



Annual Reserve Report

Recherche Bay Reserve 2016-17



www.tasland.org.au

INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) protects important natural areas as permanent reserves and aims to demonstrate excellence in reserve management for biodiversity conservation. The TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation which comprises 5 key steps – planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, review/adaptation and communication.

Recherche Bay Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2006 and protects 144 hectares of coastal forest and sites of international cultural heritage significance in the far south of Tasmania. The Reserve adjoins the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area. The management of the Reserve is guided by the Recherche Bay Reserve Management Plan. The plan is implemented by TLC staff through an Annual Work Plan and Monitoring Plan. Details of ecological monitoring methods can be found in TLC’s Ecological Monitoring Procedures Manual on www.tasland.org.au.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2016-17, and is divided into three sections:

1. Reserve Scorecard – a table summarising the results of management effectiveness and ecological monitoring to date;
2. Management Effectiveness Summary – providing details of the implementation of key management strategies and making recommendations for plan improvement;
3. Ecological Monitoring Summary – providing details of the status of conservation targets and trends of key ecological indicators

The recommendations made in this report are used to adapt and improve management of the Reserve, update the management plan, and revise work and monitoring plans for the coming year. Key findings of this report are communicated to TLC Board, supporters and other stakeholders.

RECHERCHE BAY RESERVE SCORECARD 2016-17

Ecological Monitoring			
Target	Indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Coastal forest	Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Data collection scheduled for 2018
	Structural complexity	5 strata per site	
	Canopy recruitment	4.6 species per site	
	Vertebrate fauna diversity	9 terrestrial mammal sp	
Management Effectiveness			
Strategy	Indicator	Status 2016-17	Trend
Protecting cultural heritage sites	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped remain intact	Sites remain intact and partly documented.	No Change
	Cultural heritage sites remain intact	Sites remain intact	No Change
Community engagement	# events at the Reserve	2	Increase
	# of volunteer activities / vol days	1 activity / 1 day	No Change

Cover image: TLC’s Jane Hutchinson and Sally Bryant on a Recherche Bay Reserve trip Sept 2016 with Australian of the Year David Morrison and TLC Patron Hon. Governor Kate Warner: photo Sally Bryant

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY

Coastal Forest		Status: Very Good
Goal The condition of coastal forest is maintained		Outcome: On Track
<p>Description Coastal forest and woodland occupies the entire Reserve. Features of special interest include a sea eagle nest overlooking Black Swan Lagoon, and areas of rainforest, which is unusual in coastal southeast Tasmania. Monitoring has shown that the vegetation is in excellent condition and supports a diverse community of native animal species. While cats are present on the Reserve they are in low numbers and do not pose a major threat at present.</p>		<p>Diseased Tasmanian devil on camera trap. Photo: TLC</p> 
Ecological indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Baseline data collected in 2014-15 and due to be reassessed in 2018
Structural complexity	5 strata per site	
Canopy recruitment		
Vertebrate fauna diversity	4.6 species per site 9 terrestrial mammal sp	
<p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active white-bellied sea-eagle nest was confirmed in 2015. • Spotted-tailed quolls captured on the Reserve. Devils are present in good numbers, one animal captured with facial tumour disease. • Multiple feral cats are present on the Reserve. • Superb lyrebird calls were detected on the Reserve. • Species richness is relatively high for wet forest. 		
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat ecological monitoring in 2020, or earlier if there is a significant ecological event such as fire. 		

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS SUMMARY

Community engagement		
Key objective(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TLC provides the community with ongoing recreation, education and volunteering opportunities. 	Status 2016-17 On-track	
Strategy description Public interest in the Reserve remains high and TLC aims to provide the community with opportunities to experience its outstanding natural and cultural values while preventing impact on any sensitive areas or values.		
	Jane Hutchinson, David Morrison and Hon. Governor Kate Warner at Recherche Bay Sep 2016. Photo: Sally Bryant	
Indicator	Current status	Trend
# events at the Reserve	2 events	Increase
# of volunteer activities / vol days	1 activity / 1day	No change
Progress in 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An event held in September 2016 to host the Australian of the year David Morrison and TLC Patron Hon Kate Warner and other guests. TLC hosted a small field trip to the Reserve in June 2017 with a small group of supporters, assisted by a volunteer. A volunteer collected 3 D images from the Reserve to assist with promotion 		
Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide opportunities for connection to this Reserve while managing access points and time of year to minimise disturbance to natural and cultural values. 		

Cultural heritage protection		
Key objective(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2016, cultural heritage sites and knowledge are fully documented • Cultural heritage sites remain intact 		Status 2016-17 On-track
Strategy description <p>Cultural heritage sites have been mapped and documented. TLC occasionally provides the community with opportunities to visit sites of public interest, such as the Observatory and French Garden.</p> <p>A significant area of the Reserve is listed under State and National Heritage Registers for its important cultural heritage values. The most pertinent of these values include the French exploration in 1792 and 1793 led by Bruni D'Entrecasteaux, involving botanical collections, astronomical observations, the planting of a vegetable garden and peaceful contact with Aboriginal people. Other values include extensive use of the land for convict coalmining, whaling, ship building, timber harvesting and milling.</p>		 <p>Shard of pottery found on-site. Photo: TLC.</p>
Indicator	Current status	Trend
Cultural sites remain intact	Intact	Flat
Cultural heritage sites are documented and mapped	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped.	Flat
Progress in 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors on TLC supporter trips to the Reserve were escorted by a historian and TLC staff member who ensured that cultural heritage sites were not disturbed. • The value of cultural heritage sites continues to be communicated to supporters and visitors through a variety of media and publications. • A watching brief on the Circa Architecture Morris-Nunn floating hotel development proposal. • TLC are continuing to work on a visitation management plan to identify what levels of visitation are appropriate, and to recommend ways visitation can be managed to prevent impacting on natural (eagle and shorebird breeding and sensitive cultural heritage values). 		
Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide visitors with opportunities to appreciate the Reserve's unique cultural heritage in ways that minimise impacts on those sites. • Keep a watching brief on the Circa Architecture Morris-Nunn floating hotel project, and consider a response based on the conservation targets identified in the Management Plan if the project develops further. • Continue to seek funding to help develop a visitation management plan in consultation with cultural heritage experts. 		