

# REVOLVING FUND



*Prasophyllum pulchellum* & *Prasophyllum limnetes* (Photos : Peter Tonelli)

## ORCHID HOT SPOT - PORT SORELL

In 1984 a couple from Devonport bought a 19ha block of land at Port Sorell on the North Coast of Tasmania. It was an 'untidy', swampy bit of bush with gnarly old trees, thick scrub and so many logs and branches on the ground that you could barely walk two steps in succession without tripping over something or banging your shins. So, they set about tidying it up.

First they bulldozed the fallen timber into piles, then they invited the neighbours in to take what they wanted for firewood and finally they burned the remainder. That took care of the dead stuff, and the combination of a tractor and slasher and the occasional burn provided a good solution to the tea tree and heath that kept coming up over the years.

You are probably thinking that this is a story of habitat destruction and environmental degradation. This small patch of bush is certainly not pristine wilderness free of human disturbance. Nor is it a spectacular example of tall, old-growth forest. But there's more to conservation than wilderness and there's more to conservation than trees! This block still contains the following important features that make it enormously valuable for nature conservation:

- Two vegetation communities that have been heavily impacted by human settlement are poorly represented in the public reserve system and are considered a high priority for conservation (black gum woodland and sphagnum bog).
- High floral species diversity in the understorey of the woodland, including 33 species of orchid!
- A range of very significant species, including :
  - a critically endangered orchid species
  - a previously undescribed orchid species
  - four other threatened plant species
  - a burrowing crayfish species that is likely to be listed as threatened in the near future.

The TLC has purchased this block, to protect these important values, with very generous loans from two private individuals, a grant from the Nature Conservation Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment and a bank loan. A conservation covenant will be placed on the title to the land and it will be on-sold to a sympathetic conservation buyer. If you have a particular interest in assisting with the protection of this block, or you like the idea of owning your own threatened species reserve, then give us a call.

**Jim Mulcahy [Vice President]**

# NEWSLETTER



Issue no. 1

Spring 2003



*Devil Print* (Photo: Matt Newton)

**Hello everybody,**

This is our first newsletter and I'll begin by once more thanking you all for your support. In the short time since the launch there is much to report and this issue includes a progress report on the Long Point Reserve purchase and information about properties currently being considered for the revolving fund. Things are already progressing quite well and a particularly large donation has helped enormously towards finalising the purchase of Long Point. These newsletters will become a regular thing and short articles or letters will be considered for inclusion. This is a ground up organisation (and I don't mean it's minced). We are genuinely interested in your ideas.

The TLC is a new organisation and has no paid officers. The office is staffed on a part-time basis by volunteers and by an answering machine at other times. We are currently operating from an office space generously loaned to us by Australian Bush Heritage in their building at the top of Kelly's Steps. This is only a temporary arrangement however, and negotiations are underway over a new site about which we will keep you informed. The office workload is not particularly heavy at the moment but there is a need for volunteers at the Salamanca Market stall held from time to time. If you can spare the occasional day, or even a few hours, please call us. We also need committee members to serve on both the finance and conservation committees. If you are interested please contact the office on 03 6223 1100 or e-mail [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)

Look after yourselves and don't forget to tell Tassie you love her.

**Scott Coleman**

**[Volunteer Editor]**

## TLC Board Members:

**All board members are volunteers**

**Nathan Males (President)**

**Jim Mulcahy (Vice President):**

**Jane Hutchinson (Secretary):**

**Jane Lazaroff (Treasurer):**

**Matt Newton (Member):**

**Wendy Potts (Member):**

**Greg Blake (Member):**

### **Volunteers**

**Scott Coleman (Newsletter)**

**Jean Richmond (Administration)**

You can contact any of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Board and volunteers by leaving a message at the office

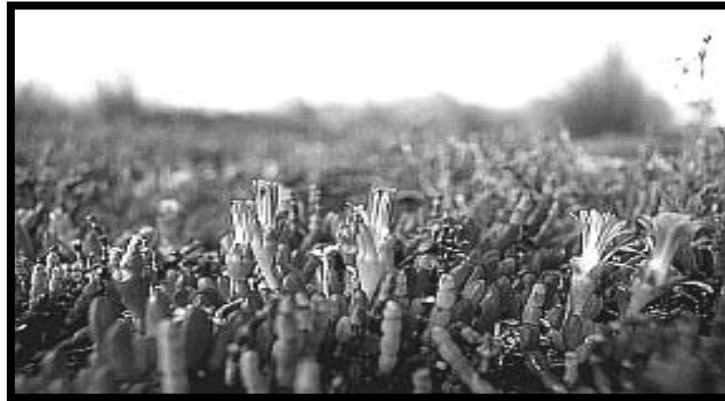
Phone: 6223 1100

or by email: [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)

# PERMANENT RESERVES



Silver Tussock grasses on Long Point (Photos: Matt Newton)



## Long Point Reserve Campaign Update

The campaign to purchase Long Point Reserve is the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's first permanent reserve project. When we began planning the project over a year ago, the organisation had only \$2000 in its account. We invested this in printing the Long Point material knowing we would have to raise every cent of the money we needed to purchase and manage the reserve. Now, due to the passion of Tasmanians (and others) for this state's important natural places, we are in a position to purchase Long Point.

The purchase price has now been agreed with the current owner and contracts have been signed. The Commonwealth Government pledge of two thirds of the purchase price has been finalised and the transfer of the money is being arranged.

Long Point being part of the larger farm title, a subdivision application has been lodged and while there is a chance of complications in the subdivision process, all being well the property will belong to us in a matter of months!

Purchasing our first property will not be the end of the story – it is only the beginning. There will be a lot of work to do to fully restore the ecosystems of this place. For this and future projects the TLC will need your ongoing help and support in the months and years to come. For now I simply congratulate and thank all those who have contributed to the Long Point Project. This is an exciting time for us all and an indication of what we can achieve by working together to conserve Tasmania's most important natural places.

**Nathan Males [President]**

# REVOLVING FUND

## King Island

**We are pleased to announce our first revolving fund purchase and partnership with the King Island Natural Resource Management Group.**

Revolving funds are a way of conserving important natural places at a fraction of the financial cost. Funds are spent on purchasing properties, placing them under conservation covenants to permanently and legally protect them, and reselling them to new owners who will manage them for conservation. The funds can then be re-used to repeat the process.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy believes that revolving funds are an important and useful way to conserve certain types of land such as properties that already have a house as well as remnant bush. This approach to conservation should not be confused with our campaigns to acquire and manage permanent reserves such as Long Point, which we intend to keep under direct TLC ownership and control.

When approached by the King Island Natural Resource Management Group Inc. to jointly manage a revolving fund using Natural Heritage Trust funds the TLC welcomed the opportunity to be involved.

Three highly significant 200ha properties on King Island's east coast have been identified for potential purchase. We have now purchased one of these properties of which 190ha is significant forest and woodland, while 10ha is a clearing and a basic house.

This and future revolving fund properties will be covenanted through the state government covenant programmes and will be put back on the market for resale. If you would like to know more about the property we have already purchased, or may be interested in purchasing a conservation property, please contact Jim Mulcahy via our phone 6223 1100 or e-mail [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)

**Nathan Males**  
[President]

