



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

**Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting**  
**Conference Room, PWS Visitor Centre, Cradle Mountain**  
**Saturday, 30 November 2024 at 1:00pm**

**President Chris Stafford opened the meeting at 1:10 pm and welcomed everyone.**

**Present:** Chris Stafford, Peter Lawrence, Michael Taylor, Teresa Conlon. Mavis Rowlands, Jenny Pearce, Sally Simco, Matt Broadfield (PWS), Steve Nicholson (PWS), Kate Burton(PWS), Jo Lawrence

**Apologies:** Nic Deka, Eddie Firth, Ann Wessing, Sue Cox, Michael Carnes, Cathy Clayton, Graeme Pickford, John Corbertt, Nick Sawyer, Glen Hayhurst, Jan Hayhurst, Steven Brown, Patricia Ellison. Michael Simco, Lyle Rubock, Greg Rubock, Stan Ellerm



## CRADLE MT FIELD CENTRE REPORT 2023-24 - Kate Burton, RIC

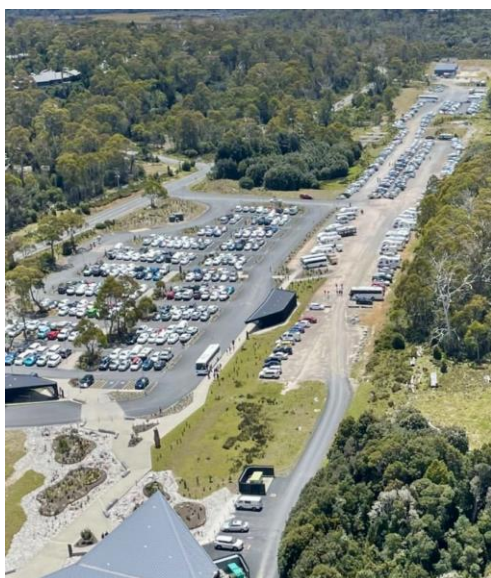
### Cradle Staffing

There were a number of recruitment processes held over the past year to permanently fill positions that were being covered by staff in contracts or acting arrangements. Operating with <50% staffing for 4 months of 2024 which was challenging. We now have full staffing capacity with 8 permanent field staff. This is critical to provide adequate coverage over the upcoming peak visitor season. In summary;

- Matt Broadfield was successful in acquiring the permanent Band 4 Ranger position in April 2024.
- Lucas Chamberlain started as the new permanent B3 Ranger (Matt's old position) in June 2024.
- Ryan Nichols joined the team in July 2024 as a permanent B3 Field Officer.
- Abbey Ralph, Graduate Ranger, participated in the SA-TAS Ranger Exchange in Aug-Sept 2024 by swapping placements with Senior Park Ranger James Tomlinson from the Flinders Ranges.
- The cleaning contract with Detail First has been extended for another year until September 2025. This covers all the main visitor sites at Cradle including servicing the Waldheim Cabins.
- Two Discovery Rangers were based at Cradle Mt over two weeks in Jan 2024 to provide general educational interpretation for park visitors over summer. The nature and scale of activities was reduced compared to previous years due to funding constraints & staff availability.
- Senior Detective Constable Michael Hollingsworth was appointed to the Tas Police position at Cradle Mountain based in the PWS Visitor Centre.

### Visitor Statistics

- The total visitation to Cradle Mt in 2023-24 was 341,067 ppl as recorded on the shuttle service to access the park. This is very similar to the previous year of 338,921 ppl in 2022-23. Please note that these numbers do not include variance for tour operators, private vehicles, etc so are only indicative of the official statistics as per the PWS website.
- The busiest months of the year were in Dec 2023 (~45,000 ppl) and Jan 2024 (~55,000 ppl).
- Our busiest day was Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 with 3,433 ppl recorded as entering the park on the shuttle service. This surpasses our previous highest record of 3,207 ppl on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022. The park was at full capacity on this day with 593 vehicles parked at the Gateway and all available shuttle fleet operating on extended hours.
- Cradle staff were extremely busy with visitor management ramping up significantly the week before Christmas to an average 2,500-3,000ppl daily. This continued through to mid-January before dropping to an average 1,200ppl per day.
- Strong growth has continued for FY 2024-25 so far.



## Significant works

- Completion of the Waldheim Cabin recladding project at Cradle. This 2 year project has seen significant upgrades to the 8 cabins with all external walls replaced with natural timber, trims painted and asbestos removed. Construction work was undertaken by Field staff over 4 months each summer. Feedback from cabin guests & visitors has been very positive. Enhances the historic alpine historic character of the site.



- Track work continued on the eastern side of Dove Lake Circuit to regravell and improve drainage on the section near Trugannini Point which was in very poor condition. Involved two heliops to transport & lay ~50 bags of gravel.
- Pencil Pine Bridge, located at the Park Entrance on Cradle Mt Road, has undergone significant repairs with the timber decking replaced and sealing at both ends to connect back onto the main road. The Dept of State Growth undertook this work over a week in Oct with PWS coordinating minor disruptions to park access & an amended shuttle service.
- A number of new passing bays and road widening is currently being constructed on the Dove Lake Road by Treloars to accommodate new additions to the shuttle bus fleet to meet increasing visitor demand. Project cost of approx. \$330,000. Works are well underway and the formwork is expected to be completed in 1-2 weeks depending on weather conditions. Sealing to occur in Feb 2025.
- A 2 hectare fuel reduction burn was conducted at Ronny Creek in November as part of the state-wide fuel reduction program, aimed at reducing the bushfire risk to help protect lives and communities while improving ecological values in the TWWHA. Estimated that 40% of the fuel load in the area was burnt. No negative impact to the local wombats has been observed so far.





- The remains of Kate Weindorfer were reinterred at Waldheim on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb with a small funeral service held for close family & friends.
- Cradle Community Clean Up Day was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April; a long-term partnership between PWS & Discovery Parks. Good attendance and main roadsides covered between Cradle & Moina.
- Staff assisted with the memorial service & guided activities at Waldheim for Weindorfer Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. It was a great day out in the park with about 46ppl attending this year, including the Kentish Council Mayor, Kate Haberle.
- A memorial service for Bert Hanson and plaque installation on Lake Rodway Track was held on 5<sup>th</sup> June with approximately 15 ppl in attendance, including Hanson and Quaile family members, walking club reps, Friends of Cradle Valley president, Dr Nic Haygarth and PWS staff.
- Annual 1-week spring program with 12 x Wildcare Cradle Mt volunteers held in November with focus on track pruning & maintenance prior to peak season.
- Wombat mange monitoring program continues to be held monthly at Cradle as part of the NRE state-wide program with assistance from TasTAFE and Wildcare. Numbers seem to be stable over the past 6 years with no recorded sightings of mange in the local populations. Some mangey wombats have been sighted in the Vale of Belvoir and Erriba over summer.
- Weed Control Program implemented; all known weed infestations at Cradle checked and sprayed over summer as per database to target thistles, ragwort and blackberry. New sites have been recorded around the Gateway & Dove Lake developments at Cradle Mt, Five Mile Rise Road in the Dove River Conservation Area, and Taylors Flats at Loongana which is adjacent to the Black Bluff Conservation Area. Staff have also undertaken weed control at Mt Farrell Regional Reserve.
- Field staff have assisted with numerous emergency response and incidents including bushfires, severe storm damage, snow events, multiple search and rescues with TasPol, and weekly minor first aid visitor incidents.

#### **Upcoming works**

- The old viewing platform on the King Billy Track is due to be replaced this summer with new infrastructure, seats and signage. Helicopter operations have been undertaken to transport heavy loads of timber into the site. Construction works on the viewing platform are now planned to continue through to late January 2025.
- A section of track near Crater Falls on the Overland Track will be upgraded in Feb-Mar 2025 to meet Australian Standards. Allocated \$100,000 project funding to engage track crew contractors.
- Repairing a section of the Ronny Creek carpark that was damaged by the recent storms.
- Coordinating road works planned by DSG on the Dove Lake Road in Feb.
- Autumn planned burns at Speeler Plains, south of the Lodge and north of the Ranger Station.
- Working with Wildcare to seek grant funding to improve the track at Lake Wilks. The site is currently degraded with numerous track braids along the lake edge.
- Heritage works on the Waldheim Chalet as some of the façade is starting to rot.
- Converting some of our data systems into digital formats such as the walker registration logs, water meter data, etc.

## **Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair Report - Steve Nicholson, Parks & Reserves Manager**

### **Upcoming works**

- Pine Forest Moor track maintenance upgrade, double planking and rock work
- New toilet at Windy Ridge, to be completed before winter

### **Staff accommodation**

- Staff numbers are at full capacity, there are no vacancies. However, appropriate accommodation continues to be an issue, and many staff share accommodation. The Office of the Coordinator General (OCG), not PWS nor the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), have responsibility for development of the accommodation precinct.

### **Dove Lake transport**

- No new developments in the past 12 months.
- The cableway project has been rebadged as a 'sustainable transport solution' despite its main rationale to substantially increase visitor numbers - a sop to the tourist industry.
- The State government is asking the Federal government to provide most of the \$190 million total infrastructure cost of the proposed Cradle Mountain cableway.
- The current shuttle bus fee does not cover the full operational contract cost, the service is subsidised by the government. Hence a cableway service will require a substantial operational subsidy from the government.
- A 2021 survey found that 97% of respondents were satisfied with the shuttle bus service.
- McDermott's have another 4 years on the 5-year shuttle bus service contract. The road is deteriorating and requires a major upgrade to improve the road base, not just fixing pot-holes. Even if a cableway is installed a road will still be necessary for maintenance and emergencies. There are no known plans to upgrade the road.

### **Gateway Precinct**

- An announcement on the \$2.5 million proposal for the Gateway Precinct is expected in the next two months.

### **Lake Rodway**

- The Office of Coordinator General (OCG) website shows the Tasmanian Walking Company (TWC) proposal for a Lake Rodway Hut Walk has been withdrawn. However, in reality, the project was withdrawn with the proviso that another project with a different name be accepted. Details of the project remains swathed in secrecy; however it appears the accommodation and living nodes will be spread over an area of 400m<sup>2</sup>, joined by boardwalks. All private and all on public land.

Chris Stafford thanked Steve, Kate and Matt Broadfield for their willingness to participate and keep our group informed and involved. Steve, Kate and Matt left the meeting at 2:05pm.

### **Confirmation of minutes of the 2023 AGM.**

Meeting agreed that minutes of 2023 AGM as published on the FoCV website are a true record of the meeting.



# Friends of



# Cradle Valley

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

## **- PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM NOVEMBER 2024 -**

Let me welcome you and thank you, for your attendance and those that are on line with us today.

A special thanks to Peter Lawrence our "Secretary and Treasurer" for his time and input over the last year and also to Glenn Hayhurst our "Website Hosting Master" for the work he contributes to keeping our web site [www.friendsofcradlevalley.org](http://www.friendsofcradlevalley.org) a live and operational.

I'd like to thank the Parks and Wildlife Services for their contribution into Friends Of Cradle Valley, all the reports and ongoing information Parks provides our members with, and the use of the conference room in the Visitors Centre for our AGM's.

Through the invitation of Sue Cox (nee Cowle) and Micheal Carnes, Friends of Cradle Valley's input and support into having Kate Weindorfer's remains returned to Cradle Valley with her beloved husband Gustav Weindorfer. On the 1st February 2024 Kate's remains were successfully reinterred at Waldheim and finally back in her much-loved Cradle Valley. Our many thanks to Sue Cox (nee Cowle) and Micheal Carnes for allowing our (Friends of Cradle Valley) input to what was a very memorable occasion.

In the planning, is a official unveiling of a new plaque for Kate and Gustav's memorial to be hopefully organized for the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 (Kate and Gustav's 120th wedding anniversary" all members are invited to attend - confirmation to be advised.







The placement and unveiling of a new memorial plaque honouring Bert Hanson's death in 1905 in the park, was approved by Parks and Wildlife and conducted by Vici Elphinstone in June 2024. It was well attended by Family, Friends, Parks staff and group members. Our many thanks to Vici Elphinstone for allowing Friends of Cradle Valley to be included. A video of the occasion can be viewed on youtube > [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eb6z\\_3\\_HDPY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eb6z_3_HDPY).





## **Treasurer's Report 2024, presented by Peter Lawrence, Secretary/Treasurer**

Balance brought forward at 2023 AGM	<b>\$162.12</b>
Income during last year - donations	\$220.00
Expenditure during last year – web hosting & web name	\$56.00
- National Parks association	\$50.00
Balance as at 2024 AGM	<b>\$276.12</b>

## **Kate Weindorfer plaque ceremony – Sue Cox & Michael Carnes**

Sue Cox and Michael Carnes informed us that the Kate Weindorfer plaque ceremony has been postponed till 1 Feb 2026.

## **Election of Committee for 2024-25**

The following persons were willing to continue in their current roles and were elected unopposed.

President: Chris Stafford  
Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Lawrence  
Web master: Glen Hayhurst

## **Kate Weindorfer Day**

Chris mentioned that he was helping Stan Ellerm, Activities Manager at Cradle Mountain Lodge, to organise a high tea and walk on Saturday 4 January 2025 to celebrate Kate Weindorfer's summit of Cradle Mountain 115 years ago. Chris requested the secretary to circulate the information to FoCV members. Questions at the meeting confirmed this proposal was a commercial activity by Cradle Mountain Lodge, and not a fund raiser for FoCV.

## **Tyndall Range Iconic Walk**

The meeting agreed that the Tyndall Walk proposal does not come under FoCV banner which has a Cradle Valley focus.

## **Facebook**

It was suggested that having a Facebook account would help promote the FoCV web site, as more people look at Facebook.

Last year John Corbett mentioned Facebook, hence the meeting suggested we approach John to enquire if he is interested in operating a Facebook account.

To have any real impact will require updating a Facebook page every few weeks, and will also require new items on the web site every few months. No one offered to provide photos or news stories.

## **Meeting closed at 2:45pm**

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