

## Takayna/Tarkine Region Interpretation Notes



## Day 1

### ***Launceston to Corinna (via Penguin, Hellyer Gorge & Philosopher Falls)***

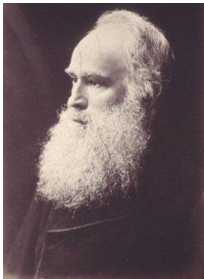
Today is a long day of travel from our pick-up spot in Launceston out to the wild west coast region around the small riverside village of Corinna. This will be our base for the next three nights, and all walks/activities will depart from here. We stop for morning tea in Penguin (named after local fairy penguins, by prominent local botanist Robert Gunn), then continue on to our first short walk at Hellyer Gorge. After we drive through Waratah, before stopping at Philosopher Falls (1 – 2 hours). It is then a further hour or drive to our final stop for the day at Corinna.

#### ***Hellyer Gorge Loop (10 – 30 mins)***

A ten-minute walk from the picnic area + toilets takes you through the rainforest to the tranquil waters of ***Hellyer Gorge***. Or enjoy a longer 30-minute walk along the river from the bridge on the opposite (western) side of the road. Watch out for rare sightings of the ***giant freshwater crayfish***. This species is the largest fresh water invertebrate in the world. This marks a kind of “entry point” into the Tarkine region, generally defined as being situated south of the Arthur River, north of the Pieman River & west of the Murchison Highway. The Hellyer River flows into the Arthur - which in itself runs for 172km, from its headwaters near Philosopher Falls to the township which shares its name. The Arthur happens to also be Tasmania’s longest undammed river, on which a 5-day paddling adventure can be had on nothing more difficult than grade 2 rapids.

#### ***Waratah***

- Constructed to support ***tin*** mine at ***Mt Bischoff***
- In 1871 James “philosopher” Smith discovered tin nearby
- First town in Australia to have electric street lights in 1886
- Oldest mining town in Tasmania
- Connected in 1877 to Burnie via horse drawn tramway (13 hours!)
- In the 1880’s reputedly “richest tin mine in the world”
- Osmiridium nuggets traded over pubs bar as currency in heyday
- Smith parted ways with directors in 1876, right before a share skyrocket
- Produced 81,000 tons of tin & made £200 for every £1 invested
- Population at its peak was over to 5,000
- The mine closed finally in 1947
- Waterfall in the middle of town (good views from picnic spot opposite hotel)
- Population of 227 (20006 census)



**James 'Philosopher' Smith** (1827–97), prospector and mining investor, sparked Tasmania's mining industry. Born at George Town, he was largely self-educated. His humble circumstances and the stigma of convict parentage probably spurred his determination to prove himself by emulating contemporary heroes like the missionary explorer David Livingstone.

After joining the Victorian gold rushes, in 1853 Smith settled near the Forth River. For twelve years he searched the inhospitable highlands for an 'El Dorado', improving his prospecting skills but impairing his health. Insatiably curious, he loved nature and bush adventures. In 1871 his perseverance was rewarded by his discovery of a rich tin deposit at Mt Bischoff. Smith received £1500 and 4400 paid-up shares in the Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company, from which he split in 1876 after a disagreement over the mine management of Ferd Kayser.

Smith expected Mount Bischoff to conform to the Cornish model of a long-serving payer of moderate dividends. The share 'skyrocket' which actually followed would have made him a mining magnate had he not sold many shares earlier to anchor his family's future in property. Yet this studious, self-made gentleman was hardly the disenfranchised prospector of legend.

Mount Bischoff precipitated a mining boom which made Smith Tasmania's first native-born popular hero and probably Australia's first prospector hero. He campaigned for public works, fostered the Zeehan and Heazlewood silver fields, and in his final years the sinewy, bearded Smith was 'reborn' as a prospector. A devout congregationalist, this diffident man was famous for his high principles and charitable nature.

## *Magnet Mine Site*

- Access starts through the Waratah tip!
- A tiny 2ft wide rail gauge was constructed of 10 miles to service mine
- Utilised articulated steam compound principal
- Construction started in 1901 – completed with a total of 194 curves
- **Silver, zinc & lead** production between 1877 – 1940
- Initial 8 miles of track have a fall of 100ft per mile!
- Many deaths. Strikes in 1908



**Magnet Locomotive**



**Old Magnet Mine**

## **Philosopher Falls (1 - 2 hours return)**

This walk explores the **Arthur River** following an historic mining race and find the waterfalls that was discovered by James ‘Philosopher’ Smith while in search of tin and silver. From Waratah, drive for 10km in the direction of Corinna along the B23 and look out for the turnoff just before Arthur River bridge. It’s a short distance down this gravel road to the walking track car park. The track winds through eucalypt and myrtle rainforest to the headwaters of the Arthur River. From here follow the historic water race as it cuts through the steep rocky banks of the river. Workers built the race by hand early last century to take water to power the tin mines near Waratah. The track follows this water race with vistas looking own over the river, before a steep descent to a viewing platform beside Philosopher Falls.

Tasmania in the 1860’s was in the grip of a great depression. Mainland colonies outcompeted Tasmania in agriculture & there was a significant exodus of young people, & the higher classes had blocked attempts to broaden the tax base – protecting their own wealth. **James “Philosopher” Smith**, an idealistic adventurer fascinated by precious metals discovered a “mountain of tin” at Mt Bischoff in 1871 & sparked the birth of Waratah & the west coast mining boom. His bearded countenance has been given legendary status in the region ever since. Some even touted him from saving Tasmania’s annexation by Victoria!

The drive continues after visiting the falls, past the **Whyte Hill lookout** – with grandstand views towards Corinna, **the Meredith Range** & across **Australia's largest expanse of temperate rainforest!** Temperate Rainforest constitutes at least 1400mm of annual overall precipitation & average temperatures between 4 – 12°C.

The road soon then passes through the small mining township of **Savage River**, an open cut **iron ore** mine - which produces a very high waste output. It is now owned by Burnie based mining operation Grange Resources who employ 600 people directly. The deposits were originally discovered by surveyor Charles Sprent in 1877 but were left untouched for nearly a century due to technological limitations of extracting iron from the low-quality ore. The town was built around the mining area in 1965-67.

### **West Coast Mine Related River Pollution**

Consequently, as a result of the sluicing of heavy mineral silt and related rock acid into rivers, notable mines such as Mt Lyell and Savage River have seen the associated downstream rivers to become ecologically dead for possibly centuries. Although the control of rock-acid techniques in modern mining have improved considerably, essentially any water catchment below a present or past mine location in Western Tasmania's is likely to be significantly polluted to a degree of concern.

Acid mine drainage results from the oxidation of sulphide-bearing rocks (e.g. rocks with the common sulphide minerals pyrite, and pyrrhotite). This is recognised as one of the major sources of heavy metal pollution in waterways near mining sites in Tasmania. The disturbance and exposure of acid sulphate soils by earth-moving practices and fluctuations in groundwater levels can result in the oxidation of pyrite, which in turn produces sulphuric acid. Acid water and heavy metal pollution, caused by the disturbance of acid sulphate soils, is a major environmental issue in Tasmania, and surveys have identified parts of northwest Tasmania as a hot-spot for potential river pollution.



Rainforest death zone from the Savage River Mine tailings dump

## ***Corinna Area & The Pieman River***

The tiny riverside township of Corinna – 18km from the mouth of the ***Pieman River*** – is our final destination for the day. It is surrounded by some of the most beautiful temperate rainforest in Australia.

### **Historic Notes**

- Prior to European settlement the coastal region around Corinna was occupied for up to 30,000 years by members of the ***Tarkiner*** (Sandy Cape to Pieman) people of the ***Peerapper*** Aboriginal language group. The ***Peternidic*** clan specifically are said to have occupied the Pieman River region.
- Reputedly first known as ***Royenrine***, the aboriginal name for a young Tasmanian Tiger, somehow corrupted into the current name.
- ***James Kelly*** sailed up the Pieman in 1816 during his circumnavigation of Tasmania in search of valuable resources. He made special note of the abundance of Huon Pine.
- In 1879 payable quantities of alluvial ***gold*** were discovered at ***Middleton Creek***, not far from present day Corinna. A pack horse route was slowly built from Waratah.
- By June, 1879 around 400 prospectors were camped in the area. By July many of the streams in the area had been exhausted and the area was considered a failure. Prospectors began to span out in the surrounding vicinity.
- A government store was built in 1881. Practically all provisions had to be brought in by sea – meaning the notorious sand bar at the heads had to be regularly navigated. At this time there was a constant shortage of food.
- In 1882 a townsite was surveyed. There was a total of 30 blocks and the river was briefly renamed the “Corinna.”
- Tasmania’s largest ever gold nugget was discovered in Rocky River, a tributary of the Whyte River - weighing in at 7.5kg.

- Through the 1890's Corinna was on the route from Waratah to Zeehan, which was taken by miners heading for **Zeehan's tin mines**. Cattle being moved up the coast between settlements were often swum across the river!
- In 1893 **high pressure hydraulic mining** (powerful jets of water, at high pressure passed through swivel mounted nozzles to break down soil & wash it through sluice boxes) was introduced and for the next few years there were predictions that Corinna would become a major mining town.



- By 1895 the town had two hotels (one on either side of the river), two general stores, a butcher's shop, a baker's shop and a bootmaker's shop. There was also a post office and a police constable. The town's population sat at around 2500. Said by many to be the "toughest of towns."
- By 1896 the mining operations were closing down. There was gold but it was not profitable to extract it. Wages exceeded the amount of gold being processed.
- In 1900 the railway between Zeehan and Emu Bay was opened and Corinna effectively died as a centre. That year saw all the licenses to the hotels revoked.
- By the 1920s the road from Corinna to Browns Plain had become overgrown. The rainforest had reclaimed the country.

- The last Tasmanian tiger was captured in the area in the 1920s.
- A reserve was established around the area in 1940.
- In 1968 a single-track bridge was built over the Arthur River at the tiny settlement of Arthur River and slowly the road through to Zeehan was opened to travellers.
- The **“Road to Nowhere”** came to fruition in the 1980’s during the government of Robin Gray - the man who had tried to dam the Franklin River. They proposed & begun to bulldoze a link road from Couta Rocks through previously road free wilderness to Corinna. The project was suspended by the Labor-Greens government in 1989 on environmental grounds – hence the moniker. In 1995 the Liberal’s spent millions speedily bulldozing the **Western Explorer Road** through the wilderness. More than 100 people including locals, tourist operators, Aboriginal people & politicians were arrested in protests attempting to halt construction. Those arrested also included Bob Brown & Christine Milne.

### **Other Pieman River Facts**

- Formed by the confluence of Murchison & Mackintosh Rivers, now combining at Lake Roseberry. It is 99km in length.
- The river is around twenty metres deep where the barge crosses. In some spots the river is as deep as 45 metres next to the banks.
- Fish in the Pieman include ocean running trout, brook trout, eels and quinnat salmon.
- The river is navigable for 45 kilometres from the mouth to the Reece Dam.
- In 1971 the Pieman River Power Development was approved and it was finished in 1987 with three power stations and five dams. **Reece Dam** was originally planned to be built lower down from Corinna, meaning the current township would have been well under water.



## ***Naming of the Pieman River***

There is debate over whether the river was named after Alexander Pearce or **Thomas Kent**. Originally a pastry chef from Southampton, Kent was transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1816 and nicknamed "The Pieman". He escaped from Sarah Island in 1822 and was re-captured in the region. The other explanation (less likely) claims that it was named after **Alexander Pearce**, a convict who because of his repeated cannibalism, became known as "The Pieman".



Pearce was born in Ireland in about 1790. He was a small, pockmarked man who was transported to Hobart Town in 1820. His crime - he had stolen six pairs of shoes. His punishment - seven years in Van Diemen's Land.

Two years after his arrival Pearce was found to have forged a money order. In June, 1822 he was sent to **Sarah Island** in Macquarie Harbour to serve out the remainder of his sentence. By September of that year he had managed to escape with seven other convicts. Their plan was to cross the island and escape to China. They got hopelessly lost, ran out of food and took the easy option: they started eating each other. The first victim was killed by an axe to the head, chopped up "into equal parts which we took and proceeded on our journey a little after sunrise", Pearce later reported. Slowly they killed each other off until only Pearce and a convict named Robert Greenhill were left. While Greenhill was alive, Pearce "gave him a severe blow on the head which deprived him of life" and promptly cut him up. Pearce was eventually caught. He admitted to cannibalism but the authorities didn't believe him.

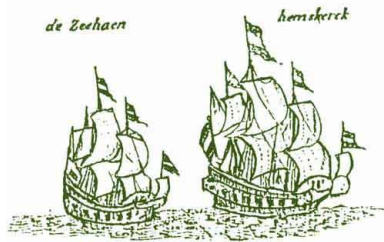
He was sent back to Sarah Island where, a few months later, he escaped with another convict, Thomas Cox. Once again Pearce found himself without food and, to solve the problem, he killed and ate Cox. When he was finally recaptured near the King River, Pearce admitted to eating Cox. There was no argument this time because when he was captured Pearce still had bits of Cox's hands and fingers in his pockets. He was subsequently executed in Hobart on 19 July, 1824.



Located on the southern side of the river just beyond the ferry/berge is a boardwalk that leads to the **graves** of two local publicans - **Thomas Davis** and **Gamaliel Webster**. The original headstones were carved out of Huon Pine but they have been removed and are on display in the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston. They have been replaced by replicas.

## Early European History

### First Europeans



**Abel Tasman's** expedition, with the ships *Heemskirk* and *Zeehaen*, were the first Europeans to visit Tasmania, sighting the west coast November 24, 1642.

Following the same route, French explorer **Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne** sighted the west coast in 1772.

Other significant European explorers followed - including **Tobias Furneaux** (1773), **James Cook** (1777), **William Bligh** (1788), **Bruni D'Entrecasteaux** (1792), **George Bass & Matthew Flinders** (1798) & **Nicolas Baudin** (1802).

After settlement, early exploration by sea was motivated by the desire to seek new resources for the fledgling colony. The search for suitable land for agriculture provided the impetus for the first attempts to cross the mountainous regions of the west, but it was to be a long time before an overland link was established between the settled east and the west.

The first European to 'discover' Macquarie Harbour & The Pieman was **Captain James Kelly**. A first generation Australian, Kelly was born in Parramatta in 1791, a mere three years after the First Fleet had arrived in New South Wales. Kelly gained his experience as a seaman during his voyages into the southern oceans in search of the fur seals that provided oil and fur for the new colony. On one such journey Kelly found himself stranded on Macquarie Island for 18 weeks after his ship ran aground.

The voyage that brought Kelly up the west coast was commissioned by Thomas William Birch, a merchant whose primary motive for financing the trip was to locate a source of Huon pine timber. They arrived at the narrow entrance of Macquarie Harbour on 28 December 1815, and named the new discovery in honour of the Governor of New South Wales, Lachlan Macquarie. On the 30 December Kelly continued further up the harbour, where he came upon the mouth of a large river, which he named the Gordon, after 'Mr Gordon of Pittwater, who had kindly lent the boat for this particular trip of discovery'. Kelly noted the Huon pines that grew along the rivers' banks, an observation that was to be influential in the decision to establish the **Sarah Island penal settlement** seven years later.

## ***Logging***

The earliest European visitors to the Tarkine region were 'piners' who navigated many of the coastal rivers including the Pieman River, collecting cargoes of Huon Pine from 1816 onwards. The river was a main focus of the early timber trade, directed principally to the extraction of Huon pine, King Billy pine and Stringybark.



Owing to transport difficulties and a plentiful supply, the early industry was wasteful and inefficient, with perhaps not more than one quarter of the timber removed from some logs. The mining boom in the 1870s caused a rapid increase in timber extraction, with wood required for fuel, buildings, sleepers, and shaft and adit

shoring. The introduction of steam sawmills resulted in greater forest destruction and the creation of bush tramways, which enabled large logs to be hauled by bullocks to transportable sawmills that could be moved after resources became depleted.

By 1910 steam locomotives had largely replaced bullocks. Demand for timber increased after the Great Depression and better communications enabled the establishment of mills in previously inaccessible places. From the 1960s millers began turning their attention to the formerly untapped resources of the Arthur River valley. The increasing use of heavy equipment in the decades after World War Two destroyed forest habitat, hindering regeneration. Improved roads and the consequent use of logging trucks saw the end of the bush mill and the centralisation of milling in Smithton on the north coast. Clear felling for the woodchip industry began in the 1970s and in the 1980s lesser quality Category 2 logs began to be used for timber. Concern over the loss of old-growth forest and decreasing biodiversity led to restrictions being placed on timber harvesting.

## ***Later Explorations***

Beyond these earliest of visitors, there were three main 'waves' of land exploration of north-western Tasmania and the Tarkine region. The first was in the form of searches commissioned by the Van Diemen's Land Company looking for land to settle and graze, the second the rush for gold, and the third the rush for copper and other minerals.

The exploration of the west and north-west benefited from the establishment in 1825 of the ***Van Diemen's Land Company***. Promised substantial grants, the Company despatched its employees in search of agricultural and pastoral lands. ***Alexander***

**Goldie** and **Joseph Fossey**, in July–September 1826, travelled by boat and overland to Cape Grim, Mount Cameron, Arthur River and, during the return, landed at Detention River. **Jorgen Jorgenson**, in 1826, attempted to trace a stock route from Hobart across the Central Plateau to Circular Head. Two attempts from the Shannon via Great Lake and Lake Augusta were thwarted by poor weather, with progress restricted to the Walls of Jerusalem, near Lake Adelaide. In 1827, Jorgenson and **Clement Lorymer** made a second attempt, from Circular Head down the west coast to the Pieman River, but the expedition was abandoned and Lorymer drowned in the Duck River during the return.



In 1827 **Henry Hellyer**, the Company's leading surveyor/explorer, reached the Hampshire and Surrey Hills, and climbed St Valentine's Peak (Flinders 'Peak like a volcano') while, the same year, Fossey travelled from Launceston via the Mersey and Forth Rivers and discovered the Middlesex Plains. The Company's grant of 350,000 acres, when finally negotiated, included large sections of Hellyer's and Fossey's discoveries.

By the 1830s, a number of squatters were inhabiting parts of the Tarkine coastline and using the region for cattle grazing. Temma, or 'Whales Head Boat Harbour' was one of the best landing places on the Tarkine's coastal region, though still very dangerous in rough seas. A number of boats were wrecked trying to navigate along the Tarkine coast, including trying to navigate in though the mouth of the Pieman river.

By 1892 there was a mining boom in Zeehan, leading to the driving of cattle down the Tarkine coast occasionally, where they were swum across the mouth of the Pieman river, to be sold on the south side of the river to supply meat to the town of Zeehan. Since the early 1890s, some sections of the Tarkine coast south of Marrawah have been seasonally grazed by cattle.



## Day 2 & 3

These two days of the trip are spent at & around Corinna. Walks are generally weather dependent – so they can be mixed around to suit the best itinerary as needed. Day 2 is normally reserved for the **Whyte River & Mt Donaldson** walks. Day 3 is then spent walking north from **Pieman Heads** (Hardwicke Point) to Rupert Head via the river cruise aboard the **Arcadia II** or **Sweetwater**. Drop off at “The Heads” is usually around 7.30 – 8.30am & return pick up at 12 - 1pm. Double check this with the captain on the day!

### **Hardwicke Point – Rupert Point (3 – 4 hours, 5km return)**

From the drop off point, a trail heads inland for about 50m or so before reaching a fork. Take the left fork, heading due west for about 1km through heathland out towards the coast.

As the main track gets closer to the coast it gradually takes a more northerly direction & hugs relatively close to the coastline. After a bit over 2km you will see **Rupert Point** protruding westwards, whilst the main trail continues straight ahead.

You can make your way to the point from the main trail for sweeping views of the coastal landscapes to the north. You should be able to make out **Sandy Cape** in the distance, and turning south it is possible to point out Conical Rocks on the other side of the river.



A good turn around point is the expansive flat area on the coast just past a large rounded rock outcrop. If you have time – a little further along is a large **aboriginal midden site**. To find this spot, continue past *Foam Creek*, up onto a crest where a prominent “trident” shaped rock feature is obvious near a junction. Take the left fork down the hill towards a large prominent rounded orange rock protrusion. Below this is a large clearing/lawn area which makes a good rest spot. Follow the coast north for another 10-15 mins (you should pass an old tractor on the right) & the midden site is found in the vegetated dunes on the obvious final headland.

### ***Pieman River Shacks – Conical Rocks (3 – 4 hours return)***

If the weather is unfavourable, it may be only possible to access the southern shore of the river. In this case – a return walk to **Conical Rocks** is an option. From the drop off point (shacks), the walk heads out to the coast & then south along Hardwicke Bay. After this you can follow an old 4WD track at the southern end of the bay, then out along heathy coastline to the granite rock formations of Conical Rocks.

### **Corinna Short Walks**

#### ***Whyte River Walk (1 – 2 hours)***

Follow the majestic Pieman River east from Corinna to its junction with the Whyte River. A great place to feel a sense of isolation as you stroll amid Myrtle trees and enjoy views of the Pieman and Whyte Rivers. You may catch a glimpse of a platypus or trout.

#### ***Huon Pine Walk (30 mins)***

This short walk is a chance to see ancient Huon pines drooping into the waters of the Pieman River. These magnificent trees were highly prized by piners who floated the logs down the river for transportation by boat. Miners on the Pieman River also used Huon pine to build canoes for travel down the river for supplies.

#### ***Mt Donaldson (4 hours return – 8kms approx)***

A spectacular wilderness panorama, the hike up Mt Donaldson (437m) is well worth the effort. From Corinna, drive for 10 minutes along the Western Explorer (C249) as far as the Savage River bridge. The walking track and carpark are just after the bridge. Ascend through forest onto the open buttongrass ridge to the summit. It's a grandstand view here of the Pieman River, the densely vegetated valleys of the Donaldson River, the Tarkine's deep interior, and the Southern Ocean to the west.

#### ***Savage River (4 hours return)***

This longer walk follows the banks of the Pieman as far as the mouth of the Savage River. Follow the Huon Pine Trail and continue along the river bank (up and over a hill) to Wilson Point, at the Savage River junction. You could also be dropped off here by ferry (or kayak), and walk back. The ferry will take tied off kayaks back to Corinna for you if you leave them at the jetty. Wilson Point was once a busy jetty used by miners working upstream at the Middleton Creek diggings for unloading supplies. In 1919 the **steamship Croymen** sunk in the river whilst loading Huon Pine. A rough track also continues on to the Mt Donaldson trailhead.

## Corinna Activities

Corinna is a springboard to the mysteries and secrets of the Tarlavin wilderness. A wide range of walks, ranging from easy to challenging, start and finish at Corinna. Visitors can also access many fascinating kayak routes on the Pieman River and its tributaries.

### Walks

1. Burntong Crayfish area (Onfield Great Western)
2. Old Bleagrob Hill walk (Onfield Great Western)
3. Mooloolah Creek longyear adventure (2 hills Drive)
4. Heon Pine walk
- 5A. Savage River walk
- 5B. Savage River walk and kayak
- 5C. Savage/Pooladion Link Trail
- 5D. Corinna/Savage/Pooladion (5k, 5c & 6)
6. Mt Pooladion walk (10 min Drive)
7. Wyre River walk
8. Wyre Creek/Nancy Creek adventure (Bear drop/jump up)
9. "West Coastline" walk
10. "West Coastline" south
11. Philosophers' Falls walk (1 hr Drive)
12. The Long Back/Tarlavin Sunset (20 min Drive)
14. Corinna Creek

### Kayak Routes

- A. Lucy Creek
- B. Nancy Creek
- C. Wyre River
- D. Savage River
- E. Linn Savage River / Savage Island
- F. Lover's Corner
- G. Lover's Falls
- H. Upper Savage River drop off
- I. Upper Wyre River drop off
- J. Southern Ocean

- Please note that map is an indicative guide only.
- For your safety please register at the Tarlavin Head.
- Always wear a life jacket when using kayaks.
- We insist that you don't walk/paddle alone.
- Note that weather conditions can change quickly.
- All activities are self guided and safety is your own responsibility.
- Please respect the environment and take your rubbish with you.
- Our staff are here to assist, please ask questions if in doubt.

- Easy / Outfitter sturdy
- Green / some physical activity required
- Blue / moderate / reasonable fitness required
- Red / Difficult / fitness and challenging



### Legend

- Hotel & Accommodation
- Barge/River Cruise
- Boundaries of Hire Equipment
- Walking Tracks
- Kayak Routes
- Roads
- Fishing
- Drive Required
- Down Stream

Map not to exact scale  
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The *Arcadia II* is a magnificent 17m craft built of Huon Pine in 1939 and listed on the Australian register of historic vessels in 2009. She has a leisurely cruising speed of 9 knots. Originally a luxury pleasure craft based in Hobart, it was requisitioned to serve in the Second World War in New Guinea as a supply ship. After some seasons as a scallop fishing

boat on the East coast working from the Coles Bay area, the *Arcadia* was commissioned as a cruise boat on Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River in 1961. In 1970 she moved to Pieman River where she faithfully served her new owners, the Ellis brothers, who introduced the first regular cruises on the Pieman River.

The *Arcadia II* travelled to Launceston in 2006, where she was refurbished, refitted and returned to her original pristine condition. The journey out of the Heads and back, was the first since 1970. The *Arcadia II* is the only Huon Pine river cruiser still operating anywhere in the world.

- In 1941 she was requisitioned by the Navy in Hobart for the 2nd world war to be used as an examination motor launch.
- In 1944 she taken to Victoria and then sent into the pacific war zone around New Guinea to serve as a supply ship. She was armed with a Vickers machine gun.
- After the war she idled in Tasmania and used as a training vessel until being sold in 1956 for 600 pounds.
- In 1961 she became a cruise boat on the Macquarie Harbour and Gordon River.
- In 1970 the *Arcadia II* came to the Pieman River and Corinna.

There was a time when schooners laden with Huon Pine left the river through the Heads, and when steamships, not much bigger than the *Arcadia II*, came up the river and discharged their cargoes at Corinna and the nearby ***Donaldson's Landing***.

The skipper provides commentary on the unique history, flora and fauna, and takes the *Arcadia* close enough to the banks for guests to actually touch the ancient rainforest, including many specimens of Huon Pine. On the journey, it is not uncommon to see platypus and sea eagles, and always possible to see the rare and endangered slender tree fern.

## Trans-Tarkine Track

The **Bob Brown Foundation** has officially launched a proposal for a new Trans Takayna/Tarkine Track in a bid to boost tourism & conservation values in Tasmania.

The walk would be a 100km+ trail (similar in quality to The Overland Track), starting from near the current Tarkine Trails Lodge – passing through virgin temperate rainforest, heathland, crossing the Norfolk range, before finishing along dune swept beaches southwards to the Pieman River.

In total it is outlined as an end to end 10-day trip, or broken up as two 5-day journeys.

The idea is unique as a conservation venture, as environmentalists & aboriginal groups have jumped behind the project as an alternative to irreversible wilderness, cultural & habitat destruction – mostly as a result of unsustainable mining & logging pursuits.



Currently it is possible to walk from Pieman Heads north to Temma not far from Arthur River, along the coast – passing by Sandy Cape. This is rated as a difficult mostly off-track walk through a wild & remote region of the state. It can take between 5 – 7 days to complete. It is reputed to be some of the most remarkable stretches of coastline anywhere in the world, however the serenity is often tarnished by the continued irresponsible usage of off-track vehicles – illegally crossing sensitive dune country & cultural Aboriginal sites.

## ***Tarkine Aboriginal Heritage***

For 35,000 years the Tarkine has been the home to the Tasmanian Aboriginal **tarkiner** people who inhabited the Sandy Cape region of this island's wild west coast. The name Tarkine means "*belonging to, or of the tarkiner.*" The Aboriginal community know it as ('tar-keennee') and continue a strong cultural connection to this special place today. Three other tribes also frequented the surrounding area – **the peerapper** (West Point), **manegin** (Arthur R.) & **peternidic** (Pieman R.).

During a World Heritage assessment report – it was coined that the area "ranked among the worlds greatest archaeological sites," and that it contains no less than 244 Aboriginal recorded sites of interest.

The Tarkine contains a suite of specialised coastal sites on the west coast that include large and complex multi layered shell middens containing well preserved depressions which are the remains of dome-shaped Aboriginal huts. These sites represent the best evidence of an Aboriginal economic adaptation which included the development of a semi-sedentary way of life with people moving seasonally up and down the north-west coast of Tasmania. The Tarkine area has the highest density of known hut sites on the west coast with just under half of the recorded sites occurring between the Pieman River and West Point.



Hut depressions are large circular hollows that have been dug into the top of small hills, dunes or shell middens. These depressions are all that remain today of Aboriginal huts - large beehive shaped structures composed of wood and bark that could accommodate between 6 -14 people.

The unique beehive shape was specifically designed to withstand the harsh weather conditions of Tasmania's coastal environments, particularly along the west coast where they are more commonly found.

According to early European observers, these beehive structures were composed of a number of wooden structural supports (possibly tea tree) that had been steamed and bent by fire, and then driven into the ground. There is some evidence that large whale ribs were occasionally utilised as structural supports. The structural posts were overlain with bark, leaving room for a small opening about 60 cm in height. Inside the hut, depressions were dug into the living floor to accommodate a campfire.

A group of shell middens at West Point (at the northern end of the Tarkine) includes the best examples of these large, complex shell middens which contain the remains of 100s of seals, 10 000s of shellfish and to a lesser extent terrestrial mammal which were hunted in the hinterland just behind the foredunes. The main West Point shell midden is exceptional in terms of its size, measuring 90 metres long, 40 metres wide and 2.7 metres deep. It is densely packed with shells and animal bones with its total volume being 27 estimated at 1 500 m<sup>3</sup>.



***Deflated Midden at Rupert Point***

The West Coast tribes felt bonded to the land. They knew it intimately. People lived in villages in beehive-shaped bark huts. In their seasonal hunter-gatherer regimes, women dived for crayfish, mussels, abalone and shellfish. By ***'firestick farming'*** the plains, the men hunted wallaby, wombats, possums, quolls and emus, kept access paths open and replenished the feed. Ducks, ravens and mutton-birds (shearwaters) were caught. Eggs, herbs and fungi were gathered.

Although much knowledge of tribal societies has been lost, elaborate death rituals, the use of amulets for healing and the idea of the soul transcending the body were all recorded. Petroglyph art sites at Mount Cameron West attest to indigenous interest in astrology, possibly even its spiritual significance. Ochre was widely used for decorative and perhaps spiritual purposes. Inter-tribal marriage was common,

with established courting rituals. Gifts such as a supply of ochre facilitated access to another tribe's territory during seasonal migration.

From the early 1800s their hunting and foraging regime put the West Coast tribes at the mercy of European invaders. Bass Strait *sealers* kidnapped Aboriginal women as wives and slaves. The Van Diemen's Land Company's (VDL Co's) annexation of Aboriginal hunting grounds as sheep pasture was equally brutal. Ian McFarlane makes it clear that, against the VDL Co's wishes, its local agent Edward Curr pursued a policy of Aboriginal genocide. Countless indigenous Tasmanians were murdered by Europeans in the space of a few years, decimating tribal society.

Still entertaining hopes of reconciliation but under pressure from settlers to end retaliatory Aboriginal attacks, in 1829 Governor George Arthur engaged an ambitious former builder, *George Augustus Robinson*, to 'conciliate' the remaining indigenous people. Robinson appeared benevolent but was increasingly motivated by personal gain. *Wyne* (chief of the *Pieman River/Peternidic tribe*) submitted to the exile offered by Robinson in July 1834, realising that there was no escape from the European invasion. Within nine days he was dead from disease — along with many other Robinson "captives." He remained defiant to the last. One of Wyne's final gestures was to remonstrate with his countrymen for not killing Robinson's Aboriginal party when they had the chance (Robinson had escaped across the Arthur River with *Truganini*).



## Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area

The *Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area*, reserved in 1982, stretches along the spectacularly wild north-west coast of Tasmania, covering over 100 000 hectares. Its northern boundary begins just to the north of the Arthur River, while its southern boundary follows the Pieman River. From its West Coast border, the reserve extends east to the Frankland and Donaldson Rivers.



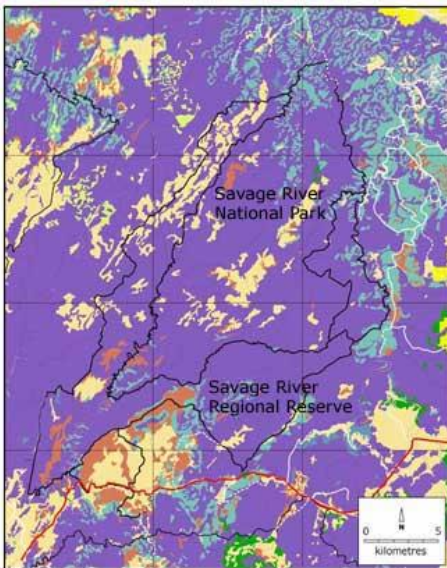
## Savage River National Park



Established in 1999, *Savage River National Park* is a wilderness region in the north west of Tasmania. The park protects the largest contiguous area of cool temperate rainforest surviving in Australia and acts as a refuge for a rich primitive flora, undisturbed river catchments, high quality wilderness, old growth forests, geodiversity and natural landscape values.

The western portion of the park includes the most extensive basalt plateaux in Tasmania that still retains a wholly intact forest ecosystem. The upper Savage River, which lends the park its name, runs through a pristine, rainforested river gorge system. The park contains habitat for a diverse rainforest fauna and is a stronghold for a number of vertebrate species which have suffered population declines

elsewhere in Tasmania and mainland Australia.



The parks remoteness from human settlement and mechanised access, its undisturbed hinterland rivers and extensive rainforest, pristine blanket bog peat soils and isolated, elevated buttongrass moorlands ensure the wilderness character of the park.

Unlike other national parks, Savage River National Park remains inaccessible. In keeping with its wilderness character, there are no facilities and no roads or mechanised access to the park. However, the park is surrounded by the Savage River Regional Reserve, in which a number of rough 4WD tracks provide limited access.



## **Conservation Values & Environmental Battles**

The first formal proposal for the protection of the Tarkine region was in 1937, when Seargent Summers, a government surveyor, was leading a search in North-West Tasmania for the Tasmanian Tiger. After numerous local sightings he recommended that the region be set-aside as a sanctuary for the now extinct creature.

The next concerted push for a reserve in the Tarkine, was led by the Circular Head council, in 1967 – pushing the idea for a Norfolk Range National Park.

Local walking & naturalist clubs supported the proposal – as did scientific authorities, with Dr J.G.Mosley, Assistant Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, referring to the area in a scientific report:

*“the recently proposed Norfolk Range – Pieman River National Park of 100,000 acres would do much to preserve a sample of the sedge-land, dune coast and rainforest environments of North-Western Tasmania... The people of Circular Head, and indeed the people of the rapidly developing North-West Coast, look to the wise decision of the Government to set aside land for the benefits of the people now and for future generations who will use this Park.”*

Unfortunately, the Premier of the time, Eric Reece (who also dammed the Lake Pedder National Park in South-West Tasmania), knocked back the proposal for a National Park, despite support for the proposal from his minister. He stated that he didn't want to see Tasmanian land 'locked up' from mineral production and other uses, and so the area was eventually declared the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area instead.



To this day – even with the significant tourist interest to the region, and despite large tracts of the Tarkine being located in either National Parks or Conservation Areas – many of the features that make the area so unique continue to remain under threat.

Tasmania has eight separate public reserve classes with each class having detailed values and purposes for reservation defined in legislation. Two classes of reserve - *Regional Reserves* and *Conservation Areas* are both reserve classes aimed at conserving biological and geological diversity, whilst also allowing for mining and the controlled use of other natural resources including sustainable harvesting of special timbers.

In December 2009, the Tarkine was listed as a National Heritage Area following an Emergency National Heritage Listing. The Emergency Listing was in response to a proposed Tarkine Road, which would have coursed through old growth forest and detrimentally affected the natural values of undisturbed areas.

In December 2010, the incoming Environment Minister Tony Burke allowed the emergency listing to lapse in the face of numerous mining proposals in the Tarkine. This was despite recommendations from the Australian Heritage Council to permanently list the Tarkine. Minister Burke had further extended the period for reassessment of the Tarkine, with the Australian Heritage Council due to re-report on the suitability of the Tarkine as a National Heritage location by the end of December 2013. Conservation groups declared this an unacceptable delay, and had voiced concerns that this left the Tarkine unprotected from mining while the reassessment took place.

On 8 February 2013 Minister Tony Burke announced that he would reject advice from the Australian Heritage Council that 433,000 hectares should be heritage listed and instead apply a National Heritage Listing only to the 21,000 hectares contained in a 2 km wide section along the coastline.

The process of further protection appears to have been complicated by the 2011 Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement – designed as a package to transition out of native forest logging, and protecting areas with a high conservation value. Only 100,000 hectares out of a proposed 572,000 were placed into the reserve system. The rest was placed under “future reserve land.”

The Tarkine area currently contains some lots of future potential production forest (FPPF) land which may be available for forestry activity after 2020. Sustainable special timber harvesting has been available in FPPF land since October 2017.

The region provides habitat for over 60 rare, threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna. It is the home to the last disease-free population of the **Tasmanian Devil**. This iconic creature is being pushed to extinction by the fatal Devil Facial Tumour Disease. The disease has been estimated to have killed 80% of the Tasmanian Devil population in the past decade.

New mines are being proposed for the Tarkine, and the campaign to prevent this onslaught of destruction is heating up. Many of these mines are Pilbara style open cut mines. Early successes in this campaign have seen off mine proposals at Keith River, Riley Creek and Nelson Bay River, but Venture Minerals are intending to press ahead with their proposed tin mine at Mt Lindsay.



# Corinna Flora

# TARKINE TASMANIA



MYRTLE BIRCH

LEATHERWOOD

MOUNT PINE

CELESTINE PINE

RAUP PINE

COMMON DOCKWOOD

STANDARD KOUKOA



**DESCRIPTION**  
A small tree with a dense canopy of dark green, glossy leaves. The flowers are small and white, and the fruit is a small, round, red berry.

**CHARACTERISTICS**  
The leaves are dark green, glossy, and have a slightly serrated margin. The flowers are small and white, and the fruit is a small, round, red berry.

**PLANTING**  
This plant is suitable for planting in a well-drained soil. It is a fast-growing tree and can reach a height of 10-15m.

**PROPAGATION**  
This plant is propagated by seed. The seeds are small and round, and are collected from the fruit.

**USES**  
This plant is used for timber. The wood is hard and durable, and is used for construction and furniture.

**TOXICITY**  
This plant is not toxic to humans or animals.

**OTHER INFORMATION**  
This plant is native to Tasmania and is a common sight in the Tarkine region.

SILVERWATTLE

SILVERWOOD

BLACKWOOD

TUCKERMAN LABEL

SILVER BIRCH

MONSIEUR

ORCHARDWOOD



**DESCRIPTION**  
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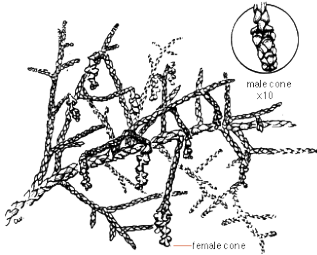
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## Notes on Flora

### *Huon Pine*



A Tasmanian endemic, found only in west and south west Tasmania (in a broad arc from the Pieman River in the north to the Huon River in the south), Huon pine trees grow in climax wet temperate rainforests, especially on river banks or very wet areas. The trees grow very slowly – often less than 1mm in girth per year – and reach prodigious ages; scientists agree that many individuals are aged 2,500 years and

older. The average timber tree is likely to be at least 1,000 years old.

The timber contains quantities of a natural preserving oil called methyl eugenol which allows it to survive on or under the forest floor for centuries. A buried Huon pine log was documented by scientists to have been lying there for 38,000 years! As well as being a preservative, the methyl eugenol provides the timber with natural lubrication, so it can be bent, shaped or sculpted without splitting. It is also waterproof and insect resistant. Huon pine was once the most prized boat-building timber in the world. Furniture and wood-turned items are other major uses.

It is not a true pine – belonging to the *Podocarpaceae* family. It is the sole species in the genus *Lagarostrobos*. An estimated 15% of its original habitat has been inundated due to hydro-electric schemes across the state.

### *Leatherwood*



A Tasmanian endemic, it is widespread and common in moister forests in Tasmania, occurring mainly across the western parts of the state, from the northwest in such places as the Tarkine and through the South West Wilderness. It grows as an understory plant and prefers wetter climates of 1500–2500 mm annual rainfall.

In late spring & summer, masses of large white conspicuous flowers, resembling small single roses cover the trees, attracting innumerable insects. The flowers have a strong, sweet perfume which is very noticeable on warm days. Honey producers have been quick to utilize the large quantities of nectar produced, and in summer many forest roads are lined with beehives, all engaged in producing the well-known “*Leatherwood Honey.*”

# Birds of the Tarkine



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2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

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10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



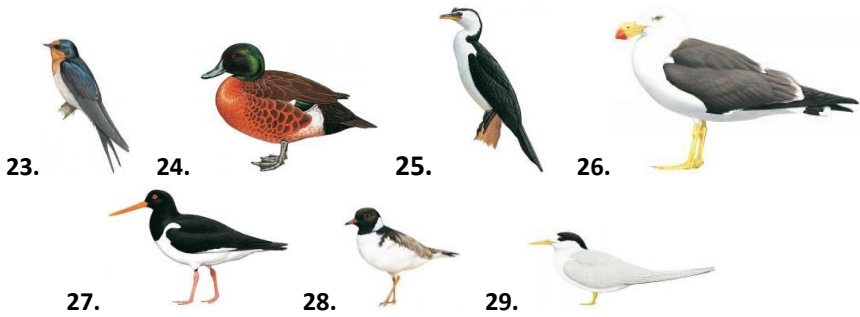
20.



21.



22.



1. Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo
2. Green Rosella
3. Orange-Bellied Parrot
4. Ground Parrot
5. Southern Boobook
6. Tawny Frogmouth
7. Azure Kingfisher
8. Grey Goshawk
9. Wedge-Tailed Eagle
10. Brown Falcon
11. White Bellied Sea Eagle
12. Black Currawong
13. Superb Fairy Wren
14. Beautiful Firetail
15. Flame Robin
16. Pink Robin
17. Golden Whistler
18. Grey Fantail
19. Yellow Throated Honeyeater
20. Striated Pardalote
21. Forest Raven
22. Tree Martin
23. Welcome Swallow
24. Chestnut Teal
25. Little Pied Cormorant
26. Pacific Gull
27. Pied Oyster Catcher
28. Hooded Plover
29. Fairy Tern

## Notes on Local Fauna

There are 24 species of native land mammals found in the Tarkine, more than two thirds of Tasmania's entire native mammal species. The Tarkine's native mammal species include the platypus, echidna, six marsupial carnivores, the common wombat, two species of bandicoot, five possums and gliders, three macropods, four species of rat and mice and one bat species.

Tasmania's three largest predators in order of decreasing size, are the Tasmanian Devil, the Spotted-tailed Quoll, and the Eastern Quoll – and the presence of all of these top predators in the Tarkine is a sign of a healthy ecosystem.



Currently there is an epidemic of viral cancer in populations of **Tasmanian Devil**, which have decimated populations of Devil across other parts of the state, particularly in Eastern Tasmania. This Devil Facial Tumour Disease has been so devastating that it threatens the entire species' existence. However, populations of the Tasmanian Devil in the Tarkine continue to be healthy and unaffected by the disease, and the Tarkine is becoming an increasingly vital refuge.

Listed as vulnerable nationally, the **Spotted-tailed Quoll** requires extensive areas of relatively undisturbed wet forest and suitable prey for its survival. Tasmania is the global stronghold of the animal, with the wet forests of the Arthur River catchment core habitat. The smaller Eastern Quoll is relatively scarce in the Tarkine.



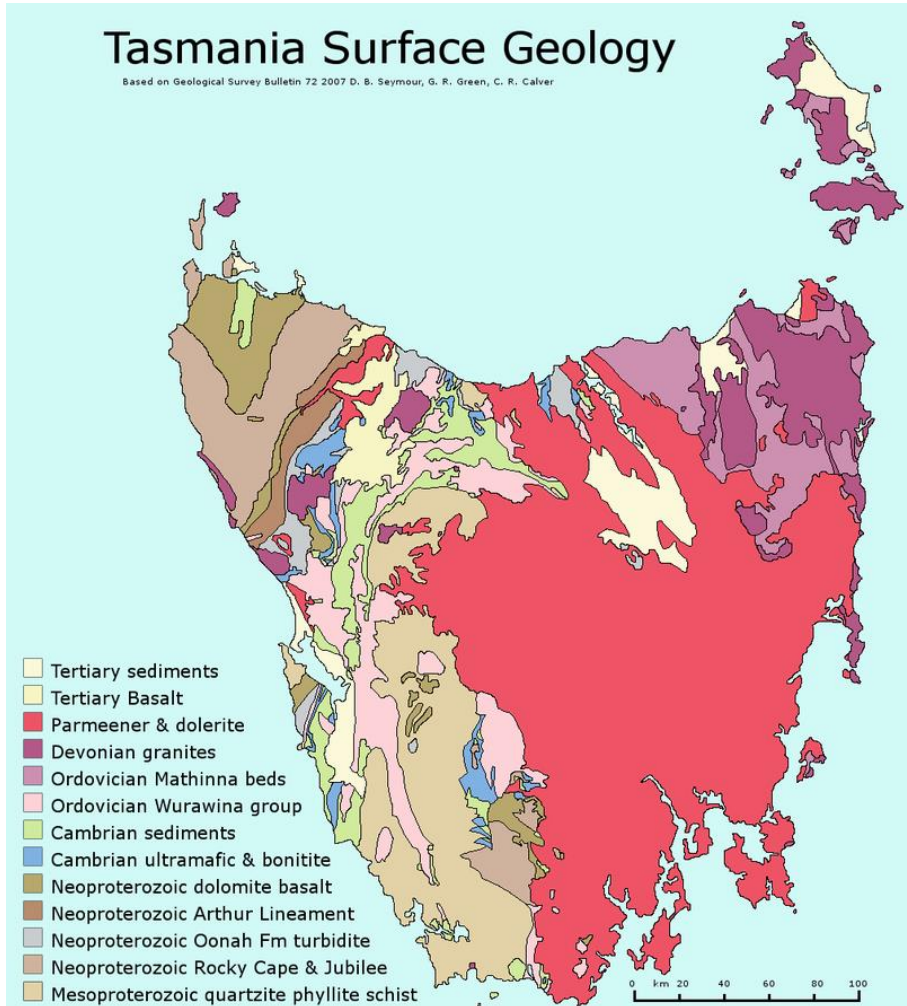
In addition to its mammals, the Tarkine boasts - 132 species of sea, land and freshwater birds, 11 reptile species, 8 frog species and 13 species of freshwater fish, hundreds of species of insects, and many species of freshwater crustaceans.



The **Tasmanian giant freshwater crayfish** is the largest freshwater invertebrate in the world. The species is only found in Tasmania and is listed as endangered due to habitat loss and over fishing. It is also severely threatened by siltation and de-snagging of streams as decaying wood forms the favourite part of its diet. Individuals of over 5 kilograms in weight

and over 80 centimetres long have been known in the past, but now, even individuals over 2 kilograms are rare. There are 37 different types of burrowing freshwater crayfish in Tasmania.

## Geology of Tasmania



### ***Chronological Overview***

Despite its small size, Tasmania has a remarkable geological diversity and abundance of mineral deposits with the world's biggest exposure of **dolerite**.

The earliest geological history is recorded in rocks from over 1,270 million years ago. These older rocks from western Tasmania were strongly folded and metamorphosed into rocks such as quartzite. After this there are many signs of glaciation from the Cryogenian (720 – 635 Mya), as well as the global warming that occurred at the start

of the Ediacaran period (635 – 542 Mya). In the Permian period, conditions were again glacial and the Tasmania basin formed, with low sea levels in the Triassic. A giant intrusion of magma happened in the Jurassic forming **dolerite** which gives many of the Tasmanian mountains their characteristic appearance. Continental breakup happened in the Cretaceous and Tertiary Periods, splitting off undersea plateaus, forming Bass Strait and ultimately breaking Tasmania away from Antarctica. In the Tertiary, two basins extended inland from Macquarie Harbour and the northern Midlands. The higher mountains were glaciated during the Pleistocene.



### ***Precambrian (pre-542 Mya)***

On King Island in Bass Strait, the oldest Tasmanian rocks are found. In the **Rocky Cape Block** west of Wynyard and north of Granville Harbour, the Precambrian rocks of **Siltstone** and **Quartzite** are over 5700 meters thick. The Burnie Formation followed in the Tonian period with greywacke and slaty mudstone, and also some basic pillow lavas. The Precambrian basement that forms the central core of Tasmania contains turbidite with quartz sandstone interbedded with siltstone deposited by gravity flows aged 1,681 million years ago. Metamorphism happened 496 to 515 million years ago at the same time as the Cambrian ultramafic complexes were introduced. At the end of the Precambrian uplift there were several raised blocks forming land above the sea: the Tyennan Uplift in the central and south west Tasmania, **the Rocky Cape uplift** in the north west, and the Forth uplift, near Forth in the north.

### ***Cambrian (542 – 488 Mya)***

Next an oceanic arc collided with eastern Australia. This resulted in deep oceanic crust being thrust in a sheet over the top of the Precambrian rocks. The Mount Read Volcanics are a 250 km long belt that is 10 to 20 km wide in the west of Tasmania. Sulphides were formed by hot springs on the sea floor which have become ore deposits for copper, lead, zinc and silver. In the Dial Range Trough, the middle Cambrian saw the deposition of conglomerate (of purple mudstone pebbles), sandstone with feldspar, mudstone and greywacke. The Murchison Granite intruded east of the **Mount Read Volcanics**. Major mineral deposits were formed at Mount Lyell, Roseberry and Henty. Cambrian sedimentary beds (Dundas group) interfinger with the Mount Read Volcanics and consist of sandstone, laminated mudstone and a pebble conglomerate in which the pebbles consist of quartzite, sandstone and green mudstone.

### ***Ordovician (488 – 444 Mya)***

During the Ordovician Tasmania was near the equator and was joined to **Gondwana**. In North-East Tasmania the Mathinna Group starts in the Ordovician with a quartz sandstone formed in turbidity flows. Fossils are rare, and ages hard to determine.



### ***Devonian (416 – 360 Mya)***

In early to mid-Devonian the Tabberabban Orogeny compressed Tasmania in an east-west direction. Tight folds were formed with axes in the north south direction at first. Later folding in the northwest to west-northwest direction was superimposed. In the north-east of Tasmania, the Mathinna Group received its last deposits in the form of turbidites. Granites were intruded in the east of Tasmania around 395 to 368 million years ago. Three large batholiths are in the north east: Scottsdale, Eddystone and Blue Tier. Gravity measurements show that granite underlies most of north east Tasmania at depth. The eastern Bass Strait Islands also show large exposures of granite, including Flinders, Cape Barren, and Clarke Island. Veins of gold were crystallised in the Mathinna-Alberton Gold Lineament. In the west of the state there were thirteen small granitic intrusions around 367 million years ago. The western plutons were associated with mineralization at Zeehan. On the eastern side of King Island small granite dykes were intruded around 350 million years ago.

### ***Permian (300 – 250 Mya)***

In the Permian, glacial conditions predominated with icecaps on the land, and ice floating on the sea, as a result of which tillite is found at the base of the Permian deposits. Mudstone with drop stones was formed in the sea areas, particularly in the eastern half of Tasmania. The rocks are undeformed and cover the central part of the state, most of the east coast, down to the south coast, and with extensions to the north coast near Launceston and Devonport. What is now visible has been reduced by erosion. The Permian and Triassic deposits together are known as the Parmeener Super Group. The lowest levels are a discontinuous dark grey pebbly tillite up to several hundreds of meters thick which is found in many southern areas, at Wynyard in the north and in the west at Zeehan. The ice that brought the till flowed from the west of Tasmania in an easterly direction. Siltstone, mudstone and sandstone were deposited with frequent drop stones and fossils. Deposits include oil shale known as tasmanite, freshwater deposits that include coal, and more marine units including limestone, up to 60 m thick, siltstone and sandstone, and the very top layers are coloured black, probably from an estuary.



### ***Triassic (250 - 200 Mya)***

Continental conditions resulted in sandstone deposits, which contain small dinosaur remains. The Triassic sediments are also part of the Parmeener Super Group. The lowest levels are a sparkling clean quartz sandstone free of coal. The uppermost

parts have sandstone and beds of coal. The sandstone has also been heavily used as building stone which is notable in Hobart and towns such as Oatlands and Ross.



### ***Jurassic (200 – 145 Mya)***

A major intrusion of dolerite occurred in the Jurassic. This was a widespread phenomenon covering over one third of Tasmania, and possibly more in the past. This intrusion also affected Antarctica, Argentina and South Africa at 183 million

years ago. Three to five million cubic kilometres of magma were intruded overall, being the planet's fourth largest known magma intrusion. Tasmania has the largest exposure of dolerite in the world of 30000 km<sup>2</sup> and a volume of 15000 km<sup>3</sup>. In Tasmania the rock is characteristic of many mountains with its columnar joining and dark blue grey colour. Most of the intrusions are in the form of sills up to 500 m thick. Dolerite is crushed to use as road metal, and aggregate.

### ***Cretaceous (145 – 65 Mya)***

In the Cretaceous, continental breakup of Gondwana started near Tasmania. Bass Strait was stretched and thinned and became filled with water. Flowering plants moved into Tasmania about 90 million years ago. At these times Tasmania was still connected to Antarctica. South from Tasmania is an extension of continental crust called the South Tasman Rise. This extension created a number of sedimentary basins which contain several kilometers of sediment from the late Mesozoic to Cainozoic time periods.

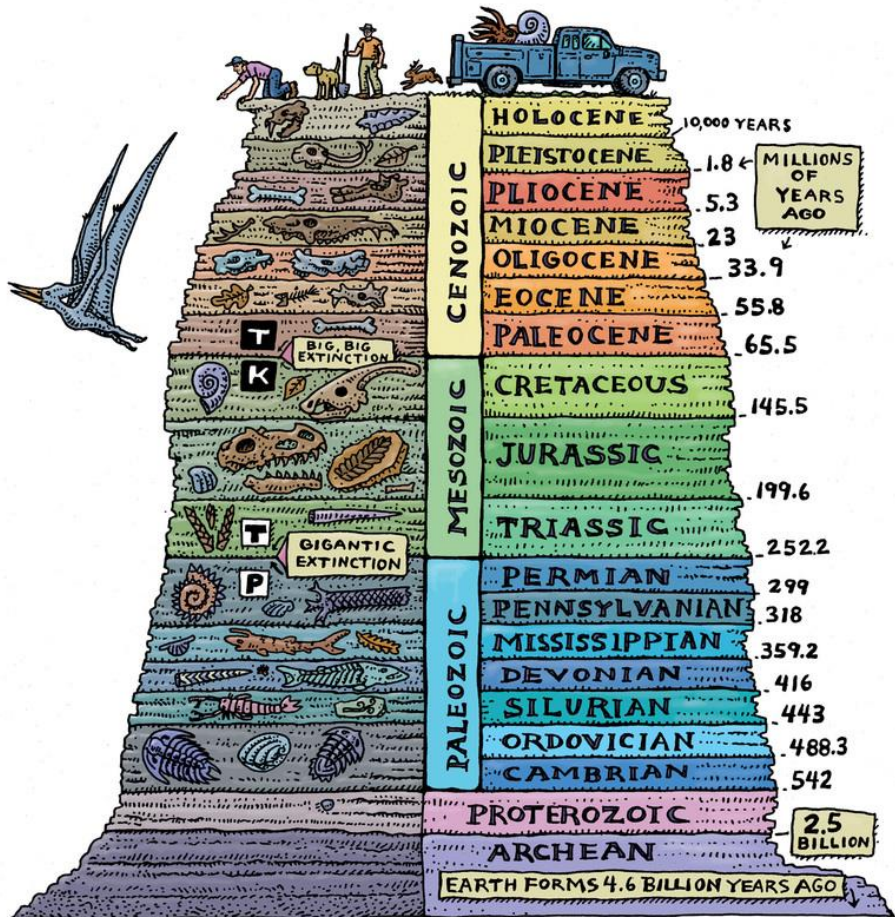
### ***Tertiary (65 – 2.6 Mya)***

Tasmania finally disconnected from Antarctica 45 million years ago. Several basins were formed by faulting. Faulting was connected with continental breakup. Tertiary age deposits are found in the northern midlands (Tamar Graben), and south of Macquarie Harbour in the Macquarie Harbour Graben. Thick layers of Tertiary rocks are found in the estuaries of southern rivers. The Tamar Graben was an extension to the south of the Bass Basin onto the Tasmanian island. Sediments started to be laid down in the graben at the very end of the Cretaceous, and the Longford sub-basin is filled with 800 m of clay, sand and gravel. The Devonport-Port Sorell Sub-Basin was formed in the Paleocene with deposits of carbonaceous mudstone and sandstone. The Thirlstane Basalt (38My) rests on these sediments, then the Wesley Vale Sand follows, and the Moriarty Basalt at the surface which is 50 meters thick and 29.5 million years old. Volcanic vents opened up 58 to 8 million years ago. Some volcanoes were explosive with bombs, and pyroclastic tuff. In the north west, there was so much lava that valleys filled and overflowed. A plain resulted with up to 750 meters thickness, and maximum extent south of Wynyard and Burnie. Table Cape has basanite from 13.3 million years ago and Stanley at 12.5 million years ago. Lava flows

ran south down tributaries of the Derwent River 24.3 to 22.4 million years ago and in the western Midlands there is basalt from 36.3 million years ago.

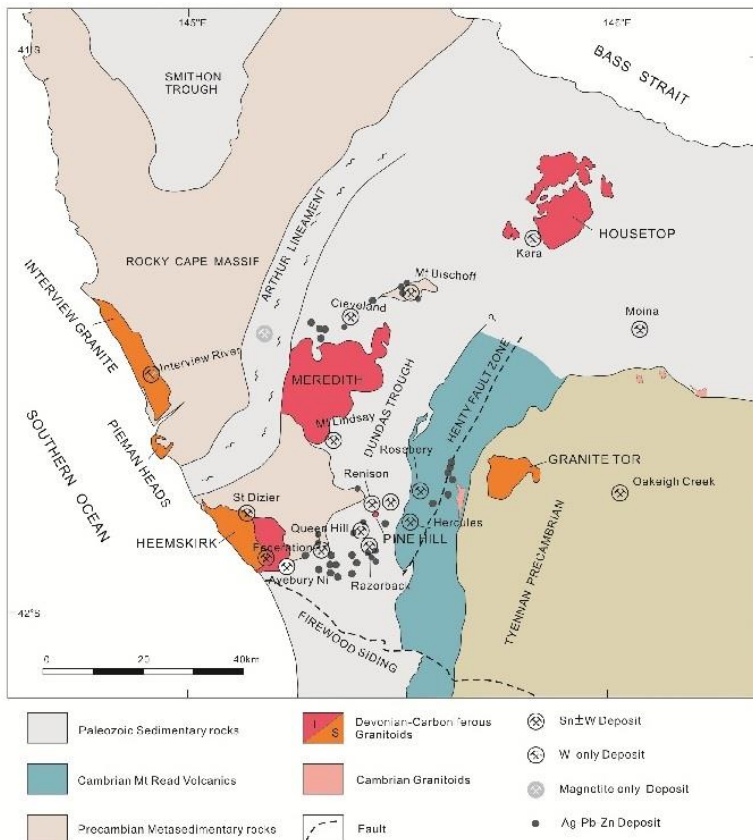
**Quaternary (2.6 Mya to present)**

Valley glaciers and a 1000 km<sup>2</sup> ice cap from 41-44 000 years ago and 18-10 000 years ago. The ice cap on the Central Plateau was around 65 km in diameter. Significant areas of till are found in the central highlands arranged roughly in a circle around the former ice cap. Glaciers flowed out into the Franklin River, the Canning Valley, and north into Forth and Mersey Rivers. Glaciers were in a number of locations on the west coast and flowed into many modern day river valleys. Several caves have developed in dolomite and limestone. Well known are King Solomons Cave and Marakooopa Cave at Mole Creek, and the Newdgate Cave at Hastings. Gravels are also left from rivers in Quaternary times with pebbles of quartzite, dolerite and agate.



## Tarkine Specific Geology

The geology of the Tarkine is in many ways a microcosm of Tasmanian geology as a whole, containing features representative of most major stages in the geological development of Tasmania. The oldest rocks in the area are **siltstones** and **quartzites** that were deposited on what was once a quiet shallow marine shelf. With the later development of a deep-water trough in the eastern half of the area, slaty **mudstones** and **greywacke sandstones** were deposited while possibly contemporaneous **dolomites** and **volcanic rocks** were deposited in the region of the **Arthur Lineament**, which may represent both the approximate shoreline at the time and a zone of volcanism. Earth movements then deformed parts of these rock sequences in a narrow zone, forming the **metamorphic** complex of the Arthur Lineament. The Arthur Lineament contains the most extensive deposits of **magnesite karst** in Australia. The Tarkine includes the largest area of **basalt** soils in Tasmania that still support undisturbed natural vegetation communities.



## Day 4

### ***Corinna – Zeehan – Montezuma Falls - Tullah***



Today sees us waving goodbye to our riverside home at Corinna, as we hop aboard "***The Fatman***" barge – the only cable driven vehicular barge in Tasmania. This brings us to the southern bank of the Pieman River, where we can stop to pay respects to the gravesites of some of the early pioneers.

From here we drive onward towards ***Zeehan*** – passing the turn-off to ***Granville Harbour*** – originally opened up as a soldier settlement after World War I - now a popular fishing & holiday destination for locals. There are no shops or facilities. Our previous itinerary spent the early afternoon walking from the north of town – northwards along the coast. About a 10km return walk.

Mt Heemskirk & Mt Zeehan come into view as we approach Zeehan where we have time for a coffee stop, a short wander around town or if people wish – a visit to the West Coast Heritage Centre. A significant section of this road into town was affected by the 2019 bushfires.

### ***History of Zeehan & Sights***



Zeehan is a classic "mining boom" town. Down the main street it has a run of no more than half a dozen buildings which hint at its bygone mining affluence. Sadly, the former grandeur of the town's late 19th century, and early 20th century, prosperity has been diluted with new houses, a modern library, a modern police station and the certain knowledge that once you have wandered down the main street and

explored the excellent local museum and the buildings adjoining it, you have seen everything of significance that Zeehan has to offer.

In 1642 the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, sighted and named Mount Zeehan after the brig in which he was sailing - although the brig was named *Zeehan*. Then in 1802 Bass and Flinders confirmed Tasman's importance when they named both Mount Zeehan and Mount Heemskirk after the two boats Tasman had sailed in.



**The West Coast Heritage Centre**, located at 114 Main Street, Zeehan, combines a collection of old railway engines with a number of historic buildings on the Main Street and fifteen rooms of exhibits in the old Zeehan School of Mines and Metallurgy. The rooms include displays of historic photos, a world class mineral display, pieces of historic mining machinery, a blacksmith's shop, a marine display, a Masonic display and a Pioneer Women's Gallery. Entry to the museum includes entry to both the Gaiety Theatre and the old Court House.

At its height in the late nineteenth century, the **Gaiety Theatre** was the largest concert hall and theatre in Australia. It had a seating capacity for over 1,000 patrons. Constructed in 1898 the building, which housed both the Gaiety Theatre and the Grand Hotel, was built for Edward Mulcahy MHA after his previous hotel, The Royal Exchange, had been destroyed by fire. The building cost a staggering £7075, was constructed from locally made bricks, and was the venue for regular touring company performances by the J.C. Williamson company. They brought successful shows across from Melbourne and the miners filled the theatre. A favourite with the miners was the All Male Welsh Choir which packed out the theatre. The Grand Hotel charged city hotel rates (ten shillings a day) and offered city services.

- In 1879 tin was discovered at **Mount Heemskirk** north of the present site of Zeehan. In the years that followed more than 50 companies staked claims over some 6,400 hectares of wilderness. Most of the claims were worthless.
- In late 1882 Frank Long discovered silver-lead near the present-day site of Zeehan. It led to the largest mining boom on Tasmania's west coast. Long's first samples had yielded an impressive 70 ounces of silver per ton.
- By the 1890s the town was booming. The Zeehan Stock Exchange had 60 members. Each year, from 1890-1910, the mines earned an average of £200,000. Elegant banks, theatres and hotels were built along the main street.
- By 1901 Zeehan was known as the Silver City of the West and had a population of 5,014. Around this time the town competed in size with both Hobart & Launceston!
- The last silver mine in Zeehan closed down in 1960. The town is now occupied mostly by miners working at Savage River & Renison Bell.

Our main walk for the day is to Montezuma Falls, located at Williamsford – 2km south of Rosebery. There is a toilet a short way along the track. In busy periods, consider parking just before the small bridge as you round the final corner.

### **Montezuma Falls (3 hours return)**

An easy walk, through rainforest, along the route of the historic North East Dundas Tramway. At 104m, Montezuma Falls are one of the highest waterfalls in Tasmania and the track takes you right to the base of the falls.



Heavy metals from historic mining have contaminated a number of creeks that cross the Montezuma Falls walking track. It is unsafe for people or pets to drink or swim in the creeks.

Walking from **Williamsford**, the track is almost entirely through pleasant and open park-like rainforest. This includes leatherwood, myrtle, sassafras, giant tree ferns and eye-catching fungi.

An 1890 mineral survey showed the falls marked as Osbourne Falls. Montezuma was the name of the last Aztec emperor of Mexico (1466-1520). In Tasmania, his name appears to have originally been applied to a mining company — the

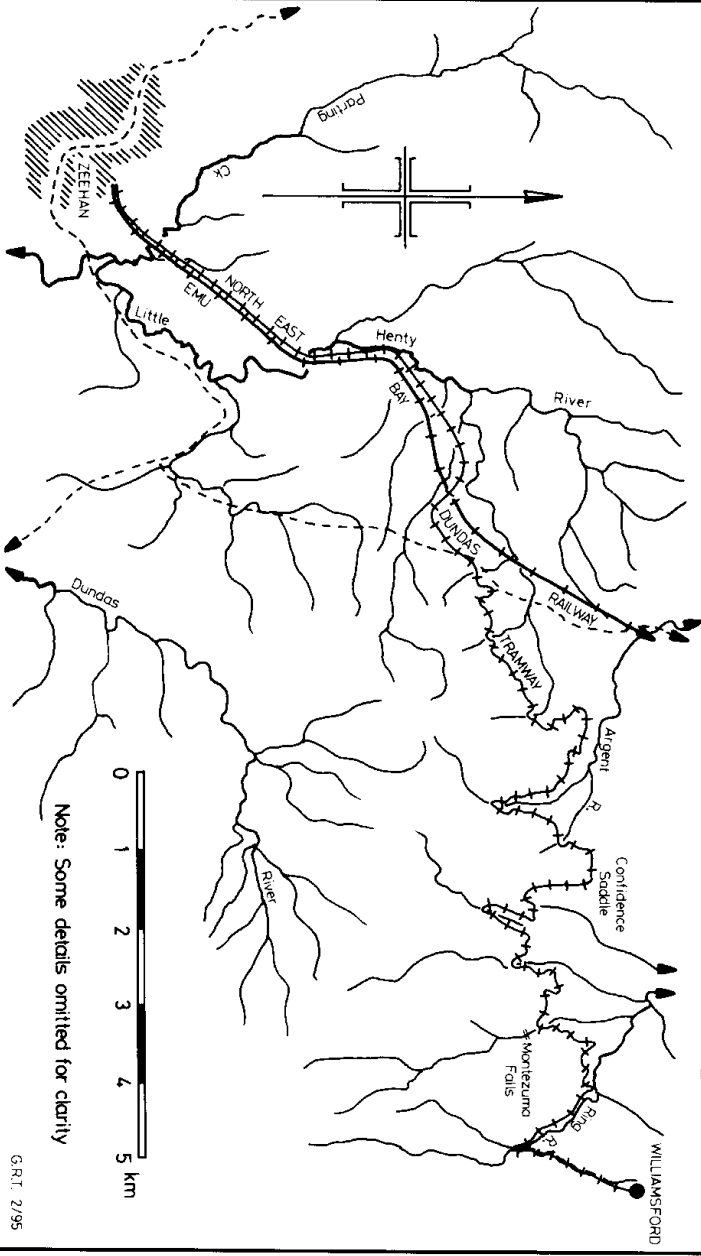
**Montezuma Silver Mining Company**, which was formed in 1891 and held leases on the northern slopes of Mt. Dundas. These days the area is known for its prevalence of the rare orange mineral **crocoite** – the states mineral emblem.

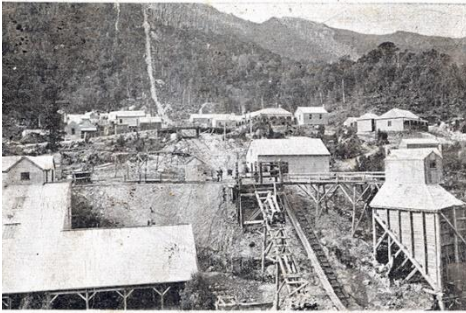
The creek immediately below the falls was once spanned by a wooden trestle bridge (see photo) that was 160 ft. long and 50 ft. high and took five months to build. Today derelict pieces of timber, moss-covered concrete piers and rusty bolts are the only remains of this bridge.

The **North East Dundas Tramway** that ran from Zeehan to Deep Lead (now Williamsford) was constructed to facilitate access to mining sites in the Mt. Dundas and Mt. Read areas. It linked up with the Emu Bay (Burnie) railway to the north coast.

Above the falls – on the far side of Mt Read at **Lake Johnston** (a glacial cirque at 890m) is a 10,000-year-old stand of genetically identical male Huon Pine! Mt Read & Mt Dundas also accommodate up to 90% of Tasmanian endemic alpine flora species.

# North East Dundas Tramway





Williamsford and the Hercules Haulage Line, Tasmania.

Surveying of the line commenced in 1895, and the ceremony to mark the 'turning of the first sod' was performed on 17 January 1896 before a crowd of 500 people. By January 1897 the first five miles of the line were in use and the official opening of the line through to Williamsford was held in June 1898.

The gauge was 2 ft., which was a relatively narrow gauge and explains why the line was known as a tramway rather than a railway. The narrowness of the gauge was chosen to suit the winding hillsides and also to assist in lowering the cost of construction. The line continued to operate infrequently until 1925 and was officially closed on 4 July 1932 and the rails were removed in the early 1940s.

**The Hercules Haulage** was a self-acting 2ft tramline created to move ores from the mine above to the North-East Dundas Tramway. The haulage was *self-acting* and one mile (1.6 km) long and 1,642 feet (550m) high with a maximum gradient of 1 in 5. It was claimed to be the largest and steepest self-acting tramway of its kind.



Once back at the bus, it's about another 30 min drive from the carpark to our overnight stop at Tullah. We pass through the township of **Rosebery** on the way, and should get good views of the mighty **Mt Murchison** (1278m) in fine weather. This mountain is the highest in the west coast range – which is made up primarily of conglomerate rock types.

In 2004 the town of Rosebery's median property price was going at around \$50,000! The isolated town was known to offer incentives for any people willing to move to the area.

In the 1890's a track was cut between Mole Creek & the west coast – in an attempt to access & extract the mineral wealth coming out of the region. Some of this track's alignment is still used along day 2 – 3 of the famous bushwalking route, The Overland Track, between Cradle Mountain & Lake St Clair.

- An active zinc mining town with estimates of \$8 billion in profit
- The "highest" post code in Tasmania

- Australia's steepest golf course
- Tasmania's highest rainfall on nearby Mount Read (3634mm!!)
- Comparatively Hobart (Australia's 2<sup>nd</sup> driest capital) receives 626mm
- Mount Black is the highest mountain in the southern hemisphere with trees at its summit.

From Roseberry, it is not far until our overnight stop at **Tullah**.



The town is roughly divided into two "suburbs", an older northern and a younger, more planned out southern. The northern half was originally a mining town called Mount Farrell, established in year 1900 after silver lead ore was discovered in the area. It was renamed in 1910.

It was later extended southwards by the HEC and used as a hydroelectric power scheme construction town during the making of the Pieman Scheme in the 1970s to early 1990s when its population

reached 2500, but is now mainly a community at the edge of **Lake Rosebery**, and a fishing location. The lakes were formed after damming for hydroelectric schemes and are now well-stocked with brown and rainbow trout, eagerly sought by fly fishing enthusiasts (a fishing licence is required). In the town, the North Mount Farrell Tramway was built to facilitate the moving of goods in and out of the remote mining town. It closed in 1964 after the completion of the **Murchison Highway** in 1963.

## Day 5

### ***Mt Farrell (3 – 4 hours, 6km. 500m+)***

The walk up **Mt Farrell** (711m) is a challenging but rewarding climb – conveniently situated right above Tullah. Once above the tree-line there are grandstand views across the southern Tarkine region & from the summit, views of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area - including Cradle Mountain.

The trail head is now located in the large parking area opposite the steam railway park (toilets, picnic tables & more parking), just to the north of town along the Murchison Highway. There are some informative interpretation signs located here, detailing west coast geological and mining history. A newly built track now links the carpark up with the rest of the reserve. After passing a few mining relics, initial walking is through forest and climbs steeply for about 45 mins. The break in

vegetation type is sudden, and once out of the tree line the track crosses buttongrass slopes and the gradient lessens (at least temporarily). At the track junction take the right-hand branch, as the other option takes a wandering route to the other side of the range and on to **Lake Herbert**. Continue climbing to the top of the ridge (saddle), where views over Lake Mackintosh to the east begin to open up. *White Waratah* and *Christmas Bells* are common throughout the climb up this craggy gully.

The track follows the ridge south over a few ups and downs to the “summit,” where there is a large *banksia* and two rock outcrops that can be climbed for views. This is not the true summit, but affords a view equally as good without adding on an extra hours’ worth of difficult walking. The trig cannot be seen from our finishing point - and must be only a mere couple of meters lower! The summit offers good views of Mt Murchison, Tullah & the nearby lakes. Total time for the walk is around 3 – 4 hours. Distance is about 3km each way, with around 500m elevation gain.



We finish our trip by returning to Launceston via the **Cradle Valley** road, then onto **Sheffield**, nestled below **Mt Roland**.

**Notes & Corrections:**

*Please jot down any information that you feel will help contribute to make this resource more factual & interesting!!*