

**FRIENDS OF CRADLE VALLEY
MINUTES OF AGM**

held at Blandfordia Alpine Club Lodge
Sunday 18th October 2009

1. Meeting commenced 1100hrs.

2. PRESENT: Helen Thyne, Cathy Clayton, Ted Bugg, Jim Thyne, Peter Sims, Jenny Pearce, Melva Truchanas, Rema Truchanas, Jeannette Hyland (Dr), Dave Pinkard, Fran Pinkard, John Harders, Shirley Harders, Lyle Rubock, Sheila Bannister, John Wilson

APOLOGIES: Jim Buchanan, Andrew Roberts, Bruce Pike, Bill Forsyth, Craig Johnston

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2008 AGM:

Moved J.Wilson (with thanks and acknowledgement to former FoCV Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Pike)/ P.Sims Carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: Tabled.

BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 That a letter be sent to the General Manager P&WS endorsing centralised sales at Transit Terminal, but not supporting staff cuts. Moved L.Rubock/D.Pinkard Carried.

4.2 That a letter be sent to Blandfordia Alpine Club expressing thanks for use of venue. Moved L.Rubock/ P.Sims Carried.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. J.Wilson/ L.Rubock. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 That Redrock website and domain fees be paid. Moved: M.Truchanas/ H.Thyne Carried.

5.2 That FoCV membership remain free, and that donations be acknowledged in the FoCV Bulletins. J.Wilson/ H.Thyne Carried.

5.3 That FoCV take out membership of Tasmanian National Parks Association. Moved M.Truchanas/C.Clayton Carried.

6. REPORTS:

6.1 Presidents' Report:

"2009 has been an interesting time, beginning with the New Year celebration of 100 years since Gustav Weindorfer's arrival. Reviewing the years since then has given us cause to

re-examine our function as Friends of Cradle Valley. This group is basically an informal collective of people who share Weindorfer's vision - people with a particular interest in this valley, its heritage, its history and its survival as a unique, large intact and still relatively pristine wilderness area. We represent an impressive diversity of experience and attitudes, but all acknowledge the special values of this place, and feel that we can use our skills and passion to contribute to its preservation. We offer informed input into planning and decision-making processes, and we are also a valuable voluntary resource in many practical areas. Most of our members belong to other allied associations, thereby bringing a very wide representation to our views.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the passing of our friend Arnold Rowlands, a tireless worker for Tasmania's unique environment and the Valley. Over many years, Arnold was the face of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the Weindorfer Committee, and he will be sorely missed.

With all the challenges currently facing National Parks in Tasmania, we have had many discussions on how to achieve the best outcomes for our Parks. We acknowledge the Head Ranger as being in the best position to prioritize needs, and therefore we tend to work closely with him in setting our agenda. What worries me most is that we are increasingly feeling the need to support the Rangers at Cradle in lobbying to acquire sufficient funds to carry out day to day operations. At a time when Park's resources are being stretched to impossible limits, we can probably best use our combined lobbying capacity as voters to try to persuade the current government to provide long-term funding security for our Parks. This would allow managers to plan ahead with more confidence and to achieve best value for dollar. The current tight budget and inflexible guidelines create a grossly inefficient system, where trade-offs see important jobs, especially in maintenance, being compromised.

This government must be made aware that they are asking the impossible. If they seriously expect long-term benefits from the millions of dollars they are pouring in to attracting tourists to the State, then they must also ensure that our Parks live up to the promises portrayed. Glossy advertisements will not supply long-term results if the reality is tawdry, poorly maintained and unsafe tourist facilities. Only proper long-term resourcing of our Parks, with our Head Ranger given the authority he deserves, will assist all these areas to reach their full potential.

On a different note, I do want to acknowledge, especially this year, the invaluable contribution made by Richard Barnes in developing our website to give us more exposure, and hopefully draw in broader comment from other interested users of the Cradle precinct.

My thanks to all members of the Friends for their input throughout the year - to Helen, Melva, Peter and John especially, for being my personal back-up team, and for offering their wealth of experience and expertise. It's indicative of this group that we all co-operate so well, whatever our formal title, because of the respect we have for this special area, for the dedicated National Parks staff, and for each other."

6.2 Rangers' Report:

That Head Ranger Ted Bugg be thanked for his comprehensive report. Moved M.Truchanas/ L.Rubock Carried.

7. ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS for 2009:

The following office bearers were elected for 2010:

President Cathy Clayton Moved H.Thyne/ P.Sims Carried.

Vice-President Helen Thyne Moved J.Wilson/ L.Rubock Carried.

Secretary-Treasurer John Wilson Moved L.Rubock/ M.Truchanas Carried.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 That FoCV writes to General Manager P&WS recommending the following nomenclature - "The Weindorfer Interpretation Centre and Ranger Station" and "The Visitors and Transit Terminal". Moved M.Truchanas/ J.Hyland Carried.

8.2 That FoCV write to Federal Minister Garrett and Tasmanian Senators Brown and Milne expressing thanks for funding to Cradle Valley tracks and maintenance of Waldheim Chalet. Moved M.Truchanas/ H.Thyne Carried.

8.3 That FoCV continue to support P&WS in its applications for funding from The Tasmanian Community Fund. Moved P.Sims/ H.Thyne Carried.

8.4 That FoCV write to General Manager P&WS in support of the Summer Ranger Programme which was discontinued last year at Cradle Valley, in the hope that it will be re-established. Moved H.Thyne/ L.Rubock Carried.

8.5 That FoCV continue to support the Weindorfer Centennial Programme Committee in celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Gustav Weindorfer's ascent of Cradle Mountain. Moved J.Pearce/ P.Sims Carried.

8.6 That FoCV send out a Media Release to express members' dismay at the cavalier manner in which the DIER contractor has slashed roadside vegetation along the road to Dove Lake in the National Park, and write to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Consultative Committee requesting it establish a protocol for roadside slashing in the World Heritage Area, so that this kind of damage does not happen again. Copies to State and Federal Ministers for the Environment. Moved H.Thyne/ J.Hyland Carried.

9. Close of meeting 1315hrs.