



**GREEN GUARDIANS**  
*Travel Tasmania in natural balance*



### *What's it about?*

Under Down Under Tours is proud to be a member of the Green Guardians Program. This is a unique partnership between the Parks and Wildlife Service of Tasmania and local tourism operators that enables visitors to this beautiful state to become directly involved in efforts to help preserve and protect the environment.

### *What are we doing?*

As one of our environmental initiatives, we are taking part in the Tasmanian shore bird identification program which is helping provide valuable data on the distribution and population of several critically endangered shore birds around the Tasmanian coastline.

There has been a steady decline in the global population of birds in general, and shore birds in particular in the last 40 years. This is due to many reasons including habitat loss, predation by feral and domestic animals, loss of food stocks and general human impact. The data collected by the program is collated by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation, a worldwide organisation that uses this information to put pressure on governments and business groups to change behaviours, as well as to help determine the best course of action to arrest this decline and hopefully reverse it.

This program also ties in with the other Green Guardians program we are involved in, the marine debris identification and collection program. One of the prime causes of population decline in seabirds is the increasing waste produced by the modern world. This waste has the potential to cause the death of many birds in a variety of ways as well as spoiling the stunning natural landscape of places like Tasmania.

### *What can you do?*

These programs have an important impact on the battle to preserve the planet and they are very easy to take part in while cruising around Tasmania. While you are visiting any of the many beaches during your tour, anyone wishing to take part in the Green Guardians program can join the guide in the shore bird survey and the marine debris collection. It only takes a few minutes and all the data collected will go back to the researchers both here and overseas.

### *What's in it for you?*

Not only will you get a warm fuzzy feeling knowing you're helping the planet and assisting with vital research, but as part of the program you will receive a free two month parks pass valid for 12 months for you to use after you have finished the tour should you wish to stay and explore more of this beautiful state (be warned, it's quite addictive! People have been known to come for a week and haven't left!). If you don't have time right now, you can always use this pass when you come back at a later date or you have the option to pass this onto someone you know so they may use it.

If you don't wish to take part, that's no drama – you can just sit back, enjoy the tour and know that you're helping out the environment just by travelling with Under Down Under Tours! A portion of all tours sold by Under Down Under Tours goes directly to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to fund their wombat rescue and rehabilitation program. If you are going to Bonorong on tour you can meet the wombats you're helping. So there ya go! Not only are you getting to visit the most beautiful place on earth, you are saving wombats at the same time.