

FRIENDS OF CRADLE VALLEY BULLETIN - 9th January 2012

A few days late, but may I wish you all good luck for the New Year!

May I also thank the good folk of Wilmot for looking after my sister Zelda and her grandchildren from Queensland, who had such a lovely stay at *Cradle Manor*, the historic Coles family residence next to the Coles Emporium (shop), and the gentleman from ZooDoo Wildlife Park in Richmond, who on seeing 4 year old Felix playing with his toy Devil in the restaurant went home and brought back a real one for him to pat.

Generous hospitality like this helps to create wonderful lasting memories for our visitors, and is so important as we build and sustain our tourism industry.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome Shauna-Maree Wilson of Mount Druit, NSW, Alan Edwards & Gail Walker of Earlville and Daisy Dell, and Kate Walker-Edwards of Earlville.

FIRST HONOURS CITATION PRESENTED: At the recent New Year's Day Weindorfer Memorial Service, President Cathy Clayton presented brothers Alec and Mort Ellis of Cradle Valley with an honours citation in recognition of the Ellis Brothers Ossie (dec.), Mort and Alec for their life-long contributions to Cradle Valley.



96 year old Mort Ellis said he was "*surprised and delighted to receive the Friends of Cradle Valley award*". We reckon you deserve it, Mort!

From Left to Right: Mr. Alec Ellis, Mr. Lyle Rubock (whose superb photograph of Cradle Mountain is featured in the Citation), Mr. Mort Ellis, and FOCV President Cathy Clayton.

Photo by Peter C. Sims.

SUGGESTIONS PLEASE: As you know, FoCV are in the process of developing an honours list in recognition of those who have made a special contribution to Cradle Valley and the National Park. We would welcome suggestions from you.

So far, the ideas for the honours list are:

- that it be grass-roots based and akin the Emily's List for women, that honours women achievers and helps to perpetuate the memory of suffragette Emily Pankhurst;
- that men and women be equally recognized;
- that it help to perpetuate the memory of Kate & Gustav Weindorfer;
- that citations be made through the officers of FoCV;
- and that other possible recipients include Pat Wessing (dec.) and Dennis Maxwell.

WEINDORFER MEMORIAL SERVICE 2012: Congratulations to the members of the Weindorfer Memorial Committee for once again organizing an inspirational New Year's Day service at Waldheim. It was good to see so many people attending the service this year from far and wide, including former resident Mrs. Rose Haigh (nee Wescombe) whose father Ken Wescombe used to manage the Ronny Creek King Billy sawmill.



Guest speaker Anthony O'Hern, Manager of Cradle Mountain Canyons.
Photo by Lyle Rubock

REMEMBERING SCOTT & KILVERT: This year's Weindorfer Service address was delivered by Mr. Anthony O'Hern who manages a new tourism business *Cradle Mountain Canyons* that operates in the Dove River gorge. Anthony's family were among the audience, including his wife's maternal grandfather, Mr. Keith Walker, who also has a very special relationship with Cradle Valley.

Keith was the Headmaster at the Riverside High School, Launceston when a party of students was caught in a wild blizzard on the mountain on 21st May 1965. The storm resulted in the deaths of teacher Ewan Scott and student David Kilvert. This tragedy which happened almost 50 years ago, deeply affected the bushwalking community.

As a memorial to the student and his teacher, the Riverside High School Parents & Friends Association and the Launceston Walking Club (LWC) diligently pursued the idea to build a hut at Lake Rodway.



The Scott-Kilvert Memorial Hut at Lake Rodway
Photo by Allan Flood, reproduced from *Skyline No. 16* 1966 (Launceston Walking Club)

Other bushwalkers including members of the North West Walking Club, and Parents & Friends and students from the Riverside High School participated in the construction of the Scott-Kilvert Hut.

The hut was designed by LWC member and Burnie architect, the late Arnold Rowlands, and involved the culling of 9 King Billy Pines with permission from P&WS from the far side of the lake (one felled tree was found to be rotten), and these were floated around the edge of the lake before being hoisted into position by the combined muscle strength of everybody on site.

It was officially opened by Headmaster Keith Walker on a memorable, cold and wet day on 3rd April 1966, and sources say that it is openly credited with saving the lives of quite a few snow-bound mountaineers since then.

NEW WEATHER FORECASTS: A special “*thank you*” to Dr. Simon McCulloch, the senior forecaster at the Bureau of Meteorology in Hobart for thoughtfully including the Friends of Cradle Valley in his ABC radio programme to help publicize the Bureau’s improved capacity to provide forecasts in the Cradle Valley and Lake St. Clair area during early December. This new public service will be highly valued, as the weather conditions in this part of Tasmania can be extreme, changeable and very different to the major population centres, or at the regular stations at Mount Read and Liawenee. You can access up to a 7 day forecast for the Overland Track on www.bom.gov.au/NextGenFWS.

MIDDLESEX LAND SALES: You may also be interested to know that *Cradle Mountain Carbon Pty Ltd* has recently acquired Lot 4 adjoining Middlesex Plains at Daisy Dell including the Weaning Creek Falls. This is the family company of Dr. Megan Clark, newly appointed boss of CSIRO. We welcome Dr. Clark’s land purchase, which according to the *Australian* newspaper which evidently has a keen interest in these matters, is “*to store carbon as part of efforts to combat climate change*”. Incidentally, there are now four doctors owning separate lots at Daisy Dell!

DONATIONS: We gratefully acknowledge FoCV donations from Cathy Clayton & Kevin Ellis.

Do have a great year, and don’t forget to look out for the *Bandfordia* which is flowering now on the Dove River bridge on the boardwalk in Cradle Valley. These wonderful native plants are simply unforgettable!



File Photo: Iris Reserve, Daisy Dell

Best wishes,

John Wilson
Hon. Secretary

