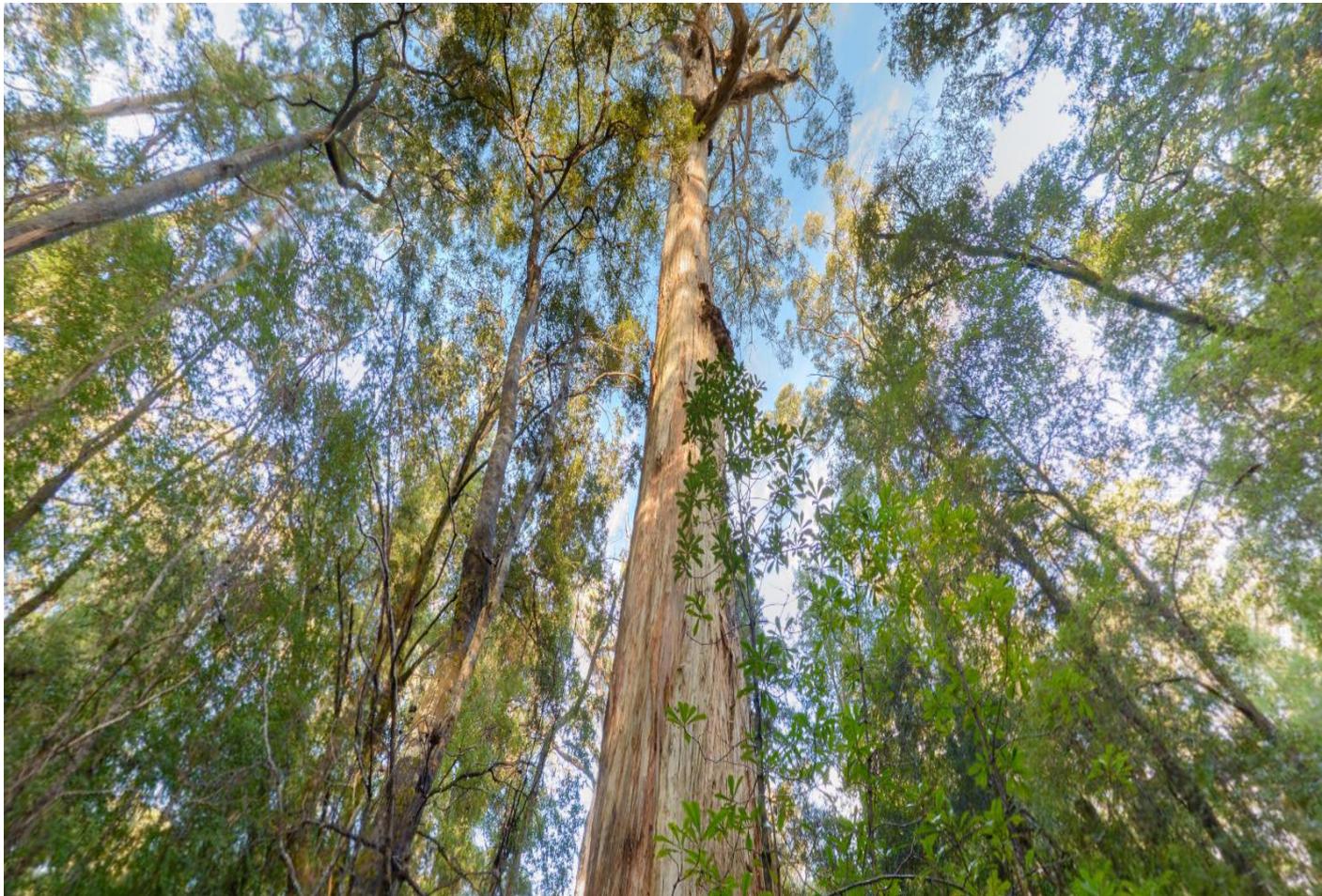




Annual Report

Recherche Bay Reserve 2018-19



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 2018-19, 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 2018-19

Ecological Monitoring			
Target	Indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Coastal forest	Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Trend data collection scheduled for Sep 2019
	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 2017-18	2018-19 Trend
Protecting cultural heritage sites	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped remain intact	Sites remain intact and partly documented.	No additional data - needs checking
	Cultural heritage sites remain intact	Sites remain intact	Unknown - No data
Community engagement	# events at the Reserve	0 events	0 events - stable
	# of volunteer activities / vol days	0 events	0 events - stable

Cover image: 360 forest imagery of Recherche Bay Reserve: photo TLC web site

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY

Coastal Forest		Status: Very Good
Goal The condition of coastal forest is maintained		Outcome: Needs re-assessing Sep 2019
<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>Status of the eagle nest needs re-checking. Photo: S Bryant</p> 
Ecological indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Baseline data collected in 2014-15 and trend data due to be collected in Sep 2019
Structural complexity	5 strata per site	
Canopy recruitment		
Vertebrate fauna diversity	4.6 species per site 9 terrestrial mammal sp	
<p>Key findings 2018-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reports of disturbances or fire events on the Reserve during 2018-19 Ecological monitoring is due to be undertaken in Sep 2019 and the status of the eagle nest should be re-surveyed during this process 		
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat ecological monitoring to be undertaken in Sept 2019, 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 2018-19 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.	 <p>Exploring Recherche Bay using 360 degree imagery: TLC web site</p>	
Indicator	2017-18	2018-19 Trend
# events at the Reserve	0 events	0 events - stable
# of volunteer activities / vol days	0 activity / 0 day	0 activity / 0 day - stable
Progress in 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No events or volunteers days were held at the reserve this year TLC made the 360 degree monitoring imagery available on our web site for public education Ongoing discussions with private operators registering our concerns regarding proposals for tourism ventures crossing our reserve continued. An EOI by the developers 'Destination South' was submitted in Jan 2019 but no news as to its outcome has been received as yet. Huon Valley Council through 'HandBuilt Creative were progressing the development of a virtual reality story of the French – Tasmanian Aboriginal history of the region 		
Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide input and comment on tourism proposals as they arise. 		

Cultural heritage protection

Key objective(s)

- By 2016, cultural heritage sites and knowledge are fully documented
- Cultural heritage sites remain intact

Status 2018-19
No recent assessment

Strategy description

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.

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.



M Taylor attending TLCs monitoring site near the French Garden. Photo: S Bryant

Indicator	2017-18	2018-19 Trend
Cultural sites remain intact	Intact	No new data
Cultural heritage sites are documented and mapped	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped	No new data

Progress in 2018-19

- No new information on the floating hotel proposal by Circa Architecture Morris-Nunn and it is likely this has now been deferred indefinitely.
- TLC are continuing to work on a visitation management plan to identify what levels of visitation are appropriate, and ways visitation can be managed to prevent impacting on natural especially eagle and shorebird breeding and sensitive cultural heritage values.

Key recommendations for future management

- Need to progress developing a visitation plan in consultation with cultural heritage experts.
- Consider another TLC event on the reserve in the near future.
- Keep a ‘watching brief’ on tourism proposals on or near our reserve.