



Photo: Grant Dixon

The New Leaf challenge

Eastern cushion plants (*Abrotanella forsteroides*) at Skullbone Plains

Issue 28 Autumn 2011

The New Leaf challenge
Volunteers help turn over a New Leaf
Discoveries at the Vale of Belvoir
Properties for sale
Quolls on screen
Recherche Bay conservation win

Board Members

Mr Peter Bosworth (President)
Dr Geoff Couser (Vice President)
Ms Liz Sharples (Treasurer)
Dr Karina Potter (Secretary)
Dr Wendy Potts
Mr John Ramsay
Mr Roderic O'Connor
Mrs Susan Gough
Mr Sam McCullough
Ms Lyn Maddock
Mr Stuart Barry
Mr Peter Cosier

Contact Us

Nathan Males (Chief Executive Officer)

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394

www.tasland.org.au info@tasland.org.au
ABN 88 743 606 934

As the fundraising for New Leaf and Skullbone Plains gets underway, people are asking how a community organisation like the TLC can manage such a large property holding. It's a fair question.

The New Leaf project is certainly an inspiring challenge for the TLC.

As our exceptional volunteers and staff explore the new lands and gather data, it is increasingly clear that the New Leaf properties are abounding in management challenges. For example:

- Over 200 people have firewood collection rights, deer hunting permits, and agreements to build and use shacks on the properties. The TLC has inherited all of these relationships.
- Some properties have extensive road networks with numerous huts, houses, gates and key systems. Maintaining the infrastructure is a big challenge.
- Some property access rights are only informally agreed to with other landowners. Legalising these rights may take years and will not solve issues of illegal access by 4WD users who cause significant environmental damage.
- The ecological values of the properties are not yet fully known and a major effort

is required to understand the ecology and plan for its restoration and management.

- The properties include quarries and other commercial operations. One property even has an oil drilling rig.
- Maintenance of fire-fighting infrastructure and fire management planning is of high concern, particularly to local residents.

We are fortunate that Jan Cameron and other key supporters have recognised the management challenges and have provided support for the TLC to build our land management capacity. We have been able to add staff to the reserve management team and Gunns Limited is continuing to provide staff in support.

The expanded team is approaching the challenges in a systematic way: keys, gates, locks and access permits as well as a massive fact finding mission are the initial focus. More detailed management planning will follow.

I particularly thank all who have already supported the project with donated funds and voluntary time. We look forward to building on this fantastic support over the coming years of the project.

Nathan Males - TLC CEO



Photo: Andy Townsend



Photo: Andrew Mollison

Tasmania's central highlands

TLC volunteer, Margaret Mollison surveys the New Leaf property Cockatoo Hill in the central highlands

TLC volunteers help turn over a New Leaf

The hard work of assessing the 27,390 hectares that make up the New Leaf project is now well underway, thanks to our volunteers and input from interest groups.

It is really important that we are seen in the community at large to be actively managing these properties, in addition to our TLC permanent reserves, and showing a conservation presence. Volunteers are an invaluable asset in helping us to gain greater knowledge about New Leaf properties and in demonstrating that presence.

During January and February 2011, 24 volunteers enthusiastically embraced surveying a number of the native forest titles that make up the New Leaf properties. Supporters from across Tasmania were involved in the inventory, in addition to two wonderful interstate groups. Some volunteers undertook the project as day trips while others spent a few nights camping and exploring some of the larger properties. The aim of the exercise was to document and catalogue as many of the key assets on the properties as possible. The condition of roads and infrastructure was noted, and photos of features such as gates, bridges, quarries, huts and weed infestations were taken with GPS coordinates.

Andrew and Margaret Mollison spent a day at Cockatoo Hill in the Central Highlands. Andrew reflects, "It was great to get a look at otherwise inaccessible parts of Tasmania and the logged areas were in much better condition than I would have expected. It was a really satisfying experience and we were happy

to be doing something useful for the TLC at the same time."

When the TLC Reserves Management team collate the data, it will provide an enormous amount of invaluable information to assist management and maintenance issues on New Leaf properties now and into the future.

Managing these properties is a complicated task and we have been working with neighbouring landowners and user groups for positive outcomes.

The table below shows some of the groups that we have been actively talking to regarding various complex management issues.

A big thank you to all those volunteers

who helped us with this asset inventory. It was so successful that we plan to expand the involvement of volunteers on New Leaf properties. One of the ways we will do this is through rostered camping trips. Having TLC supporters on these properties is an important step to show our presence and ownership of the New Leaf properties.

If you are interested in taking a camping trip to a New Leaf property for several days or several weeks, or if you would like to be involved in volunteering with the TLC in another way, please contact info@tasland.org.au or phone (03) 6225 1399.

Tim Devereux and Ruth Osborne
TLC Reserve Management team members

Interest groups - New Leaf

Stakeholders	Issues
Gunns Limited	Land Management
Forestry Tasmania	Rights of way and access
Forestry Practices Authority	Threatened species management
Shooters and field and game groups	Access to properties, game seasons
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment	Threatened species management, fox task force, wildlife enforcement, covenants
Central Highlands Council	Roads and services
Tasmania Fire Service	Fire management
Tas Trail	Access to properties
4WD Tasmania	Access to properties and assistance
Firewood cutters	Access to properties
Historical societies	Cultural history
Inland Fisheries Service	Threatened species and fisheries surveillance
Parks and Wildlife Service	Cooperative land management
Commercial ecotour operators	Access to properties
Commercial businesses	Access to properties and resources
Neighbouring landholders	Rights of way and cooperative management
Tasmania Police	Illegal access and vandalism
Hydro Tasmania	Water easements and access
Naturalist groups	Specialists in flora and fauna surveys
University of Tasmania	Research projects and monitoring
TLC volunteers	Assisting in managing and monitoring
TLC supporters	Raising awareness in the community and financial support

'protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity'



Volunteers monitoring Hoary sunray at Daisy Dome, Vale of Belvoir in February 2011

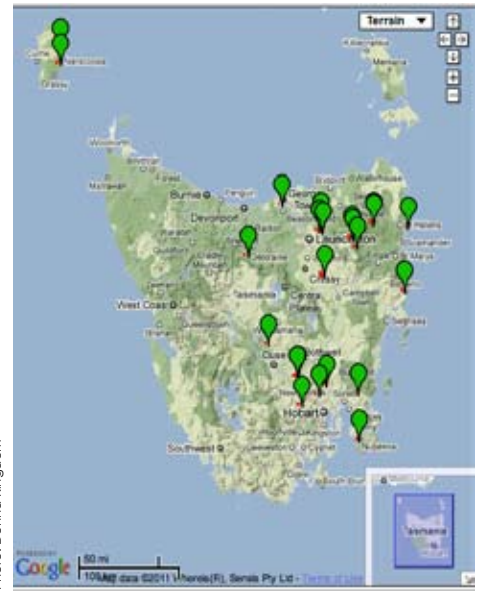


Photo: Denna Kingdom

Properties for sale on the TLC website

Monitoring threatened plants at the Vale

Whilst considerable time and energy is being invested by the TLC and our supporters and partners in the New Leaf project, detailed and exciting work continues in our other eight permanent TLC reserves.

We have just conducted the second annual plant survey at the Vale of Belvoir. The Vale of Belvoir supports eight threatened flora species amongst its high diversity grasslands. The Vale population survey of two of these threatened plants - Alpine candles (*Stackhousia pulvinaris*) and the Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* var *tricolour*) - are critical to the long-term survival of these species.

In Tasmania, Alpine candles are only found at the Vale of Belvoir. Our initial threatened plant survey undertaken by volunteers, TLC staff and expert botanists in February 2010 found a far more extensive population than anticipated. This survey also demonstrated that the species' habitat is not limited to sinkhole margins, but includes grasslands and sedgy grasslands.

Hoary sunray is found in dry grasslands throughout south-eastern Australia, however its habitat has been severely reduced in extent by farming practices. The species occurs on a basalt ridge at the Vale of Belvoir, with a population in 2009 estimated to be around 20,000-30,000 individual plants. This makes the Vale population the largest in the country, while also being the only large population occurring on land managed for conservation.

Building on the previous surveys, a long-

term monitoring program for these two species is being established at the Vale.

The program, which received extensive support from volunteers and partner organisations, including Threatened Plants Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government's Threatened Species Unit and Cradle Coast NRM, was coordinated by the TLC. The project aims to quantify some of the variables involved in the presence, absence and extent of the Alpine candles and Hoary sunray populations. Variables that are being recorded include disturbance, such as fire and grazing (both stock and native animals), as well as soil moisture, competition from other plants and vegetation type.

By repeating the monitoring of population and environmental data at the same locations over several years, changes over time and space can be recorded. TLC scientists will continue to work with other partners to analyse and interpret the data. The information we get from this monitoring will be incredibly useful in our future management of the Vale, and will contribute nationally to the understanding of the ecology of these species. The results of this research will be published in scientific and land management journals, and will hopefully help to ensure the protection of these species across the country.

Initial results from this year's monitoring are still being collated, and it is likely that the most important results will come from repeated monitoring in future years.

Denna Kingdom
TLC Reserves Manager

Properties for sale

The New Leaf project has enabled us to substantially expand our conservation properties for sale. Visit the new look TLC property website to see properties for sale across Tasmania that will support our conservation work. By choosing to purchase property through the TLC, you make a positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. The TLC selects properties primarily for their ecological value and many contain existing homes or attractive home sites. New buildings are always subject to local council approval. The TLC uses the proceeds to purchase and protect additional important properties or to fund its other activities including managing our permanent reserves.

Our updated website shows all current properties for sale and features a new interface. At a glance you can see the location of all properties for sale with an interactive map. Additionally you can search for properties with or without an existing dwelling in a specific price range, location, and/or land size. Then by selecting an individual property of interest, you have access to the property description, a selection of photographs and an aerial view of the actual property location, including its boundaries.

Should you be considering buying a conservation property now or in the future, please contact Jim Mulcahy on 0424 505 184 or Rod Pearse on 0429 179 100. Together we are building a network of areas cherished by owners for their natural values.

Stuart Cowell
TLC Conservation Programs Manager

'protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity'



Photo: Matthew Newton

Spotted-tailed quoll



Photo: Bob Brown

North-east peninsula of Recherche Bay

Quolls on screen

Have you ever wondered what a Spotted-tailed quoll foraging for food at night-time looks like? So have we. To answer that very question and many others, we are installing our first infra-red and colour Bushnell Trail camera at Skullbone Plains.

The little camera is about the size of a lunch box and will capture both still and moving images of wildlife that triggers its motion sensor, as the clever little box hides stealthily from view.

The camera will be strategically positioned to survey carnivorous marsupials such as the Tasmanian devil, Spotted-tailed quoll and Eastern quoll in an unobtrusive way. We are hoping the footage and images will provide us with information not only about the number of animals but also their behaviour, activities and even the markings on their bodies, that will help us identify individual animals. We may also capture footage of feral animals such as deer that will help us understand more about their numbers and important traits. The camera can be used during the day as well as at night so it's a very versatile little device.

To watch the footage soon, have a look at the blog on the TLC website at www.tasland.org.au/blog or follow us on facebook by clicking on the link on the TLC website home page.

Jane Hutchinson
TLC Strategic Projects Manager

Recherche Bay conservation win

We are delighted to announce that the land that forms the point of the north-east peninsula of Recherche Bay was purchased in December 2010 by a private Trust, the members of which prefer to remain anonymous.

The TLC was concerned about the future of the 5.28 ha block which is surrounded by the 144 ha TLC Recherche Bay permanent reserve. The reserve was purchased in 2006 by the TLC with assistance from Dick and Pip Smith, the Tasmanian Government, Bob Brown and hundreds of TLC supporters.

The entire north-east peninsula is of national significance; it is the site that Blue gums were first scientifically described by the French botanist Labillardiere, who was part of the 1792 D'Entrecasteaux expedition. The land also forms the natural bookend of the beach where French scientists and Tasmanian aboriginal people had historic friendly meetings.

The 5.28 ha parcel of land sold at auction for \$220,000 after it had been repossessed by the Huon Council for unpaid rates. The TLC had been planning to bid for the land through its revolving fund, but prior to the auction the Trust and the TLC formed an agreement enabling the TLC to step down from the bidding. In accordance with the agreement, the Trust will be protecting the property's natural and cultural values with a conservation covenant. This is a fantastic result as it

gives us the conservation outcome we were looking for and allows us to apply our financial resources elsewhere.

A number of supporters who are passionate about the preservation of this unique area contacted us with pledges of financial support towards our potential purchase. It is wonderful to know that so many people still remember this conservation triumph.

A special thank you to those who have subsequently agreed to have their pledges put towards our New Leaf project.

The whole north-east peninsula of Recherche Bay is now in conservation ownership, which is a wonderful outcome.

Nathan Males - TLC CEO

Caretaker wanted

The Southern Midlands Council (SMC) is looking for a new volunteer caretaker for its Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary.

The TLC and SMC work cooperatively to manage Chauncy Vale and the TLC's Flat Rock Reserve, which together protect over 800 ha of bushland. The volunteer caretaker is required to live on-site at Chauncy Vale, 40 minutes drive north of Hobart, and is responsible for tasks assisting public visitation at the reserve.

For more information, please contact Alex Green on aogreen@bigpond.com or 0429 604 153.

We are grateful to the following organisations for their support in recent months



'protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity'



Properties for sale

By choosing to purchase property from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy you make an exciting, positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. The TLC has selected every property primarily for its high ecological value, but each property offers an existing home or an attractive home site. Together, we build a network of areas cherished by owners for their natural values.

For more information please visit www.tasland.org.au and follow the [Property for sale](#) and [Property maps](#) links.

Billy Blue Hill, Nubeena*

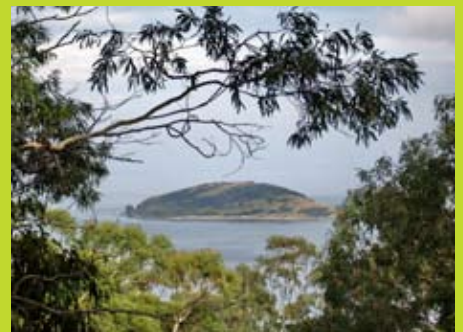
This 46 ha of forested land on the Tasman Peninsula is only 4 kms from Nubeena and about 100 kms from the Hobart central business district. It has virtual coast frontage, level access off Roaring Beach Road into a cleared, sunny house site and spectacular coastal views. It is an ideal base for exploring the many recreational opportunities in the area and for the keen surfer, as it is only two minutes drive from Roaring Beach.

The native vegetation includes significant areas of Tasmanian Blue gum dry forest and Black peppermint and Silver peppermint forests on sandstone, all listed as vulnerable under the state Nature Conservation Act 2002. The Silver peppermint forest also extends over a further 50% of the block on dolerite. All vegetation is in excellent natural condition throughout. An area fronting Roaring Beach Road has been previously cleared, giving good level access to the property.

This property offers excellent habitat for a number of threatened bird species, including the White-bellied sea eagle, Wedge-tailed eagle and Swift parrot, with a known active sea-eagle nest in the area, making it an ideal location for bird watching enthusiasts.

Offers around \$400,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Roses Tier, Upper Blessington

Stunning views of Ben Lomond and other mountains in the north-east highlands are gained from these three upland forested properties 58 kms south of Launceston. The three titles of 125 hectares in total, adjoin Ben Lomond National Park on slopes that range from gentle to steep with an altitudinal range of 850 to 1100 metres. Each title is approximately the same size.

The native forest is dominated by Gum-topped stringybark with an area of rainforest on Abrahams Creek on the eastern side. Other special features include mound springs and highland grassy sedgeland. The eucalypt forest has been selectively logged over a long period but mature trees still dominate much of the canopy and regeneration has been good. There are numerous streams. Gravel roads of good quality service all three titles.

A draft conservation covenant will be prepared for the property (or individual titles), and will be registered on the title providing permanent protection for the conservation values. A house site will be provided on each title.

*Offers around \$95,000 for each title
or by negotiation for all three*

Contact Rod Pearse: 0429 179 100



Contact: Rod Pearse on 0429 179 100

Contact: Jim Mulcahy on 0424 505 184

Shiny Grasstrees, Clarence Point*

This 40 ha private haven conservation lifestyle property is located on the West Tamar near the popular coastal resort of Greens Beach. It is only 40 kms north of Launceston. The property has unique and special values, with a large population of endangered grass trees and an endangered forest community. Planning permission has been obtained to build a residence on the property, which is accessed via a sealed road. Power, water and telephone are all available at the property boundary.

Offers around \$165,000

Contact Rod Pearse: 0429 179 100



Ben Nevis North, Upper Blessington

This remote property is located only 58 kms south of Launceston, high on the slopes of Ben Nevis, a rocky peak in the north-east highlands and has an altitudinal range from 850 to 1100 m. Several well made gravel roads traverse it. There are extensive views of Ben Lomond. The forests are dominated by Gum-topped stringy bark and Mountain gum. Most of the property has been logged and regeneration is proceeding.

Offers around \$145,000

Contact Rod Pearse: 0429 179 100



Ben Nevis South, Upper Blessington

Spectacular views abound from this remote property located only 57 kms east of Launceston, high on the slopes of Ben Nevis. A flat area at the top of the saddle between the summit of Ben Nevis and an unnamed peak to the south-east offers a magnificent spot for an isolated eyrie. Most of the land is a steep south-west facing slope and ranges from 900 to 1100 m above sea level. The forest is mainly Gum-topped stringy bark.

Offers around \$175,000

Contact Rod Pearse: 0429 179 100

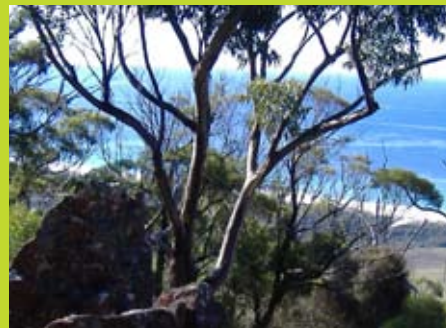


Apsley River, Bicheno*

This stunning large conservation lifestyle property is 108 ha of forest and woodland on the outskirts of Bicheno, a seaside town on the east coast of Tasmania. The property is about 190 kms north or a 2.5 hour drive north of Hobart. It adjoins the Apsley River Conservation Area, has virtual frontage to the beautiful Apsley River and is only 4 kms from the entrance to the Douglas-Apsley National Park. The property offers spectacular views of the coast and a sunny, north-facing house site.

Offers around \$310,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Risdon Peppermint, Brighton*

There are river views to die for on this conservation lifestyle property. This peaceful and private 31 ha property overlooking the Derwent River is only 20 minutes drive north of the Hobart CBD. Forest and woodland cover most of the property, which contains a population of rare Risdon peppermint. It also has several great house sites and could accommodate small-scale agricultural or pastoral pursuits in the existing fenced paddocks.

Offers around \$350,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity

www.tasland.org.au



The Tasmanian Land Conservancy is a registered environmental organisation. We raise funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites, endangered species habitats, and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. ABN: 88 743 606 934

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005 Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394 info@tasland.org.au



* These properties were purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy through a Revolving Fund, which is used to buy land with significant conservation values to protect forever through the use of a conservation covenant. The TLC's Revolving Fund is funded from a number of sources. The primary source is the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund. Other funding sources include the King Island Natural Resource Management Group and DPIPW. Money raised from the sale of Revolving Fund properties is directed into the purchase of other Revolving Fund properties in Tasmania, extending the value from every dollar within the Fund.