



# TASMANIAN | Land | CONSERVANCY



Photo: Matthew Newton

## The TLC Revolving Fund Expands

For sale - Marakoopa Creek Reserve, Mole Creek

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### Board Members

Mr Peter Bosworth (President)  
Dr Geoff Couser (Vice President)  
Ms Rebecca Fergusson (Treasurer)  
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The TLC conserves important natural areas in a number of ways: by buying land of high conservation value which is kept as reserves and managed in perpetuity; by helping other landowners to set up their own reserves with conservation covenants; and by operating a revolving fund.

The revolving fund concept is one of elegant simplicity. This rather beautiful mechanism involves the TLC buying property, protecting its conservation values with a covenant and draft management plan, then selling it on to new owners keen to manage its values into the future. In so doing the organisation frees up capital to invest in the next property. It is an approach to conserving biodiversity that uses every precious dollar over and over again.

We are very pleased to report that our revolving fund has recently been given a major boost through a new agreement with the Commonwealth Government's Forest Conservation Fund. The new funding will allow us to revolve an extra ten forested properties every year and employ two additional staff to oversee its initial trial period.

We have started assessing new properties and will gradually acquire some highly important and beautiful forest areas for

sale across Tasmania.

If you could imagine yourself living in and taking care of a precious area of bushland, protecting species such as wedge-tailed eagles, fresh water crayfish, rare orchids or Tasmanian devils, then purchasing a revolving fund property may be for you.

There are several ways in which the TLC's revolving fund can offer assistance if you are considering buying land for conservation, these include:

- Access to professional expertise, including zoologists, botanists, threatened species experts and reserve management specialists, who can assess the ecological significance of the property.
- The conservation covenant would already be in place, and we could assist with the finalisation of a management plan to help guide you with the future management of the property, such as weed removal or replanting native species.
- Offer ongoing advice and assistance with managing the land if required.

If you would like to learn more about purchasing and living on your own nature reserve we would love to hear from you.

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Endangered black gum woodland and rare orchid habitat of Rubicon Sanctuary



Long Point Reserve

## Reserve updates

### Rubicon Sanctuary

One of many mutual benefits for our revolving fund property purchasers and the TLC is a long-term relationship of information and knowledge sharing. Phil Collier and Robin Garnett purchased Rubicon Sanctuary (formerly Dorothy Reeves Reserve) near Port Sorell from the TLC in 2007. Phil and Robin are orchid enthusiasts and with the help of the TLC conducted their first ecological burn in April 2007, implementing the management plan that the TLC had prepared for the property.

Robin and Phil have now seen the results of this ecological process and experienced a wonderful flowering of orchids in September 2007. Of the 35-40 orchid species recorded on the property, Phil reported seeing about 25 species in 2007. He explained that some of the plants at the Rubicon Sanctuary, particularly the orchid species, are stimulated to flower in the first or second year after their habitat has been burnt. "Therefore our Nature Conservation Plan prescribes ecological burns at regular intervals. The TLC organised with the local volunteer Fire Brigade to burn about two ha of the treeless swampy areas last year. We were responsible for mapping the edge of the zones to burn, and throwing the plant debris into the zone to be burnt after the slasher had created the boundaries. The biological highlight was that we estimated the number of flowering stems of *Prasophyllum brevilabre* (a relatively common leek orchid known to flower well

after fires) to be 4509 stems."

Robin and Phil have also commenced a detailed review of the ecological communities that call the Rubicon Sanctuary home. Some not so welcome weeds exist and plans are underway to remove introduced species over time.

Robin and Phil are equally excited about the development of their plans to design and build a passive solar house in the domestic zone. You can find out more about their wonderful sanctuary and great work on their web-site [www.rubicon.org.au](http://www.rubicon.org.au).

### Recherche Bay

We are very pleased to announce that the commemorative sign to recognise all TLC supporters who contributed \$200 or more towards the purchase of Recherche Bay is now underway. We expect to have the sign finalised in the next couple of months and plan to locate it within the boundary of the reserve. We are also in discussion with the Huon Valley Council regarding a second plaque to be placed alongside their interpretive signage for the area at Moss Glen.

### The Egg Islands

Thanks to a recent major donation from a TLC supporter we are now close to our \$200,000 target. We are still welcoming donations for this very important wetland bird habitat. **Should you wish to donate, or gift a donation to someone special, please contact us on 03 6225 1399 or [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au).**

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## Long Point

Support for the management of Long Point Reserve has been outstanding over the past year, with help from local and international volunteers. More than 180 volunteer days have been invested with volunteers planting over 4500 seedlings, removing half a hectare of gorse by hand, conducting bird surveys, and growing more than 1000 seedlings to plant at the TLC's first permanent reserve.

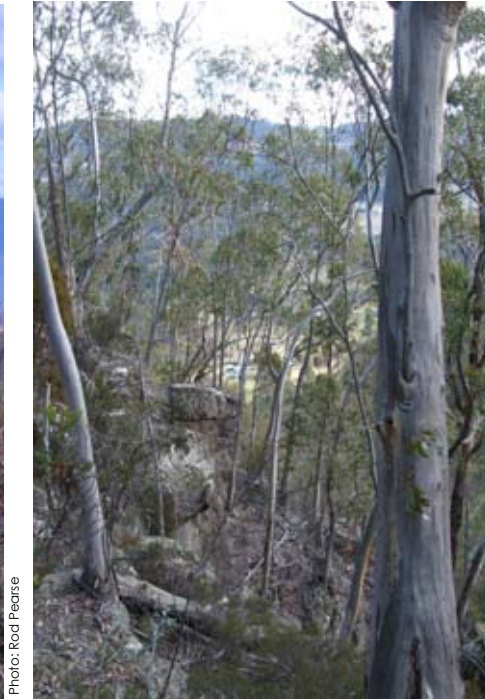
"Volunteers are crucial to the management of TLC's reserves", says Denna Kingdom, the TLC Reserves Manager. "The work they contribute saves the TLC literally tens of thousands of dollars in labour costs." Added to this, many organisational supporters also assist by offering in-kind donations or substantial discounts on equipment and materials required by the TLC to carry out reserve management work.

"We're really pleased to support the TLC in the best way we know", said Les and Helen Payne, of Pulchella Nursery in Buckland. Their nursery supported the Long Point revegetation project by providing specially grown seedlings, and has donated materials and equipment required for volunteers to grow more seedlings this year. "We want to see good things happen in Tasmania and this is our way of helping it to happen."

The TLC keeps a list of people interested in volunteering in both the conservation and administration functions. Please contact Denna Kingdom on 03 6225 1399 for more details if you would like to be added to the list.



Sassafras Creek Reserve, Mole Creek



Mount Charles Reserve, Lachlan



Snows Hill Reserve, Colebrook

## TLC revolving fund properties for sale

### Sassafras Creek Reserve - offers around \$390,000 invited

Sassafras Creek Reserve is 40 ha of forest on the edge of the Great Western Tiers Conservation Area. The property includes a modern three bedroom brick veneer house, built in 1990, on five ha of pasture next to the main road. Mole Creek township is about five kms away. A small hut is located within the forest and is accessible on a four wheel drive track.

The reserve has important conservation values with the land forming part of the Mole Creek Karst System, underlain by limestone caves with cave entrances on the property. It also contains important damp sclerophyll forest, wet white gum forest, and brown-topped stringybark forest with broad leaf shrubs. This is important habitat for the endangered Tasmanian devil and other marsupial carnivores.

A draft conservation covenant has been prepared for the reserve which restricts any activities that may degrade the conservation values, but allows the land to be used for passive recreation and the maintenance of fences. The house and pasture are excluded from the covenant.

This property has been funded by the Australian Government through the Mole Creek Karst Forest Programme component of the Forest Conservation Fund.

**Please contact Rod Pearse at the TLC on 03 6331 9295 for further details.**

### Mount Charles Reserve - offers around \$105,000 invited

Mount Charles Reserve is 30 ha of vulnerable silver and black peppermint forest, in the beautiful Lachlan valley around 40 minutes drive north-west of Hobart, and only 10 minutes to major services in New Norfolk. The property adjoins a public reserve, which in turn adjoins the expansive bushwalking area of Wellington Park.

The reserve rises steeply off Mount Charles Road and a suitable home site exists not far from the road with views across the valley. The reserve is comprised of dry open woodland and forest in good condition and has two ephemeral creeks running through it. Tasmanian devils, wedge-tailed eagles and eastern-barred bandicoots frequent the area.

A draft conservation covenant has been prepared for the reserve, which will provide permanent protection for the conservation values. A management plan will also be provided to the new owners and we can offer ongoing advice on the management of the reserve.

This property has been funded by the Australian Government through the Forest Conservation Fund.

Thank you to Lester Franks Survey & Geographic for providing their services for the property boundary adjustment.

**Please contact Jim Mulcahy at the TLC on 03 6225 1399 for further details.**

### Snows Hill Reserve - offers around \$122,000 invited

Snows Hill Reserve is 84.3 ha of forest and woodland, 45 minutes drive north of Hobart. The property has excellent conservation values and adjoins the Gravelly Ridge Conservation Area. Craighourne Creek passes through the northern edge of the land before flowing to the nearby Craighourne Dam, which is a popular fishing spot. The property offers two potential house sites with good sunny aspects and rural views.

The reserve occurs within a national 'biodiversity hotspot'. It includes 50 ha of black peppermint forest on sandstone, eight ha of dry blue gum forest and three ha of silver peppermint forest; all vulnerable forest communities. It is also the habitat of at least two vulnerable fauna species, the spotted quoll and the Tasmanian devil.

A draft conservation covenant has been prepared to provide permanent protection for the conservation values. Three small areas of the property have been excluded from the covenant to allow for residential use.

Funding for this Revolving Fund property has been provided by the Tasmanian Government.

**For further details please contact Jim Mulcahy at the TLC on 03 6225 1399.**



Dr Wendy Potts

## Board profile

Dr Wendy Potts is a professional botanist specialising in Tasmanian threatened flora. She has been a TLC board member since 2001 and provides highly valued expert guidance on Tasmania's flora. Wendy has given us an insight into her motivation for her voluntary work for the TLC.

“Working with Tasmania’s threatened flora for the Threatened Species Section of DPIW, I am aware that land clearing is the greatest threat faced by many of our species. I was so excited when I heard about the fledgling group that had started to protect and manage private land for conservation in Tasmania that I joined up quickly and soon became a board member of the TLC. Many threatened flora species require disturbance to regenerate, so I am delighted the TLC has adopted a flexible approach to their activities, not just placing land in reserves but ensuring appropriate management for the natural values through cooperation with landowners. I am particularly keen to see the TLC operate a revolving fund enabling us to save gems like the Rubicon Sanctuary with its incredible threatened species values. Our approach will hopefully allow us to play a significant role in protecting and managing enough land to buffer against some of the impacts of climate change.

To relax I love to plant things in my garden and travelling the world looking at forests with my husband Brad, who is an expert on eucalypts.”



TLC supporter and volunteer Dr David Jupe

## Supporting the TLC: a donor perspective

Dr David Jupe is a semi-retired medical specialist. He has a passion for the natural environment in Tasmania and the rest of the world. He and his wife Jane are both supporters and volunteers with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. David discusses his reasons for supporting the TLC:

“I believe that land reservation through public or private acquisition is a vital part of greening our society. Over time, I have been involved in several organisations that have raised funds to set up private reserves in Tasmania. In 1986 the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) set up a Wildlife Appeal to raise money for the purchase of reserves. Lutregala Marsh and the South Esk Pine Reserve were bought as a result. Soon afterwards Bob Brown purchased the Liffey Blocks and this initiative led to the formation of the Bush Heritage Fund. Bush Heritage quickly became a national organisation with a wonderful record of fund raising and reserve purchases, but has sadly left Tasmania.

However from the same roots grew the TLC, which in its short life has already had an equally impressive record locally and has protected 5000 ha in seven reserves, 11 revolving fund properties and 47 conservation covenants.

I still am a member of the TCT and I am

also still a member and supporter of Bush Heritage. So it has been a logical and welcome progression for me to become a member and supporter of the TLC.

Most support for the TLC comes from donations for specific purchases. Most of us as supporters get a kick out of a sense of owning a small part of a unique natural area through our monetary donations which help in its purchase.

However I find it equally attractive to support the people and their work in the organisation itself through regular uncommitted donations and derive a sense of belonging to the organisation from this. Grants to cover staffing and for infrastructure are difficult to obtain and may be short-term. The time spent finding these funds distracts staff from their focus on the main task of finding and acquiring reserves.

So does one support the project or the people? The answer of course is both. Those of you who know the staff at the TLC know that they are worth supporting.

I would urge you all to consider regular donations to the TLC to give flexibility in budgeting for both land purchase and for running the organisation.”

We are grateful to the following organisations for their support in recent months



Australian Government



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