

Biographical Statements for Candidates for The Wilderness Society (Tasmania) Inc. Committee at 2023 AGM

Val Noga

I wish to put myself forward as a nominee for a position as a TWS Tas. Management Committee Ordinary Member.

I am a supporter and member of TWS and have been for the past 30 or so years. I have also been an active volunteer for a period of 12 of those years. During my time as a volunteer I spent 9 years as the Convenor of the TWS Tas. Management Committee.

In the role of Convenor I:

- Planned and facilitated every meeting of the TWS Tas. Management Committee
- Participated in TWS Tas. policy development
- Over sighted the local TWS Tas. budget process and its implementation
- Supported the State Campaign Manager and his team
- Participated in many governance activities and decisions
- Participated in National Committees, designed to improve communication, policy and decision making across TWS

I would appreciate being elected to the Management Committee as I feel that I can make a practical contribution through working with the other Management Committee members to:

- Provide strategic direction for TWS Tas.
- Assist the Committee to ensure that all legal, financial and other governance duties are fulfilled
- Actively support the campaigners in developing strategy
- Capably manage and build TWS Tas. finances so that there are increased funds for even more effective campaigning
- Work with and support the efforts of TWS nationally
- Build a stronger volunteer base
- Support the Campaigners to:
 - o Counter the pro-development activities of the State Government in national parks and the TWWHA
 - o Counter State Government policy and practices in relation to forestry practices
 - o Support and work with other conservation groups and like-minded organisations/people to secure better conservation outcomes across a range of community issues and concerns

What attracted me to the Wilderness Society, in the first place, was the positive and practical work it was and is doing to preserve nature and in particular, Tasmania's wilderness. I admired the Society's persistence and the resolute pursuit of its aims, in the face of determined opposition.

I would appreciate an opportunity to make a direct contribution to TWS Tas. as a member of the Management Committee..

Val Noga

Rocelyn Ives

I am 74 years old and I adhere to the philosophy of walking gently on the land through my lifestyle choices and community activism activities in pursuit of the goal to protect our unique wild places.

I am in despair with the compromising of the integrity of the forests, waters and oceans with the money/ power-seeking drivers of government policies, which unilaterally are about cutting it down, digging it up and shipping it out. Man's domination of nature is an anathema to the future health of the planet we share. Currently the science of climate change proves there is no greater reason for holding up the reduction of our human footprint. Forest logging must stop!

Declining health of habitats is starkly apparent. Species loss is ever present. The spin to the public that all will be well while the continued abuse of wild places continues must cease.

I taught for 40 years holding senior positions and state consultancy positions within Tasmania. In 1976 I was provided with a scholarship to complete a post-graduate degree at UTAS in Hobart.

Teaching in the NT enabled programs for first nations students with personal and professional exploration of places from the Kimberley to Flinders Rangers in South Australia. I was based at Katherine in the NT.

Travelling in South Africa with a well-known state environmental educator attending conferences and visiting school communities.

Environmental programs through Landcare, state funded pilot programs (Adopt a Farm and Adopt A Patch bushland), a range of NRM. Council supported projects with focus on soils, water and bush-land ecologies were provided. School garden establishment with focus on sustainable and organic practices and food security, leap-frog wetlands rehabilitation, parks and reserves, night sky pollution and reduce, reuse and repurpose practices in school were dominant projects in education I established and nurtured in the schools and local communities where I worked.

I received many awards for these state and national funded environmental programs throughout the 90s and 00s. Post retirement I was offered a contract at West Launceston Primary School to educate classes about caring for the bigger backyard (Cataract Gorge) establishing a school vegetable patch and school sustainable living practices.

Growing up at Wilmot near Cradle Mountain I was influenced by my mother and an aunt in particular who were environmental advocates and activists fighting for protection of the bush land and Tassie's wild places, from rampant and inappropriate developments. Hence Lake Peddar, The Franklin, Wesley Vale pulp mill and other campaigns were features of my early adulthood.

As a continuous member of TWS since the 1980s I have taken part in numerous campaigns including the Tarkine, TV Pulp Mill, forest , ocean, TTWHA protections and continue today to regularly participate in campaign meetings and actions .

From 2012 to 2020, I was a volunteer at Launceston Council working as a community leader, organising monthly public walks and talks at The Cataract Gorge, working with Aboriginal elders conducting walks on country, and as an interpretation officer for visitors to Tasmania. Knowledge of flora and fauna, links to nature within our places and how to protect these valued spaces was the focus.

Geoff Law

Geoff Law has been involved with the Wilderness Society (TWS) since 1981. In 2013, he was made a member of the Order of Australia for his services to the Tasmanian Wilderness. He has worked on TWS campaigns for over 40 years and played a major role in the extensions of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage property in 1989, 2010 and 2013. He is dedicated to TWS's purpose of protecting, promoting and restoring wilderness. In particular, Geoff is keen to see the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage property extended to encompass areas such as the Spero-Wanderer wilderness, the Tyndall Range, the Vale River catchment and other tracts of unprotected land west of the current boundaries of the property. Geoff is also keen to see the permanent reservation of all the forests for which the logging industry received overly generous compensation in 2011-13, but which remain under threat (the FPPF forests). These include the forests adjacent to reserves in takayna/Tarkine and reserves in the north-east such as Ben Lomond, Mt Victoria, the Blue Tier and Douglas-Apsley.

Steve Saunders

I have been a volunteer with TWS Tasmania, based in the Launceston Campaign Centre since the 2018 state election. From that time, I have learned much about the environmental issues we face in Tasmania and have helped educate the public about these issues through our shopfront campaign centre.

I joined the committee at the 2019 AGM and over the years since then, I've been able to develop a useful working knowledge of the TWS Tas organisation, also its relationship with the national TWS Limited organisation.

Covid was a big challenge, when we had to close the campaign centre and continue our supporter meetings online. Eventually we were able to open the campaign office again as Covid receded the following year. With a core group of TWS supporters, we were able to maintain the continuity of TWS in the north during that period.

I'm pleased at the way the Launceston Campaign Centre has revived since covid. We have had a local weekly newsletter running for over two years. Now, thanks to having a paid staff member join us a year ago, and another one joining us at the end of this year, I look forward to the Launceston campaign Centre further increasing its involvement in forest and wilderness issues in the North of the state. I plan to continue contributing to the cause of The Wilderness Society, Tasmania, for some time to come in whatever way I can.

Kelly Foxcroft

I first engaged with TWS in early 2017 as a volunteer in the Launceston office as it was transitioning into a Campaign Centre. During 2017/18 I participated in the Movement for Life Advanced Community Organiser training and five day Train the Trainer program in Sydney as well as an unpaid internship in the office. During this time I was privileged to be able to help organise many events (including the very successful Winter Warmer film series and mini-rally in City Park on Threatened Species Day), as well as assist with training volunteers and the general running of the

office. I first joined the TWS Tasmania Committee of Management in late 2020 and am excited to see how TWS will continue its important work for Tasmania/lutruwita's precious wilderness in the coming year

Ben Bartl

I am a long-standing member of The Wilderness Society and during that time I have supported TWS both financially and as an active member. I have attended a number of demonstrations, rallies and public meetings and for approximately the last decade have been both a member of the Management Committee and of Friends of the Wilderness Society.

On the Management Committee I have provided regular and accurate minutes of the meetings and have also assisted in providing strategic direction for both the campaign and administration arms of TWS Tas.

I would appreciate an opportunity to continue to make a direct contribution to TWS Tas as Secretary of the Management Committee.

Tabatha Badger

I'm Tabatha Badger. I have been Convenor of TWS Tas for the past few months, after being a long-term supporter and volunteer for the organisation in years gone by. I am an avid bushwalker and wilderness photographer, director of the Restore Lake Pedder Campaign and on numerous eNGO committees. Professionally, I run a small business operating in the Conservation and Land management space, managing native bush reserves and remediating neglected land into community green spaces, for local government.

Bob Graham

Nomination from existing committee member received, but no biographical statement.