

**What has happened
since the last newsletter?**

Since the last newsletter the FCF Steering Committee and FCF Advisory Group have each met twice. These meetings focused on the draft FCF Strategic Plan, with Advisory Group members seeking input from their members between meetings and providing comments on the plan. The Strategic Plan will be with the Australian and Tasmanian government environment ministers for approval very soon. Following ministerial approval of the Strategic Plan, the Steering Committee will focus on progressing the timely implementation of the Fund, including a communication plan and early action in the Mole Creek region.

Visit to Mole Creek

Tony Slatyer, Chairman of both the FCF Steering Committee and the Advisory Group, visited the Mole Creek region with Advisory Group members Barry Chipman and Catherine Murdoch, on 27th October 2005. They met with landholders to discuss their concerns and gain an informal understanding of the issues for land management in the area. The day included a visit to various karst sink holes on Glen Anderson's dairy farm "The Ponds". During most of the year these sink holes do not contain water. However, during prolonged wet weather they quickly fill with water from the under surface karst river system to become miniature lakes as seen in the photo below.



From left: Tony Slatyer, Glen Anderson, Catherine Murdoch, Gavin Linger and Rodney Stagg visiting karst sink holes at Glen Anderson's dairy farm at Mole Creek.
Photo by Barry Chipman.

**Who are the members
of the FCF Advisory
Group?**

- Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) — **Tony Slatyer** *
Phone: 02 6274 1919
- Forest Practices Authority — **Graham Wilkinson**
Phone: 03 6233 7966
- Private Forests Tasmania — **Mark Leech**
Phone: 03 6334 0915
- Representative of the NRM Regional Committee — **Catherine Murdoch**
Phone: 03 6336 5303
- Tasmanian Conservation Trust — **Alistair Graham**
Phone: 03 6234 3552
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association — **Ian Whyte**
Phone: 03 6332 1800
- Timber Communities Australia — **Barry Chipman**
Phone: 03 6260 4442
- Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) — **John Whittington** and **Penny Wells** (observers)

*Alternatively you are welcome to contact DEH staff member Katy Mallett, Phone: (02) 6274 1797

**Advisory Group
meetings**

The next Advisory Group meeting is proposed for the 19 December 2005 in Hobart. You are welcome to speak with a member if you have any issues you want raised at this meeting.

What next?

The final version of the FCF Strategic Plan will be issued to the Advisory Group members once both Ministers approve the plan. The Department of the Environment and Heritage is preparing a communication strategy for the Fund and will be seeking advice from the Advisory Group members on this strategy shortly. The FCF Steering Committee has also agreed that market research will be undertaken to ensure that the Fund is able to effectively engage with landowners and is successful in providing relevant information to help individuals understand what the Fund aims to achieve and what its approach is to be.

Further information

The Department of the Environment and Heritage is responsible for administering the FCF and can provide further information via:

Internet: <http://www.deh.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html>

Emailing: fcf@deh.gov.au

Phoning: DEH: 1800 803 772

