The Wilderness Society Tasmania Inc 2025 AGM

Committee Candidate Biographical Statements

Geoff Law—for Ordinary Member
Bob Graham—for Ordinary Member
Val Noga—for Ordinary Member
Kate Johnston—for Convenor
Rocelyn Ives—for Ordinary Member
Steve Saunders—for Ordinary Member
Danny Carney—for Ordinary Member
Savannah Priti—for Secretary

Geoff Law—for Ordinary Member

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.

Geoff Law, October 2025

Bob Graham—for Ordinary Member

Bob Graham TWS Life Member, Nomination Statement TWS Tas 2025

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 1982,1 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 was 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. The restoration is now complete.

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 Weilangta 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 traveling 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.

Val Noga—for Ordinary Member

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. At the 2023 & 2024 AGM's I was re-elected to the Management Committee and have acted as Convenor for the past 18 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 18 months, in the role of Acting 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 oversight 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 it 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 endeavors 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 particularly 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.

Val Noga

October, 2025

Kate Johnston—for Convenor

I bring to the role of Convenor experience working on campaigns to protect Tasmania's wild places. As a member of the Executive of Fishers & Walkers Tasmania, I have helped in the campaign to save Halls Island, in the heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, from a totally misguided and unwanted tourism development. I also helped to establish the Tasmanian Wilderness Guides Association as a representative body for people working as guides in the Tasmanian nature-based tourism industry who advocate for sustainable ecotourism in Tasmania.

Through my employment working for both the NSW and Australian Governments, I have extensive experience in evidence-based policy design, strategic planning and organisational development. I have a strong commitment to collaborative, inclusive and democratic work practices and a belief in the importance of acting honestly, ethically and professionally in a way that sets an example for others.

Rocelyn Ives—for Ordinary Member

In my daily living I adhere to the philosophy of walking gently on the land. Through my lifestyle choices and community activism activities I have pursued the goal to protect our unique wild places and all life dependent on it.

I 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 to work for restoration and protections of nature.

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 needs action.

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

While teaching in the NT in the 1970s I conducted programs for first nations students where I learnt so much about custodianship of country and lore.

Travelling in South Africa with a well- known state environmental educator attending conferences and visiting school communities occurred in the late 1990s.

Environmental programs- Landcare and state funded pilot programs (Adopt a Farm and Adopt A Patch bushland), a range of NRM activities were a major focus of my teaching. 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, leapfrog wetlands rehabilitation, parks and reserves, night sky pollution and reduce, reuse and repurpose practices in school were dominant projects in education I established.

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.

I grew up near Cradle Mountain influenced by my mother and an aunt both environmental activists fighting for protection of the bush land and Tassie's wild places, from rampant and inappropriate developments. Hence Lake Pedder, The Franklin, Wesley Vale pulp mill and other campaigns were features of my early adulthood.

From 2012 to 2020, I was a volunteer at Launceston Council as a community leader, organising monthly public walks and talks at The Cataract Gorge, working with Aboriginal elders conducting walks on country. Knowledge of flora and fauna,

As a continuous member of TWS since the 1980s I have taken part in numerous campaigns including the Takayna, Tamar Valley Pulp Mill (arrested twice), forest activism, ocean, TTWHA protections and continue today to regularly participate in campaign meetings and actions. I have been a member of the Management committee for two years.

Rocelyn Ives

Steve Saunders—for Ordinary Member

I'm Steve Saunders, current member of 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. I was originally and still am a volunteer in TWS Launceston shop. I moved permanently to Tasmania ten 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.

Since moving to Tasmania, I have become acutely aware of the threat to Tasmania's unique flora and fauna. working with The Wilderness Society I have found to be the most effective way I can participate in the protection of our Tasmanian natural heritage. While working in TWS, I've made connections throughout the state, and gained experience and knowledge about our natural heritage and the issues and challenges involved in protecting it.

I strongly believe that governmental and business policies should be science and evidence based. Also, that 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. To quote Rachel Carson, "*'But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself*'.

Danny Carney—for Ordinary Member

I wish to stand for my second term as an ordinary member on the TWS Tasmania MC. I am an Associate Lecturer of Sustainability at the University of Tasmania and have a long standing connection to both TWS and the broader progressive movement in Tasmania. I have worked as an organiser and campaigner for TWS, Environment Tasmania, the Tasmanian Greens, and co-founded citizen science group Forestry Watch. I have served on the boards of TWS, ET, the Tasmanian Greens, and Source Eco Hub. I have extensive experience in campaigns, political analysis, and organisational management, all of which will be useful in service of the TWS MC.

Savannah Priti—for Secretary

Savannah is deeply committed to the protection and regeneration of wild places. Trained in ecology and environmental science, she has spent many years involved in grassroots environmental advocacy.

With a Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Savannah brings a steady, values-led approach to environmental governance, guided by a strong relational ethic and deep connection to the landscapes that have shaped her life and work.

Savannah's experience spans citizen science surveying, conservation volunteering, frontline action, and community organising across Victoria, New South Wales, and Lutruwita/Tasmania. Her ecological training enriches her work in biodiversity advocacy, and is intertwined with a deep-rooted devotion to people, place, and the more-than-human world.