

# SCENERY TO WILDERNESS

National Park Development in  
Tasmania, 1916-1992

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy

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June 1999

## Declaration

This thesis contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text.

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## ABSTRACT

National parks comprise a significant component of landscapes around the world. This thesis examines the development of the national park system in Tasmania from 1916 to 1992, with a particular emphasis on changing conservation motives and themes, and their expression in the reserve system.

Part One of this thesis traces the creation of national parks in Tasmania over three major periods of reservation activity: the early period (1916-1937); the middle period (1938-1970); and the late period (1971-1992). Historical evidence is used to identify: the reserve proponents and their motives; opposition to establishing reserves; the debates surrounding the creation of reserves; and the outcomes. A developmental narrative is given on the creation of national parks in each period, with a broader view of identifying the dominant conservation motives and themes and changes to these over time.

Part Two of this thesis examines the representation of three major conservation attributes in national parks established across each period of reserve development. The representation of biological diversity, scenery and wilderness in national parks is quantified for each period. The changing levels of representation of each of these attributes and their relative significance to each other over time are assessed.

The historical and mapping analyses both indicate that there have been shifting emphases in conservation motives and themes over time in the development of Tasmanian national parks. In both the early and middle periods the historical evidence suggests that scenery and general nature conservation were the dominant motives behind the creation of national parks, together with themes of tourism and recreation. In the late period there was a shift in emphasis towards wilderness conservation and more specific nature conservation as the dominant themes. Areas of high aesthetic value had greater proportionate representation in national parks during the early and middle periods than the late period. While national parks were established in wilderness areas during all periods, the representation of wilderness in

the reserve system increased dramatically during the late period. The representation of biological diversity was biased towards high altitude biological elements in the early and middle periods, and expanded to capture greater diversity during the late period.

There is thus a strong relationship between motives and patterns of elements captured in the reserve system. However, this has been tempered by opposition from those with economic interests in the State's natural resources, particularly the mining, forestry and hydro-electric industries.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My most heartfelt thanks goes to a wonderful supervisor - the singing Professor, Jamie Kirkpatrick. Thank you Jamie for your constant support, enthusiasm, advice, efficiency and great sense of humour. Thanks also for your confidence in my abilities and providing me with many opportunities over the years.

I am very grateful to the staff of the Archives Office of Tasmania, State Library of Tasmania and Records Office and Library of the Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment for all their assistance with my many requests. Thanks also to staff of the Wilderness Society of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Environment Centre for giving me virtually unrestricted access to their files and resource materials.

To all my friends, fellow students and staff of Geography and Environmental Studies, thanks for your support and acceptance of my sometimes odd behaviour, especially during the final stages of writing this thesis. A special thanks to Janet Smith, a wonderful friend and three hand reel partner, who helped me with some of the final production of this thesis. Many thanks also to Les Wood for meticulously reading so many pages and providing valuable criticism.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for their constant support throughout the many years of my studentship. Thank you for always encouraging me to learn and achieve.

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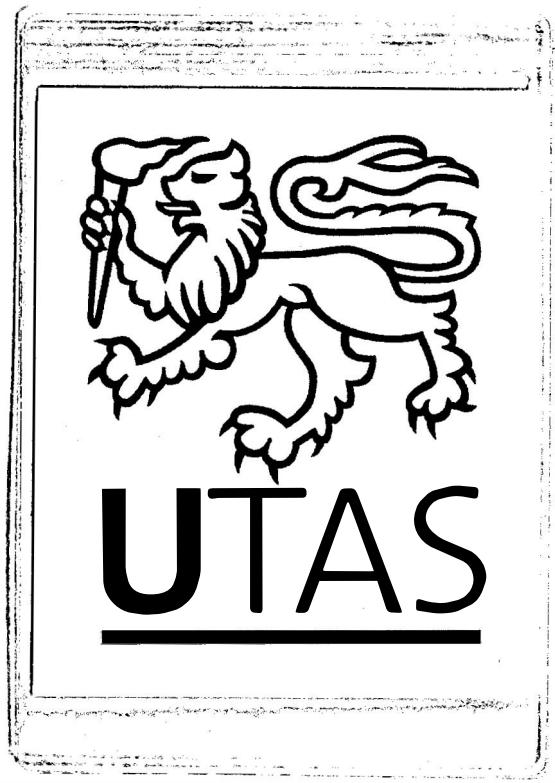
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## ABBREVIATIONS

ABPB	Animals and Birds Protection Board
ACE	Association of Consumers of Electricity
ACF	Australian Conservation Foundation
ANM	Australian Newsprint Mills
APM	Australian Paper Manufacturers
APPM	Australian Pulp and Paper Manufacturers
BHP	Broken Hill Pty Ltd
CMB	Cradle Mountain Reserve Board
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation
CWA	Country Womens Association
HEAT	Hydro Employees Action Team
HEC	Hydro-Electric Commission
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LPAC	Lake Pedder Action Committee
NPB	National Park Reserve Board
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWI	National Wilderness Inventory
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement (Tasmania-Commonwealth)
SPA	Scenery Preservation Act
SPB	Scenery Preservation Board
SWTAC	South-West Tasmania Action Committee
TCT	Tasmanian Conservation Trust
TPFH	Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Holdings
TWS	Tasmanian Wilderness Society
UTG	United Tasmania Group
WHA	World Heritage Area