

Some of the KarstCare crew; 14 volunteers donated a days labour to the effort.  
Photo: Kelvin Barrett, PWS Tasmania.



## GUNNS PLAINS CAVE RE-LIGHT

– Cathie Plowman

Paula Barrass (KarstCare) with Neil Kell. The goat is the high-tech weed eradicator employed by cave operators Trish and Geoff Deer.



Where once a row of bright track lights greeted you in Gunns Plains Cave, now you descend the steep flight of stairs into a dark chamber and soft lights show little ripples on the creek that flows beneath the path.

The cave has recently been re-lit and *KarstCare* members who spent a day cleaning the cave and ferrying rubbish and redundant cables out of the cave were among the first to be treated to the new view of the cave created by Neil Kell.

Neil explained that, due to the low level of infrastructure, the cave is classed as 'adventure' by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and has deliberately been lit with less light than the three other show caves managed by the

Service. The lights gradually reveal the cave to its visitors. Lighting rises to a crescendo to display the cave's magnificent shawl and its largest speleothem, the *Wedding Cake*. Despite its imposing size, the *Wedding Cake* previously had a grey to black tinge over it. This has vanished with the new lights which instead illuminate a fringe of sparkles all over the feature.



KarstCare members scrub pathways in Gunns Plains Cave prior to its reopening.  
Photo: Kelvin Barrett, PWS Tasmania.

The cave was officially re-opened on Friday 18 July by a local member of the Tasmanian Parliament, Brenton Best. Congratulations to Neil Kell and his team and also to Trevor Keating from PWS for his project management efforts.

*KarstCare* is part of the PWS volunteer organisation *WildCare*.

