



## Revolving Fund Success!

Dorothy Reeves Reserve at sunset and inset Phil, Robin and the scientific field party Photos: Phil Collier

### Issue 12 - Autumn 07

Revolving Fund Success  
Introducing the TLC Board  
Volunteer adVentures  
Managing Recherche Bay  
Recherche Bay - School Project  
Thank You to Sponsors

### Board Members

Jane Hutchinson (Pres)  
Peter Bosworth (V. Pres)  
Rebecca Fergusson (Treas)  
Dr Karina Potter (Sec), Edward Butler,  
Dr Geoff Couser, Sophie Underwood,  
Dr Wendy Potts, Matt Newton,  
Peter Worrall, 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)  
Ruth Osborne (MCKFP Administrator)  
Ross Waining (MCKFP Field Agent)  
Rod Pearse (MCKFP Field Agent)  
Paul Pritchard (Newsletter Editor)  
Ulrike Keyssner (Volunteer Coordinator)

### Contact Us

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005  
Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394  
[www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au) [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)

It is with great pleasure that we can report a fairytale ending to our first revolving fund acquisition with the sale of the Dorothy Reeves Reserve, an outstanding orchid hotspot in northern Tasmania.

The revolving fund concept is simple - we buy land, legally protect the natural values with a conservation covenant and seek new owners who are prepared be custodians of the ecological values.

In 2004 we were alerted to some land available near Port Sorell that contained an endangered forest community, over 30 species of orchid (one of which is considered critically endangered and another known only from this site) and the endangered north coast burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus granulatus*).

The owner at the time was keen to sell and there was potential for the land to be subdivided and for its special values to be lost. There was a real danger that one or more species would become extinct. We felt the property was so important that we had to act - despite having no funds available.

Two wonderful TLC supporters came to the rescue, providing interest free loans for a deposit. An interest only loan from

Bendigo Bank completed the picture and the land was purchased. It was named Dorothy Reeves Reserve after the mother of one of these special people.

The property has now sold. It provides a perfect example of the operation of the revolving fund and is a fairytale ending for the many species that call this unique property home.

The new owners are Phil Collier and Robin Garnet, a couple from Victoria whose conservation backgrounds make them ideal owners for the new property. Phil is an orchid expert who wrote the 'Orchids of Tasmania Plant Identikit' and has placed over 5000 flora specimens, including orchids, in the herbarium. Robin has a Zoology degree and works in science education.

Together, they intend to move to the property and build a house, and an additional small building for visiting scientists.

Following detailed surveys of the flora by Phil and Robin, a meeting of scientists, TLC and the new owners was recently convened to review the management plan for the reserve. The new management regime strikes a balance between regular

Continued on back page



Board member Geoff Couser

## Introducing the TLC Board

Running the TLC is surprisingly complex. The simple concept of buying land for conservation leads to difficult questions. Which land should we buy? How will we raise the money? How will we fund the ongoing management? How will we fund the operations of the TLC? And, how will we manage the reserves?

We are extremely lucky to have a committed and talented voluntary board to wrestle with these questions. TLC's board members have skills and interests in law, financial planning, accountancy, conservation planning, botany, rural property management, and media-not to mention abundant energy and enthusiasm for our work.

Dr Geoff Couser has been with the board for over two years and has made a wonderful contribution.

"I'm a staff specialist emergency physician at the Royal Hobart Hospital, with an interest in undergraduate education in emergency medicine. I am a clinical senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania and have also trained international medical graduates in Tasmania. In 2002 I was part of an expedition to conserve and restore Mawson's Huts, Antarctica. I'm married with two children under two. Life is busy!

I've been interested in the natural environment since childhood and moved to Tasmania in 2000. Tasmania's natural environment is unquestionably outstanding, and surely the state's most important asset. To me, the TLC is a vital contributor to protecting and managing this.

I'm attracted to the TLC because it is a can do organisation which achieves important outcomes for the environment by working with people and organisations from quite diverse perspectives. The link between the natural environment, biodiversity and health is well established, and the TLC, by identifying, purchasing and covenanting high conservation value land, plays an important part in preserving this link in Tasmania. Three years ago my wife and I purchased 142 acres of bush near Saltwater River. It was at that time I first met the TLC to work out how to manage it...and now the covenant is nearly completed and the land will be protected forever. That is satisfying.

It's been a period of great expansion for the organisation and it's a privilege to be a part of it. But there's still so much to be done..."

## Volunteer adVentures

Hi, my name is Ulrike (ool-rick-er) and I am the new volunteer TLC Volunteer Coordinator. I have an educational background in Environmental Studies and Cultural Anthropology, and consider my travels great learning experiences. I previously worked and volunteered for conservation organisations in California and Queensland. I find volunteers bring wonderfully varied life experiences to projects and I have learned much from them.

TLC depends on financial donations to purchase our conservation reserves. Support from volunteers is also vital as many of the lands we purchase are in need of 'TLC'. Long Point Reserve – just north of Swansea – represents a prime example. It is a glorious location, jutting out into the fabulous bird habitat of Moulting Lagoon; however, the invasion of gorse threatens the grass and coastal woodland habitats.

I invite you to come out with us, joining a great group of like-minded individuals, camp overnight at the reserve and have loads of fun (yes, fun!) removing gorse and planting natives. We're hoping to plant around 3000 seedlings this autumn over three weekends - 14-15 April, 28-29 April, and 12-13 May. To see that happen we need around 20 volunteers each weekend. Families are welcome, although for safety reasons children should be over 10. If you're not able to make it on these dates, we also maintain a volunteer register that we use to contact volunteers about more opportunities, so please let me know if you're able to give us a hand.

To find out more information, please email me at [volunteer@tasland.org.au](mailto:volunteer@tasland.org.au) or call the TLC office at least two weeks before the trip. And please – pass this information on if you know someone who would enjoy this constructive, conservation opportunity.

Thank you!

Ulrike Keyssner





Recherche Bay photo: Bob Brown

## Managing Recherche Bay

We have entered a new exciting chapter in the history of Recherche Bay. The TLC is very fortunate to have the volunteer services of Max Kitchell as convener of the Recherche Bay Reference Group. Max has a long and successful career in Australian conservation and management, having held the positions of Director of the National Oceans Office and First Assistant Secretary, National Heritage for the Department of Environment and Heritage, among other senior conservation roles at state and federal levels.

Max is convening a reference group comprising members of the community and experts with expertise in ecology, history and indigenous knowledge, who have assisted the TLC in the development of the management plan. The Federal Government's Department of Heritage, Environment and Water Resources has provided financial assistance for developing the plan.

The group has just completed the Draft Management Plan for Recherche Bay Northeast Peninsula, which has been approved by the TLC Board. We are now inviting public written comment up to 30th April 2007.

The plan covers the legal requirements for management under the commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and the Tasmanian Historic Cultural Heritage Act and addresses the management objectives. The overarching objective of the plan is:

To identify, conserve, protect and assist people to appreciate and, where necessary, rehabilitate the land's natural and cultural heritage values, and to ensure these values are passed on to future generations in as good or better condition than at present.

The plan includes a comprehensive vegetation assessment report carried out by Sib Corbett of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water. Among many interesting discoveries, Sib has identified 78ha of old growth forest on the land. The TLC thanks DPIW for contributing their expert services free of charge.

The plan also details the known and previously published indigenous and European history with the objective of encouraging cooperative management programmes with Aboriginal people



White bellied sea eagle Photo Dave Watts

in areas of indigenous significance. Wilderness and landscape values, with a focus on maintaining the feeling of isolation and remoteness, are identified as important components of all proposed management prescriptions, with no vehicle tracks, permanent dwellings or permanent occupation of the land to be permitted.

Should you be interested in reading and commenting on the plan, it can be viewed on the TLC website at [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au) or by contacting the TLC on 03 6225 1399.

Thank you again to all those who made this purchase possible and for the hard work of many individuals who have given their expertise and time to make this new chapter a reality.

burning of open, grassy understorey to maintain and enhance orchid habitat, and the protection of new trees to ensure the endangered woodland community is renewed and maintained over time.

Robin and Robin say that their appreciation for the land has grown steadily. "We now see it as a very precious piece of remnant coastal vegetation and a habitat of amazing diversity for plant and animal species. We are attempting to learn fast and are increasingly confident that we can make a positive contribution while enjoying our new role as reserve managers".

Having new reserve owners like Phil and Robin demonstrates the strength of the revolving approach. A property of extremely high conservation value has been rescued from an uncertain future and now has custodians for whom the values are close to their hearts.

At the moment our revolving fund is small - along with some borrowed funds we manage \$200,000 on King Island for the King Island NRM group and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust, and \$100,000 for the Tasmanian Government. In the future, we hope to expand our revolving fund and to attract more purchasers like Phil and Robin who will provide invaluable stewardship for some of Tasmania's important natural places.

You can read more about the TLC's revolving fund programme by visiting our website [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au)

## Recherche Cruises

Based on the great success of the day trips to Recherche Bay in 2006, Hobart Cruises is planning to run 30 more trips in the autumn and winter of 2007. The TLC thanks Hobart Cruises for their financial support towards the purchase and management of Recherche Bay in 2006, and we look forward to their ongoing support from the Recherche Bay cruises in 2007.

## Recherche Bay - A great project for schools



Wakehurst Public School pupils

People of all ages and walks of life have played a wonderful role in the protection of Recherche Bay. Our supporters have now repaid over \$500,000 towards the loan from Dick and Pip Smith, and fund raising continues. News of our appeal reached the Wakehurst Public School in Sydney and the children and Jenny Cullen, the school's environmental officer, raised \$1000 for the appeal. A BIG thank you to everyone at Wakehurst Public School. Here is what Jenny says:

"The purchase of Recherche Bay offers a unique opportunity for schools to be involved. The issues of logging and threatened land are usually too politically controversial to be addressed by a school. However, Recherche Bay is a good news story with lots of interesting angles to explore. With the deluge of scary environmental news, it is particularly important to find ways for children to learn about successful actions and, better still, participate.

In December 2006 Wakehurst Public

School held a no-waste 'green fete' and raised \$1,000 for the Recherche Bay fund by making Christmas decorations and gifts from recycled materials, food and drink, and environmental activities. A dramatic presentation at assembly brought the issues to life with the return of D'Entrecasteaux and Labillardiere, horrified to find the pristine peninsula was in danger of being logged. Reading material and comprehension questions were prepared for Years 3 - 6, covering the French exploration, early observations of the Tasmanian Aborigines, the logging proposal and conservationists' attempts to preserve the land.

As Dick and Pip Smith live locally, it was also a great opportunity to discuss the vital role that generous, concerned individuals can play. Any teachers or parents are welcome to use the materials I prepared, which are with the TLC or contact me on [JENNIFER.CULLEN@education.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JENNIFER.CULLEN@education.nsw.gov.au) "

Thanks to the following organisations for their support in recent months



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment  
and Water Resources

matthew newton photography



**FITZGERALD AND BROWNE**  
Lawyers

THE freycinet  
walk EXPERIENCE  
[www.freycinet.com.au](http://www.freycinet.com.au)

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