

Wintery greetings! Some notes for you to read by the fireside glow:

1. We continue to expand our network: A warm welcome to Craig & Jenny also Stephen, Garry & Jenny and John & Shirley.

2. You are all invited to the next Cradle Stakeholders meeting.

**Tuesday 30 June commencing 10am (promptly)**

**Venue: Cradle PWS Visitor Centre**

Speakers: Eddie Staier (Head Ranger), Risdan Knightley (Kentish Council Planning), Wade Anthony (Cradle Sewerage Treatment Project Manager)

**Please RSVP** to Rod Davey, Cradle Mountain PWS by Friday 26 June on Phone 6492 1133 Fax 6492 1120 or Email [Rod.Davey@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:Rod.Davey@parks.tas.gov.au)

3. You are also invited to a FoCV Weekend at **Cradle 17-18 October 2009**.

Please put the date in your diary now. Thanks to Helen for booking the Blandfordia Mountain Hut for us. Sleep-over if you like. BYO sleeping bag, food & drinks.

Discussions all week-end.

**FoCV members' meeting Sunday** commencing 11am with an Agenda to be forwarded nearer the time of this event

4. Thanks to Jill Vowles for her article "*Alarm over Cradle Icon*" in *Sunday Tasmanian* 15/3/09 about FoCV's concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of Waldheim (available on *Mercury* online). Letters were also forwarded to DEPHA and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Consultative Committee about these concerns. The *Sunday Tasmanian* article was later followed up with ABC Radio interviews on 22/5/09.

A response on this matter from Scott Gadd, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts was received, stating in part that:

*"... precinct planning within the National Park has been deferred until after the completion of the Sewerage Treatment Plant project and the Village Precinct Planning and development at the old airstrip. However, the Parks and Wildlife Service is aware of the urgent need for works to help maintain the Waldheim Chalet. Departmental heritage officers have undertaken an inspection of heritage structures within the area and are prioritizing works. A heritage architect will be engaged to put together a costed works plan for the Waldheim Chalet. These works will need to be funded by grants funding. A lot of heritage grants are only available to non-profit community groups and not directly available to State agencies. Friends of Cradle Valley are in a position to assist the Department through applying for grant funding for a lot of the works required at Waldheim Chalet. When the heritage architect has a works plan completed, the Parks and Wildlife Service will contact you to assist with the grant application."*

5. For your added amusement, I've attached the FoCV Letter to *The Mercury* 16/3/09 supporting that newspaper's Editorial which recommended improved funding arrangements for Tasmania's Parks and Reserves. Naively, I'd suggested that Parks and Wildlife again become a stand-alone Department. Who was to know that within a month, the State Government would actually abolish the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts? This short-sighted and shocking decision takes effect on June 30. It would have to be one of the worst decisions that the Bartlett Government has ever made.

6. Did you twig to the State Budget 11/6/09? Although the Tasmanian Government is facing a big budgetary black-hole of \$1.5 billion and reducing its spending on parks and reserves management from \$46M this year to \$44M next year, the down to a miserly **\$37M by 2011-12**, it will still nonetheless stubbornly waste \$23 million on pushing a new forestry road through pristine Tarkine rainforests, supposedly for "*tourists*". West Coast Mayor Darryl Gerrity had it correct when he told the audience at a Tarkine National Coalition-sponsored 'Loop Road' information session at Wynyard "*... that road ain't for tourists!*"

7. Will your life-style or business be impacted by a new open-cut mine at Moina, or by Forestry Tasmania's plans to log a coup that borders the Cradle Highway along the Black Jack strait?

8. Check out our Website: [www.friendsofcradlevalley.org](http://www.friendsofcradlevalley.org)

Enjoy the winter.

Best wishes,

John Wilson

Hon.Sec.