

## Devil Island Project NEWSLETTER 12

The last six months have been extremely eventful and highly successful. The original aims of the Devil Island Project are being realised and we continue to move forward. What started as a simple idea has grown to become a big operation and is involving more and more volunteers, businesses and government staff. It is truly remarkable the way that children from all over the world, some as young as four, have shown such awareness and compassion towards our Tasmanian Devils. I'm privileged in being able to see on a daily basis the result of everyone's efforts. I hope that even from afar you can sense some of my feelings of elation, excitement and warmth when on a moonlit night I get to spot one of the young devils just going about it's natural life; protected from ever having to feel the pain and suffering of this terrible cancer named Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD).

It is now recognised that in the wild there are 80% less than ten years ago. This was brought home to me vividly in my recent trip around the State on holiday showing off Tasmania to my rellies from the old country. In 2,100 kilometres of travel around the state, except for the West coast, we didn't record one single Devil road kill. We were specifically looking as part of the road kill monitoring programme. A terrible slaughter of animals and loads of black possums and three black/white cats easily mistaken for Devils, but no Devils. The message is clear; they are still heading for extinction.



Australia Day tea at the lodge for Australian of the Year

We need more adult volunteers. If anyone wants to be involved in changing future events and securing a part in a wonderful story to relate to children and grandchildren of conservation of an Australian Icon animal then please contact our secretary, Maureen, for details. [devilislandproject@westnet.com.au](mailto:devilislandproject@westnet.com.au)

### **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?**

Late October saw our most successful event. The Devil of a Dinner, organised by our Vice Chairperson Fiona Hoskin and held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston, was a gastronomic miracle and highly successful fundraiser. Already Fiona is planning for another one in October this year with a very special celebrity chef, as well as herself.

The limited edition Devil prints of 'Danger and her Joeys' by Tasmanian artist David Hopkins continue to sell and can easily be posted out to friends for presents or to enhance a sitting room wall or office. The Prime Minister, the Governor General and the Chairman of the Australia Day Council, Adam Gilchrist all received a print. See our website [www.devilislandproject.com](http://www.devilislandproject.com) for details of how to purchase.

Donations continue to come in from some very generous sponsors. The Paddy Pallin foundation sent a cheque for \$2,812.75 raised from their 'Don't Bag the Environment' programme. [www.paddypallin.com.au](http://www.paddypallin.com.au) which will provide another 30 metres of double fencing.

Shaw Contracting are about to give their third payment of \$5000 making \$15000 altogether over three years. That's really impressive for a family owned Tasmanian Company, our third biggest sponsor after Gunns and Australia Zoo.

Smaller donations have come from many small businesses including Pyengana Cheese. They developed a special 'Devilish' cheese which has become their best seller; we get a percentage of each sale. If you get a chance I can thoroughly recommend this spicy cheddar.

Linen Press. They have some 'Devil' soap and again DIP get a percentage from each sale.

Tasmanian Devil Bites donate jars of lollies for Natureworld to sell.

Bendigo Bank Bicheno and Swansea donate \$2 for each new account opened.

Charles Woolley and Mike Tatlow donate a percentage from the sale of their best selling book, A tour of old Tasmania.

Nature Nic and his family donated \$1000 to name a devil as Wellington Bonitcha---he gets called 'Boots' for short.

Hell's Pizza from Queensland donated \$1000 to name a devil as 'Bent' after a customer naming competition---as in Hell 'bent' on survival.

There are too many other shops, visitor centres, Devils Army members and individuals who have given generously for me to mention individually so a huge vote of thanks is given to all of you.



Bruce Englefield presenting PM Kevin Rudd with devil painting

Shane Gould (Patron and Vice Chairperson) organised another highly successful ocean 'Devil of a Swim' at Bicheno on Easter Sunday. Entries were double those of last year and with perfect weather it was a special day for everyone.

Bruce Englefield (Chairman) was keynote speaker at the Lions convention and received a promise of much needed volunteer work to help with worker bees to build more enclosures. After 18 months of frustration, paper work, meetings, legal advice, broken promises, prevarication and blood sweat and tears Bruce finally got to sign the Grant Deed that enabled the Tasmanian government to release the first instalment of the \$400,000 promised by the Premier David Bartlet in October 2008. The hard work of DPIPW staff and the Board in seeing this through means we can now get started on building the next three Devil Islands. Particular thanks go to David Llewellyn, the minister, whose parliamentary experience and skill helped see the process through and to Andrew Sharman, Stephen Harris and Penny Wells of the DPIPW 'Save the Tasmanian Devil' programme.

Big thanks should also be given to two wonderful philanthropists. Jan Cameron, former owner of Kathmandu and now owner of Chickenfeed who not only provided match funding for the Devil of a Dinner through the Chickenfeed trust but has also donated the use of 60 acres of her land on the Freycinet peninsular for Devil Island 2 at Flacks Road. Dr Scott Bell has also donated 60 acres of his land at Pipers River near Bridport for Devil Island 3. Work has already begun at this site and clearing will also start at Flacks road in two weeks time. Completion is due by the end of June. Negotiations are at an advanced stage for Devil Island 4, also on the Freycinet peninsular. Forest practices, environmental impact studies etc are being carried out after surveys and meetings of recent weeks.

Future sites are planned so if anyone is prepared to donate the use of land, a minimum of 200 acres would be best, please contact [bruce.inglefieldm@westnet.com.au](mailto:bruce.inglefieldm@westnet.com.au) I have made many journeys to potential sites around the state and although they have proved unsuitable I would like to thank landowners and companies who have tried to help. The best sites are level, well drained scrubland with reasonable access to a road and a water supply.

Dr David Sinn and his team are managing Devil Island one on a continuous basis learning all the time about best practice for Devils held in free range enclosures. Visit [www.tassiedevil.com.au](http://www.tassiedevil.com.au) for more information. Click on the latest newsletter.

A special general meeting was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> where certain changes to the DI constitution were passed. This was then sent to the justice department for ratification and approval and this was given on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This brought to fruition nine months of work towards getting charity and tax deductible status. The application has been returned to the Register of Environmental Organisations in Canberra for final approval. It will then go to the minister Peter Garrett for his approval and finally to Wayne Swan the Treasurer for treasury approval. Six to eight weeks is the deadline. A great deal is hanging on this including receiving the funds from the Chickenfeed Trust, Hell's Pizza being able to nominate the DIP as their charity for their fun run, various organisations that have promised funds once we get tax deductible status and of course it will mean corporate and private donations for events like the 'Devil of a Dinner' can be tax free.

A the tripartite partnership between the Bendigo Bank, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Devil Island Project (DIP) has launched a Devil Island Appeal through the banks charity trust arm. See [www.bendigobank.com.au/public/foundation](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/foundation) and go to Devil Island appeal. Posters have been distributed to all Bendigo Banks and hopefully donations will result. The funds will be used to build a devil island using conservation volunteers for much of the labour 'grunt' organised by Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Finally, Linda Bonnitca and Nature Nic, organisers of the 'Black and White Day' in co-operation with Wildlife Warriors Worldwide have asked that funds raised go to the Devil Island Project. This would be a huge boost to funds if as successful as in previous years and will certainly raise the DI profile on the mainland and internationally.

Bruce Englefield  
Chairman