

A Proposal for an Alpine Visitors Centre / Day Shelter

Mt Field National Park

Presentation to Hon Will Hodgman MHA

Minister for Tourism and Premier of Tasmania

By Dr Peter Davis, President Southern Tasmanian Ski Association

26 February 2016

Background

- Mt Field National Park is Tasmania's oldest National Park, and has World Heritage listing. It is the gateway to the Southwest World Heritage area.
- Mt Field has a superb alpine area which provides walking year round, and downhill and cross country skiing in the Winter.
- It is the most accessible park for people living in or visiting the State's capital. It attracts large numbers of interstate and international tourists, and is well used by the local community.
- There is an urgent need for an Alpine Visitors Centre and Public Day Shelter at Mt Field.



Current Facilities Inadequate

- A key attraction of the Mt Field National Park is the Tarn Shelf and Alpine plateau.
- Visitors who walk up to the plateau or the ski fields expect to find at least basic facilities.
- The present day shelter consists of a shipping container, with limited safety or comfort for visitors – particularly those with families.
- Ski Patrol (first aid) is provided from a second shipping container.
- This is a very poor solution for one of Tasmania's iconic destinations, a key part of Tasmania's World Heritage tourism offer.



Current toilet and visitor shelter facilities do not meet any reasonable tourist standard

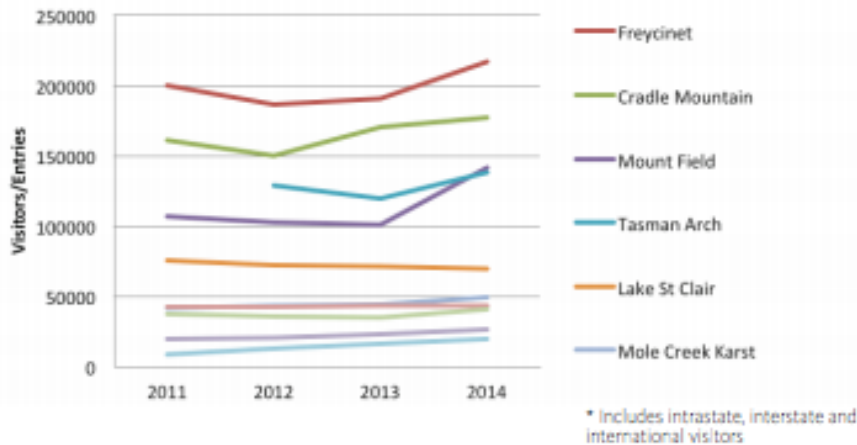




Growth Opportunity

- Mt Field is the fastest growing National Park in the state
 - Growth was 39% in the 2013/14 year, bringing visitor numbers to a record 141,000.
 - This record has just been eclipsed in 2015, with a further growth to 162,000.
 - At present only 1/8 of these visitors make the trip up the Lake Dobson Road.

Figure 2. Visitors* to selected park sites 2011-2014 (YE June)

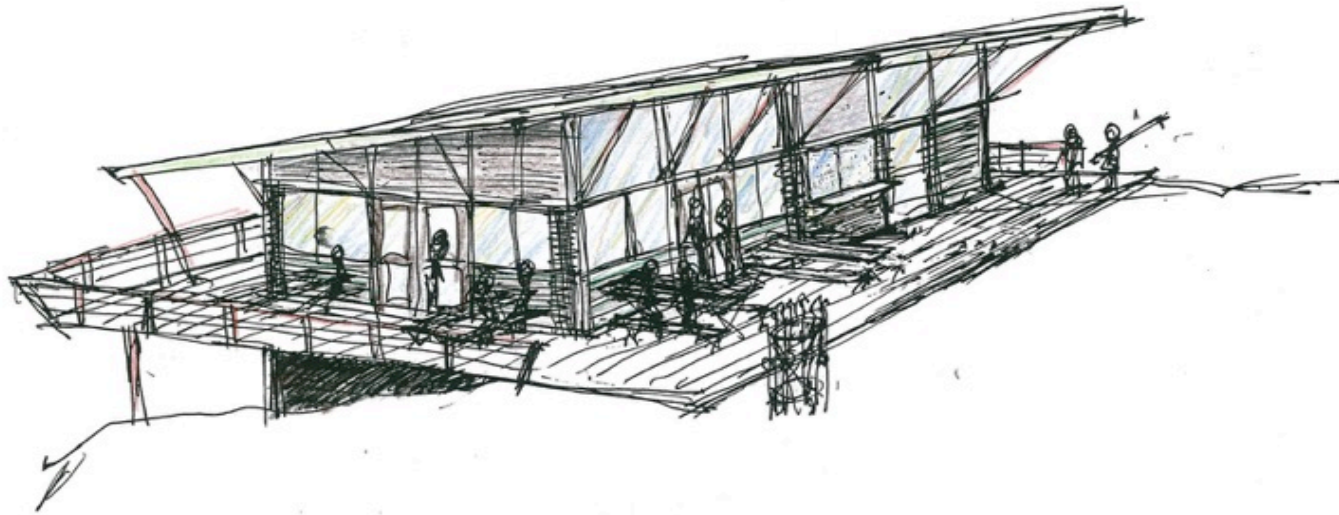


- A purpose-built alpine visitors centre at Mt Field National Park will act as a destination in its own right, and will encourage increased visitation, and longer visitor stays in the Derwent Valley.

A Project Ready to Go

- The proposal for an Alpine Visitors Centre at Mt Mawson in the Mt Field National Park is ready for immediate development – “shovel ready” – and has been mooted as far back as 2002.
 - The access road goes to the site
 - The site is cleared - there was a pre-existing building on the site, demolished in early 2013
 - Preliminary design concepts have been developed by the community, and refined by Parks.
- Strong community support & extensive consultation completed
 - Current lack of facilities is not acceptable to community or tourists
- Construction can be commenced this year if funds are made available. Cost depends on extent of facilities included in the final design – but a budget of \$500 -750K would give a quality outcome.
- Understand Parks have appointed a project manager, but no public announcements yet.

A Purpose-Built Alpine Visitors Facility – proposal developed by STSA



Perspective Sketch

Scale NTS

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Mt Mawson Ski Fields Day Shelter

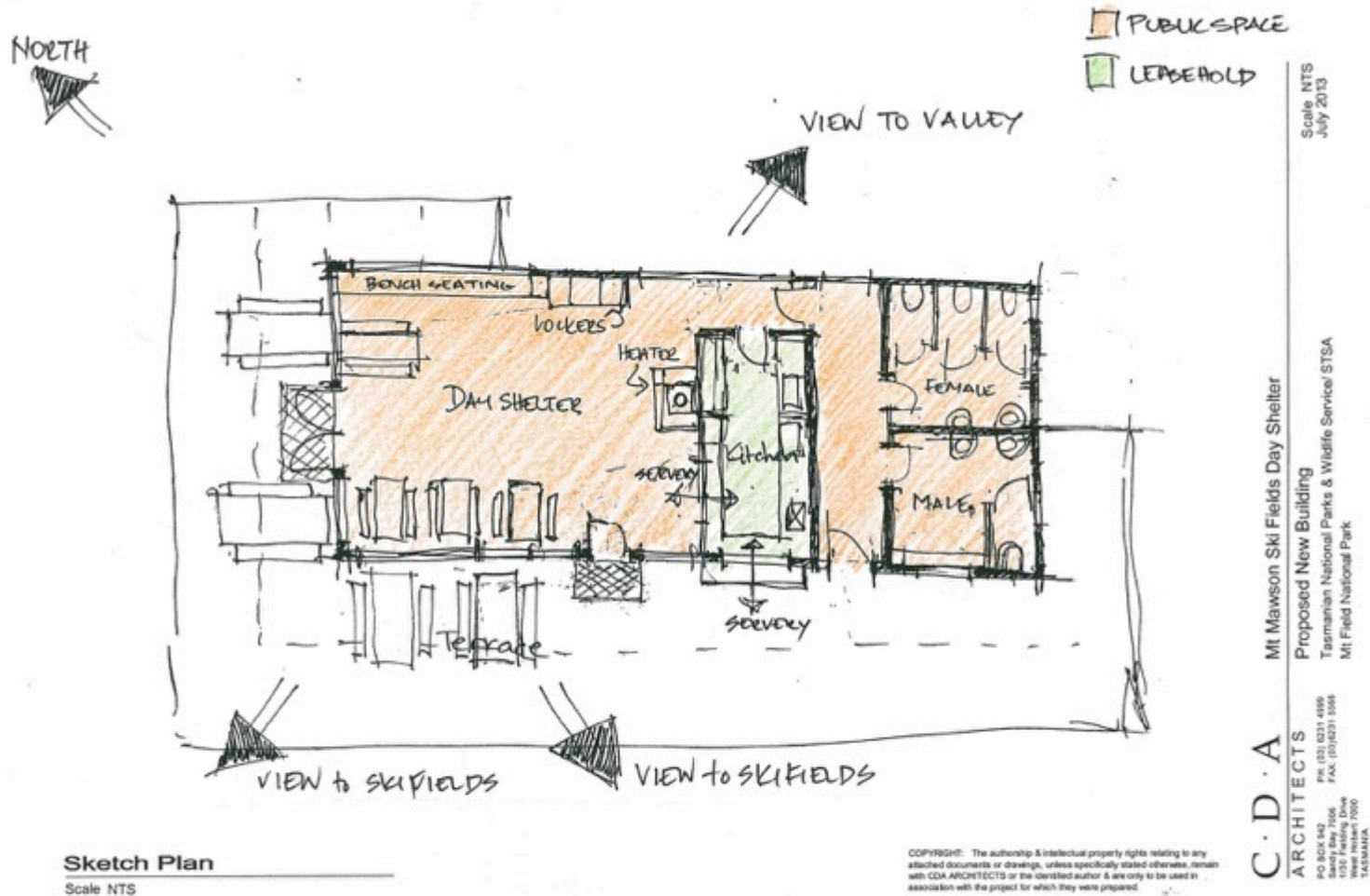
Proposed New Building

Tasmanian National Parks & Wildlife Service STSA
Mt Field National Park

Scale NTS
July 2013

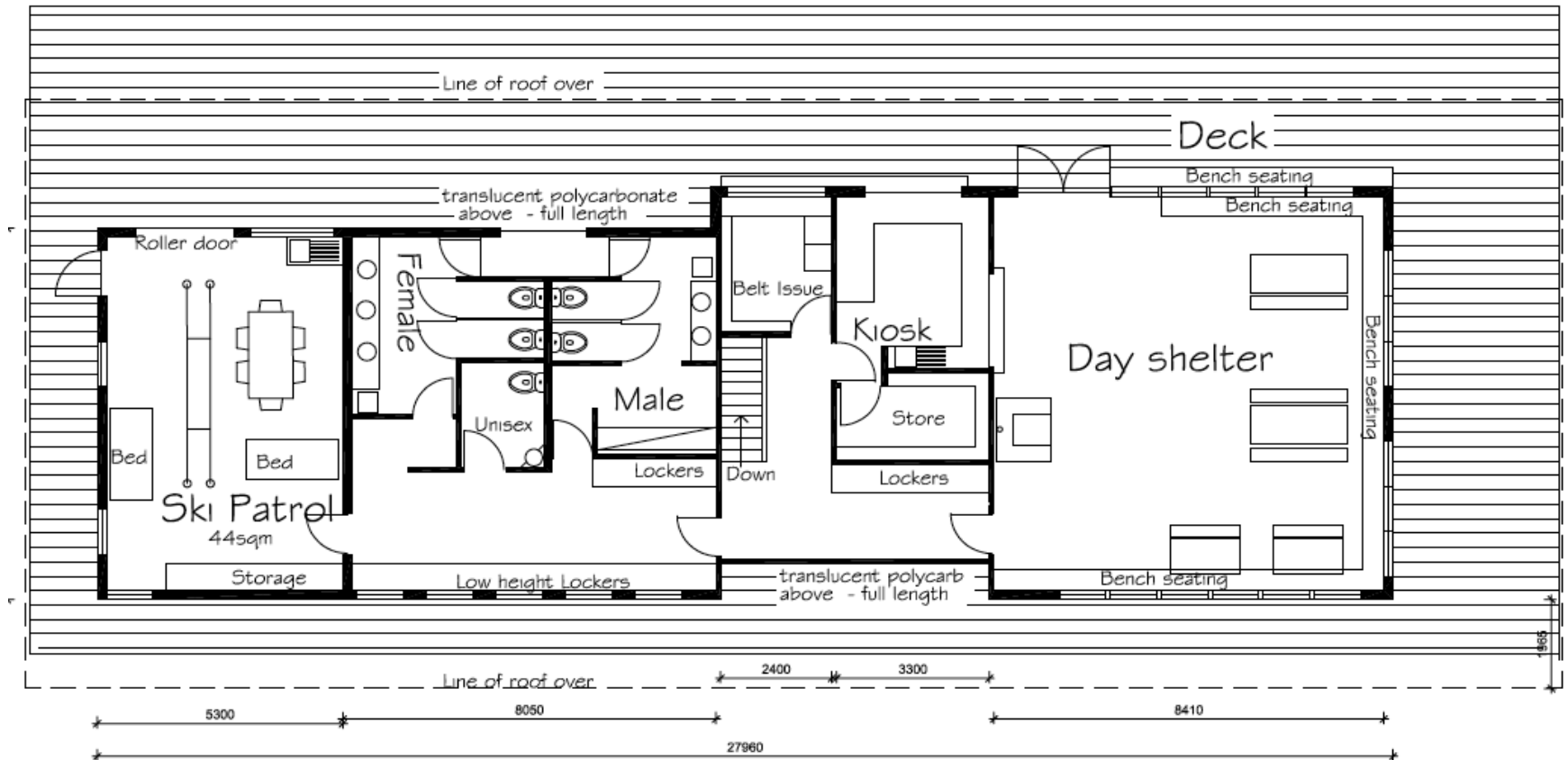
WD01

Initial Simple Floor Plan Concept

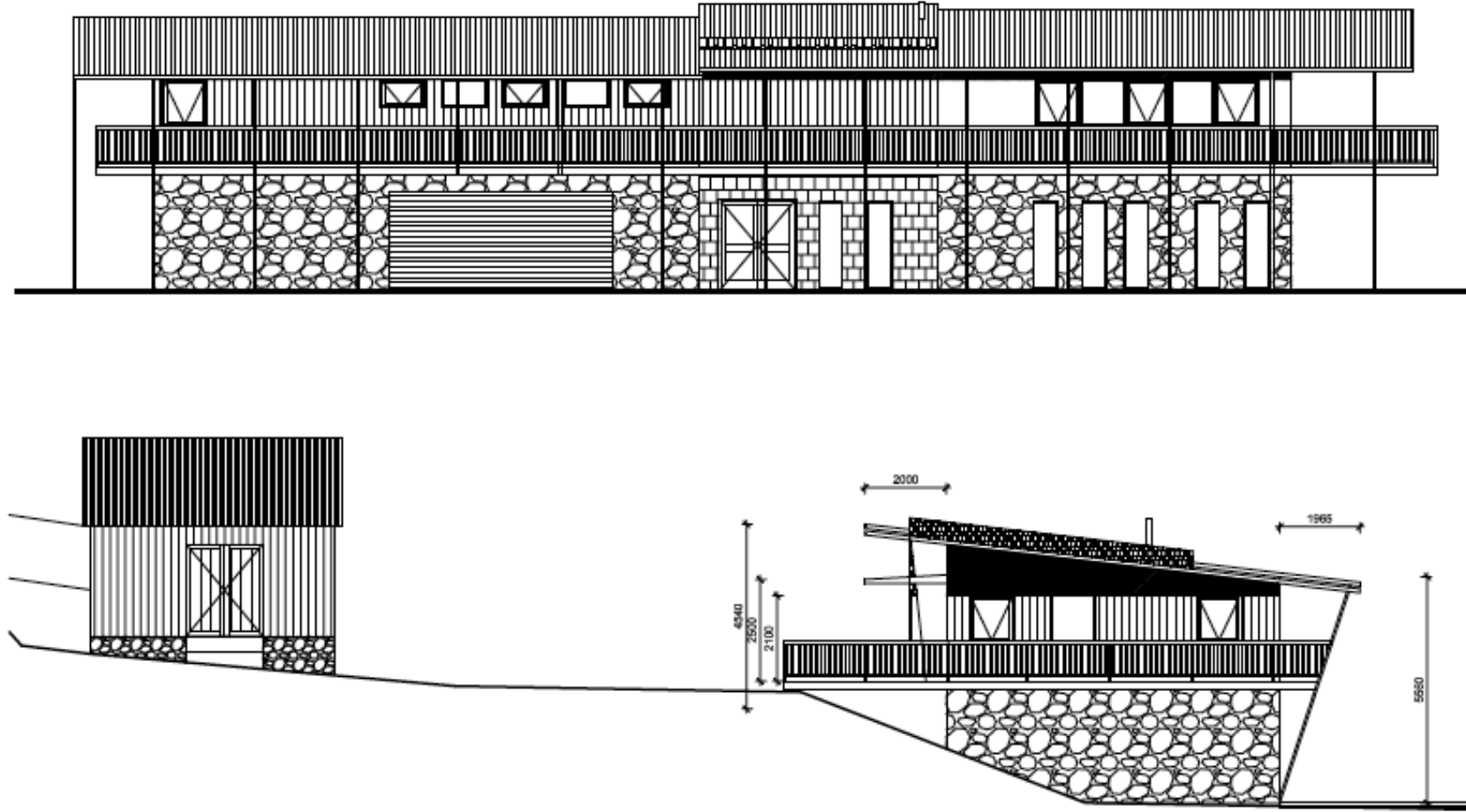


WD02

Design work advanced to assist Parks in their planning...



Construction uses natural materials



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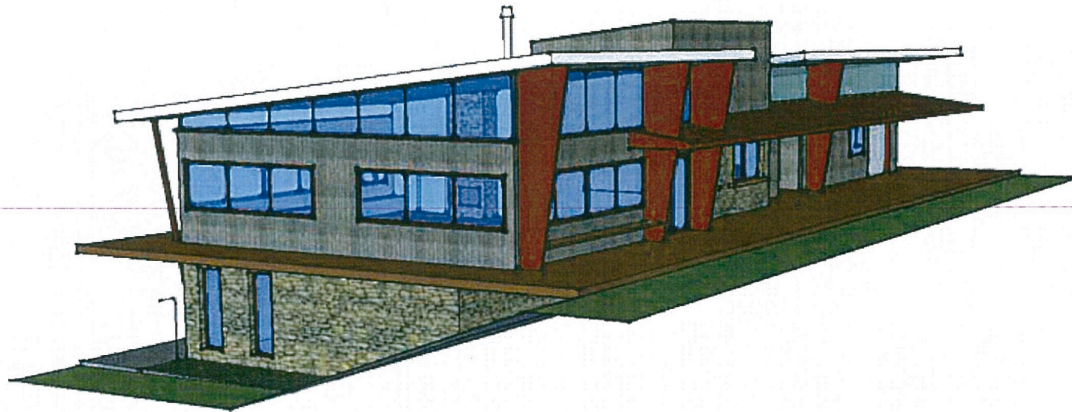
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Mt Field Ski Fields Day Shelter

Proposed New Building
Tasmanian National Parks & Wildlife Service/STSA
Mt Field National Park

Scale
June

An attractive building to draw visitors



Perspective sketch from the North West



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Mt Mawson Alpine visitors Centre

Proposed New Building

Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service/STSA

Mt Field National Park

Scale 1
June 20

A Project of Significant Merit

- Adds to Tasmania's comparative advantage in outdoor, nature based tourism
 - Encourages health and wellbeing activities, including walking, skiing and sight seeing in one of Tasmania's most popular National parks
 - Supports interstate and international visitation
 - Supports jobs in the Derwent Valley
- A unique opportunity to enhance a true Alpine destination, but one which is readily accessible to the general public and visitors
- Supports a community that has been negatively affected by the forestry downturn – will generate economic activity for the region
- Addresses a public safety risk – particularly in Winter
- Has been identified as a priority project by the Derwent Valley Council with support from Destination Southern Tasmania
 - \$9M allocated by Tas Govt for projects of this nature to support tourism in National Parks.

Benefits

- A shovel-ready project
 - Create jobs in the Derwent Valley
 - Provide recreation opportunities for Tasmanians and visitors
 - Enhance Tasmania's positive points of difference – World Heritage experience.
 - Opportunity to announce project as part of Centenary of Mt Field Celebrations, 23-24 April 2016.
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