

# NEWSLETTER 1 13/6/2007

## **DEVIL ISLANDERS**

I hope you are all well and that the training is on schedule for the marathon to run/jog/walk/hobble/crawl or otherwise compete in exactly 10 months today the 13<sup>th</sup>. I thought I would update you all on what has been happening.

The meeting with Nick Mooney, biologist from DPIW, went extremely well and he is sending in his report to Dr John Whittington, General Manager, Resource Management and Conservation, Department of Primary Industries and Water. I have already had a quick e-mail from John to say Nick was very enthusiastic about the whole project and I can expect a formal response from DPIW by the end of next week. So it looks pretty certain that it's all systems go. We are all involved in something very exciting for the devil and it's conservation. The 'Natureworld Devil Island' project is already being discussed as a blueprint for more of these 'virtual islands' across the State. So thank you all once again for becoming involved in such a positive way and at such personal sacrifice. If you don't see it as a sacrifice then you are not training hard enough---only joking, but these cold mornings, bursting lungs, sore calf muscles and aching legs are certainly testing the resolve. Worst of it all is the bloody park kookaburra that keeps killing himself laughing each morning and the roos still looking at Maureen and me as if we are both a sandwich short of a picnic.

Kelsey, my son-in-law, managed to weld together the prototype of the collecting boxes before he left on holiday and Joanna has done an amazing job on the painting of the devil box. It's two gas cylinders welded together but now looks like a million dollar art sculpture. Picture to follow once complete. We are intending to produce six so will be looking for sites to place them. Any contacts you have with a high volume of customers/visitors please let me know.

David and Joanna have also come up with a fabulous logo for the Devil Islanders to go on our tracksuits etc. and also a draft for the vinyl stickers.

Maureen has got a set of Pants and Jacket in black arriving shortly so if you can let her know what size you require we'll get them organised—must have them ready for the Launceston Ten complete with logo and any sponsors details. Maureen has also managed to get a donation from Paul the owner of the Mastercast Company. He has donated 100 devil pins and 10 devil key rings. Normal retail selling price about \$500. If anyone has a source where we could get some small stickers printed to stick on the packaging of these pins and key rings please let me know. I'll supply the wording.

Debbie and her husband Jock have offered to donate a website for a year and she has a friend who will design and manage it for free. Wonderful idea and gesture. It could end up as [devilislandproject.com](http://devilislandproject.com) (Any better imaginative ideas please let Debbie have them) and we will be posting details about anything and everything. Will need a photo of each one of you together with a bit of a personal story—background, reasons for doing the marathon, anecdotes on training, weight loss etc. We plan to have a donation efbos style phone number for donations via the website.

If you would like to let me have details of how the training is going in terms of weekly goals, times, personal bests etc or just post them to everyone via their e-mail addresses that would be good. Jonathan in the UK tells me he's 'as fit as a flea' so maybe his idea is to hop onto a dog and let the dog carry him over the course.

Andrew, who couldn't make the first meeting, has been out to see me and has been updated. He's full of ideas for involving other schools and headmasters etc and with a host of contacts willing to help us in our mission.

Entry for the Launceston Ten has been submitted and I ticked the box for corporate entry as Natureworld and the Devil Islanders team. It will be another great opportunity for us all to meet up and get some publicity media coverage. This will really help in gaining sponsorship.

Bruce Englefield.  
'Devil in disguise'