

Friends of



Cradle Valley

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

Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting
Conference Room, Cradle Mt Visitor Centre
Saturday, 22 November at 1.00pm

Meeting opened at 1:10pm

President Chris Stafford opened the meeting at 1:10 pm and welcomed everyone. Special welcome to Brendan Moodie, newly appointed Ranger In Charge Cradle Mountain

Present: Chris Stafford, Peter Lawrence, Michael Taylor, Teresa Conlon, Mavis Rowlands, Jenny Pearce, Glen Hayhurst, Steve Brown, Eddie Firth, Steve Nicholson (PWS), Brendan Moodie (PWS)

Apologies: Nic Deka, Sue Cox, Michael Carnes, Cathy Clayton, John Corbett, Nick Sawyer, Patricia Ellison, David Motlow, Zane Robnik

Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair update - Steve Nicholson, Parks & Reserves Manager

Staff

- Trent Jans appointed Business Centre Coordinator for the north-west

Completed works

- new toilet at Windy Ridge
- Pine Forest Moor track repairs resulting from damaged caused by last season bushfire

Upcoming works

- Waldheim Enterprise ablution block upgrade
- Kitchen Hut toilet replacement (Eddie Firth suggested an improved design is required)
- toilet at Fergy's Paddock at Cynthia Bay
- rainforest walk track upgrade

Dove Lake transport

- \$30 million has been reinstated in the State Budget for the cableway to Dove Lake, estimated to cost \$225 million. Administered by the Office of Coordinator General (Andrew Crane).

- The Premier has written to the Prime Minister seeking financial support for the cableway. A few years ago the promised Commonwealth financial support for the Cradle Cableway was withdrawn from future estimates when the State Government failed to meet certain planning deadlines.
- The Dove Lake Cradle Visitor Centre road is now included in the Devonport to Cradle Corridor Project which previously stopped at Pencil Pine bridge. This project is administered by Dept of State Growth. The road requires repair and maintenance now, no matter whether the cableway proceeds or not.

Gateway Precinct

- PWS staff accommodation is limited. There has been no update from the Office of Coordinator General which administers public servant housing.
- The draft report on phase 1 of the carpark masterplan does not incorporate any land other than the existing precinct, and there has been no progress on land acquisition for the Gateway precinct.

Overland track walkers

- This season with the rain and winter weather, as well as a few walkers being rescued, a few walkers have returned around and walked back safely.
- Work is proceeding on a pre-visit video about hiking the Overland Track, to be modelled on the videos produced by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Councils
- The meeting also suggested updating and re-installing the “leave no trace” message for walkers and visitors.

Cradle Mountain Field Centre update – Brendan Moodie Ranger in Charge

Cradle Staffing

- Kate Burton has left Cradle Mountain after 10 years at the helm.
- Brendan Moodie has taken up the Ranger in Charge role. He brings 16 years of experience as RIC at Mt Field, and 20 years as a Ranger with QLD Parks and Wildlife in a number of roles in high visitation parks such as Noosa Heads, Lamington and the Sunshine Coast.
- Matt Broadfield has temporarily transferred to Ulverstone office and his position will be filled shortly
- Abbey Ralph has completed her Graduate Ranger program and is now a Band 4 Ranger (2IC)
- The operations crew will be at full capacity of 8 for the busy season.
- Ongoing training for fire fighting, first aid, emergency response and 2 x new Coxswains to assist with rescues requiring the boat on Dove Lake

Visitor Statistics

- The total visitation to Cradle Mt in 2024-25 was 333,350 ppl as recorded on the shuttle service to access the park. This is slightly down on the previous year of 341,067 ppl in 2023-24. Possibly partly due to closures due to wild weather in September. 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
- Busiest month was January 2025 with a total of 56239, slightly up on January 2024
- Busiest day was Tuesday the 31st December with 2521 people recorded on busses

Works completed

- New cleaning contract in place with Command 51 with similar coverage to previous providers
- Bus passing bay extensions to accommodate new bus fleet have been completed
- 2-week spring program with 16 x Wildcare Cradle Mt volunteers held in November with focus on track pruning & maintenance and some works on Scott Kilvert Hut prior to peak season.
- New viewing platform on the King Billy track has been installed with new signage in place.
- Kate Weindorfer plaque has been installed at Waldheim
- A section of boardwalk near Crater Falls on the Overland Track has been upgraded to meet Australian Standards. Allocated \$100,000 project funding to engage track crew contractors. Further works planned this summer.
- Ronny Creek Carpark has been re surfaced following flood damage in Sept 2024
- 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 7 years with no recorded sightings of mange in the local populations.
- Field staff have assisted again 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.
- Ongoing media regarding Walker Safety and preparation
- Ranger Station painting has been completed

Upcoming works

- Dove Lake re-gravelling to continue will include heli-ops to move 25 bags to the site, DLC will be closed for one day (one bag of gravel costs \$1000 and covers 5m of track)
- Replacement of Dove Lake webcam underway
- Speeler Track re-route to bypass old bridge has been approved and will be in place by Christmas including new directional signage.
- Fuel reduction burns on Speeler Plains/Heap of Rocks and Prospect Mountain
- Planning for future fuel reduction burns in the area is underway
- Waldheim amenities upgrade planning underway. Plan is to replace existing toilet/shower block
- Ongoing weed management and mapping in Cradle Valley and surrounds continues
- Working with Wildcare volunteers to commence digitizing hundreds of historic slides and photos

Chris Stafford thanked Steve and Brendan for their willingness to participate and keep our group informed and involved. Steve and Brendan left the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of the 2024 AGM

Meeting agreed that minutes of 2024 AGM as published on the FoCV website are a true record of the meeting.

President's report – presented by Chris REX Stafford

Let me welcome 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 alive and operational www.friendsofcradlevalley.org.

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 the AGM's.

A special thank you to Kate BURTON for her input and help over the years and wish Kate well with her departure to warmer fields in Western Australia.

A warm welcome to Kate Burton's replacement Mr Brendan Moodie as the new Ranger in Charge.

Kate Weindorfer's Plaque



Kate Weindorfer's plague has been erected on the Weindorfer's monument by ranger Shane "thanks Shane".

Also in the planning, is the official unveiling of the new plaque for Kate to be hopefully organized for the 1st February 2026, Kate and Gustav's 120th wedding anniversary" all members are invited to attend - confirmation to be advised.

Our many thanks to Sue Cox (nee Cowle) and Michael Carnes for allowing our group (Friends of Cradle Valley) input to what was and will be a very memorable occasion on the day, (1st February 2026)

To top the year off Kate Weindorfer was also honoured on the Tasmanian Honour Roll Of Woman 2025 for Kate's input as an environmentalist and co-founder of Cradle Mountain National Park.

Without Kate's involvement in Weindorfer's life, it is doubtful that the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park as we know it would be a reality today.

*Sally Schnackenberg,
Kate Weindorfer, the Woman behind the Man and the Mountain*

Weindorfer honours list

- Chris Stafford suggested Richard Rundle for Weindorfer Honours List, but as no information was presented the meeting was unable to vote on the suggestion. Chris agreed to write a short biography and circulate the document via email to enable members to vote on the nomination.
- It was suggested that more information on the Weindorfer Honours List about the Ellis brothers would be useful.
- Information on Eric Sargent only mentions Craclair Guided Tours business and possibly be expanded to include other achievements?

FoCV web site

- The Friends of Cradle Valley web site established in 2021 is excellent, has useful information, easy to navigate, and meets the groups requirements. Thanks Glen. However, adding a few updates, news items, etc, would be beneficial.
- Cradle Stories has entries for Gustav & Kate Weindorfer, Major RE Smith, Bert Nichols, Lionel Connell (and the other Connell Family members), and The Trailside Museum. Do members have other interesting stories?
- How about some new photos for the Photo Gallery?

Election of Committee for 2025-26

President: Teresa Conlon nominated by Glen Hayhurst, seconded Jenny Pearce. Declined nomination.
Chris Stafford nominated by Teresa Conlon, seconded Eddie Firth. Elected

Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Lawrence, nominated by Mavis Rowlands, seconded Glen Hayhurst. Elected

Web master: Glen Hayhurst agreed to continue

Meeting closed at 3:20pm

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