



TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY
AUTHORITY
ISSN 0039-9795

MONDAY 25 MAY 2015

No. 21 518

Government Notice

PROCLAMATION

I, PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER, Member of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, in exercise of the Royal Prerogative, and acting with the advice of the Executive Council, do by this my Proclamation, declare that the animal *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Boitard, 1841) known as the **TASMANIAN DEVIL** be adopted as the Animal Emblem of the State of Tasmania.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the State of Tasmania at Hobart in Tasmania this twenty-second day of May Two thousand and fifteen.

C. WARNER, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,

MATTHEW GROOM, Minister For Environment, Parks and Heritage.



John Gould (1804 - 1881), Tasmanian Devil, *Sarcophilus harrisi*, 1846. Hand coloured lithograph, 37.5 x 54.9. Transferred from the old Zoology collection, 1991. AG5434. Collection: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

TASMANIAN ANIMAL EMBLEM

The Tasmanian devil, *Sarcophilus harrisi* (Boitard, 1841) is the world's largest remaining carnivorous marsupial (since the presumed extinction of the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger). It is found in the wild only in Tasmania where it is widespread. Although once common, it is now a threatened species.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal word for the devil is *purinina*. Its scientific name, *Sarcophilus* means 'flesh-loving' and *harrisi* comes from George Harris, the surveyor and naturalist who described the species in 1808. It was given the name 'devil' by early European settlers who were frightened by its unfamiliar night-time calls.

The devil has a stocky build with a relatively large head, rounded ears and long whiskers. Its fur is black, usually with white markings on chest and rump. Adult male devils weigh around 9-12 kg and adult females 6-9 kg.

Devils live in many terrestrial habitats in Tasmania including rural landscapes and the urban fringe but are most abundant in open eucalypt forests, woodlands, wetlands and coastal scrub. They make dens in wombat burrows, log piles and caves, and under boulders and buildings, but also dig their own burrows. They are nocturnal, being active for about eight hours a night but often venture out during the day to lie in the sun.

Devils are hunters and specialist scavengers. They have large robust canine teeth, a wide gape and immense bite strength, excellent hearing and keen sense of smell. They prey on mammals such as pademelons, possums, wallabies, wombats, and echidnas, as well as reptiles, birds and invertebrates. They prefer fresh meat and consume the tough parts of animals, including the skin, fur and all but the large bones, and can eat up to 40 percent of their own body weight in a meal.

Although solitary, devils are highly social animals, coming together to feed and breed, when most fighting and vocalizations occur. Feeding socially assists them to break up large prey items. They have prominent claws and flexible feet and limbs, useful for grasping, digging and climbing. They normally use a slow loping gait but can reach speeds up to 35 km/hr in short bursts and often travel distances of 10-20 km in a night.

Devils breed once a year. Females have a rear-opening pouch and four teats. After a short pregnancy, they give birth to many tiny young but raise a maximum of four, which have successfully crawled to the pouch and attached to a teat. The young remain attached to the teat for most of their four month pouch life, after which they are left in the den while their mother guards and hunts. They are gradually weaned and reach independence at around nine months of age. In healthy populations, devils can live for seven years.

Since the mid-1990s, devils have suffered a major threat due to an unusual transmissible cancer known as Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), which is lethal and spread primarily by direct contact between devils. Signs of DFTD were first noticed in 1996 in Tasmania's North East and the disease has since spread across most of the State, causing a drastic decline in devil numbers. As a result of the disease epidemic, the Tasmanian devil was classified as endangered in 2008.

A national conservation program, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, was established in 2003. By 2012, an insurance population of over 600 captive devils had been established to guard against the species' extinction. Conservation efforts are now focussed on the recovery of the devil in the wild, with the reintroduction of devils into isolated, disease-free and specially managed landscapes.

Since the loss of the thylacine, the devil has assumed a role as Tasmania's top predator, a position shared with eagles. Devils are fundamental to the stability of the Tasmanian ecology. They play a vital role in competing with introduced predators such as feral cats, helping to balance the numbers and health of prey species, and removing injured, diseased and dead animals from the environment.

PROMISSORY OATHS ACT 2015

A PROCLAMATION

By Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Kate Warner,
Member of the Order of Australia, Governor in and
over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the
Commonwealth of Australia.

I, PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER, Member of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia DO by this my Proclamation announce and declare that under and by virtue of the power vested in me by section 3 of the *Promissory Oaths Act 2015*, I have this day authorised SHANE GERARD DONNELLY, Clerk of the House of Assembly of the said State, on my behalf to administer to Members of the House of Assembly the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by that Act to be taken and subscribed by Members of the said Assembly under section 30 of the *Constitution Act 1934* before voting or acting therein.

GIVEN under my hand at Hobart in Tasmania on 22 May 2015.

C. WARNER, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM E. F. HODGMAN, Premier.

PROMISSORY OATHS ACT 2015

A PROCLAMATION

By Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Kate Warner,
Member of the Order of Australia, Governor in and
over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the
Commonwealth of Australia.

I, PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER, Member of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia DO by this my Proclamation announce and declare that under and by virtue of the power vested in me by section 3 of the *Promissory Oaths Act 2015*, I have this day authorised DAVID THOMAS PEARCE, Clerk of the Legislative Council of the said State, on my behalf to administer to Members of the Legislative Council the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by that Act to be taken and subscribed by Members of the said Council under section 30 of the *Constitution Act 1934* before voting or acting therein.

GIVEN under my hand at Hobart in Tasmania on 22 May 2015.

C. WARNER, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM E. F. HODGMAN, Premier.

Disclaimer

Products and services advertised in this publication are not endorsed by the State of Tasmania and the State does not accept any responsibility for the content or quality of reproduction. The Contractor reserves the right to reject any advertising material it considers unsuitable for government publication.

Copyright

The Tasmanian Government Gazette and Tasmanian State Services are subject to the Copyright Act. No part of any material published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette or the Tasmanian State Services Notices may be reproduced except in accordance with the Copyright Act.

Printed by Mercury Walch Pty Ltd under authority of the Government of the State of Tasmania