



After a cool burn February 2014



Regeneration December 2014

*A wildlife camera on the trail records animal life. Look out for scats and tracks.*



The Patrula Trail was developed with the support of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office **Climate Connect Grant**.

Students from Foundation Skills, Hobart College with teacher Peter Hicks, managed weeds, trialed the trail and made the signage.

Thank you to the Tasmania Fire Service, Hobart City Council, Mt Nelson Bushcare and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.



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#### Sustainability Learning Centre

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## LIVING WITH FIRE THE PATRULA TRAIL

*pungkatina patrula tapilti*

*Bushland Fire Trail*

Sustainability Learning Centre

Mt Nelson





Patrula means fire in palawa kani, the Aboriginal language. The Trail aims to raise awareness of the effects of fire in bushland. Our eucalypt forests rely on fire for regeneration and provide habitat hollows for wildlife. A warmer drier climate increases the risk of more frequent and intense fires which can be a threat to property and lives. Fire is both our friend and foe.

This trail explores an area in Mt Nelson bushland which had a cool burn similar to an Aboriginal mosaic burn.

Find out about Aboriginal fire management and plant adaptations on the trail hot spots where information can be scanned with QR codes.

The trail is a one kilometre loop over established tracks.



## Patrula Trail

A good place to begin is the yarnning circle at the Sustainability Learning Centre.

**Living with Fire** Discuss Aboriginal ways of knowing. Some tribes had 115 words for fire. Bushfires are seen as a regenerative force, for food, keeping the country open so it was easy to move through, protecting special places. "The country tells you when to burn".



**Site 1** Start of trail near the bus stop.



**Site 2** Introduction to the Mt Nelson landscape: In the Aboriginal way we will learn as we go, with new knowledge and fresh observations. Get to know your country.



**Site 3** The regenerative force of fire: There was a cool control burn here on 5 Feb 2014. This copies the Aboriginal mosaic burning. Look for lignotubers which have sprouted since the fire.



**Site 4** Hollow Tree: Burnt stumps provide hiding places for animals.



**Site 5** Vampire plant: Look for the climbing plant, Dodder. *Cuscata tasmanica* Look for the epicormic shoots on the Peppermint gum, *Eucalyptus pulchella* which have sprouted after the fire.



**Site 6** Open grassland: Compare the dense vegetation on the west side with the grassy area near the road. Turn to the left and follow the track back.



**Site 8** She Oaks: *Allocasuarina* Check the fallen seed.



**Site 9** Fire and the Aboriginal culture.



Look out for stone tools! Leave them where they are.



**Site 10** Blue Gum: Look for the big gum nuts under the big blue gum tree *Eucalyptus globulus* ready to disperse.



**Site 11** Find north: Which direction would a bush fire come from? Why is this garden waste dangerous? The car park provides a fire break. Taste the peppermints.



**Site 12** Regeneration: Lots of native cherries, *Exocarpus compressiformis*, a parasitic plant, have sprouted.

**Site 13** Look back: What did you find? What did you learn about the effects of fire?