



## Bushcare Coordinator update

The City of Hobart Bushcare team welcomes Sjaan Field to the Bushcare Coordinator position while Lisa Cawthen undertakes a fixed-term secondment as a Project Officer in the Fire and Biodiversity program until June 2018.

Sjaan brings a wealth of volunteer program management experience to the role having previously been Volunteer and Community Programs Coordinator for Parks Victoria for five years.

Sjaan moved to Tassie six years ago after many bushwalking trips across the state. She has worked at the City of Hobart for five years in Community Development and volunteer management. Sjaan is looking forward to meeting the Bushcare volunteers and will continue exploring our special parks and bushlands in Hobart, her new beloved home.



Photo: Sjaan rubbish collection at Cornelian Bay, come and try day

## 2018 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards

We know many Bushcare volunteers who make a significant difference in our bushlands. If you would like to recognise their outstanding volunteer efforts, consider nominating a group member for the 2018 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

One of the ten categories include the NRM South Environment, Animal Care and Conservation Award - dedicated to the many volunteers who participate in land and environmental conservation and education, and to the huge-hearted volunteers who give up their time, their skills and sometimes even their homes to helping sick, injured and orphaned animals.

In addition to individual nominations, you can also nominate a volunteering program or group or a manager of volunteers.

Nominations close on 2 March 2018. For more information and other categories visit [volunteeringtas.org.au](http://volunteeringtas.org.au)





Photo: Sandra and Ruth from Waterworks Valley

## 2017 plant giveaways

Thanks to Bushcarers, hundreds of new native plants are now providing food and shelter for insects, bats and birds in Hobart backyards.

Some of the groups experimented with different formats for the giveaways this year, using the opportunity to educate the public about weed issues and habitat management as well as celebrating their group's achievements for the year with fantastic displays and signage.

Waterworks Valley Landcare Group teamed up with City of Hobart Bush Adventures, and Imagination Playground to provide activities for the junior Bushcarers. The group gave away almost 200 plants and showcased their activities with an amazing display put together by co-convenor Ruth Painter. South Hobart Bushcare and Bush Adventures also led activities for the kids, while they distributed plants and information from Cascade Gardens.

Mount Nelson Bushcare organised their giveaway for the entire duration of their working bee, providing lots of opportunities for discussions with



Photo: Fern Tree plant giveaway

local community members. The group had weed samples on display, and Greg Kidd brought along a nest box and provided information on rainbow lorikeet management in Mount Nelson reserves.

Thanks to Brian Garland for delivering hundreds of letter box flyers for the Lambert Gully plant giveaway; the event resulted in two new volunteers at their next working bee. Friends of Knocklofty attracted a good crowd, with many local dog walkers, cyclists and walkers going home with new plants and an increased awareness of weed issues.

Fern Tree Bushcare finished a normal working bee before setting up their plant giveaway at the annual Fern Tree book fair, which drew a large crowd. They used the opportunity to showcase the group's Daphne Laurel eradication project, a display that attracted a great deal of interest from locals. A big thanks to Bec Johnson, who tirelessly answered questions and handed out plants for the duration of the giveaway.

Friends of McAulays were the last group to run a plant giveaway in November this year. New co-convenors Caroline and Mark Corrigan delivered hundreds of flyers and knocked on doors in the local community to attract new volunteers to the group.



Photo: FOKL plant giveaway 15 Oct 2017



Photo: The Resource Tip Shop

## Towards Zero Waste—new Recycling Centre opens at Hobart Council Centre

Bushcarers often encounter rubbish while working in our reserves, much of which could be recycled. November sees the opening of Hobart's first ever Recycling Centre, at the Hobart Council Centre on the corner of Davey and Elizabeth streets.

Goods not included in the fortnightly recycling collection can be dropped at the Recycling Centre, from Monday to Friday, 8.15 am – 5.15 pm. The Recycling Centre will accept light globes and fluorescent tubes, batteries, toner cartridges, mobile phones, DVDs and CDs, x-rays, cosmetic containers, toothpaste tubes and brushes, mail satchels, pens, and small electronics such as remote controls. Once properly sorted, these recycled goods can be used as raw materials for new products, including asphalt, roofing, plastic products, car components, insulation and fertiliser—in fact, the doors of the Recycling Centre itself are made from recycled plastic.

For now, computers, TVs, players, household appliances, furniture, construction items and paint can be dropped off at the South Hobart tip for sorting.

More recycling helps the City of Hobart reach its goal of zero waste to landfill by 2030. So come on down with your tatty toothbrushes and scratched CDs, and help us make this vision a reality.

Friends of Knocklofty Bushcarers discovered a pile of old roofing iron while working to control weeds, and collected it for disposal at the South Hobart tip. But to everyone's surprise, the Resource Work Cooperative, a.k.a. The Tip Shop, was more than pleased to take it for resale. 'We shift heaps of this every week,' said the Co-op's Jason Richards, 'people can't get enough of it!' So before you send your old bits of 'rubbish' to the tip, check in with the Tip Shop—your trash might really be someone else's treasure.



Photo: healthy Hobart Bush Adventures

The City of Hobart's community health and wellbeing program, Healthy Hobart, has recently re-started following a successful trial in early 2017.

On 22 October, a family fun day was held at Long Beach Reserve, Sandy Bay where participants were able to try a number of sports including AFL, soccer, cricket, badminton, petanque and surf lifesaving.

The City of Hobart wants to improve the health and wellbeing of its community by helping them be more active and to get outdoors in the City's extensive network of open spaces.

This year's program includes 28 free activities over 12 weeks.

The Healthy Hobart program includes a mix of sports, sessions for families, bush-based programs and sports such as kite flying, abseiling orienteering and mountain bike riding where participants are able to try new activities for the first time.

Healthy Hobart also provides a chance to visit some of Hobart's best kept secrets, including the new family friendly shared use mountain bike tracks on the Queens Domain and the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens.

A new addition to the program will be the opportunity to try dancing in Hobart's historic Town Hall, where bush and folk dancing, as well as interactive dance for parents and children will happen on 25 March 2017.

For more information on the Healthy Hobart program, or to register, please visit City of Hobart website [www.hobartcity.com.au/healthyhobart](http://www.hobartcity.com.au/healthyhobart), or by phoning the Program Leader Recreation and Projects on 6238 2956.

## 'I had a go' at the Bushcare Healthy Hobart activity

Rene Motteroz

It is my fourth week living in Hobart! I experienced what it is like to be a Bushcarer at a Healthy Hobart 'Come and Try' activity on a sunny Sunday in October at Cornelian Bay. Michelle, the Bushcare Operations Supervisor, guided us on a short walk along the boatsheds track explaining the environmental weeds and demonstrated the cut and paint method on the African boxthorn, a weed of national significance. Our small group learnt about the penguin habitat, local plant species and marine life. During the informative walk we collected rubbish along the way and then returned to a plant giveaway.

I have just moved to Tasmania, so this taster activity gave me a practical understanding into how Bushcare works. I recently discovered this unique walk at Cornelian Bay so it was rewarding to help out and also learn what plants to weed and others to plant in my own backyard when my wife and I settle in our new home. I hope to join a Bushcare group in the future to meet some locals and to help maintain our special bushland for locals, visitors and our precious wildlife.



Photo - Rene Motteroz and Michelle Storer at Cornelian Bay 29 Oct 2017

Join the fun with **healthy HOBART**

**FREE ACTIVITIES IN HOBART'S PARKS**

22 October 2017 - 25 March 2018

34 FREE sessions, 28 different activities in Hobart's parks, reserves and venues.

Wear comfortable clothing, bring a drink, and arrive 15 mins early. Bring a mat/towel to the yoga sessions.

Find your way to better health with Healthy Hobart. Come along and try any of the 28 different FREE activities happening in Hobart's parks and reserves, suitable for all ages and abilities. From yoga to abseiling, kite flying to cricket, mountain bike riding to petanque—find out what you and your family enjoy and connect with local clubs for FREE. To see the full schedule or register now visit [hobartcity.com.au/healthyhobart](http://hobartcity.com.au/healthyhobart) or call 6238 2956 for more information.

HEALTHY TASMANIA City of HOBART

## Hazard reduction and biodiversity conservation

The City of Hobart manages over 4900 hectares of bushland reserves and undertakes programs to reduce the risk of bushfire impacting upon neighbours, infrastructure and biodiversity. The balance between these objectives is a challenging and difficult task.

to undertake works. It also means we can undertake extensive site preparation to achieve effective control and protect assets.

Hazard reduction burns are undertaken in spring before the fire season to reduce fuels for the



Photos: Fuel reduction burn, reducing risk and manage fuels and firefighter undertaking hazard reduction burn

The Fire and Biodiversity Program plans hazard reduction burns throughout the year to distribute the impact on resident flora and fauna and to ensure the risk reduction is in place before the bushfire season. The program burns small areas and undertakes the burns in conditions that produce a low level of scorch and woody debris loss.

The City of Hobart has enlisted the support of staff from across the organisation and we now have over 30 trained and equipped firefighters. This allows us to take advantage of small windows of opportunity

coming danger period. We also undertake autumn burns to prepare for the following season and to maximise the window of opportunity when suitable conditions exist for low intensity burning.

Some of the works include intensive site preparation to protect habitat trees and prevent large woody debris from catching alight. This retains nesting resources for birds and other tree-dwelling animals, as well as preventing their loss during an intense wildfire. The results show how effective this extra effort is in protecting trees.



Crews are hands on in the mopping up phase to ensure that any hotspots close to the burn block boundary are extinguished. Hard and dirty work but essential if we are to reduce risk and manage fuels to protect the city and our important reserves from intense bushfire in summer.

The careful selection of season, timing, burning conditions and ignition patterns is essential. This allows the City of Hobart to be able to balance biodiversity outcomes, life and property protection and crew safety in a difficult and challenging program.

We also provide advance notice to Bushcare groups to keep everyone safe and coordinate the season's work activities.

### Hazard reduction burns—pre/post burn weeding

Matt Bartlett—Team Leader Fire and Biodiversity

The City of Hobart's hazard reduction burning program gives the Fire and Biodiversity team a great opportunity to get into some large expanses of bush around Hobart to conduct weeding and mapping. The burns are planned well in advance, which allows the team to conduct a pre-burn weeding of the site using the best methods available. The team has a thorough look at the site with regard to the types of flora, fauna, nesting sites and heritage material.

After a burn has been completed, a post-burn weed sweep is then scheduled. We visit a year after the burn, look at how weeds are growing, what condition they are in and then decide on the best timing to weed the area. We monitor the sites and some may get weed sweeps in the following years. Some areas within the burn may get some treatment before the 12-month period. It's amazing how varied each site is with recovery after a burn, depending on the soil type, burn timing, burn intensity, vegetation type, aspect and seasonal conditions.

A major asset for the team is the extensive and detailed weed mapping that the City has undertaken, which allows us to target specific areas where damaging weeds are more likely to appear or to protect threatened vegetation.

These areas are always on City managed land but may have been part of burns conducted by the City, Tasmania Fire Service or in conjunction with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.



Photo: New steps above Old Hotel site leading to the Pinnacle track



Photo: New stone steps at Radford's track Old Hotel loop road crossing

## Max's Infinity Loop upgrade

As part of a multi-year program of works on the Queens Domain to expand and improve visitor experiences, the City is planning the second stage of the upgrade of the Joggers Loop (the Council has officially renamed it Max's Infinity Loop Track). A focus of the work will be completing the construction of a 1.1 km dual-surface multi-use track catering for runners, walkers and cyclists. Other key aspects include upgrading the existing Grassland Gully car park, improving pedestrian and bicycle connections with other parts of the Queens Domain and traffic calming and road crossings on Upper Domain and Summit roads.



Photo: Domain – track head carpark

## Great Short Walk stage 2—rejuvenating the Organ Pipes and Pinnacle tracks

This project will rejuvenate the world class Great Short Walk between The Springs and The Chalet on kunanyi/Mount Wellington. More than a kilometre of the hardest country through the boulderfields has been upgraded already, with another 2.5 kilometres of challenging work to complete. Work is underway again on the tracks connecting The Springs to the start of the Pinnacle Track. There are no closures of tracks to walkers during this work.

On-ground work on the Organ Pipes Track is planned to restart in December 2017 and continue through until late January/February 2018. Parts of the Organ Pipes Track closer to the Zig Zag

Track will be closed during this time—up-to-date track closure information will be on the website [hobartcity.com.au/Projects/Great-short-walk-rejuvenation](http://hobartcity.com.au/Projects/Great-short-walk-rejuvenation). Once the Organ Pipes Track is finished, work will start on the Pinnacle Track and continue through until May/June—alternative routes from The Springs to the summit will be available throughout the works. The Pinnacle Track will be closed during this time. A new access to the Organ Pipes Track from The Chalet is also planned for construction. Helicopter operations supporting the work will restart from December 2017 and continue through to June 2018.



Photo: Domain - track head carpark before



Photo: Domain - track head carpark after

## Bush Adventures

With the summer holidays fast approaching, our Bush Adventures team would once again like to invite you to join them to discover and explore our incredible bushland reserves.

Nestled between kunanyi/Mount Wellington are kilometres of walking and bicycle tracks suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities. There's so much to see and admire right here on our doorstep. From coastal strolls, tall forests wanders and alpine ambles you'll find an endless selection of diverse and ever changing landscapes to explore.

If you want to know more about these tracks and how to access them then head straight to the Greater Hobart Trails website ([greaterhobarttrails.com.au](http://greaterhobarttrails.com.au))

This website is an ongoing collaboration with the Derwent Estuary Program, other local governments and the City of Hobart. It is an excellent online portal to help locals and visitors alike to access the vast network of tracks and trails in our great city.

If you'd like to join in a guided walk or take part in a nature activity in and around bushland reserves then please visit [hobartcity.com.au/bushadventures](http://hobartcity.com.au/bushadventures). You can also access current programs and join our mailing list to be the first to know about upcoming events.



Photo: Bush Adventures Sustainable Learning Centre partnership 13 November 2017



## The Springs—visitor works update

Recent works to improve visitor information, amenity and safety at The Springs on kunanyi/Mount Wellington have been received well by visitors, especially the new picnic tables, informative orientation sign on the hut, and main track-head signs. Track work to complete a new easy walking loop from the cafe to the lookout and return via the re-instatement of part of the perimeter track and historic exhibition gardens will be completed during summer (subject to final heritage conditions and approvals).

Photo: The Springs from the air. Image Credit: JordanDavis



## Come and join the Bushcare Walking Book Club

The Bushcare Walking Book Club reads books with environmental themes—fiction, non-fiction or otherwise—and discusses them while strolling through some of Hobart's bushland reserves.

September saw the inaugural meeting of the City of Hobart Bushcare Walking Book Club, on a day windy enough to blow the milk out of your tea. Gusty winds confined the group to one of the picnic shelters at Waterworks Reserve while we discussed the fascinating *The Hidden Life of Trees* by forester Peter Wohlleben. Fortunately, the weather deities smiled upon our November session, and the group walked from Fern Tree up to The Springs while discussing Melissa Ashley's *The Birdman's Wife*, a work of historical fiction based on the life of artist Elizabeth Gould.

The group is open to anyone with an interest in reading and the environment—we'll be reading a broad range of books, so there's sure to be something that will pique your interest over the coming year. The aim of this initiative is to evolve the Bushcare program by offering a different way for the community to use and appreciate the City's bushland and support the Bushland unit's role in fostering stewardship.

We've run a poll of current book club members to choose the books for the coming six months, and there's a great selection of books to be devoured from Tasmanian authors who've made the shortlist. The Bushcare Walking Book Club will be running on the first Sunday of every month (with a break during January) 2–4.30 pm. Join our Facebook group to see what we'll be reading next, or email [bushcare@hobartcity.com.au](mailto:bushcare@hobartcity.com.au) to get onto our mailing list.

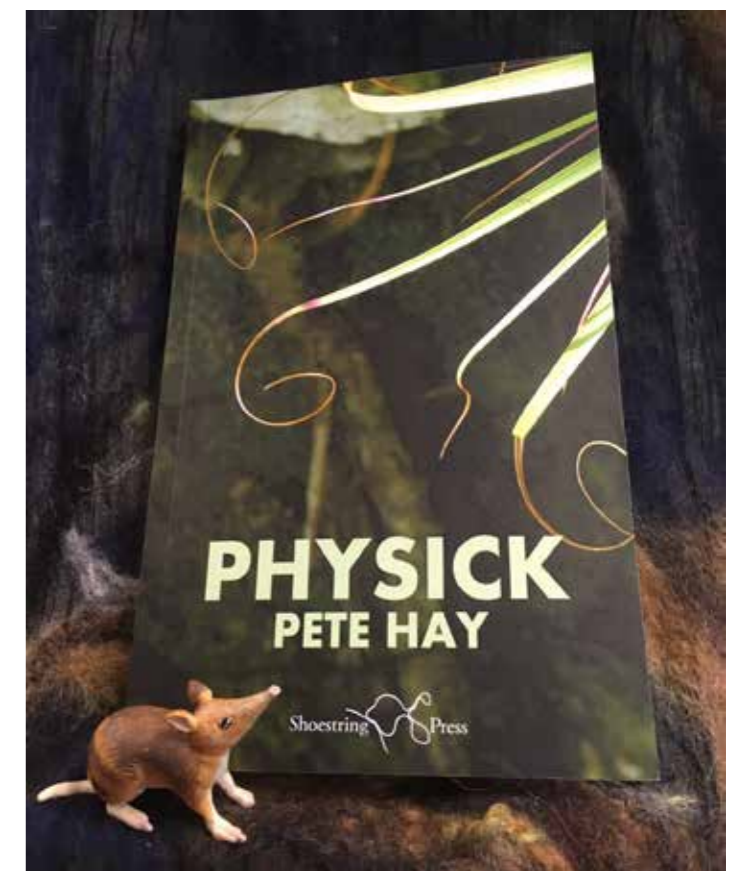


Photo: Bushcare Walking Book Club read in December 2017

## Bandicoot Times—submit your photos and articles

Submissions for the autumn edition of the Bandicoot Times are due by mid February 2018. Please send all submissions to [bushcare@hobartcity.com.au](mailto:bushcare@hobartcity.com.au) or post to the Bushcare Coordinator, GPO Box 503 Hobart 7001.

# BEYOND bushcare

## Waterworks Valley Landcare



Photo: Salty, Carol and Ethan at the mulchathon

Waterworks Valley Landcare put in a mighty session planting more than 200 trees as part of their streetscape rejuvenation program.

Months of preparation and planning went into this event. The group worked to remove hordes of large, spiny clumps of Echium plants and masses of red hot pokers, mapped out the layout of the planting site, and carefully labelled the stakes before the big day so volunteers would know which plants were to be planted where.

Some 19 Bushcarers got busy digging holes, mixing and doling out water crystals (it's amazing how much they expand), planting trees and understorey species, and protecting them with jute mats, stakes and corflute guards.

As if this wasn't enough, we also thought we'd try our hand at mulching the entire site on the same day. Eighteen cubic metres of mulch were shifted within a couple of hours—a huge effort by anyone's standards. We even had a professional market gardener turn up to give us a boost. James Da Costa has plenty of experience shovelling large piles of mulch, and put those skills to use towards the end of the session.



Photo: Waterworks streetscape final result

It was a massive day, fuelled largely by general enthusiasm, the last volunteers knocked off at 3.30 pm—so much for Sunday as a day of rest! Local Bushcarers are going to keep watch over the young plants, watering them as necessary until they become fully established.

Particular thanks to the hardworking Waterworks Valley Bushcarers, especially to Ruth Painter for designing the layout for the plantings, and to Sandra Poth for labelling all the stakes before planting—we're pretty sure we wouldn't have finished before dark without your preparatory works.



Photo: Sandra mulching

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