



Thank you - Skullbone Plains is protected

Photo: Matthew Newton

Issue 32 Autumn 2012

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In memory of Hon. Edward Butler

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What a wonderful way to start 2012! Through generous donations from over 1000 supporters, we have now raised enough money to permanently protect, Skullbone Plains as part of the TLC's New Leaf Project.

We would like to say a very special thank you to Jan Cameron, Rob and Sandy Purves and Graeme Wood for providing substantial leading gifts and loans. Thank you also to the Australian government for providing over one million dollars in funding from the National Reserve System Program. These, along with the hundreds of no less significant gifts, are all truly magnificent gestures and have resulted in protection in perpetuity for this wonderful reserve.

Over summer, Skullbone Plains has been a very popular destination for visitor trips. Since early December we have hosted nine trips to this magnificent reserve, including one with Sphagnum moss expert, Dr Jennie Whinam, who visited Skullbone Plains in preparation for the scientific Bush Blitz species survey in early March.

Bush Blitz is a multi million-dollar partnership supported by the Australian Government through Caring for Our Country, BHP Billiton and Earthwatch Institute Australia. The partnership was

Scoparia (Richea scoparia) at Skullbone Plains

established to document the plants and animals across Australia's National Reserve System.

During the survey week an incredible 550 species of plants and animals were collected some may be new species records for the area and we are enormously excited about the final survey results.

More information is available on our blog at www.tasland.org.au/newblog then follow the link to Bush Blitz or at <http://parksaustralia.govspace.gov.au/>.

Building on the fantastic success of protecting Skullbone Plains, we are well underway with plans to announce our next property acquisition - another New Leaf treasure.

We will soon be writing to all of our fabulous supporters with the details of this very special place. This under-protected area is home to the nationally endangered Simson's stag beetle (*Hoplogonus simsoni*). We have already found a beetle whilst researching and documenting at the property. The Simson's stag beetle is one tiny link in the fragile ecosystem of the area. So we do hope that you will be as excited as we are at the opportunity to support the project to provide permanent protection for this rare habitat.



Dr Jennie Whinam measuring Sphagnum moss with the girls from Devonport High



Ecologist Jen Sanger records a Miena cider gum on TLC Land at Mackenzie's Tier

Conservation in Action

The Skullbone Plains acquisition has by no means distracted us from the busy work of caring for the TLC's many other wonderful reserves. Since the beginning of this financial year, we have, with the help of our marvellous volunteers delivered over 500 days of on-ground conservation across our entire reserve estate. Thank you volunteers!

Almost half of the TLC's reserve management activities over the last eight months has been spent on reserves acquired before the exciting New Leaf project.

We now have over 400 registered volunteers who have an extensive range of conservation skills. Our Vale of Belvoir Reserve has been the location for threatened flora monitoring and Ptunarra brown butterfly surveys that are both conducted annually. A wide range of assessment, weed control and land maintenance activities have occurred at Long Point, Flat Rock and Chauncy Vale, Egg Islands, Silver Peppermint and Liffey reserves.

At various New Leaf properties 35 volunteers have provided in excess of 1000 hours to assist with weed control. This alone translates to over \$30,000 worth of labour.

We were also grateful for a \$7000 grant from NRM North that funded a professional contractor to perform Spanish heath control at the Archers Whareham New Leaf property near Launceston.

We always welcome new volunteers so please contact us if you would like to be involved.

Miena cider gum surveys

The Miena cider gum (*Eucalyptus gunnii subsp. divaricata*) is an iconic Tasmanian tree. The species is endemic to Tasmania and is restricted to frost hollows and forest margins on the Central Plateau.

The sap of the Miena cider gum is edible and provides an important food source for native fauna. It is thought to have been eaten by the Tasmanian Aborigines and by early European settlers, and the naturally fermented sap may have been consumed for an intoxicating effect!

In the past thirty years there has been a significant decline in populations of Miena cider gum due to drought, grazing and inappropriate fire regimes and it is now listed as endangered under both state and federal legislation.

The TLC has recently completed extensive surveys over the 22,000 hectares of highland habitat that is the New Leaf Project. This work was made possible by the generous support of the Dahl Trust and NRM South, who provided funding for the enormous amount of fieldwork that was involved in this project.

The survey work documented the size, extent and age structure of twenty new Miena cider gum populations, including two populations on TLC New Leaf properties, at Jemmy's Marsh and Mackenzie's Tier. The project also identified key threats and future management needs for these populations. Seed from new populations will be collected and stored at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden's seed conservation bank.

The TLC will provide protection for the newly identified stands of Miena cider gums through registered covenants, and by active management of feral browsers such as deer and rabbits. Long-term monitoring of these populations will also be undertaken by the TLC to ensure that our management is working and giving the species the best chance for survival and recovery.

Matt Taylor
TLC Conservation Programs Officer



Miena cider gum

The TLC gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of the Dahl Trust and NRM South for funding of \$10,000 and \$7,500 respectively for this important research project.





Tasmanian Midlands landscape

Photo: Matthew Newlon



Denna and Anthony find a large giant mullein weed

Photo: Viv Muller



Ragwort in flower at Cockatoo Hill

Photo: Viv Muller

Funding success

The Minister for the Environment, Tony Bourke, announced in early February that the TLC has been successful in its Caring for Our Country submission for funding conservation in the Midlands.

Supported by the Midlandscapes partnership, the TLC's proposed project is to establish long-term protection and management of 2500 hectares of critically endangered lowland native grasslands and associated woodlands.

The Australian government has generously provided \$800,000 to complete on-ground works and establish conservation agreements over the next two years.

In turn the Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF)* will provide annual stewardship payments to landholders for a further 13 years.

"This project" says Midlandscapes Coordinator Andrew Cameron "is a significant initiative for the Tasmanian Midlands in demonstrating how government and philanthropic funding can work together to support lasting conservation outcomes in this important 'working' landscape."

Midlandscapes is a long-term collaborative program of action developed by the TLC, Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) and DPIWPE to improve the health, protection and sustainable management of the Midland's unique natural ecosystems.

The Midlands Conservation Fund is a perpetual fund jointly established by BHA and the TLC in 2011, to provide an annual income stream to support payments to landholders for conservation services.

Volunteers make a big impact

A pair of Wedge-tailed eagles launch themselves from their perch high in a stringybark eucalypt, and head out to Bronte Lagoon before circling high into the sky. Three people wearing white coveralls gaze in awe at the big birds, before returning to their work, scanning the ground intently while moving slowly through the undergrowth of the woodland.

The trio have just located a small infestation of the environmental weed ragwort on the New Leaf property, Cockatoo Hill, near Bronte. They work quickly, pulling any flowering plants and spraying herbicide on any small, non-flowering plants.

With the help of a grant of \$20,000 from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, the TLC has developed and is now implementing a weed strategy for our Central Highlands properties. The strategy targets several weeds, including ragwort, gorse, foxglove, great mullein and mignonette, all of which have the potential to invade grasslands and woodland areas. These weeds are present in relatively low numbers and, in partnership with surrounding land managers, have been assessed as being manageable.

To date, 23 volunteers and three staff have contributed a combined 96 working days of 8-12 hours duration, in an attempt to reach the project's ambitious goals: we are hoping to cover some 20,300 hectares of land, driving along more than 600 kilometres of tracks, in only six weeks. It is probable that more than 250,000 individual ragwort plants

will be controlled this season.

Back in the utility vehicle, moving slowly along dirt tracks, the trio continue the search for weeds. "There!" calls out volunteer, Anthony Davidson, using a pair of binoculars to confirm what appears to be a single plant growing amongst bracken fern nearly ten metres off the road. I stop the vehicle, and each of us grab herbicide spray bottles and safety equipment. While Anthony quickly pulls the flowering plants, volunteer Viv Muller and I begin to systematically search the area for ragwort rosettes, or non-flowering out of the ground plants, which are promptly sprayed. The coordinates of each site are recorded and will be used later to map all of the weeds found. We return to the vehicle, continuing the search for more weeds.

Despite the long days, many of the volunteers have returned several times, including both Anthony and Viv. "I just love being out in the bush", says Anthony, who is a highly skilled weed contractor, and has so far spent ten days volunteering out here. Viv, who is a very active volunteer in practical conservation projects, agrees.

The afternoon shadows are long by the time our team heads back to the car for the last time that day. Another eagle soars above us, keeping watch over the area until the next team arrives.

Denna Kingdom
TLC Reserves Manager



A virtual "living room" at Skullbone Plains - Our postcard inviting new people to support our work

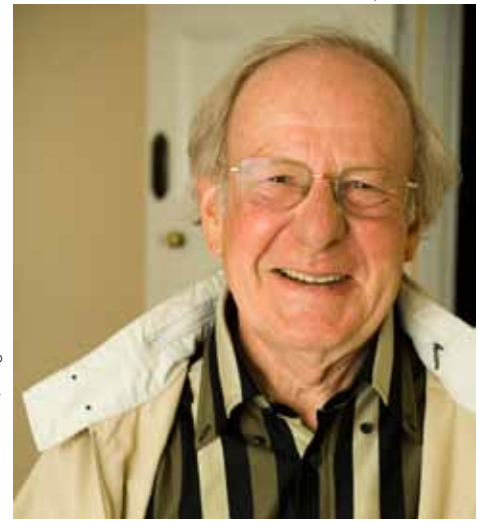


Photo: Grant Dixon, Design: Julia Dineen

Photo: Matthew Newton

The Honourable Edward Butler

The Living Room Project

Over the summer the TLC had a presence at four public events in Hobart and Melbourne, with the aim of increasing public awareness and active support for our work.

To grab attention in a fun and engaging way we developed a concept called the "Living Room Project", inviting members of the public to purchase on-line a virtual "living room" size piece of land at Skullbone Plains for three dollars.

Its popularity exceeded our expectations and has allowed us to share our people-powered conservation message with a large new audience.

Our first Living Room Project event was held at the Hobart Sustainable Living Expo in November last year. It was such a success that Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) invited us to take part in their first series of MoMa growers markets.

So far we have attended two MoMa markets which is proving to be a great place for showcasing our Living Room Project. We are very grateful to the organisers of MoMa for their support in assisting with our display by providing beautiful furniture for our stall and donating the space free of charge.

We will be back at the MoMa market again on the 31st March so please drop in and visit us.

In early February we participated in our first Sustainable Living Expo in

Melbourne; a much larger event, attended by over 100,000 people.

Our stall was part of the festival's Big Weekend event at Federation Square. We were one of nearly 100 stallholders celebrating the very best examples of ecological and social sustainability. The weather was perfect, the setting was divine, and we had an amazing response from so many about the TLC's work in Tasmania.

Like many, Gaby Jung from Victoria, had her photo taken at our stand. She has since contacted us, quoting American cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead, to describe our impact. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

What a lovely sentiment - thank you.



Photo: Mayada Flanagan

New supporter, Gaby Jung visits our virtual living room, at the Melbourne Sustainable Living Expo

Edward Butler

It was with great sadness we learnt that our former Board member, the Honourable Edward Butler, had recently passed away.

Our condolences are extended to Edward's family and friends at this difficult time.

Edward was a TLC Board member from 2005 to 2008 and during that time brought significant passion and professionalism to the decision-making of the Board.

Edward's forebears had lived in Tasmania since 1807 and he had told us that he "felt Tasmania was the essence of his being".

In adult life, Edward practiced law for 20 years and then dedicated a further 20 years as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia before retiring in the mid 1990s. Ten years later he became a voluntary member of the TLC Board.

It was his compassion for people and passion for the natural environment that guided his sense of justice.

In 2010 Edward and his wife Julia established a significant TLC Foundation fund. "The Endemic Crustacean Fund" provides on-going financial support to the TLC through its investment returns and reflects Edward and Julia's joint commitment to provide practical long-term support for our conservation work.

Edward's legacy is something that will live beyond us all. We are enormously grateful to Edward for his incredible contribution to nature conservation and sustainability in Tasmania.

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



FITZGERALD AND BROWNE
Lawyers



PETER WORRELL LAWYERS
ESTATE PLANNING LAW PROPERTY LAW COMMERCIAL LAW



* As a joint member of the Midlands Conservation Fund, the TLC gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of the Sidney Myer Fund and John T Reid Charitable Trusts.

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.

“Echo Sugarloaf” - Randalls Bay

This beautiful 12 ha forested property offers sunny house sites with views of Garden Island to the south-east and forested hills to the north. The beach of Garden Island Sands is just 2 km from the front gate and Cygnet only a 15 minute drive away. The property adjoins the 127 ha Echo Sugarloaf State Reserve. The forest on the property is mapped as White peppermint, White gum and Blue gum dry forest but the variable topography leads to a high structural and floristic diversity. The property provides habitat for several threatened fauna species, including the Swift parrot, Eastern barred bandicoot, Tasmanian devil and the White-bellied sea eagle.

A covenant will protect the natural values of the property and will identify a domestic zone within which the new owners can clear vegetation, construct a home and undertake usual residential activities. A management plan will be developed with the new owners, ensuring that they are able to manage the threats to natural values into the future.

Offers over \$140,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Mount Arthur, Underwood* - 4 under contract, 3 remaining

Mount Arthur is 28 kms from Launceston, overlooking the township of Lilydale. It is on the edge of the north-east wine region.

The tall wet eucalypt mountain forest features endangered wet White gum forest and permanent tree fern-lined creeks which are home to endangered burrowing crayfish.

There are three property lots for sale on the lower slopes ranging from 20 to 42 ha.

Each property offers an attractive home site with a northerly aspect, good road access and views out to the valleys below and the surrounding forest and mountains.

A conservation covenant will protect the forest and its native plants and animals apart from 1 to 2 ha which will be excluded for the house or other development. These building areas are all located on land where the forest has been previously cleared.

The three lots available are:

Lot 3 comprising of two titles on 42 hectares for \$95,000

Lot 5 comprising of one title on 20 hectares for \$80,000

Lot 6 comprising of two titles on 25 hectares for \$95,000

Contact Rod Pearse: 0429 179 100



Grasstree Hill - Lot 1*

This beautiful 46.9 ha property feels a world away from the city but is only 15 minutes from the Hobart CBD and 10 minutes from the historic township of Richmond. It offers views over the city to Mount Wellington and the lower reaches of the Derwent Estuary from a peaceful bush setting dotted with sandstone outcrops, caves and spectacular grasstrees. Services are available close to the property boundary and an existing cleared home site.

\$250,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Grasstree Hill - Lot 2*

Bounded to the west by Grasstree Hill Road and to the east by Grasstree Hill Rivulet, the 9.26 ha property is a mix of bushland and pasture. It offers several sunny home sites with bushland views of the Meehan Range and includes some spectacular sandstone outcrops. Perfect for the hobby farmer or someone just looking to build in a peaceful rural/bush setting.

Offers over \$130,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Bullock Hills - Lot 1*

Bullock Hills is in the Derwent Valley, 12km east of Hamilton, 20km north of New Norfolk and a 1 hour drive from the Hobart CBD. Lot 1 is 41.7 ha (103ac) of forest with road frontage to Marked Tree Road. The property offers a sunny house site with attractive rural and bush land views. Distant views to the peaks of Tasmania's south-west wilderness can be obtained from the sandstone escarpment and ridgeline behind the house site.

Offers around \$95,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Bullock Hills - Lot 2*

Bullock Hills is in the Derwent Valley, 12km east of Hamilton, 20km north of New Norfolk and a 1 hour drive from the Hobart CBD. Lot 2 is 41.7 ha (103ac) of forest with road frontage to Marked Tree Road. The property offers a sunny house site with attractive rural and bush land views and a large dam.

Offers around \$95,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



Bullock Hills - Lot 4*

Bullock Hills is in the Derwent Valley, 12km east of Hamilton, 20km north of New Norfolk and a 1 hour drive from the Hobart CBD. Lot 4 is 79.5 ha (196ac) of forest with an existing 2 bedroom house and associated outbuildings in a location offering attractive rural and bushland views. The property also includes some existing pasture that could support small-scale agricultural or pastoral pursuits, and a dam.

Offers over \$200,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184



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

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* 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 DPI/PWE. 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.

Our vision is for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation and sustainability