



Across Tasmania, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy protects precious native animals and plants on its own reserves and in partnership with landholders. Through science and community support, we're looking after Tasmania's wild places forever.

Support us, supporting nature.

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TASMANIAN
LAND
CONSERVANCY

FLAT ROCK RESERVE

& CHAUNCY VALE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Flat Rock Reserve is located near Bagdad, in Tasmania's Southern Midlands, 40 km north of Hobart. This 455 ha reserve features a diversity of peppermint woodlands, blue gum forest and rock plate grasslands. It is home to threatened species including Tasmanian devils, wedge-tailed eagles, masked owls and clasp-leaf heath.

Protected by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) in 2006, Flat Rock Reserve connects Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (Chauncy Vale) and Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Areas, forming the largest continuous protected area in the Southern Midlands.

Flat Rock Reserve is managed collectively with Chauncy Vale, which is owned by the Southern Midlands Council. Chauncy Vale was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1946, and is one of the oldest private conservation areas in Tasmania.

The TLC thanks supporters for their generous donations that made the purchase and protection of Flat Rock Reserve possible.

GETTING THERE

Visitor access to Flat Rock Reserve is via Chauncy Vale. Take the Midlands Highway to Bagdad, turn east onto Chauncy Vale Road and continue until the road ends. Chauncy Vale is open to visitors daily from 8am until sunset, and access is by gold coin donation.

Self-contained campervans are permitted overnight at Chauncy Vale for a small fee. Visit chauncyvale.com for more information.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Flat Rock Reserve and Chauncy Vale are excellent places for bushwalking, bird watching, nature and history studies. Facilities onsite include barbecues, a picnic area with a shelter, a meeting room for hire, and toilets.

Heritage features of Chauncy Vale include Day Dawn Cottage, the home of children's author Nan Chauncy (1900-1970). For more heritage information and to visit Day Dawn Cottage, visit chauncyvale.com

BUSHWALKS

Winter Walk

- **Grade:** Easy (even track, gentle inclines)
- **Walking time:** Allow 30 mins (2 km loop from the Main Carpark)

The Winter Walk winds through white gum and wattle woodland. Keep an eye out for wallabies and echidnas. Return by turning left onto the Caves Track or turn right onto the Caves Track to extend your walk. This is a gentle and easy walk, but it is not suitable for wheelchair access.

Caves Track

- **Grade:** Easy (uneven track)
- **Walking time:** Allow 1 hr (4km return from the walker registration hut)

This loop walk gently climbs through woodlands up to the remarkable Browns Caves, then returns following Browns Caves Creek. Falcons and owls use the cliffs as roosting and nesting habitat, while wrens, robins and honeyeaters frequent the woodlands. The return walk along Flat Rock Track crosses the creek twice and passes by Eve's Bath, a series of sculpted rock pools.

Flat Rock Track

- **Grade:** Moderate (uneven track; long hill climb)
- **Walking time:** Allow 4 hrs (11 km return from the walker registration hut). Walkers must register.

Flat Rock Track leads to the ridgeline at Flat Rock Reserve, rewarding walkers with great views of kunanyi /Mt Wellington to the south and Mt Field to the west from the Western Lookout. This walk also features the contrasting geology of the area: the sandstone cliffs of Chauncy Vale and the dolerite of Flat Rock Reserve. Return the via same route.

Eastern Lookout - side track

- **Grade:** Moderate (uneven track)
- **Walking time:** Allow an extra 30 mins (2 km return)

From the Western Lookout junction, follow the Lookout Track traversing through stringy bark, white gum and white peppermint woodland. The peaks of Maria Island can be seen from the Eastern Lookout on a clear day. Return via the same route.

Guvy's Lagoon Loop - side track

- **Grade:** Moderate (uneven track; short, moderate hill climb)
- **Walking time:** Allow an extra 30 mins (2km). Walkers must register.

Guvy's Lagoon is an ephemeral water hole filled via a natural spring. The Guvy's Lagoon Loop walk provides views of the cliffs above Browns Caves. Guvy's Lagoon can also be a destination in its own right: allow 2.5 hours (5.5km return) from walker registration hut.

Wombat Woodland Walk

- **Grade:** Easy (even track)
- **Walking time:** Allow at least 30 mins (1.5km loop from the walker registration hut)

This is a nature and adventure walk especially for children. There are sculptures of local wildlife and cues to encourage kids to observe and investigate bushland inhabitants. Join Flat Rock Track for the return trip, via a rope bridge crossing of Browns Cave Creek.

TREADING LIGHTLY

- To avoid the spread of the root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and environmental weeds, please clean any soil and debris off your shoes and vehicle before visiting.
- Please take all rubbish with you.
- Leave behind what you find – all wildlife, natural materials and historic artefacts are protected.
- Do not feed wildlife as it makes them sick.
- Firearms, dogs, cats and other pets are not permitted.
- Fires are only permitted in established sites at Chauncy Vale. Fires are not permitted when a Total Fire Ban has been declared.

STAYING SAFE

- Bring food and water with you.
- Walk within your capabilities - choose a suitable route and stay on formed tracks and trails.
- Let someone know your plans and notify them of your safe return. Please sign the logbook in the walker registration hut before departing on longer walks.
- Mobile phone coverage is limited in some areas.
- Children should be supervised at all times.
- Flat Rock Reserve and Chauncy Vale may be closed on days of elevated fire danger.
- Weather conditions are changeable. Make sure you have adequate clothing and equipment for the conditions. Check local forecasts and be aware of warnings for high winds or flooding. It is your responsibility to take adequate precautions and this may mean changing your plans to avoid dangerous conditions.
- Using this area exposes you to hazards that occur in the natural environment, including uneven and slippery surfaces, cliff faces, snakes, ants and other insects. It is your responsibility to be prepared and to manage the risks that you may encounter.



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Phytophthora cinnamomi spp. Photo: Andy Townsend

