the return of Aboriginal skeletal remains held in overseas collections, with some success.

Today there are still thousands of Aboriginal sites scattered across Tasmania. Some have been destroyed or are threatened by industry, urban development, the damming of rivers, farming or tourism. Tasmania’s Aboriginal community regards those sites that remain as especially significant. The community has claimed ownership of many of the sites and is participating in research and ongoing management.

**LAND**

The land rights movement has been a major focus of Aboriginal political agitation across Australia for many years. Aboriginal people in Tasmania have participated in this struggle, and presented an Aboriginal Land Claim to the State Parliament in 1977. They asked for a number of places to be returned to Aboriginal control, including all sacred sites, Wybalenna, Oyster Cove, all the mutton birding islands, and Cape Grim, the site of a massacre in 1830.

The State Government elected in July 1989 was working towards returning certain areas of land identified as having historical, spiritual, cultural or economic significance to Tasmania’s Aboriginal community. If legislated, an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill would have transferred about 53,000 hectares to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council (TALC), which would have held the land on behalf of the whole community. The 35 000 hectare Cape Barren Island would have been the largest area transferred. In July 1991, however, the land rights bill was rejected in the upper house of State Parliament. In response to the defeat of the bill, Aboriginal people set up short term protests, occupying Wybalenna on Flinders Island and part of Rocky Cape National Park.

Today, members of the Aboriginal community practise many important
traditions and beliefs that have been passed on which we, as a modern society, can respect and learn from these people, their beliefs and traditions.

European history

Outlined briefly below are stories of some of the many Europeans involved in the discovery and settlement of Van Diemen’s Land, as Tasmania was originally known.

Abel Janszoon Tasman, 1642: The first Dutchman to reach Van Diemen’s Land, Tasman came exploring for sources of gold and other valuables. Taking two ships, the Heemskercq (more commonly spelled Heemskirk) and the Zeehaen, he sighted land (the west coast of Tasmania), naming two peaks after his ships (now known as Mt Zeehan and Mt Heemskirk). He named the land in honour of Anthony van Diemen, the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies. Tasman also named Maatsuyker Island off the south coast and Schouten off the east coast. The Dutchmen saw no signs of gold or other valuables such as spices and concluded that there were no trading opportunities here.

Nicholas Marion du Fresne, 1772: The first French visitor to reach Van Diemen’s Land. The object of the voyage was scientific, the crew hoping to discover what they could about the nature of this land, unknown to Europeans. The two ships anchored in North Bay on the Forestier Peninsula, and in Marion Bay. The crew went ashore looking for fresh water and were the first white people to meet Tasmanian Aborigines, who rejected their offers of gifts.

Tobias Furneaux, 1773: Captain Tobias Furneaux, commanding the Adventure, was sailing with Captain James Cook, who commanded the Resolution. Cook had previously explored the east coast of Australia in 1770 aboard the Endeavour. The object of the voyage was scientific; to find out more about the oceans, coasts and lands in the southern regions and to look for trading opportunities. Furneaux and Cook’s ships lost contact in the stormy seas and Furneaux found shelter on Van Diemens Land. The crew spent some time repairing their ship and exploring the northeast coast, close to Bass Strait (which had not previously been discovered by Europeans).
INTERPS TIP

People love a good yarn or story. Look into the local history of your area and research the facts and learn from the people or recount some of your own experiences in the area; your guests will enjoy being involved with personal stories.

USEFUL REFERENCES


James Cook, 1777: This was Cook’s third voyage to the area. Looking for valuable resources, but his first priority on landing was to find fresh water, wood, and grass for the cattle that the two ships carried. Aborigines approached the English sailors and meetings were friendly during the six-day visit to Bruny Island’s Adventure Bay.

William Bligh, 1788: Bligh anchored in Adventure Bay, en route to the West Indies. While ashore, the sailors found a tree on which was carved ‘A.D. 1773’ which they surmised had been engraved by a sailor from the Furneaux expedition. Bligh and his crew planted apple trees, vines and a variety of vegetables.

John Henry Cox, 1789: On a voyage to find riches and trading opportunities, Cox and his crew found wood and water on the west coast of Maria Island, where they also had friendly meetings with the Aborigines.

Bruni D’Entrecasteaux, 1792: Rear Admiral Bruni D’Entrecasteaux, commanding the *Recherche*, and Captain Huon de Kermadec, commanding the *Esperance*, came in search of French explorer the Comte de la Perouse, who had been overdue from his voyage to the Pacific since 1788. Hydrographers, astronomers, naturalists and draughtsmen accompanied the expedition; its second objective was to gather more information about the southern oceans. D’Entrecasteaux made thorough charts and records of the surroundings in the D’Entrecasteaux Channel, the Port Esperance area, the Huon River, Derwent River and Bruny Island.

John Hayes, 1792: Hayes was an employee of the British East India Company on a voyage to New Guinea to find nutmeg. The southeast monsoon prevented him taking the usual route and he followed the south coast of New Holland (as Australia was then known), around the south coast of Van Diemen’s Land. The expedition spent more than a month exploring the waterways around the island. The ships entered the D’Entrecasteaux Channel, sailed up the Riviere du Nord (Derwent River), probably as far as New Norfolk, and named various features.

George Bass and Matthew Flinders, 1798: In 1798 Governor John Hunter of New South Wales sent Bass and Flinders in the 25-ton sloop *Norfolk* to circumnavigate Van Diemen’s Land and ascertain whether it was an island. Bass and Flinders reported favourably on the soil and natural products of the island, which had an important bearing on the British decision to establish settlements in 1803 and 1804. The explorers surveyed the Derwent estuary and Bass climbed Mount Wellington on Christmas Day 1798.

Nicolas Baudin, 1800: The object of this French voyage was again scientific exploration of the coast of New Holland and Baudin was accompanied by Freycinet the cartographer, and the zoologist Peron. They stayed on Bruny Island for 34 days, exploring, gathering specimens and befriending the Aborigines. Baudin then made for Sydney to collect provisions. Governor King in Sydney Town at first welcomed the French ships’ but later became worried about French intentions in Van Diemen’s Land and quickly sent an expedition to occupy the region.

John Bowen, 1803: Fears of the French occupying Van Diemen’s Land were allayed by this time, but in Sydney Town Governor King was worried about American vessels interfering with his own plans for a whaling and sealing industry. King also saw Van Diemen’s Land as an ideal place to send re-offending convicts and from which to harvest timber and wheat. Bowen, who was only 23 years old, was appointed commandant of the new
settlement in the south of Van Diemen’s Land. The party of 49 (including 21 male and 3 female convicts) sailed from Sydney Cove in the brig Lady Nelson and in the whaler Albion and made their first settlement at Risdon Cove on the Derwent River.

**Convicts**

Convict transportation from England to Van Diemen’s Land began in the 1820s. Initially the convicts were assigned to work for a free settler as a ‘servant’. Often, after a number of years, convicts who were deemed to have worked well were granted a ‘ticket of leave’ and were free to move throughout the colony working for wages, having earned their freedom.

The 1830s saw the authorities in London voice grave concerns about the convict transportation and assignment system to Van Diemen’s Land. The convicts were generally being used as slaves but, following the required time as a servant, they were presented with far greater opportunities for a decent material life than their relatives back in London. Such opportunities in the new colony far outweighed the desired effect of deterring people from committing crimes in England.

A solution saw convicts being sent to work on ‘probation stations’ at the beginning of their sentence. Each probation station housed many men. The ‘gangs’, as they were known, would work each day at various hard labour tasks, sleeping in communal barracks. After some time working in gangs, the men could be ‘assigned’ to free settlers.

Throughout the 1840s there were many probation stations built in Van Diemen’s Land, with each town wanting to benefit from the free labour of convict workers. However, by 1846 it was revealed that the probation system was a disaster, as some convicts were treated terribly while others were lucky and lived with kind people, often becoming one of the family. The probation system was considered incompatible with good order in the colony and the unacceptable prevalence of ‘unnatural vice’ was revealed by the high incidence of venereal disease amongst the male convicts.

To the relief of the free settlers and landholders the probation system was abolished and the ‘assignment system’ was revived for a number of years. In 1853, all convict transportation to eastern Australia ceased. A small penal settlement continued in western Australia.

Sarah Island is Tasmania’s oldest convict settlement, operating from 1822 to 1833. Sarah Island was proposed by Lieutenant Governor Sorell as a ‘place of banishment and security for the worst description of convicts’, and as such developed the reputation as one of the severest of the penal settlements established during the history of transportation. Continuing problems of access and security and the opening of the Port Arthur penal settlement in 1830 led to the closure of Sarah Island in 1833. In 1846–47, after a period of abandonment and neglect, Sarah Island was briefly used again as a convict probation station. In this period, it housed a party of pass holder convicts who had been sent to cut Huon pine. Economic and moral problems forced its closure.

From 1833, those convicts who committed a crime while in Van Diemen’s Land were sent to Port Arthur. Port Arthur began as a timber station in 1830 but in 1833 it became a ‘hell on earth’ as a prison settlement for male convicts. Punishment at Port Arthur was harsh. Prisoners were classified

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**INTERPs TIP**

The cessation of convict transportation to the colonies in 1853 saw a number of settlers wanting to forget much of the past associated with the convict days of Van Diemen’s Land. In 1855, Van Diemen’s Land was renamed Tasmania and in 1885 Port Arthur became known as Carnarvon, an attempt to hide the past.

**USEFUL REFERENCE**

<www.portarthur.org.au>

A good crew of whalers could drive a boat as fast as 16 kilometre per hour.

According to the severity of their crime and punished accordingly. Such a penal system, although severe and harsh, also saw the Port Arthur settlement produce ships, sawn timber, clothing, boots, brick and many other useful goods.

**Whaling**

The hunting and processing of whales was the first major export industry of the fledgling colony. The primary prey of the shore-based or bay whaling stations was the southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*), so called because it was the 'right' whale to kill. It had all the characteristics of an easily exploitable species: it came close to shore, was a slow swimmer, was rich in oil and floated when dead. These whales were hunted for their oil first and foremost, but also for their baleen, or 'whalebone' as it was known. In the first half of the 19th century whale oil was the principal fuel used for outdoor lighting, while whalebone was used in the manufacture of a range of products requiring a strong, flexible material, such as women’s corsets and skirt hoops, whips for horse-drawn carriages and knife handles.

The commercial hunting of whales in Tasmanian waters commenced with the arrival of the first European settlers. Whales were a common sight in the Derwent River during the winter months when they came to calve in warmer, sheltered waters.

Many were attracted to the whale fishery in the hope of making money, and while the whales were plentiful in the bays around Tasmania it was possible for anyone with enough finance to establish a station. The sites generally selected for whaling stations were sheltered bays along the migratory path of the whale. The best sites had a nearby hill or headland for a lookout post and a gently sloping rock platform off the beach on which the carcass could be flensed (stripped of blubber). The stations generally consisted of a collection of accommodation and store huts constructed of bark and thatch to withstand the winter. The tryworks, a series of large cast-iron cauldrons (trypots) mounted on stone and brick fireplaces, were located close to the beach. Slipways and jetties for the small whaling boats may also have been constructed. All equipment such as harpoons, lances, cutting-in spades, mincing knives and casks for the oil had to be imported. The all-important whaleboats were built locally of Huon pine and their design and performance proved to be excellent for the task. Most boats were about seven metres in length with five or six oars, and a sail could drive some open boats.

The Tasmanian shore-based whaling industry was well established by the end of the 1820s and peaked in the late 1830s with up to 32 stations in operation employing around 300 men, and revenues from whale products exceeding that of any other Tasmanian industry. Many bay whalers were farmers by profession who looked forward every year to the excitement, perils and profits of bay whaling during the winter months.

Driven by profit and without regard for sustainability, the bay whalers hunted their quarry to the brink of extinction, indiscriminately killing bulls, cows and calves. In 1841, there came a gradual decline in the industry until it ceased in 1850. Consumer demand and the higher prices paid for sperm whale oil, as well as the growing shyness of the right whales along the coasts, led to an expansion of the ship-based,
pelagic (deep sea) sperm whale fishery. While bay whaling had been the school in which many of the crews of Hobart Town’s fleet of 47 whale ships had been trained, pelagic (deep sea) whaling became the dominant form of whaling until the 1880s.

**Pining**

The discovery of Huon pine along the foreshores of Macquarie Harbour and the lower Gordon River was an important factor in the decision to establish a penal settlement on the west coast. Huon pine, being particularly resistant to rot, proved to be an outstanding timber for shipbuilding and was used at the Sarah Island shipyards. It was also the most exported commodity. In 1827 alone, some 2,869 logs were collected. A number of other trees were used by the settlement for shipbuilding, including blackwood, myrtle and celery-top pine, the latter being particularly useful for masts and spars.

Pining was considered the most disagreeable and dangerous of the jobs that convicts performed. Felled logs, often weighing up to 12 tonnes, had to be levered and manipulated by handspikes and rolled into the river. Convicts (some in chains) worked in the waist-deep, cold waters, rolling the logs into rafts and floating them to the settlement.

Just prior to the closure of the penal colony in 1833, the Commandant, Captain J. Briggs, commented:

“There is no doubt still a great quantity of Huon pine uncut, but the difficulty of access to the swamps in which it only grows, and the number of persons it requires after cutting it down, in transporting it to the water, and from the price it has hitherto brought in the Hobart Town market, I fear no individuals could undertake to export it with any chance of remuneration to themselves.”

Despite Briggs’ report, pining continued for about another 120 years.

Following the closure of the second Macquarie Harbour convict settlement in 1847, pining operations continued on a small scale. A moratorium was placed on the cutting of Huon pine and blackwood from 1882-1887 due to concerns that the colony was depleting its reserves of these timbers. In 1887, investigations by the Conservator of Forests led to the recommendation that pining continue under stringent regulations.

Pining boomed in the mid 1920s, buoyed by economic prosperity and expansion. However, the depression years and the Second World War brought hardship to the pining community.

Post-war technology—crawler tractors, trucks, and chainsaws—allowed the Gordon River and distant shores to be worked. On occasion, helicopters were used to fly piners into remote areas. By 1960, there were only two sawmills which adopted the new and more efficient technology, operating in Strahan—as is the case today.

In the early 1980s, a major shift in community attitudes led to the protection of...
INTERPS TIP

Most of Tasmania’s major west coast mines are in a belt of rocks known as the Mt Read Volcanics.

Five hundred million years old, the belt was a series of underground volcanoes. The Earth’s crust was thinning and pulling apart, causing sea water to be drawn into the volcanic rocks and become heated. Eventually the hot fluids dissolved metals from within the rocks and deposited them as the ore bodies that we now mine. The ore bodies can be rich in gold and sulphides of copper, silver, lead and zinc.

Mineral Resources Tasmania, Carol Bacon Article published in the Examiner, 10 December 2002

many stands of Huon pine within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Today, the Teepookana Plateau, under the management of Forestry Tasmania, provides the bulk of the wood used in Strahan’s two existing mills.

Mining

The early settlers to Tasmania came to a region that was well endowed with mineral wealth. Many of the significant mines were discovered as a direct result of explorations by prospectors in the 19th century.

First coal was a very significant resource, found during 1805 in the Coal River region, most of it being dated at 214 million years of age (from the Triassic period).

Mining was conducted in the early settlement primarily to gather clays and stones to build houses, bridges and roads and as such the most commonly used rock was sandstone, although basalt and dolerite were also used. Clay pits were dug whenever suitable soil was found to construct bricks. Mortar was made up from lime, often produced by burning piles of shells.

The Victorian gold rush in 1851 sparked a search for gold in Tasmania, and it was eventually found in the northeast in 1852. Numerous discoveries during the 1870s led to the establishment of about 17 gold mines in the northeast of Tasmania. Gold found at Beaconsfield, in what became known as the Tasmanian Reef, resulted in the establishment of a mine in 1877, which still operates today.

A truly significant event in the history of mining in Tasmania was the discovery of tin in 1871 at Mt Bischoff on the west coast. The deposit is from the Devonian period, being some 380 million years old. Similar tin deposits were discovered in the 1890s on the west coast near Zeehan. Discoveries of silver, lead and zinc also occurred at this time. Interestingly, the miners of the 1800s were searching only for silver and lead and left the zinc, which today is a valuable resource. Consequently, many of the mines on the west coast have been worked almost continuously through to the present day.

Coal mines

The Fingal Valley mines were developed in the 1880s and have been the most important coal mines in Tasmania. Coal is still mined from this area today.

Although the existence of coal in the Fingal Valley had been known for many years, the distance of the deposits from shipping points slowed the development of the industry. Steps were being taken to open up various parts of the colony through the extension of the rail system in line with the government’s ‘Progressive Rail Policy’. The Fingal Valley railway was fast becoming a reality and when it opened in June 1886 coal was already being worked at both the Mt Nicolas and Cornwall collieries.

By 1910 these were the principal coal mines in the State, employing 161 people and producing 70,000 tonnes that year. Most of the coal was used locally and the lack of other markets meant that the mines were working at considerably less than capacity.
In 1914 a company was formed to exploit the Dalmayne Mine south of St Marys. It was originally decided to build a railway to Seymour and develop shipping facilities there, but this idea was abandoned in favour of an aerial tramway to a jetty at Piccaninny Point (similar to a cable car or flying fox). A huge hopper was built at the end of the jetty where the coal was to be loaded onto ships. The mine was opened in August 1917, but closed the following year. The jetty is said to have been used only once before it was badly damaged in a storm. Reconstruction was not financially viable since the company was also having difficulty getting boats to take the coal to the mainland because of the war. The hopper was burnt down some years later as this was the only way to salvage the winding gear from the top.

Coastal fishing

The early success of the whaling industry was significant in the development of the new colony. However, the shortage of man power due to the gold rush on the mainland and also the drastic reduction in the number of whales brought an end to the shore-based whaling industry.

The demise of the whaling industry coincided with considerable changes in the fishing industry. In the early 1880s, king barracouta exports rose considerably then fell in a matter of five years, possibly due to the drastic culling of the species. Even today the king barracouta is infrequently seen along Tasmania’s coastlines.

Various fisheries have waxed and waned, but rock lobster has always had reliable demand and been fished consistently since the late 1950s. The commercial and recreational scale fishery includes tuna, flathead, trumpeter, flounder and bream. Fish from the clean waters of Tasmania are supplied to markets around the world. Today the two main wild fisheries that are the backbone of Tasmania’s economy are abalone and rock lobster.

Recreational fishing is very important to Tasmania; about one in every three Tasmanians fish, at least occasionally, in marine waters. Surveys suggest that together these people spend well over $50 million each year on fishing and that tourists who fish while visiting Tasmania spend almost $25 million at about twice the rate of the average tourist.

There is also a social value that can never be expressed in figures as people fish for a variety of reasons including food, relaxation, friendship, family, sport and enjoyment of the marine environment. It is therefore recognised that the size of the catch is not the only measure of quality fishing. The anticipation, the preparation, and the experience itself can be equally important.
In Tasmania, there is a growing focus on marine eco-tourism. This island offers a significant amount of reef mass well placed in the midst of a very large body of water that is recognised as one of the most productive marine areas on earth. Consequently, the inshore reef areas provide shelter and food to large schools of fish and mammals.

**Inland fishing**

The early European settlers introduced trout and salmon to Tasmanian waters in the 1860s, intending to make the unfamiliar Tasmanian environment more like their homeland and create recreational opportunities familiar to them. Unintentionally, the introduction of these fish resulted in an internationally renowned recreational trout fishery with economic benefits that are still boosting Tasmania’s economy today.

Since the first introduction, trout and salmon have spread throughout most of Tasmania’s inland waters. With its the abundant high-quality fresh-water streams and lakes and disease-free environment, Tasmania now boasts some of the best waters for inland fishing in the world.

In managing Tasmania's trout fishery, the government is sometimes faced with a conflict between trout and the native fauna of the inland lakes. Trout are known to prey on native fish and compete with them for food and habitat. Consequently, the Inland Fisheries Service has the objective of preserving both native and introduced populations.

The angling season now extends throughout the year in some waters, while other waters remain closed to fishing for a period, usually between May and August. Best fishing times vary with the seasonal shift (the weather, water levels, food available for the fish), which affects the feeding behaviour of the trout. Anglers require a licence to fish in all inland waters of Tasmania and there are associated size and bag limits and closed seasons in certain waters and for certain fish species.

**History of the Tasmanian parks service**

The concept of a national park came from the diverse origins of a social and environmental movement that emerged in the USA in the 1800s. Tasmania was the first Australian colony to legislate to protect native fauna during the 1860s (ironically the protection status was in order to create viable game reserves for hunting!).

In 1866 the Jenolan Caves in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, were reserved 'for the pleasure of and instruction of locals and admiration of tourists'. In Tasmania in 1885 a local farmer purchased land surrounding Russell Falls to prevent it being logged or burnt. This area later became Mt Field National Park.

The early environmental activists realised the advantages of aligning their cause with tourism and political interests; association with organisations that had influence on politicians and businessmen more often than not resulted in the desired outcome of land reservation.

During the late 1800s a Game Protection and Acclimatisation Society was established in Tasmania.

The call for sizeable national parks to protect flora and fauna as well as encourage recreation became louder. In 1904 the reservation of Crown Lands at
Mt Field, Schouten Island and Freycinet Peninsula began an extensive process of land preservation throughout Tasmania. A wide variety of flora and fauna were represented at each site. The land held very little commercial potential but the picturesque scenery was considered irreplaceable. Delightful walks and opportunities for recreation were ideal for tourism ventures at both Schouten Island and the Freycinet Peninsula.

Before 1915, Mt Field, Schouten Island, Freycinet, Ben Lomond, the King River and the Gordon River were all proclaimed as reserves.

A management organisation was set up with the creation of the Scenery Preservation Act and associated Scenery Preservation Board in 1916. The Scenery Preservation Board was primarily responsible for recommending areas for reservation based on their scenery, scientific or historic interest, and then to administer the reserved lands under the Act.

History of forestry

Early European explorers noted Tasmania’s richly forested landscape in their journals:

‘We were filled with admiration at the sight of these ancient forests, in which the sound of an axe had never been heard. The eye was astonished in contemplating the prodigious size of these trees amongst which there were some [eucalypts] more than 25 fathoms in height, whose tufted summits were crowned with ever verdant foliage.’

Aboriginal people used trees for shelter, fuel, rafts and other implements. They used fire to flush out animals to hunt for food. Over time, they developed considerable expertise in using fire to manage the land.

As the European colony grew, so too did the demand for timber products for building, development, and firewood. The first sawmill in Australia was built in Tasmania in 1825 at Northwest Bay on the shores of D’Entrecasteaux Channel. Convict labourers dragged logs to the sawpits; the sawn timber was carried back down to the beach (for sea transport) on human backs. By 1826 the government’s main sawing station had moved to Birchs Bay, further south. Again, no animals were used and logs were moved and carried by convicts.

Historical views of these convict operations vary: some say the operation at Macquarie Harbour was a commercial success with a good record of rehabilitation and reform; others judged the goings-on at the same station as barbarous examples of inhumanity. There was no doubt, however, that it was hard and dangerous work for the convicts.

As well as convict labourers, free settlers were employed as timber-getters and timber-cutters. Their jobs were to cut posts, split shingles, and make other timber products for mainland markets. Since they relied on sea transport; much of the industry grew around the northern and eastern coastlines.

In 1850 there were two mechanised sawmills in the state. Just five years later there were 22, and by 1885 there were 62 mills. The majority were powered by steam engines. Tramways were used to bring high-quality timber, grown inland, to the coastal mills. Tasmanian timber was being used to construct wharves in Britain and South Africa and for railway sleepers in Russia, Africa, New Zealand, Ceylon and Germany.

The expanding wool, wheat and mining industries led to widespread land clearing. Introduced plants such as gorse, blackberries and thistles were pests
affecting native vegetation—just as they are today.

Indiscriminate use of fire was also a factor in changing the Tasmanian landscape. Unlike the carefully controlled burning carried out by Aboriginals, Europeans conducted frequent and intense burns on an extreme scale, in the most extreme conditions resulting in complete destruction of natural resources. Wildfires were also left unchecked.

In the 1880s, concerns were voiced about practices that threatened the forests. The concept of forestry as a properly managed and scientifically informed industry was established. The principle that guides today's forest industry was born: sustainability. Such principles involve managing the forest, in such a way that future generations are also assured of using the same resource. Tasmania's parliament passed the Forestry Act 1920 and the Forestry Department was formed. It began operating in 1921, headed by the Conservator of Forests, who was responsible for forest policy. The Act embraced conservation of the forest as well as the controlled use of its resources. A licensing system was introduced to control and regulate logging and areas of crown land were designated as timber reserves.

The Department set out to measure the forests: their area, location, and volume of timber and rate of regrowth. Until then, no one had recorded this fundamental data. Reliable physical access to the forest was non-existent and so roading became another key task. Regenerating the harvested forest is a key part of sustainable forest management, and was another of the new department's priorities.

Today, Forestry Tasmania manages 1.5 million hectares of State forest. Tasmania has more forest per hectare than any other Australian state. The challenge is to manage them sustainably through a combination of environmental awareness, social responsibility, and commercial success.

**History of hydro electric power**

Tasmanians originally found their way around at night by the light of candles and oil lamps—just one of the reasons for the importance of whaling in the early days of European settlement. Whale oil became less important when mineral explorers discovered coal and the coal-gas industry started. For a time the town of Burnie was powered by producer gas (formed when air is passed over red-hot charcoal) and Hobart's electricity was derived from steam power.

The first hydro electric power station in Tasmania was installed in the late 1880s at the Waverley Woollen Mills near Launceston. Distillery Creek offered good water flow, which was able to power a turbine that generated electricity for lighting in the mill.

Now, except for a small thermal power station on the north coast used only in times of severe and prolonged drought, Tasmania's electricity comes entirely from hydro power. The power stations are in the central and western areas of Tasmania, where the rivers, valleys and suitably steep gradients are present. The hydro dams, apart from providing electricity and storing water, are also popular places for fishing and boating.

The 'Hydro' as Tasmania's Hydro electric schemes are known, began in 1914 when the State government bought the financially troubled Hydro Electric Power and Metallurgical Company that had started the construction of the Great Lake Scheme. It was then that Hydro Tasmania's forerunner, the Hydro-
Electric Department, was formed. This marked the beginning of Tasmania’s hydro-industrialisation era.

Cheap, plentiful hydro power became the catalyst for major industrial development and today about two-thirds of the electricity produced in Tasmania is used by large electrochemical plants such as Comalco, Pasminco Hobart and TEMCO.

With a workforce of about 680, and custody of 27 hydro, one thermal and two diesel power stations and a wind farm, Hydro Tasmania performs the functions of electricity generation and consulting services.

The efforts of many dedicated men and women who laboured long and hard in difficult conditions to build the hydro electric schemes deserve recognition. With their families, they made their homes in self-contained villages, often with limited access, at times living in conditions which would now be considered sub-standard and with few of the amenities which we now regard as necessities. These communities, with their constant group of employees moving from scheme to scheme, built up a recognisable ‘Hydro camaraderie’ and a tremendous spirit of determination, self-help and ingenuity.

Following the Second World War many migrants came to Tasmania, and were employed on Hydro Tasmania projects. These people were often referred to as Balts, as many came from three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The first contribution made by Latvian-born migrants to Tasmania was to provide manpower in places that were remote and harsh.

WIND FARMS

Wind turbines have been used for over 400 years all over the world to pump water and power machinery but the generation of electricity from wind is relatively recent technology. The first wind farms were established in Europe about 20 years ago and are today common in USA, Europe, South Africa and now Australia.

Tasmania is in an ideal location to harness the prevailing westerly winds known as the Roaring Forties.

Wind energy has become the least expensive large-scale renewable energy source used throughout the world. Unlike fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, wind energy is clean and can be harvested with very minimal environmental impact.

Australia’s first wind farm was established in 1993 at Ten Mile Lagoon, near Esperance on the south coast of Western Australia. Hydro Tasmania’s wind farm at Huxley Hill on King Island is the nation’s second commercial wind farm installation. It began operating in February 1998 and its three turbines generate up to 750 kilowatts of electricity. The Woolnorth Windfarm, which has been operating since 2002, is the third Australian wind farm and the first on the Tasmanian mainland (although additional farms are planned for the northeast and west coasts).

Nations around the world are increasingly realising the potential of wind power.
to reduce their reliance on non-renewable, polluting sources of energy. One 600 kilowatt wind turbine (if located in perfect conditions) could produce enough electricity to meet the annual needs of 375 domestic households.

Wind farms have few drawbacks compared to other power-generating sites, but the imposing size of the turbines, the noise and impacts on native bird population have been critisised.

**Gordon below Franklin dam controversy**

One of the most recent episodes in the history of the Tasmania’s environmental movement unfolded during the summer of 1982-1983, when the village of Strahan on the west coast became the focus of the largest conservation battle ever fought in Australia: the fight to save the Franklin River.

**THE ISSUE**

In 1979, the Hydro-Electric Commission (HEC) released a proposal to construct a power scheme that would flood the middle reaches of the Gordon River and the Franklin River valley. The scheme would add to the huge power output already provided by the State’s 23 hydro-electric power stations and generate a significant number of jobs for the west coast—an area with one of the highest unemployment rates in Tasmania. However, there was some concern among economists and academics that an increase in power output would not necessarily strengthen the economy, nor decrease the level of unemployment.

A co-ordinated campaign by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society (TWS) and other conservation groups mobilised support from a wide cross-section of the community during a long campaign to bring the plight of the Franklin River to the notice of all Tasmanians, and indeed much of the world. A series of public meetings and street marches, culminating in the largest street march seen in Tasmania, brought the issue to the forefront of Tasmanian politics.

Those who supported the dam responded with a campaign of their own. With the support of pro-dam politicians, they argued passionately for the economic benefits that the construction of the dam would bring.

In 1981, a referendum was held in an attempt to resolve the issue, giving the Tasmanian people the opportunity to express their support for the construction of either the Gordon-below-Franklin dam or the Gordon-above-Olga scheme. The option of no dams, however, was withdrawn. This resulted in a staggering 44% of the electorate casting an informal vote by writing ‘No Dams’ across their ballot ticket.

In 1982, the Government nominated the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin–Lower Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, and the Southwest National Park for World Heritage listing. The listing was accepted at the December UNESCO meeting on World Heritage and the World Heritage Committee expressed that it was ‘seriously concerned at the likely effect of dam construction in the area on those natural and cultural characteristics which make the property of outstanding universal value’.

Prior to the listing, however, a State election was held at which the Labor
This section relates specifically to the region in the east and northeast of Tasmania–Launceston and the Tamar region, far northeast (including Flinders Island), Freycinet and the east coast.

INTERPS TIP

More than one third of Tasmania is protected in national parks, World Heritage Area, forest and marine reserves. Some 36 per cent of Tasmania’s land is reserved and managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

INTERPS TIP

Tasmania is one of the world’s best ‘outdoor’ destinations. It has more than 3,000 kilometres of world-class walking tracks, thousands of highland lakes, hundreds of clean beaches, extensive underground caverns, large and small islands both remote and accessible, and mountain peaks and crags.

The aim of this section is to outline some of the many reserved areas, particularly focusing on the local national parks and reserves and their natural values (landforms, plants and animals) and history.

Many and varied activities can be carried out in Tasmania’s reserved areas including walking, mountain biking, scuba diving, four-wheel driving and hunting during appropriate seasons. It is not possible to provide a simple summary of ‘what you can do in nature reserves’ or ‘what you can do at historic sites’ as each site is unique and managed with its particular qualities in mind. Feel free to contact your local Parks and Wildlife office to determine which activities are acceptable in the reserved area you wish to visit.

The information here has been kept to a minimum. Additional details are available from the notesheets and references included.
Definitions of the various reserved areas throughout the east and northeast region are shown below. Names, locations and notable features have also been listed.

For further information regarding these sites, refer to the notesheets and publications indicated, the Parks and Wildlife website, or contact your local Parks and Wildlife Office.

National parks

National parks are large natural areas of land containing a representative or outstanding sample of major natural regions, features or scenery.

Tasmania’s 19 national parks cover about 21 per cent of the area of the State. The table below lists those in the east and northeast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Apsley</td>
<td>North of Bicheno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Island</td>
<td>East coast, near Triabunna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freycinet</td>
<td>East coast, past Swansea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt William</td>
<td>Far northeast coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strzelecki</td>
<td>Kent Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Strait Island</td>
<td>Bass Strait Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mole Creek Karst</td>
<td>Mole Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Lomond</td>
<td>East of Launceston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following text provides a brief account of the origins of the national parks in this area, some of the historical aspects and natural features.

BEN LOMOND NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

Colonel Patterson, the founder of the first settlement in northern Tasmania, named Ben Lomond in 1804. Despite rural development in the surrounding countryside, the mountain itself remained comparatively unknown till the summer of 1905-6, when Colonel Legge explored the plateau five times, and assessed the heights of the principal crags. In 1929 the Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club (NTAC) was formed at the suggestion of Mr Fred Smithies, OBE. After exploring several snowfields in the State, the club finally selected Ben Lomond and began the construction of a road and various alpine huts over many years.

The areas wildlife value came to the notice of the Animals and Birds Protection Board and the first Sanctuary for animals and birds was proclaimed in 1934. A number of reductions and additions to the Sanctuary followed and the area was proclaimed a Scenic Reserve under the Scenery Preservation Act 1915 in 1947. Because of the decreasing area of natural habitat in northeastern Tasmania, the importance of the park for regional wildlife conservation is likely to increase. The Ben Lomond National Park lies within the territory of the Ben Lomond tribe of Aboriginal people.

Ben Lomond National Park is predominantly an alpine plateau, being more than 1,500 m above sea level. It is surrounded on all sides by precipitous escarpments...
and is an invaluable reserve for the conservation of the diverse flora community of Tasmania’s alpine areas, representing the northeast alpine complex. Ben Lomond is composed of an outstanding variety of glacial features which are of national significance.

DOUGLAS APSLEY NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The Douglas Apsley region has a long history of European involvement, including coal mining, farming and trapping. Mining began in the region with the establishment of the Douglas River Coal Company in 1849 and continued intermittently until the 1950s. Adits or tunnels from mining activities during the 1850s can still be seen in the bed of the Denison Rivulet.

The remains of a farmhouse at Thompsons Marshes and the outlines of related furrows and drains date from the period between 1870 and 1890. Snarers began using the Douglas Apsley area in 1921, and at peak trapping times there were about 15 trappers using the same campsites each season. During the summer trappers burnt areas to encourage new plant growth to attract animals. The animals were trapped in winter when furs were thickest. A number of grazing leases were later granted over different parts of what is now the national park.

The proposal for a national park at Douglas Apsley Gorge was first made in the 1970s following public concern about the large scale clearing of Tasmania’s dry sclerophyll forest for agriculture and for the export woodchip industry. Studies of the plants and animals of the Douglas-Apsley area subsequently confirmed its conservation significance. The area was declared a national park on 27 December 1989.

MARIA ISLAND NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

Maria Island has undergone many changes since Tyreddeme, the Oyster Bay tribe of Aborigines, inhabited the island, and the first crude European camps of whalers and sealers were set up on the island’s shores in the early 1800s. The now tranquil island has been, among other things, a setting for convict stations, a stronghold for the varied enterprises of Italian entrepreneur Diego Bernacchi, and a base for the National Portland Cement Company.

Detailed observations of the island were made when the explorers John Cox (1789) and Nicholas Baudin (1802) landed small parties to examine and record its features. Francois Auguste Peron, a zoologist in Baudin’s party, was impressed by the abundance of dolphins and whales, and the ‘innumerable legions’ of seals in the island’s waters. Commercial prospects for harvesting the sealskins and whale oil lured other parties to visit, resulting in clashes with the indigenous inhabitants. Sealing gangs were operating in Oyster Bay as early as 1805.

A penal settlement formed at Darlington in 1825 for convicts whose crimes were not ‘so flagrant a nature’ that they should be banished to Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour. The convicts erected permanent buildings, using bricks made on the island and sandstone excavated from the sea cliffs. The Commissariat Store (1825) and the Penitentiary (1830) can still be seen today. Frequent escape attempts, allegations of laxity of discipline and the opening of Port Arthur led to the decision to abandon the settlement in 1832. A second period of convict settlement at Maria Island began in 1842. Under the ‘probation system’ of the 1840s convicts were withdrawn from private service and congregated in government stations. Probation stations were established at Darlington (1842-1850) and Point Lesueur (1845-1850).
Maria Island’s potential for wine and silk production, fruit-growing and tourist development captured the imagination of Italian entrepreneur Diego Bernacchi. In 1884, amidst a climate of public scepticism, Bernacchi secured a long-term lease of the island. The ‘Maria Island Company’ was formed three years later. Darlington became known as ‘San Diego’, and soon had over 250 residents from a variety of different countries. Cement works were set up in the late 1880s utilising the island’s limestone deposits.

The opening of the Grand Hotel in 1888, complete with dining, billiard and accommodation rooms, saw the promotion of the island as a pleasure resort and sanatorium.

Some of the old convict buildings were remodelled to house workers, managers and shops. Despite Bernacchi’s efforts, the Maria Island Company went into liquidation in 1892. Following Bernacchi’s departure, tourists continued to frequent the island and a small pastoral community also became established. At various times since the 1830s and following the closure of the cement works in 1930, Maria Island was home to a small independent farming and fishing community.

The first moves were made towards forming a fauna reserve on Maria Island in the early 1960s. Species considered to be under threat throughout Tasmania such as Cape Barren geese, Forester Kangaroos and Flinders Island wombats, were imported to the island. Maria Island was officially declared a national park in 1971. A marine reserve was declared in 1991, protecting marine life in the waters surrounding the northern part of the island.

**FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND**

The spectacular red granite peaks of Freycinet Peninsula and the sheltered sandy beaches beneath them were once homeland to Tasmanian Aborigines of the Oyster Bay Tribe. With the arrival of European explorers and settlers, the peninsula became a backdrop to activities such as bay whaling, mining and farming.

As early as 1900, the Tasmanian government was urged to protect the Freycinet Peninsula and Schouten Island as public reserves. One letter said:

... With the progress of settlement in Tasmania, as elsewhere, the indigenous plant and animal life of the country is almost certain to be largely destroyed, and it seems desirable that a small portion of the country should be reserved for their perpetuation. Such reservation may be of importance directly or indirectly to all classes of the community, to men of science, tourists, in some instances to the commercial world, and lastly, to those who are simply intelligently curious.

(James D. Barret’s letter of 10 February 1903 to the Tasmanian Minister of Lands).

In 1906, all of the Crown land on Freycinet Peninsula and Schouten Island was proclaimed a game preserve under *The Game Protection Act 1905* for a period of five years to protect all kangaroo, deer and possum from capturing, hunting and killing.

Schouten Island was added to the park in 1967, while a further 1,920 hectares in the Friendly Beaches area was included in early 1992. As a result of recommendations of the Regional Forest Agreement, an additional 4,873 hectares was added to the Park in 1999. The total area of the park is now almost 17,000 hectares. The terrain includes islands, wetlands, precipitous mountains, lagoons, beaches and rocky shores. This great diversity offers magnificent scenery and a wide range of habitats for many types of flora and fauna.
There are many signs of the rich cultural history, from the oyster shell middens in the dunes along Richardson’s Beach to the old coal mine workings on Schouten Island. Freycinet now presents opportunities for bushwalkers, rockclimbers, scuba divers, boating enthusiasts, naturalists and those who simply enjoy beauty and tranquillity.

MT WILLIAM NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The far northeast of Tasmania is striking due to its low relief, differing vastly from most of Tasmania which is mountainous in comparison. The two peaks of the area, Mt William (216 metres) and Baileys Hill (190 metres) are by no means tall in comparison to other mountains found in Tasmania. The granite rock found throughout the area is highly erodible and prominent due to the red tinges along the very pristine white beaches.

Mt William National Park was proclaimed in 1973, with a major incentive being the need to protect and provide habitat for the forester kangaroo. Since this time there have been several additions made to the park, including Crown land, freehold and agricultural land, lighthouse reserve and State forest. The area is abundant with wildlife, birds, mammals and reptiles. Various rare and endangered species exist within the national park.

The area reflects continuous interaction with humans since at least the last ice age. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community had a very long involvement with the northeast and many sacred sites can be seen today. The northeast is largely unaltered from its natural state, however events during the late 1700s saw Europeans introduced agriculture to areas that are now included in the national park.

STRZELECKI NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The first Europeans to sight the Bass Strait Islands were on board the vessel **HMS Adventure**, under the command of Captain Tobias Furneaux in 1773. The island group was later named in honour of Captain Furneaux. In 1797, the **Sydney Cove**, en route from Calcutta to Sydney with a cargo of rum, was damaged in rough weather and forced to beach itself between two small islands south of Cape Barren Island. The survivors named the larger of these islands Preservation Island and the other Rum Island, as this was where the cargo of rum was stored before the crew was rescued.

The rescue party despatched from Sydney Town included Matthew Flinders, who used the opportunity to determine whether a channel existed between the east coast of Australia and Van Diemen’s Land. Flinders and his crew explored the coastlines of what are now Clarke and Cape Barren Islands and found the reefs and rocky shores teeming with seals. When reports of seals reached Sydney Town there began an era of exploitation of the natural resources of the region. Within a decade the seal population was decimated almost to the point of extinction. The sealers who remained kidnapped Aboriginal women for wives and as unpaid labour. Muttonbirds (short-tailed shearwaters) were caught to supplement the diet of the sealing communities and to provide an additional source of income as seal numbers dwindled. Historical sites such as early sealers’ camps and various shipwrecks provide physical evidence of these early commercial activities and the practice of ‘mutton birding’.

Strzelecki National Park was named in honour of the Polish scientist and explorer Count Paul Edmund Strzelecki, who climbed a number of the mountain peaks on Flinders Island in 1842. The park was originally gazetted as a scenic reserve, covering 3,946 hectares, in 1935 for its spectacular scenery and wildlife.
The Strzelecki National park has important biogeographical significance as an area where plant and animal species of mainland Australia and Tasmania overlap.

The Kent Group National Park consists of three main islands: Deal (the largest of the islands), Erith and Dover. The islands were declared a national park in 2001 to protect their unique marine and land ecosystems. The Kent archipelago was apparently named after William Kent, commander of the Supply.

Deal Island supports the highest maritime navigation light in Australia, perhaps the world. Visitors to the Kent Group of islands must be completely self-sufficient, there are no formed walking tracks, public amenities, shops or facilities.

The national park was proclaimed in 1967 and given the official name of Strzelecki National Park in 1972. It is located at the southwestern end of Flinders Island (Flinders Island is situated off the northeastern tip of Tasmania, in Bass Strait). The park protects highly significant and diverse ecosystems as well as spectacular coastal and mountain landscapes.

The park holds considerable scientific interest due to the high number of endemic species, rare flora and fauna and significant vegetation communities. The high diversity of plant species and vegetation communities on the island results from varying levels of rainfall and fire histories in different areas.

Flinders Island is of particular significance as an important stopover point for birds migrating between the Australian mainland and Tasmania.

Tasmania’s northern most national park, the Kent Group, comprises six islands located in a very remote and isolated area of Bass Strait—about 55 kilometres northwest of Flinders Island and roughly the same distance from Wilson’s Promontory in Victoria.

The islands are associated with a rich Aboriginal cultural heritage with human occupation of the area estimated to date back to between 8,000 and 13,000 years. The first European to discover the islands was Mathew Flinders in 1798, during a voyage to Preservation Island to rescue survivors of the Sydney Cove wreck. It was the explorations of Mathew Flinders that led to the discovery of the vast Australian fur seal colonies around the Kent Group and various Bass Strait islands.

Some of the sealing settlements in Eastern Bass Strait were among the earliest European settlements outside Sydney Cove. By the 1820s a number of sealers had made more permanent homes for themselves on the islands. One included a small, probably semi-permanent settlement established at Garden Cove on Deal Island, visited by George Augustus Robinson in 1831.

Becoming the major shipping route to Sydney Cove, Bass Strait began to cause a growing number of shipwrecks. Pressure mounted to provide for the safety of mariners through an adequate system of light stations. Placed on the highest point of the island, Lighthouse Hill, atop a 22-metre-high cliff column, the light was 305 metres above sea level. It became operational in 1848, with the original light source being 21 oil-burning lamps.

Deal Island has not been permanently occupied since the lighthouse was deactivated in 1992 but it has been temporarily occupied since then.

The Kent Group is an important Australian fur seal breeding site and is the largest of only five sites in Tasmanian waters. It is especially significant because, unlike other sites, it is secure from high seas when pups are young and vulnerable. The islands are also important sanctuaries for the common diving petrels and fairy prions, and are home to significant colonies of short-tailed shearwaters, little penguins, sooty oystercatchers, cormorants and terns.

Deal Island is highly modified in that very little of its natural environment is unchanged, due to fire, land clearing and grazing practices. The diversity of terrestrial birds and reptiles on Deal Island is of significance and the larger islands offer habitat for a range of native animals such as bandicoots, potoroos and possums.

MOLE CREEK NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

Located on the slopes of the Great Western Tiers in northern Tasmania, the Mole Creek Karst National Park protects an internationally significant karst (cave) system.

By 1823, most of the area around Launceston in northern Tasmania had been taken up as agricultural land and there was a push to explore areas westward. Upon hearing reports of good grazing country to the west, settlers moved in and, over the next decade, all the easily accessible arable land in the Deloraine area was purchased and developed. By 1827 a road was pushed through Mole Creek, across the Mersey River to Surrey Hills by way of the Vale of Belvoir. The Victorian goldrush of the 1850s increased Australia’s population enormously and led to an increasing demand for food, timber and livestock.

Deloraine, as the centre of a rich agricultural district, was well placed to provide some of these demands and the district prospered. As a consequence a new type of farmer needing very little capital began buying and clearing bush blocks in settlements such as Mole Creek.

In 1906 a paling splitter stumbled across King Solomons Cave and by the early 1900s many of the major caves were known. The tourism potential of the caves was quickly realised and by 1912 Marakoopa Cave was open to the public. By the 1920s the Tourism Department had purchased several blocks of land at the caves entrances and continued the push to provide access to the caves for the general public, as a tourist activity.

In 1921 Joseph Wilks, the District Surveyor, undertook an extensive survey of King Solomons Cave and Marakoopa Cave, both of which were permanently marked as scenic reserves under the Scenery Preservation Act 1915. In 1939 the reserves were extended and, along with Baldocks Cave, proclaimed as Cave Reserves. Baldocks Cave and King Solomons Cave contain relics such as carbide generators, piping, stairwells, fastenings and reflectors which were used as part of early twentieth century tourism and are considered to be some of the best preserved examples of early Australian cave tourism.

Today, the karst system is renowned for its numerous spectacular caves, two of which are developed as show caves and are important local tourism attractions. The majority of the caves are undeveloped and are visited primarily by recreational cavers, who regard Mole Creek as a mecca for their sport. Surface karst features such as sinkholes, blind valleys and major springs form a conspicuously different landscape, often presenting unusual challenges for land managers.
Reserves

Reserves are categorized according to their characteristics and include: State reserves, conservation areas, game reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal sites.

The reserve classification depends on the purpose and the feature intended for protection, and accordingly, activities that can be pursued differ from one reserve to another.

**Listed in the tables below are some of the reserves in the east and northeast.**

**STATE RESERVES**

A State reserve is an area of land containing significant natural landscapes, natural features, and/or sites, objects and places of significance to Aboriginal people.

State reserves throughout Tasmania, cover about 1 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradys Lookout</td>
<td>West Tamar</td>
<td>Scenic views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Beach</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lookout Rock</td>
<td>Bicheno</td>
<td>Coastal, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Barrow</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Mountain, forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Barrow Falls</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Columba Falls</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Marys Pass</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patricks Head</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevallyn</td>
<td>Tamar</td>
<td>Dry sclerophyll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATURE RESERVES**

A nature reserve is an area of land containing natural features that contribute to the biological and geological diversity and are unique, important or have representative value.

Nature reserves in Tasmania cover about 2 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass Pyramid</td>
<td>Bass Strait</td>
<td>Seal breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Bernier</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Coastal, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chappell Islands</td>
<td>Furneaux Group</td>
<td>Cape Barren geese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarke Island</td>
<td>Furneaux Group</td>
<td>Heath, rare plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Island</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Penguin rookery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Rocks</td>
<td>Northeast coast</td>
<td>Bird islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Island Marine</td>
<td>Bicheno</td>
<td>Marine habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ile des Phoques</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Seal breeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSERVATION AREAS

A conservation area is an area of land, predominantly in a natural state, set aside to protect and maintain the cultural and natural values of the area, and to provide for the sustainable use of the natural resources of that area of land.

Conservation Areas throughout Tasmania cover about 8 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ansons Bay</td>
<td>Northeast coast</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay of Fires</td>
<td>Northeast coast</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Portland</td>
<td>Northeast coast</td>
<td>Crown foreshore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalky Island</td>
<td>Furneaux</td>
<td>Bird island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coles Bay</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison Rivulet</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Creek</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagoons Beach</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Lagoon</td>
<td>Flinders Island</td>
<td>Wetland, marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musselroe Bay</td>
<td>Ringarooma</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raspins Beach</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Spring Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Islands</td>
<td>Furneaux Group</td>
<td>Muttonbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamar River</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Estuary, waterfowl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GAME RESERVES

A game reserve is an area of land containing natural features that are unique, important or have representative value particularly with respect to game species.

Game Reserves throughout Tasmania cover about 0.3 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bird Island</td>
<td>Bass Strait</td>
<td>Muttonbird island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Dog Island</td>
<td>Furneaux</td>
<td>Muttonbird island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulting Lagoon</td>
<td>East Coast</td>
<td>Lagoon, waterbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East River</td>
<td>Flinders Island</td>
<td>Waterbirds, estuary, heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stack Island</td>
<td>Bass Strait</td>
<td>Muttonbird island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATURE RECREATION AREAS

A nature recreation area is an area of land predominantly in a natural state or containing sensitive natural sites of significance for recreation.

Nature recreation areas in Tasmania cover about 1 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Area</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humbug Point</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Coastal, recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killekranke</td>
<td>North Flinders</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palana Beach</td>
<td>North Flinders</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HISTORIC SITES

The term historic site is applied to an area of land of significance for historic cultural heritage.

Historic sites throughout Tasmania cover about 0.3 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic sites</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currie Lightkeeper’s Residence</td>
<td>King Island</td>
<td>Local museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entally House</td>
<td>Hadspen</td>
<td>Historic home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddystone Point Lighthouse</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Historic light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Head Historic Site</td>
<td>East Tamar</td>
<td>Historic light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Direction</td>
<td>East Tamar</td>
<td>Semaphore station site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Cove</td>
<td>Furneaux Group</td>
<td>Early shipwreck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waubadbars Grave</td>
<td>Bicheno</td>
<td>Aboriginal grave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARINE RESERVES

Marine Reserves are areas of sea and/or land especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor Island</td>
<td>Bicheno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Island</td>
<td>Maria Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE FOREST AREAS

State forest areas are managed by Forestry Tasmania. Apart from being used to harvest trees and for timber production, the forests are managed for a range of recreational activities and conservation reasons, which collectively are termed ‘multiple-use’.

The State forests in Tasmania cover about 22 per cent of the total land area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hollybank Forest</td>
<td>Near Launceston</td>
<td>Forest information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathinna Falls Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Waterfalls, swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evercreech Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>White gum forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Victoria</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Great views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Blue Tier</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Tin and gold mining history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scamander Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Fishing and camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetus Falls Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Water falls and dry forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandspit Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Dry vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckoo Falls</td>
<td>Near Scottsdale</td>
<td>Waterfall, eucalypt and rainforest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Puzzler Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Near Fingal</td>
<td>Waterfalls, views and forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Great Short Walks in the east & northeast

Throughout Tasmania there have been designated 60 Great Short Walks, which can be accessed from major roads and include a range of walking environments and levels of difficulty. Whether you want a physical challenge, a gentle stroll, or a seaside ramble, use this list as a guide to those walks available in the southern region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralphs Falls</td>
<td>Pine Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Columba Falls</td>
<td>Tamar Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evercreech</td>
<td>Cape Tourville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trousers Point</td>
<td>Douglas Apsley Waterhole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strzelecki Peaks</td>
<td>Apsley Gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Rock</td>
<td>Alum Cliffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liffey Falls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Beaches</td>
<td>Duck Reach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wineglass Bay Lookout</td>
<td>Hollybank Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wineglass Bay</td>
<td>Meander Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazards Beach</td>
<td>Painted Cliffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop and Clerk</td>
<td>Fossil Cliffs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather conditions in Tasmania can change quickly, regularly and with very little warning. In any month sunshine can quickly be replaced by heavy rain, winds and snow. If walking further than a 15 minute return trip in our mountainous areas, clothing for wet and cold conditions should be taken.
The Tasmanian trail

The Tasmanian Trail is a long-distance multi-purpose recreational trail extending some 480 kilometres from Devonport on the northern coast of Tasmania to Dover in the south. The Trail has been established for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

The trail links up existing forestry roads, fire trails and country roads and occasionally crosses private land. Up to 90 per cent of the trail is on some form of made road or track. It passes through a wide range of environments including some of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of Tasmania. Through forests and farmlands, across highland plateaus and past the buildings and bridges of some of Australia’s oldest towns, the Tasmanian Trail provides a journey rich in cultural and natural heritage.

Snippets of history: east & northeast

The first Europeans to explore the east and northeast of Van Diemen’s Land were the early sealers, who worked on Cape Barren Island as early as 1798. They came from as far afield as North America and often conflicted with rival gangs over the seals or women from the Aboriginal communities on the mainland of Tasmania.

The first European settlements in the northeast of Van Diemen’s Land were predominantly on the coast, in areas that were lightly timbered and offered easy access to the sea. The inland areas were generally ignored because of the thick forests that made access and clearing difficult and reduced the opportunity for grazing or cultivating crops. Similarly, the lack of suitable harbours to anchor boats to bring supplies and take produce for sale deterred many young farmers from settling in the wilderness of the east coast.

The gold rush in Victoria in the 1850s brought demands for food and building material and encouraged the government to explore the northeast in search of arable land. The early explorers, led by James Scott, left from Launceston and made only part of the journey on horseback; the terrain became too rough for horses and the party continued on foot. After ten days they made it to Waterhouse on the northeast coast, where they rested briefly then continued inland to explore what is now Scottsdale, Diddelum and the open country east of Mt Barrow.

The exploration was considered a success and the development of access roads began. The area became known as Scotts New Country after the leader of the expedition and a road was cut from Launceston to Ringarooma in 1859. The following year a track was cut to the area now known as Scottsdale. The discovery of minerals in the area saw further development on the east coast. In 1869 gold was discovered at Waterhouse and eventually the small bush settlement grew to become the larger town of Lyndhurst. Gold was discovered at a number of other sites in the northeast, the most profitable mine being at Mathinna, discovered in 1870 and mined through until 1912. The discovery of tin in the northeast opened more land for mining. For many years there were about 80 tin mines operating throughout the region.

Following are brief accounts and historical details of some of the many towns in the east-northeast region. Some references are included and we encourage you to utilise local history rooms, libraries and discussions with local people to enhance your own knowledge of the region.
BICHENO
The discovery of coal in the 1840s near Bicheno attracted the first permanent settlers to the area. The mining of coal along the banks of the Denison River led to a flurry of activity in the new town and government officials and support industries were soon established. However the activity lasted only as long as the coal mines, which closed in 1858. Following the mining boom the town became a centre for locals to pick up supplies and deliver their produce to the jetty for shipping. It was not until the 1900s that the fishing potential of the area was realised and a fishing industry became well established.

BRIDPORT
Bridport, located on the northeast coast of Tasmania near the mouth of the Brid River, was known to seamen and graziers well before it became the bustling town of today. The area was open for settlement by Europeans in the 1830s through numerous land grants in locations such as Cape Portland and Little Mussleroe River. Bridport grew gradually as a supply centre for small boats transporting goods to nearby settlements, especially as the areas inland became more populated. The development of a railway line into Scottsdale reduced reliance upon this port town, however by the 1890s Bridport was fast becoming a seaside resort, well known for its locally produced fine fruit and vegetables.

CAMPBELL TOWN
Governor Macquarie named Campbell Town, after his wife’s maiden name. The town grew quickly, although not with great wealth, and the end of the convict transportations in 1853 and the removal of the British garrisons (1869-70) Campbell Town had a very small population.

Eventually, Campbell Town became the agricultural centre for the State. The area was focused on the production of fine wool, which even today is world-renowned. Timber has been cut in the area, since the first settlement and evidence of numerous old saw pits can still be found along the Eastern Tiers.

Harold Gatty Memorial: The memorial was built to commemorate Harold Gatty, the navigator of the first around-the-world flight, in 1931, with pilot Wylie Post. Harold Gatty was the son of the headmaster of the local school.
Sealing parties had visited the offshore rocks and islands of Great Oyster Bay since the early 1800s. An American, Captain Richard of Thalia, aboard the Hazard was reported as whaling in the area in 1824. Several features of the peninsula were named after him.

COLES BAY AND FREYCYNET

Whaling parties, tin and coal miners and pastoralists were among those who lived and worked on the Freycinet Peninsula since the early years of European settlement. Old mine shafts, abandoned farmers’ huts and the remains of whalers’ camps today form part of the rich cultural heritage of the area and the national park.

The brothers Freycinet were senior officers on Baudin’s expedition, although it is unclear which one the peninsula was named after.

Sheep and cattle grazed on parts of the Freycinet Peninsula from as early as the 1850s; in 1859 Francis Cotton reported that a Mr Leggs was occupying a comfortable stone hut and several cultivated paddocks. The Bryan, Gill and Cook families later occupied the farm at Cooks Beach, which explains names such as Cooks Corner and Bryans Beach. The old hut, stone fish traps and a boat slip can still be seen there today.

The stripping of wattle bark, for use in the leather industry, and lime burning were other activities carried out by early settlers on the peninsula.

Coles Bay is said to be named after Silas Cole, an early settler who burned shells from the large Aboriginal middens on Richardsons Beach to make lime.

FINGAL VALLEY

Further inland, the Fingal Valley had been occupied since 1821 when John Batman took up a land grant near the foothills of Ben Lomond. The Fingal Valley provided the most straightforward access from the midland areas of Tasmania to the east coast at Falmouth.

During the early settlement times there were convict probation stations at Fingal and Avoca. These stations were relatively lacking in discipline, as there was very little organised employment for the convicts. Most were involved in building the road through the Fingal Valley. The Fingal Station housed 300 men and another 200 people could be accommodated in buildings detached from the main station.

In 1852 gold was discovered near Fingal at Mangana and a small ‘gold rush’ occurred, which slowed considerably when the difficulty of extracting the reef gold was realised. By 1890 the Fingal region was the main coal producer in the State. The opening of the Conara-St Marys railway line in 1886 was a great step forward in the region’s development through the transportation of coal.

FLINDERS ISLAND

Located 20 km north of Cape Portland (northeast tip of Tasmania) by sea and 151 km from Launceston by air, Flinders Island is the largest of the Furneaux Group of islands, lying at the eastern end of Bass Strait and is about 29 kilometres wide and 64 kilometres long.

It was first identified by Europeans when Tobias Furneaux, the commander of Captain Cook’s support ship, became separated from the Endeavour and sighted the Furneaux Group on 19 March 1773.

The first European settlers in the area were sealers. The sealing industry started after the survivors of the Sydney Cove (wrecked at Preservation Island) reported large numbers of fur seals in the area. The last sealing licences were issued in 1828, and after the collapse of the industry a few of the sealers and their wives settled on the outer islands around the Furneaux Group.
In 1833 the remnants of the Tasmanian Aboriginal population (a mere 160 people) were exiled to live at Settlement Point (named by the Aboriginals Wybalenna, meaning black man’s houses) on Flinders Island, with the misguided belief that they would be protected from abuse by the white settlers on the Tasmanian mainland. By 1847 the settlement had been deemed a failure and was abandoned. The remaining 45 Aborigines were sent to Oyster Cove on the east coast of Tasmania.

GOULDS COUNTRY

The area was named after geologist and surveyor Gould in the mid 1800s. Mining started around 1875, with the discovery of tin around the Junction (now known as Lottah) and Blue Tier. During the early days of settlement there was not a local doctor in the district. It has been said that when the people of Weldborough required medical aid someone in the area would ‘mysteriously’ die, necessitating the presence of a doctor at the inquest, at the Governments expense. Doctors could then attend other patients without undue cost.

LAUNCESTON

Launceston is the second largest city in Tasmania, located on the Tamar River. It has an extraordinary history and a large number of elegant nineteenth century buildings.

The Tamar river was first discovered by Europeans when Bass and Flinders entered it during their circumnavigation of Van Diemen’s Land in 1798. They explored the river for 16 days and named it Port Dalrymple after Alexander Dalrymple, the British Admiralty’s hydrographer.

The area was settled in 1804 when Governor King, fearful that the French might settle in Van Diemen’s Land, sent a small expeditionary force under Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson to the district. Paterson set up camp at the present-day site of George Town. Shortly afterwards an expedition heading southward came to the present site of Launceston. They were so impressed that a blockhouse was built and by March 1806 Paterson had decided to relocate to the area, which was named Patersonia (for obvious reasons) but soon renamed Launceston, after the town in Cornwall where Governor Philip Gidley King had been born.

Like Hobart, Launceston’s economic importance was originally based on its function as a port. By 1824 it had become the official headquarters of the island’s northern military command. This was against the wishes of Governor Macquarie who had favoured George Town, closer to the mouth of the Tamar River, as the main settlement. In 1826 it was surveyed and by 1827 the town had a population of 2,000 and was already shipping wool and wheat from the surrounding districts.

MATHINNA

Gold had been discovered at the Black Boys Plains in the mid 1850s but until the 1870s Mathinna had very few permanent buildings, most of the population being transient miners who pitched their tents for a few weeks to try their luck at prospecting in the area. In 1878 the Black Boy Hotel at Mathinna offered improved accommodation and a twice-weekly vehicle service from Fingal. Despite fluctuations in the goldfield’s success the township gradually grew and by the turn of the century Mathinna was the largest settlement in the Fingal Valley with a population approaching 2,000.

USEFUL REFERENCE


INTERPS TIP

Deal Island Light Station is a historic heritage site of outstanding significance, being one of the most important heritage light stations in Australia. It is on the Register of the National Estate as well as the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

INTERPS TIP

Bass Strait was named after the explorer, George Bass. Flinders Island was named by Governor King, after Matthew Flinders.

INTERPS TIP

It has been suggested that Launceston has the greatest concentration of large nineteenth century buildings of any city in Australia.
In 1836, convicts built the splendid stone bridge at Ross, which is still used to cross the Macquarie River.

ROSS

In 1804 Governor King, residing in Sydney Town, decreed that Van Diemen’s Land should be divided into two counties, Buckingham in the south and Cornwall in the north. The dividing line passed through the township known as Ross. Ross was important as a coach horse changeover point and a stock market and it was the venue for the first agricultural show in the midlands.

SCOTTSDALE

One of the first settlers in the Scottsdale region (then known as Ellesmere) was Thomas Cox, who built his house from treeferns near a creek now known as Cox’s Creek. Settlement in the area began in the late 1830s, with the first settlers facing some very rugged and heavily forested terrain. Huge amounts of timber had to be removed to make space for a house site, and then more of the area was deforested to create agricultural land. The sheer size of the trees made clearing difficult and the process of cutting the trees, converting them to shingles, posts or pickets, or burning them, was slow.

Once cleared, the rich soil produced heavy yields of vegetables, which were valuable resources as most food and supplies had to be carried in from Launceston, an arduous journey by horse or foot, and were often in short supply. Wheat and various grains were grown along with vegetables such as potatoes. The new crops attracted native animals and birds, which provided more fresh and tasty food for the early settlers.

As the area became viable in terms of fresh produce and timber, a road was built through to Bridport where produce could be shipped to other settlements.

By the 1900s the area including and surrounding Scottsdale had a population of nearly 3,000, which justified a daily coach service to a number of regional towns (such as Derby and Branxholm) to transport people, post and supplies.

ST HELENS

Initially known as Georges Bay, St Helens was established on the banks of Georges Bay at the mouth of Georges River. St Helens is surrounded inland by rugged hills and terrain and for many years the easiest access was from the sea. It is believed that the surveyor John Helder Wedge was one of the first Europeans to visit the area, in 1825, in search of viable agricultural land. Land in the area was originally granted for farming and the port was used for transporting mining loads from the area. The absence of sandstone buildings in the area is indicative of the lack of convict labour in the region during the early settlement years.

SCHOUTEN ISLAND

When navigating the east coast of Tasmania in 1642, Abel Tasman named Schouten Island after a member of the Council of the Dutch East India Company. The adjacent peninsula was initially thought to consist of a chain of islands, but this myth was dispelled during the visit of Nicholas Baudin, the French explorer, in 1802-03:

*High granitic mountains, whose summits are almost completely barren, form the whole eastern coast of this part of Van Diemen’s Land. They rise sheer from the base. The country, which adjoins them, is extremely low and cannot be seen unless viewed*
from only a little distance at sea. It is to this strange formation that we must
doubtless attribute the errors of the navigators who had preceded us into these
waters and who had mistaken these high mountains for as many separate islands.

The residents of Schouten Island were linked to the outside world by ships that
visited irregularly. The island has a long history associated with whaling, mining
and farming. Whaling activity in the area ended in the mid 1840s.

The sealer Joseph Stacey discovered coal after his ship was washed ashore on
Schouten Island in 1809. The deposits were not commercially exploited until
the 1840s when the Garland brothers began mining operations. They
constructed a tramway and jetty, but the venture proved unprofitable.

The government then re-acquired the island and leased it to private concerns.
The Australasian Smelting Company, formed in 1848, continued the work
started by the Garland brothers. Edward Crockett was appointed as mine
manager and over 60 convicts were hired as labourers. In 1850 it was
reported that 120-130 tons of coal a week were being raised from shafts sunk
near the shore. Soon after, the mine was sublet to Crockett who carried on
operations for several years.

Bernacchi and partners unsuccessfully tried to revive mining operations in the
1880s. The old tramway was extended at this time. Today, a cutting, running
westwards from Crocketts Bay, marks the line it once took. From 1924-25, the
Chinese community ran tin and coal mines on the island and grazing leases
were continuously granted until 1969.

What’s in a name?

From historical records it is apparent that the French explorers were the first
Europeans to visit, map and name many places in Tasmania. The east coast of
Tasmania has numerous French names, resulting from Baudin’s 1802
expedition on the ships Geographe and Naturaliste.

The following list is a brief overview of some of the towns and places in the
region providing, a snippet of their history, a reason for their name, or just a
quirky story relating to the town.

BINALONG BAY

Until 1944 it was known as Boat Harbour. The Portland Council changed the
name to what is said to be the Aboriginal name for the area. It is now a popular
coastal and fishing spot.

BICHENO

The harbour was used for a number of years by whalers and sealers and was
known as Waubs Harbour. It was named Bicheno after a popular secretary of
the Van Diemen’s Land Company in 1851.

BUCKLAND

Was a main rest and change stop during the horse and buggy days, known as
Prossers Plains. In 1846 Governor Franklin renamed it in honour of Dean
Buckland. The stained glass windows in the church (built in 1846) are
reputed to have been brought over from England and date to the 12th century.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Bacon, C.A. and Corbett, K.D.
(1984). The Schouten Island Coal
Field.

INTERPS TIP

To enhance your tour, research
the background of some of the
towns you frequently pass
through and create your own
interesting tales!
CAPE NATURALISTE
Named after one of French explorer Nicholas Baudin’s vessels.

DERBY
On the banks of the Ringarooma River, it began as a tin mine known as Brothers Home Mine. In 1897 the name changed to Derby after the Prime Minister of England, Earl Derby. Mining was still active well into the 1970s.

DELORAINE
Was named by Surveyor Scott after Sir William Deloraine, a character in a poem by Sir Walter Scott, ‘Lay of the Last Minstrel’. It was built beside a convict village named ‘Alveston’ and gradually the two places became one. The first train to run in Tasmania in 1871 ran between Launceston and Deloraine. A town that has been described as the ‘scenic centre of the north’, Deloraine spreads over both sides of the Meander River.

EDDYSTONE POINT
The lighthouse located on the point has been active since the late 1880s. Captain Cook named the land outcrop after Eddystone Point on the south coast of England.

ELIZABETH TOWN
Named after Governor Macquarie’s wife.

FINGAL
Named by James Grant who arrived there in 1821. Payable gold was found close by in 1852, after which coal was found and is still mined.

FLINDERS ISLAND
The largest island in the Furneaux Group in Bass Strait, first mapped by Captain Tobias Furneaux. Matthew Flinders sailed around the area in 1797 when he was looking for the wreck of the Sydney Cove. Flinders named the island ‘Great Island’. However, the name was changed by Governor King.

FURNEAUX GROUP
Named after Captain Tobias Furneaux of the Adventure.

FREDERICK HENRY BAY
Named by Tasman after a Dutch Prince.

GEORGETOWN
Situated at the mouth of the Tamar River in Port Dalrymple. It is the third-oldest settlement in Australia and is now Australia’s oldest town. Named by the Governor of New South Wales, Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, in honour of King George III. Lieutenant Colonel Paterson was forced ashore in a storm in 1804 and a permanent settlement was established in 1811.
GLADSTONE
The town has a mining history but more recently has concentrated on pastoral exploits. Tin miners settled the area in 1870, a large number of whom were Chinese.

LAKE LEAKE
The Elizabeth River (which flows through Campbelltown) begins here. It was named after an early pioneer of the district, Charles Leake.

LAUNCESTON
Settled in 1806 by Colonel Patterson, the town was first known as Patersonia. Later the name changed to Launceston in honour of Governor King’s birthplace in Cornwall. From here John Batman sailed across Bass Strait and settled Melbourne.

LITTLE SWANPORT
Named by George Meredith, but it is believed that sealers and whalers frequented the area prior to its naming.

LONGFORD
Located between the south Esk and Macquarie Rivers. A number of people from Norfolk Island settled here in 1813 when the area was known as Norfolk Plains. Then, in 1827, it was known as Latter, being renamed Longford. The Christ church is the oldest in the state and a clock that features was presented by King George IV.

ORFORD
Began as a convict settlement in 1825 and was later used by whalers.

SCHOUTEN ISLAND
Named by Tasman after the Dutch commander who in 1610 first rounded Cape Horn.

ST HELENS
The town had its beginning in the 1830s as a small farming community, but grew into a very important port for tin mining. When the mines closed, St. Helens became a major fishing port and holiday destination. Named by Captain Furneaux after a place on the Isle of Wight in England.

ST PATRICKS HEAD
Named by Captain Tobias Furneaux when he sailed by in the Adventure on St Patrick’s Day, 17 March 1773. It was renamed Tasmans Peak in 1798-9 but later reverted to its original name.

In the early days the Falmouth district was referred to as St Patrick’s Head or St Patrick’s Point

The Aboriginal people of the area called it Lumara Genena Wuggelina, meaning molar tooth, which the mountain resembles when viewed from the eastern side.
SWANSEA

Founded in 1860 and originally named Great Swanport, it was associated with the Rocky Hills Probation Station which held over 400 convicts. It still has many historic buildings and is a popular seaside town for tourists.

TRIABUNNA

Started as a whaling town, it is located on the coastline discovered by Nicholas Baudin in 1802. Is now an industrial town with a huge woodchip mill.

WINEGLASS BAY

Charted by Baudin in 1802 and named Baie Thoin after a Parisian botanist. Many cartographers used this name until the bay was named after its shape and marked accordingly on Australian maps.
7. What and where: south & central plateau

This section relates specifically to the South & Central Plateau regions – Hobart, the Tasman Peninsula, the Derwent and Huon Valleys and the Central Plateau.

The aim of this section is to outline some of the many reserved areas, particularly focusing on the local national parks and their natural values (landforms, plants and animals) and history.

Many and varied activities can be carried out in Tasmania’s reserved areas including walking, mountain biking, scuba diving, four-wheel driving, and hunting during appropriate seasons. It is not possible to provide a simple summary of ‘what you can do in nature reserves’ or ‘what you can do at historic sites’ as each site is unique and managed with the particular qualities in mind. Feel free to contact your local Parks and Wildlife office to determine which activities are acceptable in the reserved area you wish to visit.

The information here has been kept to a minimum. Additional details are available from the notesheets and references included.
Each reserved area in Tasmania is managed uniquely, depending on the various natural and cultural features and the reasons for its reservation. To determine exactly which activities are suited to the reserve you wish to visit, please use the descriptions below, and if you require further information contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service Office.

Definitions of the various reserved areas throughout the southern region are shown below. Names, locations and notable features have also been listed.

For further information regarding these sites, refer to the notesheets and publications indicated, the Parks and Wildlife website, or contact your local Parks and Wildlife office.

**National parks**

National parks are large natural areas of land containing a representative or outstanding sample of major natural regions, features or scenery.

Tasmania’s 19 national parks, cover about 21 per cent of the area of the State. The table below lists those in the south and central plateau.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwest National Park</td>
<td>Cockle Creek, southwest of Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartz Mountains</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Field</td>
<td>Westerway, northwest of Hobart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruny Island</td>
<td>Endemic birds, wild seascape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasman</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following text provides a brief account of the origins of the national parks in this area, some of the historical aspects and natural features.

**TASMAN NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND**

In the far southeast corner of Tasmania lie the Forestier and Tasman Peninsulas, joined by a narrow isthmus. The cultural and natural richness of these peninsulas is rare in the world. Here you find the highest vertical sea cliffs in Australia, spectacular geological features of international significance, evidence of 6,000 years of Aboriginal occupation, the most renowned penal settlement in Australia, remains of early mining and timber harvesting, and abundant and diverse flora and fauna.

The proclamation of the first reserve, the Pirates Bay State Reserve, took place in 1917. Reserves continued to be proclaimed as local people and government bodies recognised their worth for species protection, cultural significance, and the preservation of scenic sites for tourism and for the enjoyment of future generations. About one-fifth of the peninsula (almost 13,000 hectares) is protected as national park or reserves. These include Tasman National Park (10,750 ha), Tessellated Pavement State Reserve, Eaglehawk Neck Historic Site, Pirates Bay State Reserve, Eaglehawk Bay—Flinders Bay Conservation Area, Eaglehawk Bay State Reserve, Coal Mines Historic Site, Lime Bay State Reserve, Roaring Beach Conservation Area, Hardys Hill Nature Reserve, Mount Arthur State Reserve, Stewarts Bay State Reserve, Safety Cove State Reserve and Port Arthur Historic Site.

The Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas cover less than 1 per cent of the area of the state, yet contain over one-third of the total plant species found in Tasmania—some 530 species.
The vegetation types present include coastal heaths, dune vegetation, wetlands, saltmarshes, dry and wet sclerophyll forests and some small areas of subalpine scrub and rainforest. The Tasman Peninsula is well known for the ideal habitat it provides for various endemic plants. The area reputedly has the highest sea cliffs in Australia, at Cape Pillar. Arguably, the most important influence on the coastal landforms of the Tasman Peninsula is the sea level, which has changed by over 100 metres a number of times over the last two million years.

MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

From the 1830s, trappers and snarers worked the high country around Mt Field, coming in from Montos Marsh (now Ellendale). Bushrangers and escaped convicts were known to have hidden in the country around Bushy Park in the 1840s, trapping native animals and taking advantage of produce from local farms.

Prior to 1910, the only access to the high country was by track from Ellendale. In 1869, the eminent botanist Baron von Mueller visited Mt Field East on a week-long collecting trek, guided by the Rayner brothers, local trappers. He described the snow gum (*Eucalyptus coccifera*), urn gum (*E. urnigera*), cider gum (*E. Gunnii*) and cushion plants (*Donatia novaezelandie*) from the meadows around Lake Fenton. The botanist Leonard Rodway also explored the area from the 1850s.

The first non-Aboriginal to encounter Russell Falls was a settler named Browning in 1856. The falls became known as Brownings Falls until about 1884 when confusion caused them to be referred to as Russell Falls, and by the turn of the century the name was firmly established. The original Russell Falls, named for a member of an exploration party in the Derwent Valley, was actually located on the Trenna River, which was previously known as Russell Falls River. Frodsham surveyed the area in 1884, and the Falls Reserve was proclaimed in 1885.

The park has long been recognised as an area with a high degree of plant diversity compared to other Tasmanian mountains. The diversity is due to various influences including the park’s geographic location (central to both the eastern and western plant communities of Tasmania), the range of geological substrates including dolerite, limestone, sandstone and quartzite, and its altitudinal range which extends from lowland to alpine habitats. During the period of maximum Pleistocene glaciation, a permanent snowfield covered the top of the Mt Field plateau and fed surrounding valley glaciers. The higher peaks of the park were nunataks of rock exposed above the snowfields and the numerous remaining tarns on Tarn Shelf are an excellent examples of glacial scouring. The majority of Tasmania’s native terrestrial and arboreal mammal species occur within the park and some species that are either extinct or endangered on the mainland are found in the area, such as the eastern quoll and the eastern barred bandicoot. The last Tasmanian tiger, destined to be held in the Hobart Zoo, was trapped in the nearby Florentine Valley in 1933.
SOUTH BRUNY ISLAND NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The spectacular natural landscapes of the South Bruny National Park contain intrinsically important environments which also underpin the value of the park for recreation and tourism. The reservation of the park as a State reserve, known as South Bruny National Park, was formally proclaimed in 1997. The park includes the former Labillardiere and the former Fluted Cape State Reserves.

The Aboriginal people who lived on Bruny Island belonged to the Southeast tribe and their particular band was known as Nuenonne and comprised about 70 people. The Nuenonne people called the island Lunnawannalonna. This name is retained in the two settlements on South Bruny, Alonnah and Lunawanna. The national park contains a number of important Aboriginal sites, mainly in the form of middens, quarries and artefact scatters. There is also a number of stone arrangements along the coastline of the park. One of the most famous Tasmanian Aborigines, Truganini, was born in 1803 to the wife of Mangana, the chief of the Bruny Island tribe. She died in 1876 and is sometimes mistakenly referred to as the last Tasmanian Aborigine. In fact many descendants of Tasmanian Aborigines live on to this day.

The geology of the Park contains features from many geological ages. The coastline consists of cliffs and headlands broken up by the beaches. Most of the park is comprised of Jurassic dolerite, forming the dramatic sea cliffs in the park. Another interesting geological feature is the mid-bay spit on the south of the island, one of only four in Tasmania, that separates Cloudy Bay from Cloudy Bay Lagoon.

The native vegetation of Bruny Island consists of a great diversity of predominantly dry sclerophyll plant communities, heathlands and coastal vegetation. There are also small areas of wet eucalypt forests. Much of the vegetation is exposed to the prevailing onshore south-westerly winds. There are geographically significant endemic species such as velvet bush and threatened species including an endemic eyebright.

The mammal fauna of the park, like that of Bruny Island in general, is typical of smaller islands in having low species diversity. For example, the native carnivores (Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll) and the wombat are absent. The eastern quoll is reported to occur on the island, however there is debate as to whether it was introduced or occurs naturally. Bird life in the Park is rich and varied, the variety of habitat favouring all twelve of Tasmania’s endemic bird species.

HARTZ MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND (WHA)

The Aboriginal people who lived in this area probably belonged to the Southeast group whose territory ranged from New Norfolk to Bruny Island, throughout the D’Entrecasteaux Channel, and inland to the Huon Valley. They would have used the coast for resources such as shellfish and mutton-birds and travelled further inland for wallabies and plant foods. The Hartz Mountains area and surrounding forests continue to have significance for today’s Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The first Europeans to explore the area were timber-getters in search of Huon pine. They were also looking for possible routes west to Port Davey to reach the stands of pine there.
Among the early settlers in the 1840s were the Geeves family who founded the township of Geeveston. They explored much of the southwest and cut the first track from Geeveston to the Hartz Mountains. As a result, Hartz Mountains became one of Tasmania’s earliest bushwalking destinations and Geeveston received the benefits of tourism.

The increasing popularity of the Hartz Range as an area of outstanding beauty led to it being set aside as a scenic reserve in 1939. The forests in the Picton Valley through to Federation Peak were the centre of a major conservation battle in the late 1980s. Logging in these forests was the cause of well-publicised protests at Farmhouse Creek. In 1989 extensions to the World Heritage Area incorporated sections of this forest, as well as the Hartz Mountains National Park. Since then, under the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA), sections of the reserve have been revoked to allow for logging, while new areas have been added to the national park. Hartz Mountains National Park now encompasses 7,226 ha.

Hartz Mountains National Park ranges from 160 metres at the Picton River to 1255 metres above sea level at Hartz Peak. Most of the park is above 600 m. The sedimentary rocks of the lower altitudes, in the south, are amongst the oldest rocks in the park. They were formed from sediments deposited by marine, glacial and freshwater sources between 355 and 180 million years ago. The great backbone of rock extending almost the entire length of the park is dolerite.

CENTRAL PLATEAU CONSERVATION AREA BACKGROUND (WHA)

The Central Plateau is a spectacular, rugged area of Tasmania that has been protected to ensure the conservation of its unique natural and cultural features as well as to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. The Great Western Tiers form the northern and eastern boundaries of the Plateau. The southern side consists of a number of smaller tiers that descend towards the Derwent River.

In 1989, a significant part of the Plateau was included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Outstanding features of international significance include its long history of glaciation and the habitat it provides for rare and endangered plants and animals.

The Central Plateau is also known as the ‘Lake Country’ due to the presence of over 4,000 lakes. During past ice ages the plateau surface was modified leaving numerous depressions that were later filled forming lakes and tarns and various sizes. Other common features in this area are the many boulder streams and rock scree. The rocks repeatedly freeze and thaw due to the extreme conditions and eventually crack and form numerous smaller rocks. Gradually the rocks move down-slope creating, in some places, rivers of rock, as can be seen from the Liffey Valley Lookout.

Ten species of native fish and five introduced species occur on the Plateau. The native fish include several species of galaxias, which are small, slender and with only one dorsal fin and no scales. Nearly all the lakes and streams contain the introduced brown trout that make this area a popular fishing destination.

There is some evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the area from over 10,000 years ago. More recently, European settlers used the area for grazing, snaring, trout fishing and later hydro electric schemes were developed. All have left cultural legacies on the Central Plateau.
MACQUARIE ISLAND BACKGROUND (WHA)

Macquarie Island, one of Australia’s subantarctic islands and a site of outstanding geological significance on a world scale, has been listed as World Heritage Area. Macquarie Island is a Nature Reserve of Tasmania and is one of two Australian subantarctic possessions in the Southern Ocean (the other being Herd Island). Its position just north of the Antarctic Convergence makes it one of eight islands or island groups in the subantarctic region. Subantarctic islands lack trees; herbaceous plants are the dominant vegetation type. The areas have a mean annual temperature range from 1-5 °Celsius.

Macquarie Island has a harsh and rich history, prior to its reservation as a nature reserve. In 1933 the island was declared a wildlife sanctuary under the Tasmanian Birds and Animals Protection Act 1928. In 1972 it was made a State reserve under the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970. In 1977 it was listed on the Register of National Estate of the Australian Heritage Commission. The island was also made a Biosphere Reserve that same year under the IUCN 'Man and Biosphere Program', making it the only Biosphere Reserve in the Southern Ocean. In 1978 the park was extended to its present boundaries and named the Macquarie Island Nature Reserve. In 1979 it was declared a restricted area, with intending visitors requiring permits from the managing authority, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. It was first nominated for World Heritage Area listing in 1992. On December 5 1997, Macquarie Island was finally listed as a World Heritage Area, mainly because of its unique geological values. It was the second World Heritage Area for Tasmania, the other being the well-known Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

It is situated about 1,500 kilometres south-southeast of Tasmania, about halfway between Tasmania and Antarctica, at around 55 degrees south. The main island is approximately 34 kilometres long and 5.5 kilometres wide at its broadest point. There are numerous sea stacks and reefs close to shore and several small outlying islets are part of the reserve. The total area of Macquarie Island is 12,785 hectares.

There are no permanent human inhabitants on Macquarie Island, although the Australian Antarctic Division station is occupied year-round. The only access to the island is by sea and there are no harbours or landing facilities. Ship-traffic in the area is minimal and mainly consists of resupply vessels for the station.

The island supports a huge concentration of seabirds (3.5 million) and seals. At present only their breeding sites are protected, not their feeding sites or the surrounding sea. Proposals have been made to make a marine reserve at Macquarie Island and so protect this vital marine ecosystem.
Reserves

Reserves are classified according to their characteristics, and include: State reserves, conservation areas, game reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal sites.

The reserve classification depends on the purpose and the feature intended for protection, and accordingly, activities that can be pursued differ from one reserve to another.

STATE RESERVES

A State reserve is an area of land containing significant natural landscapes, natural features, and/or sites, objects and places of significance to Aboriginal people.

State reserves throughout Tasmania, cover about 1 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Derwent Cliffs</td>
<td>New Norfolk</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaglehawk Bay</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Coastal, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings Caves</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Caves, thermal springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Bay</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Scenic, railway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriotts Falls and</td>
<td>Southwest of Hobart</td>
<td>Limestone caves &amp; waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junee Caves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Arthur</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Lookout, historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Murrell</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Heath, rare plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmers Lookout</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Scenic views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pirates Bay</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Coastal, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Cove</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Coastal, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tessellated Pavement</td>
<td>Forestier Peninsula</td>
<td>Geological feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfall Creek</td>
<td>Bruny Island</td>
<td>Scenic, forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATURE RESERVES

A nature reserve is an area of land containing natural features that contribute to the biological and geological diversity and are unique, important or have representative value.

Nature reserves in Tasmania covers about 2 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betsey Island</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Scientific interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Deslacs</td>
<td>Clifton Beach</td>
<td>Scenery, muttonbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennes Hill</td>
<td>North Bruny Island</td>
<td>Rare birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duckholes Lagoons</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Rare plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Island</td>
<td>D’Entrecasteaux Channel</td>
<td>Ecological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Johnston</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Relict forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie Island (WHA)</td>
<td>Sub-Antarctic</td>
<td>Research-wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitt Water</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Wetlands, saltmarsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tinderbox</td>
<td>D’Entrecasteaux Channel</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSERVATION AREAS

A conservation area is an area of land, predominantly in a natural state, set aside to protect and maintain the cultural and natural features of the area, and provide for the sustainable use of the natural resources of that area of land.

Conservation Areas throughout Tasmania cover about 8 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adamsfield (WHA)</td>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Historic mining area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calverts Lagoon</td>
<td>South Arm</td>
<td>Water birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Plateau (WHA)</td>
<td>Central North</td>
<td>Alpine vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chauncy Vale</td>
<td>Bagdad</td>
<td>Flora, fauna and history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaglehawk Bay</td>
<td>Sorell</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lake</td>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Fish, habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Rumney</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralphs Bay</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randalls Bay</td>
<td>Port Cygnet</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roaring Beach</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Coastal area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Arm</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Wetland, migratory birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southport Lagoon</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Coastal, lagoon, heath</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GAME RESERVES

A game reserve is an area of land containing natural features that are unique, important or have representative value particularly with respect to game species.

Game Reserves throughout Tasmania cover about 0.3 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruny Island Neck</td>
<td>Bruny Island</td>
<td>Aboriginal heritage, shearwater colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tiberias</td>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>Waterfowl lagoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATURE RECREATION AREA

A nature recreation area is an area of land predominantly in a natural state or containing sensitive natural sites of significance for recreation.

Nature recreation areas in Tasmania comprise about 1% of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Area</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordons Hill</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Open eucalypt woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meehan Range</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Dry sclerophyll forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recherche Bay</td>
<td>Huon</td>
<td>Coastal, recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds Falls</td>
<td>Central west</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosny Hill</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snug Tiers</td>
<td>Kingborough</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Arm</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Coastal, recreation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HISTORIC SITES

The term historic site is applied to an area of land of significance for historic cultural heritage.

Historic sites throughout Tasmania cover about 0.3 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedlam Walls</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Aboriginal heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Mines</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Convict station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaglehawk Neck</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Convict history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Factory</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Prison site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo Bluff</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Nelson</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Signal station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Arthur</td>
<td>Tasman Peninsula</td>
<td>Model prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Gaol</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Convict-built prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Tower</td>
<td>Taroona</td>
<td>Sandstone shot tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasman Monument</td>
<td>Dunally</td>
<td>Discoverer's monument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARINE RESERVES

Marine Reserves are areas of sea and/or land especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nine Pin Point</td>
<td>Cygnet</td>
<td>Rocky reef, unique mixing of salt and fresh water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tinderbox</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Weedy sea dragon, diverse sea grasses and seaweeds, underwater snorkel trail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nine Pin Point

Has an unusual aquatic environment. Cold, nutrient-rich sea water from the southern ocean is overlaid with tannin-rich fresh water flowing from the Huon River catchment. The resulting tea-coloured water reduces the light levels on the reef. This allows the growth of a fascinating array of invertebrates, fish and red seaweeds, normally found in much deeper water on Tasmania’s east coast.

Tinderbox

A reserve was declared, to provide a safe, sheltered marine study area for education, research and recreation. The reserve protects a great variety of seaweeds, fish and invertebrate animals, and offers a great experience for divers and snorkellers. Tasmania’s only underwater snorkel trail is located here: it displays the fascinating marine life that inhabits the reef.
STATE FOREST AREAS

State forest areas are managed by Forestry Tasmania. Apart from being used to harvest trees and for timber production, the forests are managed for a range of recreational activities and conservation reasons, which collectively are termed ‘multiple-use’.

The State forests in Tasmania comprise about 22 per cent of the total land area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arve River Forest Drive</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Tahune Air Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picton River</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Rafting, fishing and kayaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings Forest Tour</td>
<td>South of Hobart</td>
<td>Regenerated forest and cultural sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mavista Picnic Area</td>
<td>Bruny Island</td>
<td>Tall trees and streamside walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wielangta Forest Drive</td>
<td>East coast</td>
<td>Production forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Mangana</td>
<td>Bruny Island</td>
<td>Rainforest species and views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HYDRO LAND

Hydro Tasmania generally owns and manages its land independently. As such, access permission should be sought from Hydro Tasmania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserved Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Gordon</td>
<td>Beyond Lake Pedder</td>
<td>Fishing, boating and picnicking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1963 the federal government provided a grant of $5 million to build a road west of Maydena into the Gordon River area. The construction of the dam began in 1967 and the process created the largest water storage in Australia. The two interconnected lakes that were produced, Lake Gordon and Lake Pedder, are nearly eight times larger than the Great Lake and three times larger than Lake Eucembene, the largest lake in the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

The development of Lake Pedder was surrounded by controversy due to the destruction of the small lake with a pristine beach along its shores. However, the lake was eventually dammed with three dams: Serpentine, Scotts Peak and Edgar. Lake Gordon was created through the erection of a 140 metre high concrete arch dam. The Gordon Power Station uses water from both dams and is located some 183 metres underground.

The development of a second stage to the Gordon River Development was obstructed by fierce environmental lobby groups, who eventually saved the Franklin River. Refer to section 6 for further details.
Wellington Park

Wilderness on Hobart’s doorstep, Wellington Park provides walking, climbing, abseiling, cycling and sightseeing opportunities less than half an hour’s drive from the city. Pillinger Drive turns right off Huon Road just before Fern Tree and gives easy access to the mountain’s maze of tracks and to the picnic and barbecue facilities at The Springs. The road passes beneath the towering crags of the Organ Pipes, a mecca for climbers. Views from the summit are superb – this is the starting point of the Mt Wellington cycle descent, one of Australia’s most challenging and exciting alpine rides.

Great Short Walks in the south & central plateau

Throughout Tasmania there have been designated 60 Great Short Walks, which can be accessed from major roads and include a range of walking environments and levels of difficulty. Whether you want a physical challenge, a gentle stroll, or a seaside ramble use, this list as a guide to those walks available in the southern region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Hauy</td>
<td>Pandani Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Raoul</td>
<td>Peninsula Walk—Bruny Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalmines</td>
<td>Russell Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duckhole Lake</td>
<td>Snug Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortescue to Bivouac Bay</td>
<td>South Cape Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Point / Fluted Cape</td>
<td>Tahune Airwalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartz Peak</td>
<td>Tall Trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keogh’s Creek</td>
<td>The Springs – Mt Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Barron Falls Circuit</td>
<td>Waterfall Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Esperance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Tasmanian trail

The Tasmanian Trail is a long-distance multi-purpose recreational trail extending some 480 kilometres from Devonport on the northern coast of Tasmania to Dover in the south. The Trail has been established for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

The trail links existing forestry roads, fire trails and country roads and occasionally crosses private land. Up to 90 per cent of the trail is on some form of made road or track. It passes through a wide range of environments including some of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of Tasmania. Through forests and farmlands, across highland plateaus and past the buildings and bridges of some of Australia’s oldest towns, the Tasmanian Trail provides a journey rich in cultural and natural heritage.

INTERPS TIP

A Tasmanian Trail Guidebook provides walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders with details required for travelling all or part of the Trail. The book is available at most equestrian, bike and outdoor shops as well as book stores and other outlets throughout Tasmania. Regular alterations and amendments are posted on the Tasmanian Trail website: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/recreat/tastrail.html>
Email: tastrail@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
Snippets of history: south & central plateau

In 1803 John Bowen arrived aboard the ships *Albion* and the *Lady Nelson*. Aboard were 49 people: free settlers, convicts and soldiers. The two ships headed to Risdon Cove, previously reported by George Bass as a fine location for a settlement. However, the lack of water and useful agricultural land eventually saw the settlement move to Sullivans Cove at what is now Hobart, as this area had a wealth of fine timber, flowing water and a river which ran close to the shore, allowing ships to anchor close and transport supplies.

The settlement in Van Diemen’s Land was initially made up of the convicts ‘rejected’ from Sydney Cove. These people were generally unskilled and often the roughest of those exported to Australia from Britain. It was therefore very difficult to clear and cultivate agricultural land, erect buildings and sustain a new settlement as people’s survival skills were limited.

In the beginning of the Hobart Town settlement, there were issues with the imbalance in numbers of men and women. The arrival of 554 Norfolk Islanders in 1838 eased this situation slightly, as did the arrival of various migrants in the 1830s. However, the balance of the sexes was not made even until the 1850s when, during the Victorian gold rush, many men headed to ‘greener pastures’.

In the 1880s the mineral boom on the west coast saw the influx of many people from the mainland. The effects of this were felt as far away as Hobart, where the population increased to such an extent that overcrowding resulted in diseases.

During Hobart’s early days numerous sandstone buildings were erected, many of which can still be seen. Building was encouraged after the provision of town plans, by Governor Macquarie to try to curtail the unorganised development of the original settlement.

"Following are brief accounts and historical details of some of the many towns in the east-northeast region. Some references are included and we encourage you to utilise local history rooms, libraries and discussions with local people to enhance your own knowledge of the region."

HOBBART

Shipping was the major means of transport and trade to and from Van Diemen’s Land, and the need for a safe entrance to the Derwent River saw the erection of the lighthouse on the Iron Pot in 1832. It is believed that the Iron Pot was so named as the whalers often left their try-pots on the rock.

As early as 1830 steam vessels made the crossing of the Derwent River a safe and fast trip. Many farmers had their own boat and jetty, many of which still remain. The eastern shore became a thriving agriculture area, covered in orchards that supplied fruit locally and internationally, until after the Second World War.

During 1893 the first tram system of its kind in Australia was set up in Hobart Town. In 1898 the first electric streetlights lit the streets. The first bridge connecting the eastern shore of Hobart with the west was erected in 1943.

INTERPS TIP

In 1804, the population of Hobart was approximately 433 people, including 279 male and two female convicts. The remainder were free settlers.
**BRUNY ISLAND**

Bruny Island is Tasmania’s fourth largest island, and is often described as almost two separate islands joined by an isthmus, known as The Neck. The north island has a distinctly warmer and drier climate than the south despite its closer proximity. The north island is covered with open pastures and lightly timbered areas, while the south has tall mountains and dense rainforests intermingled with some farm areas.

Bruny Island’s history reflects, in many ways, the history of Tasmania. It was inhabited for thousands of years by Aboriginal Tasmanians before Abel Tasman, the first European in the region, sailed along its shore in 1642. Captain Tobias Furneaux first located the safe anchorage of Adventure Bay in 1773. Furneaux named the bay after his vessel the *Adventure*. Adventure Bay was then utilised by Captain James Cook in 1777 and by Captain William Bligh in 1788, 1792 and 1808. Bligh was responsible for the planting of the first apple tree in Tasmania during his 1788 voyage. French Admiral Bruni D’Entrecasteaux anchored in the bay in 1792 and gave his name to both the island and the channel that separates it from the mainland. Captain Matthew Flinders also took advantage of the bay’s safe anchorage in 1814.

In the early part of the 19th century whaling was carried out in Adventure Bay, mainly focusing on the southern right whales during their annual migration. There were whaling stations at Cloudy Bay and Grass Point in the north of the park where structural remains can still be seen today. This important industry was not sustainable, a drastic decline in whale numbers resulted from over-exploitation and by the late 1840s whaling had collapsed.

**CHAUNCY VALE**

The land at Chauncy Vale was purchased in 1914, by Charles Masterman and his wife Ellen, whose maiden name was Chauncy. The family, including six children, immigrated from England and took up residency at Chauncy Vale near Bagdad. They spent weekends and holidays building a house and developing a vegetable garden.

Daughter, Nan, as she affectionately became known, grew up in the bush and hills surrounding Chauncy Vale, exploring and adventuring with her five siblings. The children, having come from England, were always in awe of the wonders of Australian nature. Nan was a keen writer and published numerous children’s books, based on her life at Chauncy Vale and the adventures she and her siblings had. The first of Nan’s books was published in 1947, *They found a Cave*, and it was made into a film in 1961. In total she wrote 15 novels, numerous short stories and educational material.

On their initial introduction to Chauncy Vale, the Chauncys had decided the area should one day be a sanctuary. They farmed parts of the land but did little to alter the native vegetation. The surrounding areas of Pontville and Bagdad were heavily cleared to make way for agricultural practices and so the native animals sought refuge at Chauncy Vale.

The Animals and Birds Protection Board agreed that the area comprised unique habitat, providing homes and food for a number of native animals, and also had a rich variety of plant life. The Board was impressed that private land holders were interested in preserving their land and the property was gazetted in 1946 as Wildlife Sanctuary, and was declared under the Parks and Wildlife Act in 1970.

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**INTERPS TIP**

Cape Bruny Lighthouse was the oldest continually manned lighthouse in Australia. Construction began in 1835, following the wrecking of three ships. The tower was built by convicts, using local stone, to a height of 13 metres, and was operating by 1838. The original light used up to a pint of sperm whale oil every hour to fuel 15 lamps.
The typhus ship at Impression Bay

In 1857, the Persian, a vessel carrying many emigrants from the islands of the Hebrides to Hobart Town, recorded a death from typhus fever after only 22 days at sea. By the time the ship reached Hobart there were 36 cases on board: 10 deaths, and many people were at death's door. The Governor of Van Diemen's Land eventually decided that the fever ship should be sent to what is now known as Premaydena, where it was far from any settlement and the convict probation station could act as a quarantine station, once the 30 remaining convicts were transferred. During these times people were not aware that lice carried typhus, but fortunately all the bedding was burnt and their belongings were fumigated. Once ashore no new cases were recorded and many recovered—but eight of those already infected died. All emigrants from the vessel were kept at the quarantine station until January 1858, after which they were able to continue their new lives in Hobart Town.

Following Nan's death in 1970, her husband Anton remained at Chauncy Vale until the fires of 1982 burnt everything except their house. Following Anton's death in 1986, the Sanctuary was bequeathed to the people of the Brighton Municipality. Friends of Chauncy Vale, Bagdad school and other local interest groups now manage the property.

TASMAN PENINSULA

The first sighting of the area by Europeans was in 1642 when the crew from Abel Tasman’s historic voyage went ashore near Cape Frederick Henry on the Forestier Peninsula. In 1772, Marion Dufresne’s crew also stepped ashore. Flinders in 1798 and Peron in 1802 (on Baudin’s expedition) both noted the spectacular dolerite columns of the Tasman Peninsula.

Initially there was little onshore development of the peninsulas, aside from bay whaling stations which sprang up around the Forestier Peninsula in the late 1830s. When the government established the major penal settlement at Port Arthur, the entire peninsula was closed to all non-penal related activities, which saw the end of whaling and private timber milling in the area.

By 1833 Port Arthur had been established as a secondary penal settlement and sawing establishment, housing some 475 prisoners (and nearly double that number two years later). In 1840 transportation to New South Wales ceased and the assignment system of convict labour was abolished in Van Diemen’s Land. In its place a probation system was established which brought a proliferation of various convict settlements throughout the Tasman Peninsula, including the Coal Mines, Saltwater River, Wedge Bay, Impression Bay (now Premaydena) and Point Puer. All convict-related sites had ceased operating by 1877, with Port Arthur penal settlement being the last to close its doors. The peninsulas returned to free settlement.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Port Arthur had reopened, this time to curious tourists, providing them with accommodation and tours of the historic site—an industry that is at its strongest today.

HUON

Not long after the settlement at Risdon in 1803, two parties were sent to explore the Huon River. The first, including a group of botanists, left on foot; the other by boat. Both parties reported the areas to be too heavily forested to be settled. Ironically, this area now harvests an abundance of fruit and supports diverse agricultural practices.

In the early days convict labour was used to mine coal at sites near Catamaran and to fell timber throughout the Huon region. The early 1800s saw whalers visit the Southport area and in 1829 the first timber was shipped from Southport destined for London.

In 1829 a track was cut from Hobart to Ranelagh in the Huon. It was a very simple bridle track and was not suitable for transportation so barges and punts were used along the Huon River to transport timber, coal and supplies. At one stage 80 jetties existed along the river, as transportation was mostly water-based. Road transportation did not improve until the early 1900s.

Following the closure of the Macquarie Harbour penal settlement in 1834, a number of small convict probation stations were established at Southport, Cygnet and Port Esperance. Lady Franklin, wife of Sir John Franklin, Governor of Van Diemen’s Land, was most impressed by the beauty of the Huon and Esperance...
areas and acquired a large tract of land. The Franklins planned to rent their land to migrant farmers, but with vast amounts of land available, most migrants were inclined to purchase their own rather than rent.

Timber was a highly valued resource and early settlers cleared the land relentlessly. The sale of timber was one of the main industries in the early settlements of the Huon region. Boat building was also widespread because of the availability of appropriate timbers and skilled labourers residing in the area.

The first orchards were established in 1840 and very soon the first Tasmanian grown fruits were exported to England. By the 1900s Henry Jones was exporting two million tins of jam each year from fruit grown primarily in the Huon. There are still trees believed to be over 100 years old, bearing ample fruit—a testament to the regions excellent soils and growing conditions.

STYX RIVER FORESTS

Also known as The Valley of the Giants, Styx River Valley is about two hours’ drive from Hobart, past the Mt Field National Park. The upper reaches of the valley harbour the tallest measured trees in the Southern Hemisphere, some taller than Hobart’s Wrest Point Casino (which is about 70 metres high) and at least six metres wide at their base. The huge trees are mostly mountain ash (Eucalyptus regnans). The Latin name means ‘king of the eucalypts’ and many are over 400 years of age.

A map made by Thomas Scott in 1824 referred to the river as the Styx, and surveyor John Wedge noted the thick forest of the Valley of the Giants in 1827.

In the 1880s the valley was sized up for the West Coast Railway and in the 1900s there was exploration for osmiridium and gold. In the early 1900s the first logging took place near what is now known as Maydena, with the timber being used mostly for building. Following the invention and widespread use of chainsaws, Australian Newspaper Mills (ANM) used much of the timber for pulp and paper at their Boyer-base. Today the use of machinery has opened the forests to large-scale tree removal, and much of the timber cut is exported as woodchips.

THE SOUTHWEST

During the mid 1830s a number of settlers were granted leave from Hobart Town to work as whalers in the vicinity of Port Davey, eventually settling at Bramble Cove. The settlement consisted of several houses, a cemetery and try works, for processing the whales. The whaling station, known as Smiths Bramble Cove, was still operating in the early 1870s, when most whaling operations elsewhere throughout Tasmania had ceased.

Among the first Europeans to visit Port Davey were James Kelly and four companions, in 1815, who rowed a small whaling boat into the harbour, at which time they first noted abundant Huon pine. The visit came about because William Birch commissioned James Kelly to explore the south of the island, with a view to securing timber sites. William Birch contributed a boat, Henrietta Packet, and commissioned Kelly to explore the far southwest of Tasmania, with a view to securing timber sites. After naming Port Davey, Kelly and some of the crew set off in a whale boat and discovered Macquarie Harbour. They continued and located Port Dalrymple, then headed down the east coast back to Hobart.
Kelly’s voyage is surrounded by controversy, as Birch claims to have been present on the voyage, but is not mentioned in Kelly’s journals, which were apparently written some time afterwards. Also, accounts written by Birch and Kelly differ significantly. A third person has been thrown into the equation, Dennis McCarthy. McCarthy was an ex-convict, who apparently left Hobart three weeks earlier than Birch to explore the southwest coast in his vessel, the Geordy. The Geordy was wrecked and later found in Port Davey. The diaries, wrecks and differing stories make it difficult to determine who really was the first European to discover Port Davey.

A settlement of roughly 50 people, made up of piners and their families, moved into Settlement Point at the mouth of the Davey River to take advantage of the large stands of Huon Pine. Another settlement arose at Piners Point, across the river from Settlement Point, but pining diminished in scale until the late 1870s, when most of the easily accessible and suitably sized stands of trees had been removed. Fortunately many of the larger trees, too large for piners to remove, still remain in the area.

The area known as Joe Page Bay was initially set up as an exploration lease for antimony deposit from 1897 to 1912. A second similar lease, also at Joe Page Bay, was held and worked by the now famous Clyde Clayton and King family during the 1970s.

In 1935 cassiterite (tin oxide) was discovered at Melaleuca Creek in 1935. The discovery saw the establishment of the New Harbour Mining Company, with a labour force of about 19 people working in the southwest wilderness. The company disbanded only two years later in 1937. Charles King took over the lease in 1941 and worked the mine until 1985 when he was 76 years of age.

PORT ESPERANCE

On 23 April 1792 two ships limped into an isolated bay in the far south of Tasmania. The Recherche, and Esperance, under the command of Bruni D’Entrecasteaux had been blown across the Indian Ocean from South Africa while searching for fellow French explorer La Perouse. D’Entrecasteaux and his crew used the safe anchorage of Port Esperance to carry out necessary repairs before sailing up the channel, charting and naming Port Esperance, which later became the site of the region’s main town, Dover.

The expedition continued to search fruitlessly for La Perouse before returning to the far south of Tasmania in 1793. Contact was initiated with the local Aboriginal population and a friendly alliance was maintained during the French expedition’s stay, contrary to much of the history that was to follow. The indigenous people were of great assistance to the expedition’s naturalist La Billardiére. The comprehensive recordings of La Billardiére have made a large contribution to our understanding of this unique natural environment that remains largely untouched by European occupation. The region still has the same astounding visual impact that greeted Bruni D’Entrecasteaux and his crew over two hundred years ago.
THE DERWENT VALLEY

Lieutenant John Hayes sighted what is now New Norfolk, 10 years before the settlement of Hobart Town, in 1793. Five years later Flinders and Bass sailed up the Derwent but not as far as Hayes, and in 1804 Lieutenant Governor Collins arrived and made the area his headquarters. One of the first settlers, Dennis McCarthy, was transported to New South Wales as an Irish rebel. He was then transferred to Van Diemen’s Land for insubordination, and was eventually granted 50 acres of land along the Derwent River. He campaigned for and succeeded in securing a contract to build a road from Hobart to New Norfolk and the Derwent Valley. However, the authorities were not pleased with the road and a dispute arose as to whether McCarthy should be paid for his work. In the middle of the dispute McCarthy mysteriously drowned (despite being a strong swimmer). It was a sad ending for the pioneer who transformed the Derwent Valley into a thriving agricultural community in just eight years.

The expansion of the Derwent Valley was in part due to the refugees brought from Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island was abandoned as a settlement and convict station during 1807 and 1808 due to the logistical difficulties associated with the transporting and storing of supplies. The free settlers, convicts and soldiers were moved to Van Diemen’s Land, some to the area now known as Longford, but the majority went to the upper reaches of the Derwent River. Extravagant promises were made to the ‘Islanders’, which were impossible for Lieutenant Governor Major Collins to keep, as the new colony was in the grip of famine. The settlers and soldiers were forced to clothe themselves with animal skins and eat the native animals.

COAL RIVER VALLEY

As early as 1803, members of Lieutenant Bowen’s exploration party discovered coal along the banks of a river and consequently named the area Coal River. Over a number of years land was granted to settlers and the town was eventually named Richmond in 1824. It became a strategic military post and convict station, situated on the route between Hobart and Port Arthur. However, the development of the Sorell causeway, which opened in 1872, meant that traffic no longer passed through Richmond. The causeway is one of the reasons Richmond remains much as it was over 100 years ago; there has been very little development since the mid 1800s.

Following the exploration of the area in 1805, Pittwater was initially thought of as an ideal harbour for a city and for mooring boats. However, the shallow bay proved too difficult for many vessels to pass. By 1808 there were several farms in the area and by 1815 large quantities of wheat were being grown and a flour mill had been built to process it. At this time that the area was known as the ‘Granary of Australia’ due to the vast amounts of wheat grown. During the early years the towns people relied on ferries to cross Pittwater, or had to travel by way of Richmond to get to Hobart Town. In 1854 negotiations began to erect the causeway and it was completed in 1872, opening the area to further development and progress.
INTERPS TIP

Over 40 per cent of Australia’s alpine and subalpine environment is located on the Central Plateau, on which there are over 140 endemic plant species including Cyathodes nitida and Pimelea pygmaea.

CENTRAL PLATEAU

The Central Plateau has unique landforms and varied potential for land and recreational use. Since Europeans settled Tasmania, there has been a gradual decrease in the isolation of the Central Plateau. The original Aboriginal inhabitants, the Big River tribe, were the first people to value and inhabit the area. Since the tribes removal from the Plateau, inhabitants had different lifestyles, hobbies and needs. Pastoralism, rabbit hunting, timber cutting and, fishing occurred throughout the plateau region, dramatically changing the natural environment.

The Plateau was used for many years as summer grazing lands for sheep and cattle herded up from the lower areas. By the 1950s, the numbers of stock being shepherded into the highlands had dropped significantly, due to lack of food—a result of many years of over-grazing.

As early as 1820, trappers realised the value of the kangaroos and wallabies winter coats and moved up to the plateau for the winter months.

By the 1830s, people could see that trout and salmon might prosper in the many highland lakes and introduced brown trout and Atlantic salmon in the 1870s.

Boat anglers are reminded to take care as the lakes in the Central Plateau can become very rough in inclement weather. Hazardous conditions can occur at any time of the year with little warning.

The Central Plateau is also a major supplier for hydro electric power, with the Hydro building various dams which alter natural water flow, such as the Poatina Hydro Scheme.

Some areas known to fishermen in the Central Plateau include:

- Little Pine Lagoon is possibly the best-known fly-fishing water in Australia. The lagoon was created by the construction of a low profile dam across the Little Pine River to divert water down Monpeelyata Canal to Lake Echo.

- Lake St Clair is a long, narrow natural lake with crystal clear waters that reach a maximum depth of 167 metres, making it one of Australia’s deepest lakes. While it is better known for being a start or finishing point for walking the Overland Track, it does hold interest for anglers.

- Lake King William was created by Hydro Tasmania in 1950 with the construction of the 70 metres high—Clark dam across the Derwent River. In the late 1960s a further six metres was added to the dam wall, increasing the storage capacity of the lake. The lake is heavily drawn upon for electricity generation and undergoes large fluctuations in water level throughout the year.
MIDLANDS

The midlands through to the Central Plateau have been used for grazing, hunting and snaring, hydro-electricity and recreation. In the 1830s grazing in these areas played an important part in the development of the wool industry in Tasmania. During summer, stock was taken to the higher areas of the Central Plateau to rest the home paddocks, the year-round quality feed thereby supporting larger numbers of stock. By the 1880s most farmers had given up grazing stock on the Central Plateau, possibly due to the lack of stock feed caused by the many rabbits that had infested the state.

In 1886 trout were introduced to Lakes Crescent and Sorell by local farmers, encouraging recreational visitors to frequent the area. Until the 1960s, hunting to supply meat and pelts was widespread in this region.

The discovery of salt in the midlands in 1809, which brought about great financial saving for the fledgling colony. During the early settlement years salt was imported from Europe at great expense. The Tasmanian salt was proven to be 99 per cent pure, forming during summer as salt water evaporated, leaving behind pure salt. In 1854 over 20 tonnes of salt were extracted from Glen Morey Lagoon, near Tunbridge on the midlands highway.

Lake Dulverton

During 1821, Governor Macquarie ordered that four military posts be placed along the road through the midlands. One was placed on the banks of the ‘Great lagoon in the Westmoorland Plains’. Eventually it was named to commemorate the pioneer police magistrate Thomas Anstey and his birthplace in Dulverton, England.

The lake lies some 400 metres above sea level, and has an annual rainfall of approximately 570 millimetres. Approximately 700 millimetres of rain per annum is needed to keep the lake full.

The lake is the only known nesting site of the great crested grebe in the area, and so takes on an important habitat role. It is believed these birds winter at Orielton Lagoon and then breed at Lake Dulverton in summer. Many other bird species, common and rare, nest on Lake Dulverton and, as far as is known from current research, there are no wetlands close by that have a comparable diversity of birds.

During autumn when water levels are low, a good cover of weed is usually present; hence the influx of waterbird species. Many of these birds migrate from the mainland to feed and return there to breed. Areas like Lake Dulverton are extremely important in the life cycles of many water bird species.

In the 1930s a small retaining dam was built across the lake outlet. Prior to this the lake was prone to drying up and on such occasions the weeds provided ample stock feed.

Since the 1960s the lake has been stocked with trout annually, which has enhanced the use of the lake for recreational purposes that including fishing, swimming, model boating and water-skiing.

INTERPS TIP

The Bagdad area used to be known for its apple orchards and wheat-growing. There some beautiful Georgian homes in this area, which are indicative of the prosperity of earlier times.
The Oatlands Mill

First known as the Callington Mill, the Oatlands Mill was built in the mid 1830s to produce flour utilising wind power. In the 1850s it was converted to steam operation. Water was supplied from a well at a depth of 22 metres.

In 1909 a severe storm tore the wind power sails from the dome of the mill and dumped them in Lake Dulverton. Then in 1912 the mill was gutted by fire.

Topiary

Jack Cashion was well known throughout the Midlands region for his skill and work in topiary (the cutting of hedges into shapes and figures). He began in the early 1960s creating birds and animals from almost any form of shrub on the roadside and it seems the tradition lives on today.

What's in a name?

The following list is a general overview of some of the towns and places in the south and Central Plateau, providing a snippet of history, a reason for their name or just a quirky story relating to the town.

BUSHY PARK

Was originally known as Humphreyville, and renamed Bushy Park in 1968. The hop-growing centre of Tasmania it is also reportedly the most successful hop-growing area in the Southern Hemisphere.

CAPE QUEEN ELIZABETH (north Bruny Island)

Originally named Cape Frederick Henry by Furneaux (who had mistaken it for Frederick Henry Bay near the Tasman Peninsula). To avoid confusion it was renamed to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

DOVER

South of Hobart, Dover is a centre for apple orchards and abalone and crayfish industries. It has the atmosphere of a seaport village and was first settled in the 1850s. The original name for Dover was Port Esperance after one of the ships of in Bruni D’Entrecasteaux’s fleet. However, the name was changed to Dover and the original name was kept for the large protected inlet. It is thought Dover is named after the English seaport of the same name.

FRANKLIN

A small quiet town on the Huon Highway south of Hobart. Situated on the banks of the Huon River, it is the centre of the local orchard industry. Settled in 1804, it was the first settlement in the Huon area. It was named after a Governor of Tasmania, Sir John Franklin.

GEEVESTON

A country town on the Huon Highway 45 km south of Hobart and in the midst of an orchard and timber district. Named after an Englishman, William Geeves, who arrived to the colony in 1842. Geeves settled in response to a request from Lady Franklin for somebody to establish a church in the district.
GREAT LAKE
Renamed Miena in 1920, it is the largest freshwater lake in Australia. It is 1,050 metres above sea level and was stocked with trout in 1864.

HOBART
Named after Lord Hobart (Secretary of State for the Colonies). Australia’s second oldest city, settled in 1804.

HUONVILLE
Originally named Victoria, the name was changed because of the confusion with the state on the mainland. The name is derived from Huon Kermadec, commander of the *Esperance* who visited with Frenchman, D’Entrecasteaux, in 1792.

KOONYA
Originally known as Cascades, which is now the name of the bay. The settlement began as an important convict outpost, where timber milling was carried out.

LAKE CRESCENT
A lake well known for its trout fishing since being seeded with trout in the 1800s, originally known as Lake Laycock.

MAATSUYKER ISLAND
Discovered by Abel Tasman in 1642, who named the island after a member of the Dutch East India Company. It is famous for its lighthouse and the notorious navigation problems it has caused for many ships.

MOUNT FIELD
Named after Judge Barron Field, who visited the new colony in 1819-21.

MOUNT WELLINGTON
Has had at least three different titles before being named after the Duke of Wellington in 1815. It was previously known as Skiddau, Montague du Plateau and Mount Table.

NEW NORFOLK
During 1806 free-settlers from Norfolk Island moved to this area near the headwaters of the Derwent River. The town was named New Norfolk in an attempt to make the settlers feel more at home.

NUBEENA
The largest town on the Tasman Peninsula, originally named Wedge Bay, it was an important link in the chain of semaphore stations set up along the Peninsula.
OATLANDS
Governor Lachlan Macquarie named the town in 1821, after his home in Scotland and the grains that were grown there.

PORT ARTHUR
Established as a penal settlement in 1830, it operated until 1887 when the remaining inmates were transferred to Hobart Gaol. During that time some 12,500 convicts passed through Port Arthur. It was named after Governor Arthur and following its closure was renamed Carnarvon, in an effort to dispel the bad reputation. It reverted back to the name Port Arthur in 1972.

ROSS
Named in 1821 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the now famous Ross Bridge was built in 1836.

SORELL
Founded by Governor Arthur Sorell in 1821. From 1816 to 1860 it was the granary of Tasmania. The causeway was completed in 1866 making it an alternative route to Richmond.

TASMAN PENINSULA
Named Tasman’s Island by D'Entrecasteaux, in honour of the Dutch Explorer Abel Tasman.

THE FRIARS (south Bruny Island)
Tasman charted these islands in 1642 naming them Boreel Islands. The location was mistaken by Furneaux in 1773 and he named them the Friars. The next point north is now known as Boreel Head.
This section relates specifically to the west and northwest regions of Tasmania—Strahan, Queenstown, the far northwest, Devonport and the Cradle Valley.

The aim of this section is to outline some of the many reserved areas, particularly focusing on the local national parks and their natural values (landforms, plants and animals) and history.

Many and varied activities can be carried out in Tasmania’s reserved areas, including walking, mountain biking, scuba diving, four-wheel driving, and hunting during appropriate seasons. It is not possible to provide a simple summary of ‘what you can do in nature reserves’ or ‘what you can do in historic sites’ as each site is unique and managed with its particular qualities in mind. Feel free to contact your local Parks and Wildlife office to determine which activities are acceptable in the reserved area you wish to visit.

The information here has been kept to a minimum. Additional details are available from the notesheets and references included.
Definitions of the various reserved areas throughout the west and northwest region are shown below. Names, locations and notable features have also been listed where appropriate.

For further information regarding these sites, refer to the notesheets and publications indicated, the Parks and Wildlife website, or contact your local Parks and Wildlife office.

### National parks

National Parks are large natural areas of land containing a representative or outstanding sample of major natural regions, features or scenery.

Tasmania’s 19 national parks cover about 21 per cent of the area of the State. The table below lists those in the west and northwest.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lake St Clair–Cradle Mountain</td>
<td>Northwest and central Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Rivers</td>
<td>Western Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Cape</td>
<td>Northwest coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narawntapu</td>
<td>Northern coast</td>
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The following is a brief account of the origins of the national parks in this area, some of the historical aspects and natural features.

### NARAWNTAPU NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

Narawntapu National Park lies on the central north coast of Tasmania. The Park stretches along the coast of Bass Strait from the Port Sorell estuary in the west to the mouth of the Tamar River in the east.

The Park was renamed Narawntapu National Park in 2000 to overcome concerns that potential visitors were avoiding the park because of the reference to asbestos in the former name of Asbestos Range National Park. The reservation of the park was formally proclaimed on 29 June 1976.

Past use of the park and reserve by Aborigines and Europeans has left a series of sites, buildings, relics, cultural landscapes and records that form valuable cultural resources. Importantly, the Aboriginal sites are diverse, with both coastal and inland sites generally well preserved. The area of land that is now the national park was once a farm and as such harbours a lot of evidence of European settlers’ history.

The pioneers were looking for open and easily cleared land for agricultural practices and so avoided the rugged nature and poor soil of the more elevated areas. As early as 1833, George Hall selected land on the east side of Port Sorell and established a farm on the site of what is now known as Springlawn. Drains were constructed and various crops were sown. Fenton Creek is named after another early European settler, James Fenton, a historian who was said to have lived near Badger Head.

The next owner of Springlawn was Edwin Baker after whom Bakers Beach is
named. The farm changed hands several times until 1974 when it was purchased to form the nucleus of the National Park. Edwin Baker’s original homestead was gutted by fire, but the weatherboard house that replaced it still stands as do various farm buildings.

Today, despite the modified environment, the park is valuable for wildlife conservation and Springlawn has one of the best wetlands in the region. The high density of marsupials such as wombats, wallabies, kangaroos and Tasmanian devils are a key attraction and a valuable research resource. The park’s native vegetation consists of a great diversity of predominantly dry sclerophyll plant communities, heathlands and coastal vegetation. All these communities have high conservation value, due to the presence of geographically significant endemic species such as velvet bush, threatened species such as the grass tree, and several plant communities which are unreserved or poorly reserved elsewhere in the State reserve system.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN-LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK
BACKGROUND
Aboriginal people knew Lake St Clair as Leeawuleena, meaning ‘sleeping water’. For thousands of years prior to white settlement, this area was part of the territory of the Big River Tribe of Aboriginal people. Remnants of Aboriginal occupation in the park include stone quarries, rock shelters and tools associated with hunting.

Situated in central western Tasmania, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is now one of the most famous of Tasmania’s national parks. Its rugged mountain peaks and alpine moorlands offer some of the finest scenery and bushwalking opportunities in Australia.

The first Europeans to visit the Cradle Mountain region were surveyors from the Van Diemen’s Land Company (VDL Company) during the 1820s. Company surveyors such as Henry Hellyer and Joseph Fossey visited the area looking for country suitable for sheep grazing and stock-routes.

While it was not for another 10 years that the first European glimpsed Lake St Clair, the explorer William Sharland saw the lake from the summit of Mt Charles in 1832. The surveyor George Frankland and his party, in 1835, were the first Europeans to visit the lake, walk and camp on its white sandy beaches and climb nearby Mt Olympus.

This must be a national park for the people for all time. It is magnificent and people should know about it and enjoy it.

(The words of Gustaw Weindorfer on top of Cradle Mountain as recounted by companion, Ronald Smith).

The vision of a national park at Cradle Mountain was born during a visit by Kate and Gustaw Weindorfer in January 1910. Their plan for having a national park proclaimed involved building a chalet so that people could be encouraged to visit the area and appreciate its wild beauty and the need for conservation.

While Austrian-born Gustaw constructed Waldheim (an Austrian word meaning forest home) and opened the chalet to visitors from Christmas 1912, Kate managed their farm at Kindred.

After Kate’s death in 1916, Gustaw continued to pursue their vision for a national park and was supported by naturalists who had successfully campaigned for the proclamation of the Mt Field National Park.

INTRPS TIP
Badger Head and Badger Beach are said to be named after Charlotte Badger, a convict who, in 1806, escaped from a ship anchored off the coast.

INTERPS TIP
The scenic beauty of the area was first formally recognised in 1885 when land surrounding lakes St Clair, Petrearch and Travellers Rest were reserved to a distance of 40 chains.

INTERPS TIP
In May 1922 the area from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair was proclaimed a scenic reserve. It became a national park in 1971. In December 1982, along with other parts of the Tasmanian wilderness, the area was inscribed on the United Nation’s World Heritage List.

Lake St Clair, 167 metres deep, is Australia’s deepest lake and is surrounded by dolerite-capped mountains including Mt Olympus (1,447m), Mt Rufus (1,416m), the Du Cane range (1,400m) and the Traveller Range (1,200m).
ROCKY CAPE NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The human history of Rocky Cape begins many thousands of years ago—before Tasmania was separated from the mainland. This area would once have stood out as hills above the Bassian Plain. Those who first came to occupy the southermost parts of Australia over 35,000 years ago would have traversed these hills.

The Aboriginal occupation and use of the area began shortly after seas reached their current level about 10,000 years ago. The richness of the area’s resources is obvious from the vast cave middens that reveal the accumulation of materials from over 8,000 years of continuous occupation. These provide one of the largest and most complete records of the lifestyle of coastal Aboriginal people anywhere in Australia.

The length of association with Tang Din Mer (one of the Aboriginal names for the area) gives it special significance to today’s Aboriginal community, who maintain an ongoing presence at Rocky Cape. The area is visited frequently for cultural, spiritual and recreational purposes, and the Aboriginal community is actively involved in planning for its management.

The first Europeans to sight Rocky Cape were Bass and Flinders. They named it in 1798 during their circumnavigation of Tasmania. The establishment of the Van Diemen’s Land Company in 1825 brought the Aboriginal occupation of Rocky Cape to an abrupt end.

The National Park was first proclaimed in 1967, and then enlarged to its present size in 1975.

Some of the rocks here are among the oldest in Tasmania: Precambrian quartzites that are found in a broad band over much of western Tasmania. Their age has allowed time for uplifting and folding, which has produced the often contorted patterns we see today. The northwest coast of Tasmania is still rising very slowly.

Rocky Cape has a rich diversity of vegetation. Coastal heathlands, which dominate the hillier parts of the park, contain hundreds of different plant species, many of which flower colourfully in spring and summer. Heath is frequently found on poorer soils, such as those here, which result from the weathered quartzite. The plants are generally low-growing and wind, salt and fire-tolerant. In fact some plants, including many of the 40 orchid species found here, lie dormant underground until fire passes over them.

SAVAGE RIVER NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

The reservation of the Savage River National Park and Savage River Regional Reserve represents part of the Tasmanian Government’s commitment under the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) to increase the protected status of under-reserved forest types in Tasmania. All forest community types present in the park and the regional reserve have been identified as priority forest communities under the Tasmanian RFA.

The natural values of the Savage River region have been recognised for some years and the area has been the subject of various reserve proposals. It was part of one of the four recommended areas for protection (RAP) for north-west Tasmania selected on the basis of their high wilderness values and biogeographic significance.

The area is an outstanding biological resource and a major refuge in Australia for myrtle beech (Nothofagus cunninghamii) dominated rainforest; a type of forest
with strong affinities to Gondwanic land flora. The park evokes considerable scientific interest due to the high number of endemic species, rare flora and fauna and significant vegetation communities.

The western portion of the park and the regional reserve form part of the most extensive basalt plateaux in Tasmania that still retains a wholly intact forest ecosystem. Basalt soils are highly productive and are greatly valued as a result. Nearly all low altitude basalt soils in Tasmania support agriculture, whilst much of the higher altitude basalt soils are used for silviculture. Therefore, the remaining forested areas on basalt are particularly important.

The area is a stronghold for a number of invertebrates which have suffered population declines both in Tasmania and mainland Australia. The area contains habitat for a number of known rare, restricted or endangered species, such as the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*).

**WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND**

The Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park contains numerous Aboriginal sites, which bear testimony to the people who inhabited the region during the last ice age, and which continue to be of great spiritual significance to today’s indigenous community. The inhabitants, isolated from their mainland counterparts for 10,000 years, developed a culture different from that of mainland Aborigines: a culture that was attuned to the harsh landscape. Their use of fire to clear the land and open up hunting grounds caused profound changes in vegetation communities. Today’s Aboriginal community accepts considerable responsibility for its management, with *Kuti Kina* Cave on the Franklin River being one of a number of sites returned to the Aboriginal community.

The Franklin–Gordon Wild Rivers National Park is a region of dramatic mountain peaks, beautiful rainforest, deep river valleys and spectacular gorges. The park is famous for the wild and pristine rivers that twist their way through the wilderness. The Franklin River itself has become synonymous with Australia’s largest conservation battle: the battle to save the Franklin from a proposed hydro-electric power scheme that would have flooded the river.

Official recognition of the special natural and cultural values of the area extends back to 1908 with the proclamation of the Lower Gordon Crown Land Reserve. The Franklin–Gordon Wild Rivers National Park was listed, along with the Southwest National Park, Frenchmans Cap National Park and the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, on the World Heritage list in 1982.

James Sprent, on a trigonometrical survey of Tasmania, approached Frenchmans Cap from the east and confessed that he had never met a mountain ‘so difficult of access’. In 1853, Sprent’s party climbed to the summit and built a stone cairn. This is the first recorded European ascent of Frenchmans Cap. Traces of gold and other minerals were found in the region, but not in payable quantities. Nevertheless, prospecting continued into the early 1900s, and it was not until the 1930s that discoveries were finally made at the Jane River Goldfield.

**USEFUL REFERENCE**

<www.hydro.com.au>
Reserves

Reserves are categorised according to their characteristics and include: State reserves, conservation areas, game reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal sites.

The reserve classification depends on the purpose and the feature intended for protection, and accordingly, activities that can be pursued differ from one reserve to another.

Listed in the tables below are some of the reserves in the west and northwest.

STATE RESERVES

A State reserve is an area of land containing significant natural landscapes, natural features, and/or sites, objects and places of significance to Aboriginal people.

State reserves throughout Tasmania, cover about 1 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teepookana Plateau</td>
<td>Strahan</td>
<td>Huon pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Black</td>
<td>Rosebery</td>
<td>King Billy walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montezuma Falls</td>
<td>Rosebery</td>
<td>Walking, 4 wheel driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunns Plains Cave</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Tourist cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellyer Gorge</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Scenic, rainforest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Wickham</td>
<td>King Island</td>
<td>Light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liffey Falls</td>
<td>North central</td>
<td>Waterfall, forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devils Gullet</td>
<td>Nth Central Plateau</td>
<td>Scenic gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alum Cliff</td>
<td>Mole Creek</td>
<td>Scenic gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Peggs Beach</td>
<td>Northwest coast</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mersey Bluff</td>
<td>North coast</td>
<td>Light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notley Gorge</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Scenic fern gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Cape</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nut</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Scenic landmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATURE RESERVES

A nature reserve is an area of land containing natural features that contribute to the biological and geological diversity and are unique, important or have representative value.

Nature reserves in Tasmania cover about 2 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albatross Island</td>
<td>W. Bass Strait</td>
<td>Seabird breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Island</td>
<td>King Island</td>
<td>Tiger snakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devils Tower</td>
<td>Bass Strait</td>
<td>Seabirds, scenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismal Swamp</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Blackwood forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawley</td>
<td>Port Sorell</td>
<td>Ecological reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentford Forest</td>
<td>King Island</td>
<td>Relic forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavinia</td>
<td>NE King Island</td>
<td>Heath, dunes, beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Hummock Island</td>
<td>Hunter Group</td>
<td>Sclerophyll, heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Sisters–Goat Island</td>
<td>off North coast</td>
<td>Seagull rookery, geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright Rock</td>
<td>Bass Strait</td>
<td>Seal breeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSERVATION AREAS

A conservation area is an area of land, predominantly in a natural state, set aside to protect and maintain the cultural and natural values of the area, and to provide for the sustainable use of the natural resources of that area of land.

Conservation Areas throughout Tasmania cover about 8 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granite Tor</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Rainforest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur–Pieman</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnie Fernglade</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Fern gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention Falls</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Dry sclerophyll forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Bluff</td>
<td>Wynyard</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Island</td>
<td>NW Bass Strait</td>
<td>Muttonbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillico Beach</td>
<td>Devonport</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Roland</td>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Dry sclerophyll forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggs Beach</td>
<td>Circular Head</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Sorell</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Foreshore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Circular Head</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Cape</td>
<td>Wynyard</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale of Belvoir</td>
<td>West-central</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATURE RECREATION AREAS

A nature recreation area is an area of land predominantly in a natural state or containing sensitive natural sites of significance for recreation.

Nature recreation areas in Tasmania cover about 1 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Area</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Bluff</td>
<td>West-central</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briant Hill</td>
<td>Circular Head</td>
<td>Wet/dry sclerophyll forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donaldson River</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Barrington</td>
<td>Kentish</td>
<td>Rowing venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Dial</td>
<td>North coast</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds Falls</td>
<td>West central</td>
<td>Representative forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HISTORIC SITES

The term historic site is applied to an area of land of significance for historic cultural heritage.

Historic sites throughout Tasmania cover about 0.3 per cent of the area of the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic sites</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Sorell</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Historic light station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie Harbour</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Convict &amp; early settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strahan Customs House</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Historic building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Pilinger</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Island</td>
<td>West coast</td>
<td>Cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyons Cottage</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Joseph Lyon’s birthplace (Prime Minister)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highfield House</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Van Diemen’s Land Company house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STATE FOREST AREAS

State forest areas are managed by Forestry Tasmania. Apart from being used to harvest trees and for timber production, the forests are managed for a range of recreational activities and conservation reasons, which collectively are termed ‘multiple-use’.

The State forests in Tasmania cover about 22 percent of the total land area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King River Forest Drive</td>
<td>Strahan</td>
<td>Historical values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teepookana Plateau</td>
<td>Strahan</td>
<td>Historical values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newall Creek</td>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>Rainforest community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankland Arthur Rivers</td>
<td>Far northwest</td>
<td>Rafting, canoeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Athur Forest Drive</td>
<td>Far northwest</td>
<td>4wheel driving, walks, picnics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismal Swamp</td>
<td>Smithton</td>
<td>Tourism experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dip Falls</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Walking, waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldina</td>
<td>Wynyard</td>
<td>Picnic, walks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dial Range</td>
<td>Penguin</td>
<td>Walks, bike, horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterbrook Falls</td>
<td>Ulverstone</td>
<td>Walking, waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mersey White Water</td>
<td>Mersey Valley</td>
<td>Rafting, canoeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arm Camp</td>
<td>Mersey Valley</td>
<td>Education, walks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meander Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Meander Valley</td>
<td>Picnic, walks, waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quamby Bluff</td>
<td>Liffey</td>
<td>Walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liffey Forest Reserve</td>
<td>Liffey</td>
<td>Picnic, walks, waterfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoodley</td>
<td>Railton</td>
<td>Forest walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrawee</td>
<td>Latrobe</td>
<td>Picnic, walks, fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brushy Lagoon</td>
<td>Westbury</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2003
HYDRO LAND

Hydro Tasmania generally owns and manages its land independently. As such, access permission should be sought from Hydro Tasmania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserved Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notable values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poatina</td>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Hydro history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waddamana</td>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Hydro history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lake</td>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Fly fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Gordon</td>
<td>southwest</td>
<td>Fly fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Peddar</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Fly fishing and scenic value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstock Lagoon</td>
<td>Central Plateau</td>
<td>Fly fishing and cultural history</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

King River catchment

As early as 1917 the hydro-electric potential of the King River was recognised and investigations of the area took place in the summer of 1917-18. It was proposed that the electricity generated be transmitted to Zeehan for use in a planned electrolytic works to process and refine ore from the established works at Mt Read and Roseberry group of mines. When this plan fell through the King River development did not proceed. Serious investigations were undertaken again in the late 1950s proceeding until the 1980s. By the late 1970s it was decided that the development required the diversion of waters from and to the Franklin River, a plan that was halted by the High Court following the great Dam Debate.

The development at King River today produced dams that create Lake Burbury. Water conveyed to the John Butters Power Station falls some 184 metres before reaching the turbines.

Derwent River catchment

The River Derwent begins at Lake St Clair and flows in a south-easterly direction, eventually reaching Hobart. The harnessing of the hydro-electric potential on the Derwent River began in 1934 with the construction of the Taraleah Power Development, and the last power stations on the river were commissioned in 1968.

In order to take full advantage of the Derwent River a number of separate developments were required, including the construction of 16 dams, 10 power stations and a number of weirs and canals, flumes, tunnels and pipelines.
HYDRO wind farms

Hydro Tasmania has undertaken extensive field surveys to establish the feasibility of erecting wind farms on King Island and on the northwest coast of Tasmania at Woolnorth. Important issues at the wind farm site are aspects of Aboriginal and European cultural significance and the diverse populations of bird species, including the endangered orange-bellied parrot. Hydro Tasmania is supporting the conservation and management of the orange-bellied parrot through a management trust fund, which will assist the activities of the parrot recovery team over the next five years.

KING ISLAND: Siting of a wind farm involves extensive research, taking into account factors such as the topography of the land, elevation, distance from the sea and vegetation all affecting the amount of wind available for electricity generation. The axles of the turbine blade at Huxley Hill, sitting on top of their 30-metre tall towers, are about 130 metres above sea level where the average annual wind speed is measured as 33 kilometres per hour to generate electricity.

WOOLNORTH: The wind farm site is located on the historic grazing property of Woolnorth on the far north-west tip of Tasmania, and generates electricity from the cleanest air in the world.

The Woolnorth wind farm is a staged development, with stage one involving the erection of six turbines completed in August 2002. The six turbines are 60 metres high and operate at peak efficiency when the winds are between 55 and 90 kilometres per hour.

The second stage involves the erection of a further 31 turbines at Bluff Point and is scheduled for completion late in 2003. Additional stages will continue to be developed. For information and details of dates see <www.hydro.com.au>.

INTERPS TIP

The nearby Cape Grim air monitoring station has recorded the air purity of the winds that blow in from the Southern Ocean as the cleanest ever measured on Earth.

Wind is now the source for about 20 per cent of the electricity generated on King Island.
Great Short Walks in the west & northwest

Throughout Tasmania there have been designated 60 Great Short Walks, which can be accessed from major roads and include a range of walking environments and levels of difficulty. Whether you want a physical challenge, a gentle stroll, or a seaside ramble, use, this list as a guide to those walks available in the north and northwestern regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calcified forest-King Island</th>
<th>The Nut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donaghy's Hill</td>
<td>Nelson Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernglade</td>
<td>Teepokana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogarth Falls</td>
<td>Montezuma Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Basin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Tasmanian trail

The Tasmanian Trail is a long-distance multi-purpose recreational trail extending some 480 kilometres from Devonport on the northern coast of Tasmania to Dover in the south. The Trail has been established for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

The trail links existing forestry roads, fire trails and country roads and occasionally crosses private land. Up to 90 per cent of the trail is on some form of made road or track. It passes through a wide range of environments including some of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of Tasmania. Through forests and farmlands, across highland plateaus and past the buildings and bridges of some of Australia’s oldest towns, the Tasmanian Trail provides a journey rich in cultural and natural heritage.

INTERPS TIP

A Tasmanian Trail Guidebook provides walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders with details required for travelling all or part of the Trail. The book is available at most equestrian, bike and outdoor shops as well as book stores and other outlets throughout Tasmania. Regular alterations and amendments are posted on the Tasmanian Trail website: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/recreat/tastrail.html> Email: tastrail@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
Snippets of history: west & northwest

The Dutch explorer Abel Janszoon Tasman was the first European to sight the west coast of Tasmania. It was to be 173 years before this wild and mountainous region was further explored by Europeans, who were motivated by the desire to find new resources for the fledgling colony.

Exploration was perhaps the last thing on the minds of the officers and convicts as they struggled to establish a penal settlement on Sarah Island in 1822. The forays that did take place were largely to find areas suitable for growing the crops needed to fend off the constant threat of starvation, or to locate natural resources, such as Huon pine for use in the Sarah Island shipyards.

In 1826 the Van Diemen’s Land Company began looking for land that would be suitable for grazing and farming. One of the first permanent settlements in the northwest was at Circular Head. From here, the surveyor and architect of the Van Diemen’s Land Company, Henry Hellyer, went exploring inland. Although the journey was arduous he and his party climbed St Valentines Peak and were encouraged to continue the exploration, because of the treeless plains and abundant wildlife they could see. The numerous river mouths along the northwest coast made useful ports for smaller boats that were to arrive with new settlers. The new settlers began exploring and clearing land to make way for agricultural practices.

Years of exploration took the newcomers as far inland as Mole Creek, the Mersey and Forth Rivers, Middlesex Plains, Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff. Eventually the Van Diemen’s Land Company was granted land at Hampshire, Surrey Hills, Cape Grim and Circular Head. The government surveyor, John Helder Wedge, reported that the land, although heavily forested, would make good farmland if cleared. However, the higher areas (some 600 metres above sea level) were problematic for the new settlers as the cold and harsh conditions were fatal to the livestock.

In September 1822, eight convicts escaped from Macquarie Harbour and crossed many mountain ranges, eventually arriving at Frenchmans Cap. Faced with starvation, the men entered a desperate pact of cannibalism in order to survive. Only the famous Alexander Pearce was found alive. He reached the settled districts after three weeks, only to be recaptured and eventually hanged.

Two unwitting explorers of the wild river country to the east of Macquarie Harbour were the convicts James Goodwin and Thomas Connolly. In March 1828, the two prisoners absconded from a pining party on the lower Gordon River, and travelled up the lower Franklin, upper Denison and upper Gordon rivers. In the three weeks that it took the pair to successfully traverse the country to reach the settled east, they had become the first Europeans to encounter many of the major features of the rugged wilderness that so effectively isolated the Macquarie Harbour penal settlement. Goodwin’s own account of their route suggests that they crossed the wilderness areas that today attract only the hardiest of bushwalkers. Goodwin was pardoned in 1829 and later became an indispensable member of a party involved in the exploration of the interior of Van Diemen’s Land.

Following are brief accounts and historical details of some of the many towns in the west and northwest region. Some references are included and we encourage you to utilise local history rooms, libraries and discussions with local people to enhance your own knowledge of the region.

USEFUL READING

Education Department of Tasmania. (1976). History of the North West
**BURNIE**

Henry Hellyer, working for the Van Diemen’s Land Company, established Emu Bay, now known as Burnie. It was originally intended that Emu Bay would be the major port of the coast, but the impact of the easterly weather patterns forced ships to anchor in the bay and use smaller ships to offload the cargo. With such a handicap the town grew very slowly, acting as a depot for the surrounding Van Diemen’s Land Company settlements in the Surrey and Hampshire Hills.

The discovery of tin at Mt Bischoff saw Burnie’s population grow and port facilities improve significantly. A road linking the town to Launceston and the extension of the railway line from Hobart to Burnie in the early 1900s also improved trade and travel opportunities.

The Australian Pulp and Paper Mills were established at Burnie in the 1930s due to the abundance of eucalypts to make pulp and paper, the access to a deep port, and the comparatively cheap hydro-electric power available in Burnie. Another large secondary industry established during the 1940s was the Australian Titanium Product factory (which is no longer operating). Titanium oxide was used to make paints from sulphuric acid, which were imported. By 1970 the Mt Lyell Mining Company and Electrolytic Zinc set up a joint venture to manufacture sulphuric acid from iron sulphide (pyrite) mined at Queenstown and Rosebery.

**CRADLE MOUNTAIN**

The first European to climb Cradle Mountain was Gustav Weindorfer in 1909. Before this time James Smith had discovered large stands of King Billy pines and proposed to fell the timber and float it down the Dove River to the Forth River, however the initial trial failed due to the changes in water depth and current flow.

Weindorfer was an Austrian who migrated to Australia in 1900 and married a local woman, Kate Cowle, in 1906. The following year he built a chalet and named it ‘Waldheim’. The chalet was built from the local King Billy timbers and in a style similar to buildings found in his homeland.

Following the war Gustav took guests to the chalet, charging them a small fee to stay in the wilderness and explore the beautiful surroundings. Transport to the chalet stopped some miles out and guests had to walk the remaining distance until 1941 when the road was created and vehicular access to the chalet door was possible.

**DEVONPORT**

Originally known as Port Frederick, Devonport was settled in the early 1850s as a large timber port. The settlement on the east bank of the Mersey River was known as Torquay and that on the west Formby (they became known as East and West Devonport, respectively, in 1890). Torquay was initially the larger settlement due to its proximity to the fresh supplies produced in the Port Sorell area. Following the development of a railway from Deloraine, the town of Formby became the larger and more prosperous. Wharves were built and a customs officer appointed to the town and gradually the Mersey River become a major port. The next closest ports were Launceston to the east and Stanley to the west.
SHEFFIELD AND SURROUNDS

During the mid 1800s, gangs of probation convicts were sent to Kimberly on the Mersey River. Their task was to cut a 32 kilometre track, 20 metres wide, from the coast to open up the inland areas. Their progress was slow and difficult and in places they were forced to follow routes taken by wild cattle. From the track cutting near Sheffield some land was sold; the development of the Don tramway near Lower Barrington encouraged more free settlers and gradually the area became a rich farming and timber milling area.

By 1877 there were roughly 400 people living in the Sheffield area and many had great expectations from mining developments. Tin was the main product, along with small amounts of gold, wolfram tungsten and bismuth.

The Mersey Forth Hydro Electric Development Scheme was one of the biggest and most far-reaching developments in the Kentish region, beginning in 1963. The scheme involved the development of Rowallan, Lembomthyme, Devil’s Gate, Wilmot, Cethana, Paloona and Fisher power stations, a similar number of dams and three tunnels.

The town of Gowrie Park was established as a centre for the Hydro employees and their families, as well as for maintenance programs, and was home to about 2,000 people. The project was completed in 1973 and the town virtually disappeared.

KING ISLAND

One of the first mariners to sail Bass Strait was Captain Black aboard Margaret. He sighted and named King Island (or King’s Island as it was originally known), Captain Black spent the New Year of 1801 on an island adjacent to King Island, naming it New Year Island. It was not for another year that Murray, a government surveyor, landed and named additional bays on King Island (Sea Elephant Bay, Seal Rock and others). Murray described the island as large and fine for settlement, with plentiful water, abundant wildlife and fine timber. Despite the positive report, Governor King was not keen to see the island settled and suggested it would be appropriate for a sealers’ colony.

In 1802, Baudin sailed the Geographe and Naturaliste to set up camp on King Island. Governor King, having accommodated the French in Sydney Cove, became concerned about their intentions and sent Charles Robbins to lay claim to the island as British territory. The French crew consisted of astronomers, hydrographers, botanists, zoologists, mineralogists and artists, and their intention was to travel and explore scientifically, not to claim land for France. Record has it that Robbins and a small party of men (outnumbered three to one by the French explorers) marched through the French camp on King Island, hoisted the British flag, fired three gun shots, cheered and marched back to their boats. Much to the amusement of the French and to the detriment of the dramatic effect hoped for by Robbins, the raised flag was upside down.

Following reports of large numbers of elephant seals, sealers inhabited the island and soon decimated the seal population. Francois Peron, a zoologist and explorer, aboard Baudins’ voyage, was appalled at the destruction and correctly observed that the colony would ‘become irreplaceable’.

As a result of the reduction in seal numbers, the sealers began trapping and killing many of the land-based animals, such as wallabies and pademelon. Ironically, a similar fate was met by the land animals. As early as 1813, surveyor Barnard reported travelling with the sealer George Robinson and

USEFUL READING


INTERPS TIP

It is believed that King island had settlers prior to 1852, as the Italian revolutionary Garibaldi visited there in 1852 and found a small but comfortable hut and farms. There was a grave with an inscription stating that the The husband and wife, unable to bear the loneliness of the desert [sic] island, left it and returned to Van Diemen’. Garibaldi and his crew were able to replenish the ship with supplies of potatoes and other vegetables found in the abandoned vegetable garden.

The elephant seal colony of King Island was completely destroyed within three years (by 1805) of European habitation of King Island.
noted that wallabies were becoming scarce. Considering Robinson was killing up to 60 wallabies each month and wild dogs were also present on the island, it is not surprising that the native fauna populations were dramatically reduced.

During the early years of European settlement in Tasmania various remote areas were settled. King Island was used as a bush grazing lease from 1864 through to 1887 for half a dozen farmers. Settlers principally engaged in pastoral pursuits as the stock fattened rapidly on the native grasses.

Communication was possible by ship once a fortnight during summer and spring. In 1896 about 100 people lived on the island.

QUEENSTOWN

Today, Queenstown is the largest town in western Tasmania. The mine at Mt. Lyell has sustained it since the late 1800s when gold, silver and copper were discovered. Queenstown developed quickly as a typical ‘frontier town’, but in recent years has been somewhat subdued, with the future of the Mt Lyell mine repeatedly questioned. In 1995, it was decided to continue mining into the next century, temporarily relieving some economic pressures within the west coast region.

Before European settlement Queenstown was covered in thick rainforest. The discovery of mineral resources in the area brought about the need for wood to fuel the machinery. Timber harvesting vented openings in the forests, making it vulnerable to wildfire, which ravaged any remaining vegetation. Once the forests were gone the plentiful rains swept away the topsoil that was necessary for new plants to establish themselves. The mining practices of the times created acidic smelter fumes, which further damaged the environment: the effects of which are still apparent today in the bare hills surrounding Queenstown. In more recent years the mining companies operating on the west coast have been actively involved in the regeneration of the surrounding landscape and the area is gradually reverting to a more natural environment.

The Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company Ltd established a railway that supported the area for most of its 67 years of operation. The railway was used to transport mining materials from Queenstown to the port at Regatta Point, Strahan. One of the major roles of the train was create links between the remote communities and provide basic community support, transporting children to school, providing postal services and even delivering well acclaimed brass bands on occasion.

The railway company realised the benefits the trains offered the community and established regular picnic rides and offered various public services and entertainment. Even when the road from the Strahan to Queenstown opened in 1932, the popularity of the trains did not diminish.

Eventually the rail system proved to be too costly to maintain, especially considering the dwindling population, increased road transport and the expense of maintaining both the rails and the trains. The last train rolled out of Queenstown in 1963.

Today the railway and trains have been resurrected and operate as the West Coast Wilderness Railway, from Strahan to Queenstown.
SARAH ISLAND

Lieutenant-Governor Sorell that decided Macquarie Harbour was an ideal location for a penal settlement, in 1822, for convicts of the worst class. The first convict group comprised '44 male convicts of incorrigible character and eight female convicts' as well as some 70 officers and staff.

The island was also known as Settlement Island and was abandoned 12 years after initial settlement, in 1834. The closure was a result of problems associated with access and security and the opening of the Port Arthur settlement (1830).

In 1846-47, after a period of abandonment and neglect, Sarah Island was briefly taken up again as a convict probation station. In this period it housed a party of passholder convicts who had been sent to cut Huon pine. Economic and ‘moral’ problems forced its closure.

STANLEY

Settlement of the northwest began, at what is now Stanley, in 1826, funded by the Van Diemen's Land Company. The ship Tranmere arrived with many and varied goods to assist with the development of the new settlement. Timber was cut, split and sawn to create houses, fences and a wharf. A sound bed of clay was found and used to make clay bricks.

Eventually settlements extended as far from the coast as the town now known as Forest, requiring the roads to be developed to a condition suitable for horses and carts to transport both people and produce.

Electric telegraph cables were laid between Stanley and Cape Otway and Cape Flinders in Victoria in 1859 and 1885, allowing morse code messages to be transferred across Bass Strait. In 1935 the first telephone cable linked Apollo Bay in Victoria and Perkins Bay at Circular Head, which allowed for the transmission of radio programmes as well as telephone conversations.

During the 1850s the Van Diemen’s Land Company was struggling financially and was forced to rent out much of its land and sell stock at very low prices. By the 1870s finances were back on track and the Company was able to set up a Merino sheep stud, as well as a Hereford cattle stud to meet the demand for beef cattle from the recently established mining towns.

Butter and cheese factories were established, along with an aerated water and cordial factory, all increasing the demand for shipping transport. In 1891 a pier was built but the easterly weather necessitated that a breakwater be added, some 190 metres long, to protect the ships. The port was utilised for many years for timber export and the shark fisheries of the 1940s.

USEFUL REFERENCE

Binks, C. J. (1989) **Explorers of Western Tasmania**.

INTERPS TIP

With the establishment of the Sarah Island penal settlement in Macquarie Harbour in 1822, a new and bleak chapter in the history of the region began. Convicts who sought freedom from the hell of Sarah Island were among the first European ‘explorers’ and many perished in the wilderness.

INTERPS TIP

Joseph Lyons (Australian Prime Minister 1931-39) was born in Stanley in 1879. He was educated here, eventually training to be a teacher. In 1923, he became premier of Tasmania, after which he entered the Federal House of Assembly as a Labor Party Member. He joined the United Australians Party and became Prime Minister in 1931, holding office until his death in 1939.

INTERPS TIP

Port Latta

In recent years the need to transport iron pellets saw the construction of a 5 kilometre long jetty. The iron is piped in the form of slurry from Savage River to Brickmakers Bay, where a complex has been built that is able to change the slurry into iron pellets.
The road from Strahan to Queenstown is reputedly the most winding road in Australia, covering 42 kilometres with some 280 bends.

STRAHAN

The first Europeans to visit the area, in 1815, were James Kelly and four companions who rowed an open whaleboat through the treacherous entrance to Macquarie Harbour: Hells Gates. Kelly had been contracted to conduct an exploratory trip to the west coast to search for economic opportunities and resources.

Kelly reported enormous stands of huon pine, which were the initial reasons for settlement in the area, and the later establishment of the penal colony on Sarah Island brought further development. In the 1880s the discovery of gold in the surrounding mountains provided incentive for more settlement and development. By 1888 Strahan was proclaimed as a town, named after Sir George Strahan, a previous governor of Tasmania.

By the turn of the century, minerals and timber passed rapidly through Strahan, a port that exported more wealth than Hobart or Launceston. In 1982, Strahan was the centre of the 'Save the Franklin' campaign. Hundreds of people were arrested in this successful attempt to save one of the world's last wild rivers.

The road from Strahan to Queenstown was built in the 1930s at the insistence of the local residents, who were aware of the obligation the government had to provide road access between the two towns. The government shied away from the obligation, stating it would provide a road but would not finance or assist in the development of any bridges. Not realising the resourcefulness of the west coast residents, who had been creating roads into mining areas for years, the government was forced to support the development of the now infamously winding road that follows all topographic contours to Strahan, crossing no creeks and requiring no bridges.

TULLAH

Ore was first discovered in the area at Mt Farrell in 1892, and five years later the town of Tullah was established. The high-grade lead and silver was transported to Emu Bay, Burnie. People relied on walking and packhorses to reach Mole Creek and Rosebery. Eventually, the use of steam railways predominated, until 1963 when the Murchison Highway reached Tullah.

Tullah then became the central town for the hydro-electric power scheme on the Pieman River in the 1970s and 1980s. The dam-building finished in the early 1990s and following the departure of the many families involved, many of the houses were removed.

It is a difficult anchorage but was used as the closest water access to Zeehan. Road access was via a muddy and difficult trail from the Trial Harbour Hotel to Zeehan.

THREE HUMMOCK ISLAND

There are very few early historical references to the islands in the Hunter Group, located some 30 kilometres north of the northwest tip of the Tasmanian mainland. It was not until Bass and Flinders' voyage in 1798 that the island was discovered by Europeans and given its current name.

The first records of the island state that the dense scrubby vegetation made landing and access difficult. It can be assumed that if the islands were free from fire then taller trees with open understoreys would have predominated.
Consequently it seems that Aboriginal visitors and lightning strikes may have caused regular burns on the island, resulting in shrubby low-lying vegetation. Since the mid 1800s the island has been leased to a number of people and some land was cleared for agricultural purposes. From 1976 the current lessee was granted a lifelong lease, as the government resumed control of the island. The island is currently managed as a nature reserve. An airstrip was constructed on the island in 1973 to facilitate servicing of a now defunct telecommunications tower.

WYNYARD
The first Europeans to sight and name Table Cape were Bass and Flinders during their circumnavigation of the island in 1798, on this same voyage that they named Rocky Cape and Circular Head. Settlement began at Wynyard as early as 1841 and continued steadily as the Ingliss River offered a safe port for smaller boats and was relatively protected from westerly gales by Table Cape. A sawmill was established in the region in the 1850s and a wharf and wooden tramline were built, with much of the timber being transported as far afield as New Zealand. The Table Cape lighthouse was built in 1888 and assisted vessels to safely enter the Ingliss River. Dairying became a significant industry on the northwest coast, with a butter factory and bacon factory being established in Wynyard. Eventually the railway to Burnie and the growth of the Burnie port made the Wynyard port insignificant. For some time it was an important port of call for fishing fleets in the area, but these found safer anchorages at Stanley.

ZEEHAN
Zeehan was one of the first places in Tasmania to be seen by Europeans. Tasman sighted the mountain peak in 1642, however it was Bass and Flinders, travelling around the Tasmanian coast in 1802, who named both Mount Zeehan and Mount Heemskirk after the two boats used by Tasman in his epic voyage over two hundred years earlier. Zeehan is a great example of a classic mining town. The older sections of Zeehan are culturally very interesting and give some indication of what the town must have been like in its ‘heyday’, when it had a population of 10,000.

The wild and rugged area remained unexplored until the discovery of tin at Mt Bischoff in 1871. In the years that followed prospectors rushed into the area and a certain mining craziness set in. Over the next decade, Zeehan boomed. At its height in 1891, there were 159 companies with mining leases in the area. By the 1890s, the town had developed an air of sophistication. Each year, from 1890-1910, the mines earned an average of £200,000. The main street was full of elegant buildings including banks, theatres and hotels.

By 1910, the ore bodies that had sustained Zeehan began to give out and the town slowly declined. By the 1950s, it had a population of only 650 and the last silver mine in Zeehan closed in 1960.

It was not until the 1960s that the Murchison Highway Burnie with Zeehan; before this time access to Zeehan was by rail. Tullah had to rely on a small spur line to gather supplies. Zeehan was not linked to Strahan by road until the 1980s.

INTERPS TIP
Teepookana
At the turn of the century Teepookana was the fourth biggest port in Tasmania – handling all supplies and trades to and from Queenstown. It was a small town, which declined slowly when the railway linking Teepookana to Queenstown was extended to reach Strahan.
When the Abt railway was closed in the 1930s the town of Teepookana disappeared all together, and even today there are very few remains left of what was one of Tasmania’s largest ports.

USEFUL REFERENCE
James Backhouse Walker. (1887). Walk to the West.
USEFUL REFERENCE

To enhance your tour, research the background of some of the towns you frequently pass through and create your own interesting tales!

What’s in a name?
The following list is a general overview of some of the towns and places on the west and northwest coasts, providing a snippet of their history, a reason for their name, or just a quirky story relating to the town.

ARTHUR RIVER
Named by Hellyer in 1827 after Governor Arthur.

BURNIE
First settled in 1827 by the Van Diemen’s Land Company, the town was initially named Emu Bay. William Burnie was a director of the company.

KENTISH
Named after Nathaniel Lipscombe Kentish. A government surveyor on a temporary transfer from South Australia, he discovered the area in 1842. It would seem that Henry Hellyer had passed through the area some years earlier in 1826, but was long since deceased when Kentish walked the area and so was possibly forgotten.

CIRCULAR HEAD
Named by Bass and Flinders during the Norfolk voyage in 1798.

CORINNA
Township proclaimed in 1894. Corinna is the Aboriginal name for the Pieman River.

ELDON RANGE

MARRAWAH
Once a timber district with a railway line running between Smithton and Marrawah, it is now a rich dairy region. Marrawah is believed to be the Aboriginal term for gum tree.

MT BISHCOFF
Shown on Henry Hellyer’s map of 1828. Named after James Bishcoff, a director of the Van Diemen’s Land Company.

MT GELL
Named by Sir John Franklin, Governor in 1842, after his chaplain and future son-in-law, Rev John Philip Gell.

MT HEEMSKIRK
Named after Tasman’s second ship and shown on a map by Flinders in 1798, the name may have been applied to what is now Mt Agnew.
MT LYELL
Named by Charles Gould in 1862, after Sir Charles Lyell, famous British geologist and author of the seminal Principles of Geology.

PENGUIN
One of the last coastal towns settled, in 1860. It was a port for ships collecting timber to supply building material for the Victorian gold rush.

PORT SORELL
Is the oldest town on the northwest coast, originally established as a port for the Van Diemen’s Land Company. Originally known as Burgess, the name was changed to Port Sorell in 1822 after Governor Sorell. The town also had a big trade in wattle bark in the 1830s.

REMINE
Remine is the township on the shore of Trial Harbour, now known as Trial Harbour. An Aboriginal name for Christmas Bells (Blandfordia punicea).

SARAH ISLAND
Named by James Kelly in 1815 in honour of Sarah Guest who came from Norfolk Island in 1805 and married Thomas Birch, who financed Kelly’s circumnavigation.

SMITHTON
Named, Duck River, by Bass and Flinders in 1798. The town changed names in the 1900s and was known for its abundance of blackwood timbers.

STRAHAN
The town was named after Sir George Strahan who became Governor of Tasmania in 1881.

TRIAL HARBOUR
Named after the cutter Trial which first entered the anchorage in 1881.

WARATAH
Probably named after the Waratah River, on which the settlement lies. The river was named by the Van Diemen’s Land Company surveyors after the flower Telopea truncata, waratah.

WYNYARD
Named by Bass and Flinders in 1798 as Table Cape, changed to Wynyard in 1850 after a general in the NSW army corps.

ZEEHAN
A town named by Mathew Flinders, navigator and explorer, in the first circumnavigation of Van Diemen’s Land in 1798, after one of Tasman’s ships, the Zeehan (Dutch for cormorant). The town Zeehan was named after the mountain.
The following bibliography is by no means exhaustive; it is a list of recommended books and websites that should assist with providing and researching additional information.

Comprehensive and useful resources, relating specifically to the national parks and reserved areas, can be found in the relevant management plans. These documents can be downloaded from the Parks and Wildlife Service website <www.parks.tas.gov.au> or purchased from Service Tasmania shops statewide <www.servicetasmania.tas.gov.au>.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS**


WEBSITE REFERENCES

<www.bom.gov.au> Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
<www.geohive.com> provides population statistics, nationally and internationally.
<www.forest-education.com> The Forest Education Foundation aims to encourage informed decisions about forest use within the community, by promoting a sound understanding of forests and forestry practices and of the social, economic and environmental values of forests.
<www.forestrytas.com.au> Forestry Tasmania
<www.hydro.tas.gov.au> Hydro Tasmania
<www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au> Interpretation Association of Australia.
<www.parks.tas.gov.au>Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania
<www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/Heritage/crowther.htm> The Crowther Library is a rich collection of books, pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, photographs, works of art and museum objects, largely relating to Tasmania but encompassing many other subjects.
<www.snh.org.uk> Scottish Natural Heritage Organisation.
<www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/Heritage/tasmaniana.htm> The Tasmaniana Library is the State Library’s “State–iana” section, collecting and preserving Tasmanian published material. It is both a historical collection and an important resource for studying current issues. Ranging across all fields – history, biography, literature, description, travel, science and technology, the arts, politics, economics.
<www.tourism.tas.gov.au> Tourism Tasmania site

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**GENERIC TASMANIAN HISTORY**


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**BIRDS**


**FLORA**


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9. Useful references
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Tasmanian Land and freshwater Snails by Smith and Kershaw Fauna Handbook Series, Uni of Tas No 5.
Tasmanian Echinoderms by Alan Dartnall Fauna Handbook Series, Uni of Tas No 3.
Australian Marine Life by Graham Edgar has a very strong Tasmanian focus publ. by Reed New Holland

MARINE


MAMMALS


REPTILES, FISH & AMPHIBIANS

Fulton, W (1990) Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes, Fauna of Tasmania Committee, University of Tasmania.
Martin, AA and Littlejohn, M J (1982) Tasmanian Amphibians, Fauna of Tasmania Handbook no. 6, Fauna of Tasmania Committee, University of Tasmania.
WORLD HERITAGE AREA, NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES


NORTH & NORTH EAST REGION


Glamorgan  Spring Bay Council (2002) From France to Freycinet- The background to the French names on the east coast of Tasmania.


Miller, GS (1979) Of Rascals and Rusty Relics: An Introduction to North-east Tasmania, Mercury-Walch, Tasmania


Weindorfer, M (1991) Maria Island – A Tasmanian Eden, B & M. Reid, Victoria


WEST & NORTH WEST REGION


Reid, O (1976) *History of the Northwest*, Curriculum Centre, Education Department of Tasmania.

**SOUTH & CENTRAL PLATEAU**


Reid, O (1979) *Hobart and surroundings*, Curriculum Centre, Education Department of Tasmania.

Walker, J B (1887) *Walk to the West*, The Royal Society of Tasmania.

LIST OF NOTESHEETS

The following list shows the many and varied notesheets available from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Many of the notesheets are included in this manual, however all notesheets can be downloaded from the Parks and Wildlife Service website: <www.parks.tas.gov.au> as a PDF document.

BOATING

*Information about some of the waterways in Tasmania*

- Franklin
- Gordon
- Port Davey

CARING FOR NATURE

*How you can look after the wildlife and habitats of Tasmania.*

- Caring for Injured & Orphaned Wildlife
- Wildlife Carers Check List
- Reducing Roadkill
- Swift Parrot Habitat – A Planting Guide
- Water Pollution
- Keeping Wildlife Wild
- Fire, flora & fauna

GEODIVERSITY

*Information about the rich geo-heritage of Tasmania.*

- Gondwana
- Landforms of the Tasman Peninsula
- Tasmania’s Cave Reserves
- The Lake Highway
- Mole Creek Karst
- Tasman Peninsula Geology

GREAT BUSHWALKS

*Details on some of the extended walks in Tasmania*

- Frenchmans Track
- Freycinet Peninsula Circuit
- Overland Track
- South Coast Track
LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Information on how to share your property with native wildlife.

- Brushtail possums
- Eagles
- Hawks
- Snakes
- Tasmanian devil & quolls
- Tasmanian native hen
- Wallabies and kangaroos

NATURAL VALUES

Background on the landforms, flora and fauna of Tasmania’s national parks.

PARKS & PLACES

Information on the wide range of parks, reserves and cultural sites managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

- Adamsfield
- Arthur–Pieman Protected Area
- Bay of Fires
- Coal Mines
- Cockle Creek
- Eaglehawk Neck
- East Coast Reserves
- East Pillinger
- Hastings Thermal Springs
- Highfield Historic Site – Stanley
- Historic Darlington
- Kangaroo Bluff Historic Site
- Macquarie Island World Heritage Area
- Marine Reserves in Tasmania
- Mount Barrow
- Patriarchs Wildlife Sanctuary – Flinders Island
- Shipwrecks in Tasmania
- Southwest Conservation Area
- Steppes Historic Site
- Strahan – Living with Wilderness
- Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

9. Useful references
PLANTS

*Information on the unique plants and communities found in Tasmania, including checklists of some plants found in our national parks.*

- Alpine Plants
- Bruny Island Plants
- Buttongrass Moorland
- Coastal Plants
- Endemic Conifers
- Endemic Plants
- Fagus
- Huon Pine
- Orchids of the Freycinet Peninsula
- Planting Oyster Bay Pine
- Rural Tree Decline
- Swamp gum
- Tasmanian Rainforest

**Plant checklists of many Tasmanian national parks**

THREATS

*Details of some threats facing the wildlife and ecosystems of Tasmania.*

- Boneseed – Controlling an Environmental Weed
- Coastal Weeds
- Feral cats
- Fox Presence
- Introduced Tree Frogs
- Marram Grass
- Phytophthora- Root Rot

THREATENED HABITATS

*Information about how you can help stop the loss of some of Tasmania’s natural habitats.*

- Grasslands
- Wetlands
## THREATENED SPECIES

*Information about some species listed as threatened.*

- Burrowing crayfish
- Eastern barred bandicoot
- Forty-spotted pardalote
- Orange-bellied parrot
- Swift parrot
- Threatened seastars
- Thylacine- Tasmanian tiger

## VISITING…

*All you need to know before you visit our national parks – how to get there, facilities, camping and what you can do when you get there.*

- Ben Lomond National Park
- Camping & Cabin Fees – statewide
- Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park
- Douglas Apsley National Park
- Freycinet National Park
- Hartz Mountains National Park
- Maria Island National Park
- Mole Creek Karst National Park
- Mt Field National Park
- Mt William National Park
- Narawntapu National Park
- Rocky Cape National Park
- South Bruny National Park
- Southwest National Park
- Strzelecki National Park
- Tasman National Park
- Walls of Jerusalem National Park
- Wild Rivers National Park
WALKING NOTES

Information about a variety of walks in some parks and reserves of Tasmania.

Cooking & Food Tips
Lake St Clair – Lakeside walk
Lake St Clair – Mt Rufus
Lake St Clair – Short Walks
Leeaberra
Maria Island – Bishop and Clerk
Maria Island – Fossil Cliffs
Maria Island – Isthmus and Pt Lesueur
Maria Island – Mt Maria
Maria Island – Painted Cliffs
Maria Island – Reservoir Circuit
Minimal Impact Activities
Walking Safely

WILDLIFE

Information about the animals found in Tasmania.

BIRDS
Albatross on Macquarie Island
Birds of Prey
Cape Barren Goose
Short-tailed Shearwater
Tasmania’s Endemic Birds
West Coast: Bird Checklist
White-bellied Sea Eagle
Fairy Penguins

Bird checklists for many national parks
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**Fauna Checklists of many national parks**

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