



TASMANIAN | Land | CONSERVANCY



Flat Rock Reserve - Matt Newton

Issue 10 - Spring 06

Tasmania's Latest Reserve

Dorothy Reeves - Who was she?

TLC Financial Year in Review

Heather Chauncy and Chauncy Vale
For Sale - Recherche Bay Painting

Board Members

Ms. Jane Hutchinson (President)

Mr. Peter Bosworth (V. President)

Mr. Brian Barry (Treasurer)

Dr. Karina Potter (Secretary)

Mr. Edward Butler, Dr. Geoff Couser,

Ms. Sophie Underwood, Dr. Wendy Potts,

Mr. Matt Newton, Mr. Peter Worrall,

Mr. Roderick O'Connor

Staff & Volunteers

Nathan Males (Chief Executive Officer)

Jim Mulcahy (Conservation Programs Coordinator)

Joanne Naylor (Development Coordinator)

Jean Richmond (Office Manager)

Denna Kingdom (Project Officer)

Paul Pritchard (Newsletter Editor)

Contact Us

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394

www.tasland.org.au info@tasland.org.au

On the 25th August 2006, it was with great pleasure that the Tasmanian Land Conservancy officially concluded the purchase of a new 455ha reserve east of Bagdad in Tasmania's southern midlands.

The new Flat Rock Reserve links the historic Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary with the Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area, creating a continuous protected area of over 1000 ha.

The southern midlands region is part of an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. As well as supporting a considerable overall species diversity, the region supports a large number of endemic species (found only in Tasmania) and a high concentration of threatened species.

Flat Rock Reserve is part of a range of rocky dolerite hills, supporting remnant areas of silver peppermint forest and grassy blue gum forest - both priority communities for conservation. Areas of important rock plate grasslands provide suitable habitat for threatened annual plant species and orchids.

Gunns Limited formerly owned the land and parts of it were logged until the mid 1980s. These sections are now regenerating well and providing useful wildlife habitat.

The Southern Midlands Council and a local community group, Friends of

Chauncy Vale, worked with Gunns Limited for many years to bring about this purchase.

Prior to the TLC's involvement, Gunns Limited offered the Southern Midlands Council a one third discount on the land to make the community purchase achievable. The TLC finalised the arrangements by accessing funds from a number of sources including:

- major funding from the Commonwealth Government's National Reserve System Program;
- major funding from the Tasmanian Private Forest Reserve Program, funded through the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust; and
- funds from our loyal regular TLC donors.

The three linked reserves will now be managed jointly by Southern Midlands Council, Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania, Friends of Chauncy Vale and TLC.

This latest acquisition brings to eight the number of properties protected by the TLC in its five years of operation. We are very excited to have achieved this latest win for Tasmanian conservation and especially thank those who provide regular financial support to the TLC.



Dorothy Reeves Orchid Reserve - Jim Mulcahy



TLC Staff

Who was Dorothy Reeves?

“Dorothy Reeves, my mother, a philanthropist by nature, always gave more than she took from life. Even in the lean times she would find ways to support worthy causes. In later years she enjoyed donating generously to many charities, as she did in her final wishes”, reflects Cathy Clayton.

“The intense sorrow I felt at her passing in April 2002, was alleviated slightly by the excitement of finding a way to do something lasting with the legacy she left me. Mum would have so enjoyed being part of the rescue effort for such a unique and interesting area as the property at Port Sorell.”

“She would also have been impressed with the practical approach of the TLC to the issue of protecting and preserving species diversity in this rapacious world.”

The Dorothy Reeves Orchid Reserve is a Revolving Fund property for sale through the TLC. Purchase of the reserve was made possible by generous interest-free loans from Cathy and another invaluable supporter. TLC carries an interest-only loan for the balance of the purchase price and is now seeking a new owner, so that we can repay the loans.

The Reserve is located two kms south-southwest of Port Sorell. The 18.75

ha property is relatively flat and largely covered by open eucalypt woodland in excellent condition. A shed has been built near the road and there is a suitable site for a home.

A conservation covenant is attached to the land title that provides protection for an array of threatened plant species (primarily orchids) and communities.

The important features that make it enormously valuable for nature conservation in Tasmania include:

- Two endangered communities (black gum woodland and kangaroo grass grassland) and a vulnerable vegetation community (sedgy wetland).
- Eight threatened plant species, including five endangered orchids.
- High overall floral diversity in the woodland understorey, including 33 species of native orchid.
- An endangered species of burrowing crayfish.

For further information, please contact the TLC or John Charleston of Elders VJ Woodhouse on 03 6425 2722 or visit www.elders.com.au and search for property Id 233624.

TLC financial year

As we prepare the 2005-2006 annual report for the TLC it is a good opportunity to reflect on the highlights of the last financial year.

In this first full year of employing dedicated TLC staff the TLC was able to make an extraordinary contribution to conservation by acquiring another two permanent TLC reserves.

The greatest achievement of the year was working with Bob Brown, Dick and Pip Smith and Premier Paul Lennon to secure a \$2.21M purchase of land at Recherche Bay - a place of outstanding historic and natural importance.

In addition to an incredible gift and loan package from Dick and Pip Smith, the acquisition received financial support from the Tasmanian Government, organisations such as Fullers Bookshop, 40 ° South, Hobart Cruises and, so far, almost 1000 individual donors, many of whom had made pledges via Bob Brown.

TLC keeps its administrative overheads low so that as many resources as possible can be put into reserve acquisition and management. In 2005-2006 less than 5% of funds were spent on administration.

This is a remarkable effort for such a young organisation and we greatly appreciate your continued support for the TLC.



Heather Chauncy - The Mercury

An Icon of Private Land Conservation in Tasmania

“My parents would have been very pleased to know this inspirational area has now been permanently protected. It is a real win for preservation, education and benign walkers.” Heather Chauncy, daughter of the famous Tasmanian children’s author Nan Chauncy, was reflecting on the significant achievements of the Friends of Chauncy Vale, the Southern Midlands Council, the TLC and the former landholders, Gunns Limited, in concluding the deal to link the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the Alpha Pinnacle Reserve.

Heather’s family connection with the area dates back to 1914 when her grandfather bought land at Bagdad to establish an orchard and hut to provide retirement income.

In contrast to the backdrop of the First World War, the childhood bush experience made an enormous impression on Nan Chauncy (1900–1970). The area offered a rich natural experience of Australian wildlife with caves and creeks to explore.

Bringing the appreciation of the Australian bush to others was the cornerstone of Nan’s life. In the 1920s she trained as a Girl Guide leader and was appointed Captain of the First

Claremont Company. A cottage was built on the land for Nan’s older brother that was later used for Guide and Scout expeditions.

In 1938 the land was given to Nan and Anton Rosenfeldt as a wedding present, the year before Heather was born. In the 1940s adjoining land was purchased, and in 1946 the property was declared a wildlife sanctuary. This was the first area of dry bushland to be conserved and the largest conservation area at the time in the Southern Midlands.

Anton was a specialist in animal conservation and worried about the effect of habitat loss on animal populations. He saw the need to establish reserve areas for native fauna, including thylacines that were frequently seen here in the 1920s.

Over the years Nan wrote many scripts and novels inspired by this landscape, reflecting her love of the natural environment and the human connection to it.

Anton bequeathed the wildlife sanctuary to the Southern Midlands Council in 1988 with Heather simultaneously gifting the house and paddocks.

The challenge ahead is to increase our understanding of the natural values of



Female Peregrine - W.E Brown

Flat Rock Reserve and to work with the local community to protect the land from wood hooking and refuse dumping. The Southern Midlands Council, in conjunction with Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania, Friends of Chauncy Vale and the TLC, is currently developing a management plan.

Damien Mackey, Manager for Environmental Services and Development for the Southern Midlands Council, has commented, “From a nature conservation point of view, the combined area of over 1000 ha is so much more than the sum of the individual parts.”

We all celebrate that sentiment.

Acquiring and managing land for biodiversity

Thanks for your support

We greatly appreciate the support of Fullers Bookshop and 40°South Magazine and their readership through donations to the Recherche Bay appeal and other TLC work.

Special thanks to Hobart Cruises for donating a percentage of profits from their Recherche Bay cruises to the Recherche Bay appeal.

Legal expertise for Recherche Bay and TLC land purchases is generously supplied by Peter Worrall Lawyers and Fitzgerald and Browne Lawyers.

We thank Hobart City Council for their on-going provision of premises for our TLC work.



**FITZGERALD AND BROWNE
Lawyers**



PETER WORRALL LAWYERS

Estate Planning Law • Property Law • Commercial Law

For SALE!



Painting - Val Whatley, Photo - Matt Newton

The painting of Recherche Bay, not the place!

The fundraising for the repayment of the interest-free loan from Dick and Pip Smith continues and the outstanding balance is now just under \$1.44M. This marvelous achievement has only been made possible by the wonderful support of Dick and Pip Smith, Bob Brown and many others who have worked tirelessly to achieve this result.

People from all walks of life have felt moved to contribute their time, money and talents to make special contributions. One such person is Tasmanian artist Val Whatley. Val has painted this stunning picture of Recherche Bay and has donated it for Recherche Bay fundraising. The oil painting is beautifully framed and has dimensions of 1.4m by 0.8m.

Val is a professional artist based in northern Tasmania and has been painting for over 50 years. Born in Tasmania, she moved to Flinders Island as a child. Her time on Flinders greatly influenced her and helped develop an appreciation of the natural world without modern distractions. She fondly remembers a different pace of life and a greater degree of freedom.

On returning to Launceston she was encouraged by family to paint, and found her subject matter inspired by the

natural environment. "Fifty years ago many people could not experience wild Tasmanian places first hand and painting was my way of bringing the beauty of these places to others", Val said.

"The painting of Recherche Bay was inspired by Bob Brown's wonderful aerial photographs. I visited this area of outstanding beauty many years ago by boat and its pristine image never left my memories. The donation of my painting to the Recherche Bay appeal is my way of contributing."

The painting will be on display at Fullers Bookshop, 140 Collins Street, Hobart, 2nd to 30th October 2006.

Individuals keen to purchase the painting are invited to either send a written bid to the TLC or complete a bid form at Fullers Bookshop. The painting is valued at over \$2100 and the highest bid over this price received by the 30th October will secure the sale.

Please contact Jo at the TLC office if you are interested in further details.

We greatly appreciate the financial support of the Printing Authority Tasmania for the printing of this newsletter