



*Advocacy for the preservation of the area's cultural, natural and historic values*

**Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting**  
**Conference Room, PWS Visitor Centre, Cradle Mountain**  
**Saturday, 21 October 2023 at 1:00pm**

**1. President Chris Stafford opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed everyone.**

**Present:** Chris Stafford, Nic Sawyer, Ann Wessing, Jenny Pearce, Graeme Pickford, Peter Lawrence, Glen Hayhurst, Jan Hayhurst, Michael Taylor, Graeme Pickford, Steve Brown, John Corbett, Edie Firth, Teresa Conlon. Mavis Rowlands, Steve Nicholson, Kate Burton, Harry Cox, Sue Cox, Michael Carnes, Bob Lavis

**Apologies:** Jim Spinks, Marilyn Spinks, Richard Barnes, Janet Ullinger, June Hilder, Nic Deka, Helen Helen Thyne, Jim Thyne, Cathy Clayton, Patricia Ellison, Bruce Pike, Herbert Staubmann, Sally Staubmann, David Moltow

**2. Report from Steve Nicholson, Parks and Reserves Manager – Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair**

**Overland Track**

Generating over \$1 million per year. Operated as an enterprise with all funds reinvested into the OLT.

In 2004 the Overland Track Booking System was established (2005 was the first season) as well as the Overland Track Business Enterprise to manage the system.

OLT Daily walker departures are capped at 62. Daily = 34 FIT, 13 Group, 15 TWC

Historically about 8000 people walk the Overland Track each year (600-1000 in winter), with an addition 2-3000 walkers visiting the track from side routes. Last season we had over 10,000 walkers on the track.

Overland Track Fee increase \$285 which includes Park Entry Fee and shuttle bus transfer

- 6 Track Rangers have been recruited and operating
- Windermere and Kia Ora huts completed
- Pelion Toilet completed
- Grey water systems at Waterfall Valley Hut and Pelion Hut have been installed
- **Tas GRN** has been rolled out and switched on. All hut nodes have a TasGRN station installed. We are still in the process of connecting power to the units. Generally solar powered/batteries based at the toilets. We have conducted tests along the OLT using handheld radios and by all accounts the system works extremely well.

**Upcoming works**

- Windy Ridge renovations
- New toilet at Windy Ridge

- After a few years of major projects, we are looking at refocusing on some of the key track maintenance and upgrades. Erosion north of Kia Ora for example
- Repurposing old huts to rangers Quarters -Kia Ora and Windermere
- Renovations on the Echo Point Hut with footings having been replaced. Recladding will occur shortly
- Du Cane Hut – renovations / water tank

### Shuttle Bus

- A fee for the Shuttle Bus will be introduced from 15 November: \$15 for 3-day pass, \$45 for annual pass.
- Dove Lake Road widening and passing bays. Funding confirmed and detailed design complete
- Two new buses added to the fleet early next year. 12.5m. Existing buses are maximum 11m
- Construction of shed for use by McDermotts (shuttle operators). Funding confirmed and request for quotes will go out soon.
- While in the longer term a cableway is proposed and being planned, McDermotts Shuttle bus contract has been extended.

**Waldheim Enterprise.** Operated as a separate enterprise. Prices have been increased this year after no increase since 2008.

cabins	old fee/night	new rates/night
4-berth	\$95	\$140
6-berth	\$135	\$210
8-berth	\$185	\$280

- Very high occupancy rates. Provides basic affordable accommodation.
- The funds are reinvested back into the enterprise.
- Recladding of the cabins has been progressively done using Field Centre staff
- The major project we would like to undertake is to replace the amenities building.

**DRAFT Cradle valley Emergency Management Plan.** Police, Kentish Council, PWS, TFS, SES, Ambulance Tasmania, Dept. State Growth, Tas water, Telstra, Tas Networks

### Visitor Centre

Water damage in the visitor centre. Undetected for a long-time causing mould issues and rotting timbers. Fortunately, none of this was structural. Fairbrother are currently undertaking repair works.

### Dove Lake Shelter and walkway

Dove Lake shelter (January 2023)

New walkway (Sept 23)

## **Accommodation Precinct**

Office of the Coordinator General (OCG). Have responsibility for development of the accommodation precinct. Lack of appropriate accommodation has for a long time been an issue

## **Cableway**

The cableway is the third part of the Cradle Mountain Masterplan. The first two being:

1. The Gateway precinct (VC)
2. Dove Lake Viewing shelter and walkway
3. Transport solution

Planning is continuing for this project. Originally the estimate was \$60 million (2016). Prepared by the Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience Master Plan working group. The estimate is now at \$190 million.

Meanwhile, the McDermotts Shuttle bus contract has been extended to provide ongoing transport.

## **Questions & Answers Discussion with Steve Nicholson**

- Comment: In last few of years the bulk of funding has been going towards new huts, consequently limited funds going into track maintenance. FoCV members support the proposal to refocus funding towards track maintenance and upgrades.
- Shuttle bus fee. The shuttle bus contract is a significant cost, whilst the Park entry fee is low. Hence the justification for a shuttle bus fee. FoCV suggested the fee may discourage Tasmanians from visiting, and the support of locals to protect and conserve nature parks is essential. PWS response: having an annual fee that is equivalent to three visits may not discourage locals who visit often.
- The queueing place for the bus at Dove Lake Shelter is exposed when the weather is wet and windy. Suggested that visitors could wait inside the Shelter and walk to the bus stop after the bus arrives.

## **3. Report from Kate Burton, RIC Cradle Mountain**

secretary did not take notes, assumed Kate would forward copy of report.

- a new policeman has arrived at Cradle
- discovery ranger will be present at Cradle during the peak January season
- 44% increase in visitor number since last year. 340,000 visitors; on one day 3,700 visitors
- a few wombats at Vale de Belvoir now have mange
- cat trapping at Cradle is planned for autumn

Chris Stafford thanked Steve and Kate for their willingness to participate and keep our group informed and involved. Steve and Kate left the meeting at 2pm.

## **4. General Meeting Business**

As there were some new faces all persons present introduced themselves. Chris Stafford welcomed Sue Cox and Michael Carnes from the Kate Weindorfer family.

## 5. Confirmation of minutes of the 2022 AGM.

Eddie Firth request a correction to the draft minutes to read “... with one committee member dealing with social media”, not himself as possibly implied in the draft. Agreed that minutes as published on the FoCV website with the correction are a true record on the 2002 AGM.

## 6. Business arising

Not sure what has happened regarding the development of a walkway from the Visitor Centre to the Interpretation Centre. Peter Lawrence will follow up with the Kentish Council.

## 7. President's Report, presented by Chris Stafford

Well surprise surprise, here we all are at another annual general meeting for the Friends Of Cradle Valley and I welcome you and thank you one and all for your attendance to groups meeting and input at the meetings over passing year.

Special thanks to Peter Lawrence “Secretary/ Treasurer” for his work and support, and Glenn Hayhurst “website hosting” work he does to keep the site a live, and to Jenny Pearce for hosting the winter meeting at her residence at Leith on Saturday, 10 June 2023. I thought it was a well- attended meeting.

I'd like to thank the Parks and Wildlife Services for their contribution into Friends Of Cradle Valley, practically - Kate Burton for her time efforts, and the information, updates and highlight reports Parks provides us all with and the use of the conference room in the Visitors Centre.

Friends of Cradle Valley were contacted by Suzanne Cox asking for input and support with having Kate Weindorfer's remains brought to Cradle valley to be reburied on the site with her beloved husband Gustav Weindorfer. Support has been offered and discussions taken place, and if all goes to the families plan, Kate will be back in her loved Valley with her husband sometime early in 2024.

With the unveiling of Bert Hanson's plaque in the Ulverstone General Cemetery (Thursday 27th October 2022) Friends of Cradle Valley were contacted by Vici Elphinstone for support in having a plaque placed in the park for Bert Hanson. Support has been offered and discussions taken place, with Vici and Parks staff for its approval. We are waiting to hear back.

I look forward to the coming New Year with anticipation.

Chris R Stafford, President

Moved Peter Lawrence seconded Ann Wessing that President's Report be received. Carried.

## 8. Treasurer's Report 2022, presented by Peter Lawrence, Secretary/Treasurer

Balance brought forward at 2022 AGM	<b>\$273.12</b>
Income during last year - donation	\$50.00
Expenditure during last year – web hosting & web name	\$56.00
Balance as at 2023 AGM	<b>\$162.12</b>

Moved Peter Lawrence seconded Graeme Pickford that Treasurer's Report be received.  
Carried

Thanks to Michael Carnes, Jenny Pearce, Mavis Rowlands, Peter Lawrence for donations (\$150) received after presentation of Treasurer's report.

#### **9. relocation of Kate Weindorfer grave to Waldheim – Sue Cox & Michael Carnes**

- Sue Cox and Michael Carnes represent the family descendants of Kate Weindorfer nee Cowle
- the current grave of Kate Weindorfer in Devonport is poorly cared for
- all the family descendants agree to the proposition to move the remains of Kate to be with her husband Gustav at Waldheim
- Gustav was buried on land originally purchased by Kate
- the family will cover all costs involved with the relocation and re-internment
- funeral directors are advising and involved
- the Devonport City Council have given permission to relocate the grave
- PWS are progressing the request to relocate the grave
- Sue and Michael are hoping to have the ceremony on 1 Feb 2024, the anniversary of the marriage of Kate and Gustav.
- Jenny Pearce and Mavis Rowlands, members of the Weindorfer Committee, mentioned that for many years on 1st January flowers were placed on the grave of Gustav in a short ceremony.

Moved Jenny Pearce seconded Ann Wessing that FoCV support the descendants of Kate Weindorfer nee Cowle in their endeavours to re-locate and re-intern the remains of Kate Weindorfer nee Cowle to be reunited with Gustav Weindorfer, her husband, in the existing monument at Waldheim, Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park.

- On 24 October Sue Cox reported that "We were delighted to receive a signed authority from Parks and Wildlife to have the re-internment. We had thought it would take place next February but have decided that there is too much to plan to be ready in 15 weeks so we will plan for the ceremony to occur on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

#### **10. Election of Committee for 2022-23**

The following persons offered to serve and were elected unopposed.

President: Chris Stafford, nominated by Eddie Firth, seconded by Mike Taylor  
Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Lawrence, nominated by Ann Wessing, seconded by Graeme Pickford  
Web master: Glen Hayhurst  
Committee members: Steve Brown, John Corbett, Eddie Firth

#### **11. Visitor Centre Dove Lake transport options**

Kate Burton reported that the Office of Coordinator General had arranged a meeting next Thursday at PWS Cradle Mountain. Chris Stafford will seek an invitation representing FoCV, and Ann Wessing will seek an invitation on behalf on Blandfordia Alpine Club.

Chris thanked members for their attendance and participation and wished all a safe journey home.