



MEDIA RELEASE 30/11/08

CLOSURE AT CRADLE ...?

The increasing numbers of tourists and bushwalkers who are choosing to visit Tasmania's Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair National Park for their summer holidays (more than 200,000 people visited the Park last year) will result in additional pressures being placed on Cradle Valley.

The Friends of Cradle Valley community advocacy group are concerned that the Tasmanian State Government has not allocated sufficient funding for managing this State's most popular iconic tourist destination during the coming peak season.

The President of Friends of Cradle Valley, Cathy Clayton said, "*The current budget demands are not going to allow appropriate staffing levels every day to handle the increased visitor enquiries within the Park, as well as adequately servicing the Transit Centre and Interpretive Visitor Centre at the Park entrance*".

"In the worst case scenario, where staff are diverted for fire-fighting or other duties elsewhere, as regularly occurs over the summer months, duty of care may dictate that the access road into Dove Lake has to be closed to the public, and the National Park has to be shut", she said.

Please note:

Members attending the AGM of Friends of Cradle Valley on 18 November elected the following new Office bearers - Cathy Clayton (President), Helen Thyne (Vice-President) and Dr. John R. Wilson (Secretary).

For additional information or comment, please contact:

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