

Biographical Statements for The Wilderness Society Tasmania Committee Candidates at the 2024 AGM

[Steve Saunders](#)

[Bob Graham](#)

[Geoff Law](#)

[Val Noga](#)

[Kelly Foxcroft](#)

[Rocelyn Ives](#)

[Danny Carney](#)

Steve Saunders

I'm Steve Saunders, acting treasurer on the committee of management of The Wilderness Society Tasmania Incorporated (TWS Tas Inc). I've been a member of the committee for the last five years. Previously as a volunteer I had run the TWS Launceston shop for a few years. Although I only moved permanently to Tasmania nine and a half years ago, I have been a bushwalking visitor to Tasmania since 1974, when I first walked the Overland track, and I have been a regular visitor and bushwalker ever since. I have walked much of Tasmania's world's highest rated world heritage wilderness.

It made perfect sense to me to move to Tasmania on my retirement, and while here I've been pleased to contribute to the protection of the unique flora and fauna on this Island. I've joined in various TWS events and trainings. I've accumulated experience and knowledge about the natural heritage of Lutruwita/Tasmania and the issues and challenges involved in protecting that natural heritage.

I strongly believe that governmental and business policies should be science and evidence based. Also, there should be more consultation and community input into the use of state resources and landscapes, including forests. I am an avid science reader. I am the secretary of the local chapter of the Australian Skeptics Society, named the



Launceston Skeptics. There we promote critical thinking and mostly discuss dubious science claims, money-making scams and how government and religion could be improved.

I plan to continue my advocacy of the TWS mission to preserve our Tassie wilderness with its unique fauna and flora. They need the wilderness to survive and so do us humans, to maintain a happy, healthy society. As Henry David Thoreau said, "In wilderness is the preservation of the world".

Bob Graham

Bob Graham TWS Life Member, Nomination Statement TWS Tas 2024

The 1972 campaign to save Lake Pedder changed me from a conservationist to an environmental activist.

In 1976, I was one of the small handful of people who formed the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. I continued to do the hard work of establishing the organisation to ensure its continuation into the future. As a Tasmanian Conservation Trust Councillor, I secured funding for the first paid TWS activist and administrator.

My tertiary qualification is in Park Administration. I have studied botany, soil science and business administration.

Through the 1970s, I campaigned and helped secure the South West National Park and the Western Tasmanian World Heritage Area.

In 1982, I helped establish Friends of Wilderness. This is the trust that bought the first campaign centre and office for TWS, 130 Davey St, Hobart. I am still a unit holder of Friends of Wilderness.

After 40 years of use, the building is in sad need of maintenance and repairs. In 2022, I lobbied the board members of TWS Ltd, the major shareholders of the building, and secured the funds for a major restoration. This project, I instigated and have been overseeing since that time.

Working within TWS in the 1980s, I led the the successful Douglas Apsley National Park Campaign. I then served on the ministerial advisory committee. By negotiation, I, acquired land on behalf of TWS Tas, south of the Douglas Apsley National Park. It is land of strategic and high conservation value. It is still owned by TWS Tas.

During the 1990s, I worked towards the protection of the Wielangta Forest.



I have been the the TWS delegate to Forests and Forest Industry Strategy, negotiating with industry, government and unions.

I have convened Landcare and Coastcare committees.

In 2003, I personally searched for and discovered the 211 year old site of the French garden. This discovery proved the turning point in saving Recherche Bay.

In 2007 after 29 years, I retired from owning and managing the 2,000HA family farm.

I was a member of Tas SE National Parks advisory committee. My experience in managing land and preserving the natural environment are relevant to TWS. So too is my experience in negotiating with other parties.

After a lifetime of voluntary activism, bushwalking, and travelling extensively in many parts of Tasmania and mainland Australia, I believe that TWS needs to protect more wilderness. Countering tourism development inside already protected areas is paramount.

Geoff Law

I have been an active member of the Wilderness Society since 1981, with periods as Tasmanian Campaign Manager, most notably from 1999 to 2009.

Tasmania has one of the world's great wilderness areas, a place internationally recognised through the inscription of the 'Tasmanian Wilderness' (formal title) on the World Heritage List. The work of protecting this wild area is far from complete, with wilderness areas adjacent to the World Heritage property threatened by resource-extractive activities such as mining and logging as well as some undesirable tourism developments. Areas of particular concern include takayna / Tarkine and the Spero-Wanderer wilderness. Even within the World Heritage property, wilderness is under threat from intrusive tourism projects. I am also particularly concerned about the Tasmanian government's moves to open the so-called FPPF forests (in takayna / Tarkine and around Black Bluff, Ben Lomond, Blue Tier, the Eastern Tiers, Bruny and the Tasman Peninsula) to logging, even though the logging industry was handsomely compensated by the taxpayer for agreeing to do without these resources.

A wilderness is a large tract of natural country within which there are areas remote from modern forms of access and settlement, and which remain as functioning ecosystems after thousands of years of habitation by indigenous people. I believe the prime mission of TWS Tasmania is to defend the natural and cultural attributes - and the remoteness - of the above places. I try to support the staff of TWS Tasmania in their endeavours to carry out this mission.



Val Noga

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

I have been a supporter of TWS for the past 25 or so years. I have been/am a member and volunteer. From 2010 – 2019 I held the position of Convenor of the TWS Tas. Management Committee. During the previous two years, before 2010, I was a volunteer with TWS. During the 2023 AGM I was re-elected to the Management Committee and have acted as Convenor for the past 12 months. At a minimum, I think my history demonstrates my support for TWS Tas., its mission and the work that it does.

During the past 12 months, in the role of Convenor, I have:

- Planned and facilitated every meeting of the TWS Tas. Management Committee
- Participated in TWS Tas. policy development
- Worked with Steve Saunders (Treasurer) to oversee the local TWS Tas. budgeting process and its implementation
- Supported the State Campaign Manager and her team in the critical work that they do
- Participated in many governance activities and decisions
- Driven an agenda to strengthen the Committee and its support of Tasmanian campaign goals
- And, recently commenced participation 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 continuing to work with a Management Committee as it:

- Seeks to ensure that wilderness areas, not currently within the boundaries of the TWWHA, are incorporated into the TWWHA
- Supports staff in all their endeavours to protect our forests and the TWWHA
- Seeks to counter the pro-development activities of the State Government and profiteers in national parks and the TWWHA
- Actively supports the campaigners and organisers as they implement their actions from the Organisation Corporate Plan
- Scans the future and seeks to find even more effective ways of campaigning in order to negate those who seek to exploit our natural environment for personal or political gain



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 continue to make a direct contribution to TWS Tas. as a member of the Management Committee.

Kelly Foxcroft

I first engaged with TWS in late 2016 to support the protection of Tasmania's pristine wilderness and its amazing biodiversity. I began as a volunteer in the Launceston office during its transition from a shop into a thriving Campaign Centre. During 2017/18 I participated in the TWS Movement for Life Advanced Community Organiser training and later a five day Train the Trainer program in Sydney and eventually was able to assist in presenting training sessions for volunteers in the Launceston Centre.

During this time I was also privileged to be able to help organise many events and undertook a variety of duties including:

- Contributing to the planning/organising/running of three seasons of the very successful Winter Warmer film series in the Launceston Campaign Office.
- Planning and organising a volunteer-run mini-rally in City Park on Threatened Species Day.
- Recruiting/organising/assisting volunteers to engage with TWS.
- General running of the office (as an intern).
- Conducting phone banking and door-knocking during federal/state elections.

I first joined the TWS Tasmania Committee of Management in 2020 and am still excited to give my support TWS Tas., as it continues its important work in standing up for Tasmania/lutruwita's precious wilderness and wildlife.

In 2023 I completed a Diploma in Sustainable Living with the University of Tasmania and was able to formally expand my environmental/science knowledge base during this invigorating and varied course.

I currently work in an Administration Assistant role at the Launceston General Hospital, which includes undertaking meeting preparation and minute-taking duties.



I would relish the opportunity to continue my commitment to TWS Tasmania in the role of Secretary of the Committee of Management in 2024/2025.

Rocelyn Ives

I adhere to the philosophy of walking gently on the land, shown by my lifestyle choices and community activism activities in pursuit of the goal to protect our unique wild places.

I increasingly despair and throughout my years of activism have pursued stopping the money/ power-seeking drivers of government policies, which are about cutting it down, digging it up and shipping it out. I hold as many conversations as possible with everyone who will listen about man's domination of nature being 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 dominance of sentient species and destruction of their habitats. Forest logging must stop!

I taught for 40 years, gaining senior positions in schools as well as consultancy. A scholarship was granted to complete a post-graduate certificate at UTAS in Hobart. Throughout my career environmental awareness and projects were cornerstones of my teaching programs. I have worked, lived and experienced bushwalking in mountain and coastal areas throughout Tasmania; including my bushland patch at Liffey. I taught in the Northern Territory in 1972/73 as well as overseas. The former experience enabled first nations student programs and personal and professional exploration of places from The Kimberley, throughout the entire Northern Territory and The Flinders Ranges. Based at Katherine I ventured extensively in bushland and desert regions.

I travelled South Africa accompanying an environmental educator to attend an international environmental conference. In my latter career I provided Landcare and school funded pilot programs (Adopt a Farm and Adopt A Patch bushland), a range of NRM and Council supported projects with focus on soils, water and bushland health. School garden establishment with focus on permaculture practices and food security, leap-frog wetlands rehabilitation, parks and reserves, wetlands, night sky pollution and reduce, reuse and repurpose practices in school programs all were dominant projects in education programs I established in local communities. I gained two Landcare awards for innovative programs and Keep Australia Beautiful environment award tied with a NW school. I was awarded two Launceston council awards: one for the development with students of a wheelchair accessible nature reserve area.

Post retirement I was offered a contract at West Launceston Primary School with school focus caring for the bigger backyard (Cataract Gorge) and establishing a school vegetable patch. I was awarded by City of Launceston council an "Outstanding Achievement Award" in the category of "Environment, Conservation and Animal Welfare". From 2010 to 2018 I was a volunteer at The Cataract Gorge organising and conducting with other



professionals, programs about flora, fauna, geology, first nations culture, history, aquaculture life and water quality. I grew up at Wilmot in the foothills of Cradle Mountain campaigning and bushwalking in my youth.

I have had a life long commitment to defending Tasmania's wild places and have participated in numerous campaigns with The Wilderness Society. Our Wilderness World Heritage Areas are unique and precious and I will continue to fight for their protection.

Danny Carney

Note to Members: Nomination received 11/11/24 so can't be formally considered at the AGM, but may be considered for appointment by the Committee after the AGM.

My name is Danny Carney and I would like to nominate to join the management committee at the Wilderness Society Tasmania.

I have a decade of experience in politics and campaigning. I worked as the community organiser for the Wilderness Society for four years, as an organiser and campaigner with Environment Tasmania, a campaign manager for the Tasmanian Greens in both state and federal elections, and have started grassroots campaigns in forests under the banner of Forestry Watch, and other campaigns with GRANT and the Bob Brown Foundation. I've served on the board of Environment Tasmania and was the chair of Source Community Wholefoods for two years, overseeing a period of change within the organisation.

I'd like to join the management committee in order to continue to contribute to the strategic direction of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, and to support the staff in doing the best work they can. I see the next few years as being really critical to long term campaigns regarding native forest logging, but also in ushering a new generation of Wilderness Society staff and supporters.

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