

FORMATION OF THE TASMANIAN CONSERVATION TRUST INC

The TCT was formed at a meeting held at the Hobart Town Hall on 17 April 1968. About 200 people attended.

The meeting was chaired by his Honour Mr Justice Crawford. Listed speakers included Mr R G Downes (Vice President of the Australian Conservation Foundation), Professor W D Jackson (University of Tasmania), Mr F N Ratcliffe and Mr Max Angus. After the guest speakers had addressed the meeting Mr K C Newham moved the following motions:

- 1. That a Society to be known as the Tasmanian Conservation Trust be formed for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the wisest use and conservation of natural resources and wildlife, and that all persons at this meeting who hand in their names and addresses to Mrs A Hearn, Messrs D H Field and P Allnutt together with a subscription of \$2.00 shall be original members of the Society*
- 2. That Miss A Damgaard and Mr D H Field be appointed as joint secretaries pro-term of the Society*
- 3. That Messrs K C Newham, B McNeil, D Calvert and E Sikk be appointed a provisional committee to frame a draft constitution for the Society and that such draft constitution be submitted at an adjournment of this meeting*
- 4. That this meeting now adjourn until the 15th Day of May, at 8.00pm in the Elizabeth Street Conference Room or until such time and place as may be notified by the Secretary by advertisement in the Mercury newspaper.*

The motions were seconded by Mr Max Bennett and carried unanimously. After the meeting 85 people signed up as members of the newly formed Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

This inaugural meeting was followed by a second membership meeting on 15 May, which about 80 people attended.

A draft constitution was presented for approval. After debate the Chairman Mr K C Newham moved that the constitution be adopted in its entirety, expressing the hope that members refrain from suggesting minor alterations to wording at this stage as a state-wide society was a new venture and it would be necessary to feel the way towards the best approach to running it. Mr Keith Little seconded the motion, emphasising that the constitution had been drawn up by a legal expert. After extensive debate the motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously. The Chairman advised that the interim committee had recommended a life membership subscription of \$50 and a subscription of \$1 for students over 16 years of age and 50c for students under 16.

The inaugural office bearers elected at this meeting were:

President: Dr J L Davies, MA, PhD, Reader in Geography at the University of Tasmania
Treasurer: Mr K I Little, Bank Manager
Miss Agnete Damgaard, Co-Secretary MSc, a Scientific Officer at the Hydro-Electric Commission
Mr. Don Field, Co-Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Commonwealth public servant, representing the Hobart Walking Club on the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park Board
Mr S F Eldridge, BSc, Dip Ed, Deputy Headmaster of Hobart Matriculation College, President of the Science Teachers' Association of Tasmania
Mr K C Felton, BSc (Hons), Masters Degree in Forestry, employed by the Forestry Commission to research the regeneration of eucalypts
Mr D Steane, MSc (Conservation), Dip For, Sand Dune Reclamation and Land Development Officer at the Department of Lands and Surveys
Dr I S Wilson, BSc (Hons), PhD, Senior Lecturer in Zoology at the University of Tasmania
Mr Greenstreet suggested a legal practitioner be included on the committee and Mr E Sikk announced that, although he was not standing for the committee, he would act as honorary solicitor.

The newly elected committee held its first meeting on 27 May 1968.

At this meeting the committee decided among other things that "the Committee would recommend that whenever possible direct negotiations be held with Government Departments and Authorities on conservation issues as the most effective form of action".

Forty years down the track the Tasmanian Conservation Trust continues to seek co-operation with government(s) to achieve good environmental outcomes.

