



Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

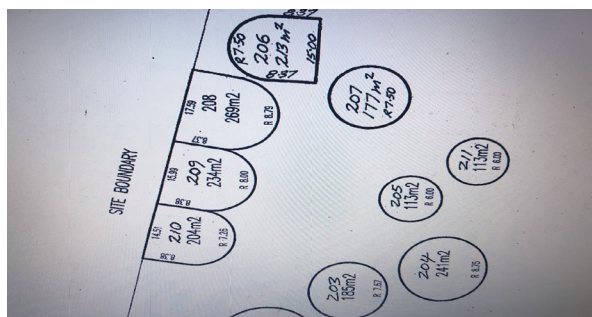
May 2022

Village News

In this months news a shed was delivered to the common ground near the orchard, it's purpose is to become a meditation space, it will be stumped soon and connected to the 4 existing poles, I have been told that draft plans will be circulated with the community prior to any major works.



Lot 206 officially has a new size and location registered by the LTO, which means that Jason and Emma now have the new title and the large tree next to the old lot location was saved!



Finally congratulations to Emma who has taken on the position as cleaner for the ecovillage common areas!

THANK YOU!

- Thank you to Alan for his latest edition to the newsletter!
- Thank you to Ilan for supplying some photos for the newsletter!
- Thank you to Joshua for spending a very extensive day cleaning chairs and rugs in the shed!
- Thank you to Brigid for her article!

Tree Mulch

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to do an article series based around our natural resources and ways of using them to enhance our lives without causing damage to the surrounding environment, for the finale article in this series Alan will be covering Tree Mulch.

Dear Eco-philes,

It's been an exciting week on the federal political scene. Let's see if we can lift our own hopes and dreams for an ecologically-focussed lifestyle.

I would like to talk a little more about tree mulch. This is regarded by some as a waste product, yet it's a most valuable resource for improving the fertility of our soil.

Here at the eco village we are fortunate in being supplied with heaps of it occasionally, and some members are already using it to good effect.

Applied to pathways, it can gradually decay and gets worked down into the soil by worms and other organisms.

Added to a compost heap in shallow layers, "lasagne-style," it can help in the composting process and increase thermophilic temperatures.

Because the tree's bark, trunk, twigs and leaves are all broken down into smaller particles by mulching, this creates extra surface area on which fungi and bacteria can grow. A wide diversity of these organisms naturally arrange the environment to provide for their nutrients, (both macro- and micro-), plus air and moisture which are essential elements for efficient decay.

The entire bulk of mulch will ultimately be rendered down into top soil, where the life of plants is generated. You may see dark brown humus forming in the heap after even a month or two.

I have mentioned fungi, we can see mushrooms and toadstools with the naked eye. These are the fruiting bodies of fungi. Yet the bulk of fungal mass is a myriad of microscopic fungal filaments underground, that is virtually invisible to the naked eye, and just as important.

There are numerous websites for further inquiry which might interest you, explaining the ecological roles of various fungal families. I searched for: "What are the benefits of fungi to the ecosystem?" and "Fungal organisms of the forest?"

If you are turning compost, or a hay stack, and you notice clouds of dust coming up out of the heap, watch out! Be warned! These are billions of microscopic fungal spores. Such spores are present in the air we breathe most of the time, but a few people, especially those who are in any way immuno-compromised, may be susceptible to disease, such as Aspergillosis. Consider a closely-fitting face mask.

FOOT NOTE: I am considering a new approach to our food-waste composting, whereby mulched garden waste, which is created with my Hansa Mulcher, can be combined with food-waste.

"We have around us numerous natural resources. Used wisely and with care, they can enhance our lives, at little or zero cost to the environment. My interest and focus is on integrating just a few of those resources for domestic use."

- Alan Marshall

Wukalina Walk by Brigid

My Experience of the Wukalina Walk

Hannah asked me to write an article about the Wukalina Walk for the newsletter a couple of weeks before I embarked on the trip. It was on my mind during the first day and I attempted to memorise details of plants and their uses as our guide talked about them. Old mans beard to make tea, uses for different parts of the varieties of grass trees which surrounded us. But even as I struggled to remember details I knew that was not what I wanted to write.

We gathered at the Elders Council of the Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation in Launceston on the first morning. I immediately felt at ease as the elders and guides welcomed us and shared about themselves simply and honestly. My reason for being on the walk was my desire to know about the country where I am now living – to learn from people who have deep knowledge and respect for their country.

After gathering the hiking gear supplied and the metal lunchbox in which Auntie Sharon told me she had packed special gluten free goodies for me in the compartment under the salad, we travelled on the minibus from Launceston through Bridport and Gladstone to Mount William National Park at the northern end of the Bay of Fires. Jake, our leading guide shared some stories during the bus trip but as I was at the back I couldn't really hear and was content to watch the passing landscape.

We walked up Mt William and sat eating lunch as Jake pointed out landmarks. On our way back I asked him about the Palawa name for the hill and he explained that things were often named for how they looked and the hill was named Wukalina because it looked like a breast. Much more satisfying than some William guy naming it after himself I thought. Nobody knew to whom William referred. When I consulted Google it informed me (via Tasmania.com) that the park 'was named after a prominent scientist' but when I tried to find out more about him I went down a very strange Google rabbit hole. Reputable sites, such as Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Services, provide great information about the park but nothing about the name.



Back at the carpark we set off along a trail to public campgrounds but along the way were led by Jake onto a less defined track (deliberately so to ensure that people did not accidentally wander down it). This led to our destination – the beautiful architecturally designed camp reminiscent of the domed shelters used by First Nations people in Tasmania. Gathered on the deck above the firepit with a beautiful blackwood lined dome above was a perfect way to enjoy a glass of wine after our eleven-kilometre walk. The last kilometre had been long and made me wonder how I would manage seventeen kilometres on the third day. Lovely hot showers, an abundance of food, everybody's needs catered.

Our little domed sleeping huts so cosy amongst the coastal heathland separate and connected by wooden walkways to the main building and each other. Hank was an accomplished storyteller who brought alive his family, the old people and muttonbirding in his stories full of wit and dramatic descriptions.

Wukalina Walk by Brigid

After a lovely slow morning on the second day we walked a short way up the beach to a cultural living centre, the preferred name for what white people called middens, relegating them to the status of historical artifacts to be studied. As we sat there our young guide, Jessie, described how close he felt to the people who came there and as he talked I could imagine the children running around, mothers calling to them where among the rocks they enjoyed the abundant seafood and social connections.



On the third day we started early on our long walk to Larapuna (Eddystone Lighthouse). At first I found walking on the softer sand tiring and lagged almost at the back of the group. Jessie and I shared stories of our lives, he at nineteen years old and I in my seventies found connection and shared interests. After a stop for morning tea I decided to pick up my pace and found I no longer struggled as I walked determinedly and made my way to the front of the group. I noticed that by ignoring my self-doubt and just deciding that I could do it I found renewed energy and felt I could walk forever.

As I walked I considered once again what information I had gathered. What had I learned about being on country? I had heard but not absorbed all the information Jake had provided about movements, people, plants and animals. What I had

absorbed was a sense of what it might have been to live and travel on country, to recognise each area and what it could provide when I needed food, shelter, medicine and cultural connection. How it might have been to have a sense of my place within the landscape and how I could take from it without depleting or destroying it. I'd observed how our two young guides had inhabited their roles. Jake walked at the head of the group with an easy gait. When he wanted to provide information about an area or its plants or animals he stood quietly and drew us to him without words. He was simply present. Jessie never lost sight of his role walking at the back of the group. He engaged in conversation with those near him or walked quietly by himself, always there, ever patient. I realised that what I wanted to take from the experience was to cultivate that sense of place, on the land, in my community and within myself.

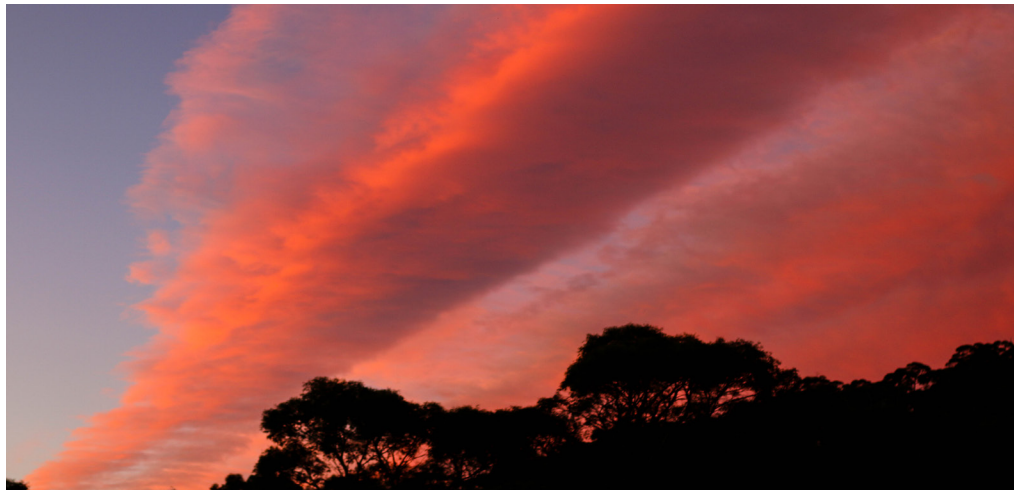
You can find detailed information about the Wukalina Walk at

[*www.wukalinawalk.com.au*](http://www.wukalinawalk.com.au)

Brigid

Facebook Pages & Groups

- Tasman Notice-board (Tasmania, Australia)
- Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc
- Country Women's Association in Tasmania (Inc)
- White Beach Coast Care
- Waterfalls of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Fungi
- Aurora Australis Tasmania
- Whale Spotting Tasmania
- Field Naturalists of Tasmania
- Bioluminescence Tasmania
- Tasmania Photography Group



Local Information & Resources

We have so much information on the local area and many local resources and attractions available to us here on the Tasman Peninsula or Turrakana. Beauty and natural diversity surround us including waterfalls, deep sea caves, rugged coastlines, 300 metre high sea cliffs, blowholes, caves, tessalated rock formations and heritage listed convict sites.

Turrakana is also home to many animals including brush tail possums, wallabies, wombats, bandicoots, sea eagles, Australian fur seals, penguins, dolphins, migrating whales, endangered swift parrots and endangered wedge-tailed eagles.



IN JUNE PLANT...

Artichokes, Asparagus, Broadbeans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chives, Garlic, Rhubarb, Shallots, Spinach, Spring Onions.

Tasman Ecovillage Events JUNE 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
00	00	01	02	03 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	04	05
06 Discussion Forum 2pm-4pm	07	08	09	10 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	25	26 TEVA Meeting 10am-12pm
27	28	29	30	00	00	00

Businesses in the Village



Webilicious
Websites that work well on all
devices and browsers.



Baking by Hannah
Sweets and baked goods made
with love (and sugar!:) to order.



Advertise your business here...