

Crag Stewardship Program



CLIMBERS CLUB
OF TASMANIA



1. Introduction

The Crag Stewardship program is an initiative of the Climbers Club of Tasmania (CCT). It seeks to ensure the club maintains a close awareness of crag issues in Tasmania, and to facilitate efficient communication among the climbing community.

Within the climbing community there is a deep respect for the shared stories and landscapes in which we engage. Visiting these landscapes is immensely valuable to our community. This access creates strong respect and a sense of responsibility for the environmental and cultural preservation of these areas. The Crag Stewardship program aims to encourage awareness of environmental and cultural heritage protection by providing current and evolving information on climbing areas.

The increase in popularity of climbing has highlighted the need for close monitoring of any environmental and social impacts of our activity. Sometimes events are observed by climbers but not fed back to the CCT. These communication failures can cause missed opportunities for maintaining key relationships and access. The Stewardship program seeks to improve the flow of information and also the CCT’s ability to take appropriate action. Appropriate actions can be supported through climbing community working groups, such as Crag Care and the Cultural Heritage Working Group, and providing these groups with Crag Steward access may be a useful independent reference point for these groups.

1.1. Document Control

| Version | Date | Changes |
|---------|----------|--|
| V3.4 | 2/3/2024 | Prepared and authorised by the CCT committee, after consultation with the climbing community and other stakeholders. |

1.2. About the CCT

The CCT is an incorporated association representing climbers in Tasmania. It was initially formed in 1965 and reconstituted in 2010.

The objectives of the CCT are:

- **Communication**—fostering better communication between Tasmanian climbers, including maintaining guidebooks.
- **Policy**—making decisions on issues, publishing codes of conduct, and other standards.
- **Access and Advocacy**—enabling access to climbing areas and representing climbers' views to public and private landowners, government, Aboriginal representatives and other organisations.
- **Maintenance and Environmental Work**—track and crag work, environmental and heritage protection works, signage, and route maintenance. Some of these tasks are managed through our affiliate organisation Crag Care.



To contact the CCT:

- Visit www.thesarvo.com and follow the links to the CCT page.
- Via an email to cct@climbersclubtas.org.au.

1.3. Disclaimer

Rock Climbing is a dangerous sport. You may be killed or severely injured while climbing. The CCT does not in any way take responsibility for your safety. Use of any climbing area and any fixed anchors found there is entirely at your own discretion and risk. It's your own personal responsibility to acquire the necessary equipment, skills and techniques to limit the inherent risks in the activity.

Cover photo: Elinor Rose on Thunder Birds Are Go (24). Photo by Mike Blowers.



2. Terms of Reference: the CCT Crag Steward program

2.1. Key criterion for Stewardship status

Crag Steward positions are best occupied by local climbers who have detailed, longstanding and ongoing knowledge of a specific climbing area, and have demonstrated a commitment to looking after the cliff and representing the climbing community. Sometimes a group of people is required to satisfy these considerations.

2.2. Aims

- To establish a point of contact for climbers (visiting or local) with regard to environmental, cultural or social sensitivities around specific cliffs.
- Provide a known contact point for the CCT, and/or Crag Care, when making decisions around crag management.
- Ensure up-to-date information about evolving issues at cliffs is relayed to the CCT for timely and appropriate management.
- Establish and maintain relationships with other stakeholders, such as land managers.

2.3. Process of Election and Notification of Crag Steward Bearers

- Crag Steward nomination and election is informal.
 - Any active climber can nominate, through the CCT, another active climber to be a Crag Steward.
 - Once nominated, Stewards can be elected ad hoc by the CCT committee after discussion and vote at a meeting.
 - Crag Steward positions should not be tabled at the AGM.
 - Stewardship should be considered a 5-year tenure, which can renew indefinitely.
 - If Stewards wish to hand on their role it is their responsibility to nominate an alternative Steward to the CCT committee and handover their knowledge to the new Steward, noting current and important issues. These communications are to be readily stored as an email chain for future reference (see: the Steward email system).
 - If Stewards are reported to be acting outside their role, without making a net positive contribution, then the CCT committee reserves the right to re-assign the role.
- Multiple Stewards can be assigned to larger climbing areas.



2.4. Distribution of Crag Steward contact details

- Each crag will have a non-personal email address assigned (e.g. [Crag]@climbersclubtas.org.au) linked to the relevant Stewards' email. Stewards should use reply all when replying to any queries to allow a good record of communications on the crag email account. Please note, replies will come from your personal email address. A phone number may be provided to thesarvo/other guides when requested by the Steward.
- Up-to-date Stewards and contact details are stored on the CCT's OneDrive account. This list will be maintained for ease communications by the CCT board.
- Explanatory text, similar to this, should be displayed in the Steward/introduction section of thesarvo and the Crag:

“Rock climbers please contact the Cliff Steward (email address and/or phone) if you have any queries or concerns regarding social or environmental impacts of rock climbing at this crag.

- *Do not email regarding general travel, seasonal advice, or lost property - this is not the Steward's role.*
- *If you have important safety information to communicate (e.g. risks due to recent and large rock falls) please also consider updates on thesarvo forum, facebook group and/or online guidebooks as appropriate.*
- *Please copy in cct@climbersclubtas.org.au if you feel you have a high level concern which may imminently impact the crag or climbing community.*

Non-climbers, other users, land managers: please also contact cct@climbersclubtas.org.au if you have important climbing related queries at this location.”

2.5. Roles and Responsibilities of Crag Stewards

1. Stewards' key role is to act as a line of communication between the climbing community, the CCT and land managers. The Steward should speak to the CCT committee and Crag Care if they have concerns about access or environmental concerns affecting your crag, including:
 - 1.1. Cultural Heritage concerns have arisen
 - 1.2. The CCT cultural heritage Officer must be involved in any initial discussion regarding cultural heritage, and this can be a particularly sensitive area.
 - 1.3. Significant vegetation degradation, erosion, raptor breeding pairs
 - 1.4. Significant conflict arising with other user groups
 - 1.5. Fixed anchor maintenance concerns
 - 1.6. New route activity is proposed or completed that is out of character with accepted local ethical standards



2. Be knowledgeable about the crag(s) you oversee
 - 2.1. Stewards should aim to visit the relevant crag(s) at least once per season, although this may be less for remote cliffs.
 - 2.2. For cliffs on private land, Stewards should meet the land-owner and managers for their area on becoming a Crag Steward, and make it clear to the manager what their role entails, as well as the limitations of the role.
 - 2.3. Stewards should aim to meet any access related key persons (e.g. land owners/parks officers) once a season, if appropriate, to maintain relationships and proactively detect any concerns or access issues.
 - 2.4. Stewards should aim to provide a brief written summary (email) to any new Steward, cc'ing in the CCT committee.
 - 2.5. Stewards should be available via email to the climbing community as a point of contact regarding issues at the crag they oversee. Public emails will be directed to [crag]@climbersclubtas.org.au. See 'section 3' for specific crag emails.
3. Update the CCT committee of any significant issues around their crag, such as:
 - 3.1. Changes or potential changes to access.
 - 3.2. Controversies in the climbing community.
4. Stewards should:
 - 4.1. Try to avoid becoming over-involved in interpersonal conflicts or ethical debates involving your crag.
 - 4.2. Share important decisions, such as those which may influence access, with the CCT rather than making such decisions alone.
 - 4.3. Recognise crag ethics are managed by the community of climbers rather than by the Steward.
 - 4.4. Acknowledge that the climbing community may hold special respect for your views due to your role, but the Steward role itself offers no power of governance over the cliffs or climbs.
 - 4.5. Recognise that new route activity is not managed by the Steward. Instead refer to existing guidance provided by CCT and land management policies.
 - 4.5.1. It is reasonable to provide advice to new routers if they ask for such advice.
 - 4.5.2. It is also reasonable to raise concerns to the CCT about new route activity if necessary.
5. If issues come to light at the relevant crag, the Steward should gather information, and:
 - 5.1. Update fixed anchor replacement lists on thesarvo where necessary.
 - 5.2. Update thesarvo route descriptions where necessary.



- 5.3. Contact the CCT committee to describe the issue.
- 5.4. Where appropriate, the Steward should propose an action plan to the CCT committee for discussion. Once a plan is agreed upon, the CCT or Crag Care will generally be responsible for coordinating actions rather than the Steward. The Steward may still be involved if they are the best person for certain communications, e.g. if they have good rapport with private land managers.
6. The CCT as a whole, rather than the Steward, is responsible for cliff maintenance and access negotiations, and the following is a guide for Stewards:
 - 6.1. Activities such as weed control and track maintenance fall under the Crag Care group.
 - 6.2. Other environmental management tasks, including fixed anchor management, are coordinated by the CCT.
 - 6.3. The physical work of updating fixed anchors is a responsibility of the climbing community as a whole rather than that of the Stewards, but the Steward should notify the community via the CCT of the need for such work.
 - 6.4. Negotiations around access with land managers should be managed by the CCT committee, usually in conjunction with the relevant Steward.
 - 6.5. The CCT committee, or sub-committee may approach the Steward for their opinion regarding management issues relevant to the crag, but are not obliged to do so for minor, nor for urgent issues.
 - 6.6. CCT committees are encouraged to seek advice from Crag Stewards prior to important events or developments that may influence climbing at the relevant crags, in particular meetings regarding cultural.
7. In communications, such as queries directed to the Steward's email, be a courteous and steady advocate for responsible crag behaviour and maintaining climbing access.
8. Maintaining access is everyone's responsibility

2.6. Process of Review

The Crag Stewardship program should be subject to review prior to each AGM.



3. Crag Email Addresses

For unlisted crags, the CCT should be the point of communication.

| Crag | Crag email |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Mt Wellington | kunyani@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Bruny Island | brunyisland@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Northwest Bay River crags | northwestbayriver@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Rocky Tom | rockytom@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Hobart Craglets | hobartcraglets@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Kempton Quoin | kemptonquoin@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Tasman Peninsula | tasmanpeninsula@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| South and Southwest bouldering | S.SWbouldering@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| South Arm | southarm@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Sand River | sandriver@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Handsome Crag | handsomecrag@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Lowdina | lowdina@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Freycinet | freycinet@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Ben Lomond | benlomond@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Brady's Lookout | bradyslookout@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Cluan Tiers | cluantier@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Fingal Valley | fingalvalley@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Hillwood | hillwood@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Flinders Island | flindersisland@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Mt Blackwood | mtblackwood@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| North and South Esk River Crags | eskriver@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Northern Bouldering | northernbouldering@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Doctors Rocks | doctorsrocks@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Mersey Bluff | merseybluff@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Sisters, Rocky Cape | sistersbeachrockycape@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Mt Roland | mtroland@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Mersey Cliff | mersey@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| West coast coastal crags | westcoast@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| West and South West mountains | southwest@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Western bouldering | westbouldering@climbersclubtas.org.au |
| Oatlands | oatlands@climbersclubtas.org.au |