



Photo: Dr. Sally Bryant

TLC results and plans

Three lined skink, a resident of the Vale of Belvoir

Issue 22 Spring 09

TLC results and plans

Reserve Management 0809

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TLC supporter news and events

Thank you PAT

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It is amazing to realise that the TLC is now in its ninth year of operation and in this time has protected over 16,000 hectares in 144 reserves through permanent TLC reserves, the revolving fund programmes and facilitation of other private land reserves. This is a remarkable result and a testament to the organisation's supporters, staff, volunteers, and key funding partners including Roaring 40s and the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund and National Reserve System Programme.

It is also critical to acknowledge the many landowners who have purchased land through the revolving fund or who have established private reserves on their own land. The ongoing commitment to nature conservation made by these landowners is very considerable.

In 2008/9 a key achievement has been the successful fundraising for the purchase of the Vale of Belvoir. Thanks to the valiant support of donors in a year of considerable financial stress and funding from the National Reserve System Programme, sufficient money has been raised to fund the acquisition of this most remarkable of properties.

We have now reached nearly \$450,000 of the \$600,000 target and our fundraising continues, to ensure sufficient funds for the future management of the reserve are raised.

Ongoing management of all our reserves, which currently total eight, will increasingly become a primary focus for the organisation. Our responsibilities begin in earnest when a purchase is made, establishing an ongoing land management task. To help meet the resource requirements for ongoing reserve management we are planning to establish a foundation during the coming year which will be built over the lifetime of the organisation through bequests and other significant gifts.

This critical expansion of the TLC's long-term funding direction is part of our sustainability. The Board, in consultation with staff, members, partners and supporters, will be undertaking a major review of our strategic plan in the coming months. The Board sees the next 12 months as an important period to identify and implement new programmes to ensure that the TLC delivers meaningful conservation outcomes into the future.

Nathan Males - CEO.

'protecting land for biodiversity'



Long Point - a TLC permanent reserve



Volunteer Susanne Skira and platypus burrow (Egg Islands)

TLC reserve management results 08-09

The last 12 months have seen a significant increase in our reserve management planning, resulting in eight management plans of which two—Recherche Bay and Long Point—are finalised comprehensive management plans.

A big thank you goes to our extensive network of professional ecologists and on-ground volunteers for their invaluable support in making this possible.

On-ground management

Our eight reserves (totalling 1,754 ha) have 44 identified threatened species, and 508 ha identified as threatened ecological communities. Long Point Reserve and the Egg Islands Reserve, acquired in 2005 and 2007 respectively with the financial support of the Australian government and our supporters, has been the focus for much of our on-ground work.

Long Point

The Long Point management plan identifies the conservation of white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) woodlands as the key goal. Our monitoring determined the present extent and biodiversity of the white gum woodlands and grasslands. Our reserve management activities seek to improve these into the future to include at least two age classes by 2012.

Long Point Reserve supported white gum woodlands in the mid 20th century. These woodlands were degraded over subsequent decades, resulting in little natural

regeneration. Few white gums remain today with the woodlands dominated by stands of old, senescent black wattle trees that have produced little seed over the past four years. In combination with the grazing pressure from native and introduced herbivores during long-term drought conditions, natural regeneration has been practically non-existent.

Sheep were removed from the reserve upon its purchase in 2005. Extensive on-ground work has been undertaken in the past year by staff, volunteers and contractors to improve the condition of the woodlands and grasslands. This included ongoing control of the invasive, introduced shrub gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and the planting of 600 local provenance native seedlings, taking the total number of seedlings planted during the first three years of the woodlands restoration project to 6,800.

In addition to the on-ground work, strategic fauna surveys were conducted in 2008-2009, building upon the knowledge of Long Point's flora collected in previous years. The fauna surveys focussed on the collection of data on species presence/absence and, where possible, established baseline population data.

Several woodland and grassland species previously unknown to the reserve were identified including swamp rats (*Rattus lutreolus*), microchiropteran bats - *Vespadelus darlingtoni* and *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis* and the threatened spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*).

Approximately 50% of seedlings planted in 2007 are now large enough for their protective tree guards to be removed. Weed control over 25 ha of woodland and grassland has removed the gorse threat, improving the condition of these vegetation communities.

Egg Islands

Weed removal of spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*) and gorse and baseline data gathering have also been a major focus of our conservation efforts on the Egg Islands Reserve over the past 12 months. A weed strategy covering the entire islands was finalised in November 2008 in partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Teams of volunteers have been working with the TLC and PWS staff to implement this management strategy, working towards the goal of enhancing the natural biodiversity and extent of the black gum woodland community (*Eucalyptus ovata*) which forms a critical part of the beautiful mosaic of wetland, marsh, scrub and forest communities.

Volunteering

Our next working bee at Long Point will be held on 26 and 27 September. Please see the back page for further details.

Denna Kingdom
- TLC Reserves Manager



Photo: Dr. Sally Bryant

Ground parrot - a resident of the Vale of Belvoir



Sam Hignett at the Bay of Fires (East coast, Tasmania) and a beautiful example of her artwork



Photos: Alex Thomson

Ground parrots

The ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) is an amazing bird and one of only three species of parrot world-wide adapted to living on the ground. They are still found in small numbers in south-eastern Australia and Western Australia, but Tasmania is their stronghold. Historically they occurred in sedgy heaths throughout east, central and western Tasmania including some offshore islands and Bass Strait, but nowadays the species is declining due to cats, loss of habitat and inappropriate fire. High altitude sites, like the Vale of Belvoir, are interesting as they can often be covered by snow during the winter. Rather than move out, the snow forms an insulating layer under which the birds can live quite happily.

Ground parrots seldom fly unless startled. Early settlers hunted them as game - apparently their pungent, sweet smell was easily detected by dogs. During the day they fossick on the ground for seeds and buds using small runways or by clambering up and pulling down the stems of vegetation.

They are seldom seen as their rich emerald green plumage, mottled with yellow and black flecks, provides excellent camouflage. Their dawn and dusk call has a bell-like resonance. Adults weigh about 70 g with a total body-tail length of about 30 cm. Ground parrots raise four to five young each year in a cup-shaped nest, woven and well hidden at the base of buttongrass clumps.

Dr Sally Bryant
- TLC Wildlife Ecologist

Celebrating the life of Sam Hignett

We were very sad to hear of the passing of artist Samantha Hignett. Sam was passionate about Tasmania and Alex, her partner, requested donations in her memory be made to a TLC trust fund established in her name. Alex Thomson remembers Sam in this article.

“Sam had the most beautiful soul that I have ever met. She was passionate, caring, generous, stubborn, talented, fun and infuriating. Often all at once.

Unfortunately Sam passed away recently after an 18 year pitched struggle with an inexplicable form of cancer. Sam fought a very difficult battle, yet beautiful Sam remained focussed, loving, teasing and delightful. She lived her life how the rest of us aspire to live.

After completing a Fine Arts degree in Adelaide, Sam earned her Master of Arts in Natural History Illustration from the Royal College of Art in London, and then became a teacher through the University of Tasmania. From this Sam found great joy in teaching art and drawing through various Tasmanian schools and museums, and also by running her art workshop classes from her business, AppleArt.

The focus of Sam’s art practice and teaching was the celebration of native plants and animals, particularly endemic Tasmanian plants. Her aim was to educate, delight and highlight the wonderful plants and creatures of our local landscape. Even to the last of Sam’s strength she was still painting, cutting, drawing and insisted on visiting Mt Field to see the *Nothofagus* change colours.

Sam had a personal inner strength, a clarity of focus and joy that children seemed to notice. Whenever kids were near it took only seconds before Sam was on the floor with them, playing and talking in their own world. And the kids would delight in the drawings, colours, 3D paper foldouts, felts and wild creatures that Sam would show them.

While getting to the mountains and wild areas of Tasmania eventually became a struggle, Sam loved our environment, loved the wild, natural places. Mt Field, the Hartz Mountains, and the East Coast were all favourite places of hers. Sam remained all her life a supporter of environmental issues and projects. A trust has been set up in Sam’s name to provide funds and support to ongoing and future TLC projects.

My darling Sam would love the fact that she has been able to help save, preserve and maintain some of our natural heritage. Sam was loved by many; generous to family, friends, strange children, even mere acquaintances; and a truly wonderful woman whom it was privilege to know and love.”

Alex Thomson

Gifts have also been received in memory of:

Janet Ault
Doreen Batey
Adrian Beardsley
Ben Morrow

‘protecting land for biodiversity’



Painting: "Approaching snow; Vale of Belvoir"

Photo and painting: Philip Wolfhagen



Northeast peninsula of Recherche Bay Reserve

Photo: Dr Bob Brown

Supporter news and events

Tasmanian based artist Philip Wolfhagen and his family are long-standing supporters of the TLC, often donating proceeds of Philip's works to TLC appeals.

Philip is holding an exhibition of his latest works, entitled "Journey to the Source," in Sydney at the Dominik Mersch Gallery, 2 Danks Street, Waterloo from 3rd September to 3rd October 2009. He has very kindly donated one of his works in the exhibition, "Approaching snow; Vale of Belvoir" to the TLC to raise funds for the protection of the Vale of Belvoir. The painting is 46 by 49 cms, oil and beeswax on linen, and is on sale for \$7,500.

Philip is quintessentially a painter of the Australian landscape, one whose work has been exclusively absorbed into his private obsession with Tasmania, the terrain of his personal origins. He is regarded as one of Australia's most outstanding landscape painters.

If you are in Sydney or wish to know more about the exhibition please visit www.dominikmerschgallery.com or call 02 9698 4499.

Working bee at Long Point

The weekend of 26-27 September is planned to be a very busy and productive time for on-ground TLC volunteers. We are running our next Long Point Reserve

working bee, when we hope to plant hundreds of seedlings grown by volunteers over summer, and manually remove gorse.

If you would like to register or find out more, please contact Ruth on 03 6225-1399 or rosborne@tasland.org.au Registrations close on Monday 21st September.

Would you like to celebrate?

Since 2006 many of our supporters have helped to raise funds to ensure the permanent protection of this historic and ecologically significant 143 ha property. We are now very pleased to announce that the interpretive signs for the TLC Reserve at Recherche Bay are ready for installation. The interpretive signage includes acknowledgement of all supporters who made donations of \$200 or more to this wonderful reserve.

The signs will be installed at Moss Glen, opposite the Recherche Bay Reserve and we are considering having a celebration at Moss Glen on Sunday 1st November 2009.

If you are interested in joining us, please let us know by emailing us at info@tasland.org.au or calling on 03 6225 1399. If there is sufficient interest we will confirm details for the event with registered supporters, family and friends in October.

Thank you PAT

This 22nd issue of the TLC newsletter marks six years of publication. From the early days we have been supported most generously by Print Applied Technology (PAT) in Hobart who have progressed our newsletter from the original four-page black and white copy to this new six-page format, printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable based inks.

We know it is important to many of our readers that we minimise our environmental impact. PAT has worked with us to reduce our impact by recommending that we change to vegetable based inks, reducing the requirement for solvent reprocessing. We are very happy to announce that the new six-page format incorporates this advance.

PAT's unique "Ecoclean" system cleans and recycles over 5000 litres of solvent per year, that normally would have been disposed of after a single use. The recycling of solvents not only produces a cost saving to the business and its customers, but is also a key element in working towards their AS/NZS ISO 14001; Environmental Management System accreditation.

We wish to thank Richard Brown, Dallas Henley and everyone at PAT for helping to bring our quarterly newsletter to our supporters in the most cost effective and environmentally sensitive manner.

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



'protecting land for biodiversity'



ESTATE PLANNING LAW · PROPERTY LAW · COMMERCIAL LAW





Revolving Fund Properties for Sale

By choosing to purchase property through the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's Revolving Fund, you make an exciting positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. The TLC has selected every property primarily for its high ecological value, but each property offers an existing home or an attractive home site. The TLC uses the proceeds of sales to purchase and protect further important properties. Together, we build a network of areas cherished by owners for their natural values.

For more information please visit www.tasland.org.au and follow the [Property Maps](#) and [Revolving Fund](#) links.

Snug Tiers, Margate

This unique property of 103.7ha is only 25 minutes from Hobart. It features an approved temporary residence with all services and amenities on a sunny, north-facing house site that offers spectacular views of the lower Derwent Estuary. Containing a high diversity of eucalypt species and a high overall diversity, the property also provides habitat for wedge-tailed eagles and Tasmanian devils.

Offers around \$395,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 011



Mt Charles, Lachlan

Only 45 minutes drive from Hobart, the 30ha Mount Charles property features threatened forest, two ephemeral creeks and habitat for Tasmanian devils, wedge-tailed eagles and eastern-barred bandicoots. It offers a sunny house site with a northerly aspect, views over the Lachlan Valley and easy access to the extensive walking trails of the nearby Wellington Park Reserve.

Reduced to \$90,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 003



Snows Hill, Colebrook

This beautiful 84.3ha property with Snows Hill at its centre is only an hour from Hobart. The property features threatened forest communities and caves that provide dens for spotted-tailed quolls, Tasmanian devils, possums and wombats. There are two potential house sites with sunny aspects and rural views, while the short walk to the summit of Snows Hill provides expansive views.

Offers over \$122,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: GenRF 003



Bullock Hills, Hollow Tree

Covering 300ha, the Bullock Hills property has three titles, one with an existing two bedroom house. It protects threatened forest communities and habitat for a wide range of animals, including wedge-tailed eagles and Tasmanian devils. All titles offer attractive views, including spectacular views of mountains to the south-west from some sites. Buy one, two or all three titles together.

Prices on application

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 004



Contact: Rod Pearse on 0429 179 100

Contact: Jim Mulcahy on 0424 505 184

Apsley River, Bicheno

The spectacular Apsley River property occupies 108.4ha on the outskirts of Bicheno on Tasmania's east coast. It fronts the beautiful Apsley River Reserve, offers outstanding views of the nearby coastline and features a sunny, north-facing house site. This very diverse property protects threatened forest communities, at least three threatened plants and provides habitat for at least four threatened animals.

Offers around \$300,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 009



Sassafras Creek, Mole Creek

This 40ha, densely forested property has a recently constructed 3br home with road frontage to Liena Road, a popular tourist route to the Mole Creek caves and Cradle Mountain. Several cave entrances access the intricate and delicate underlying karst cave system. The forest is threatened and provides habitat for the Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed and eastern quolls - all endangered marsupial carnivores.

Reduced to \$335,000

Contact Rod Pearse: MCKFP 002



Chimneys Lagoon, St Helens

On the fringe of St Helens, this tranquil 27ha conservation treasure offers a perfect retreat and lifestyle opportunity. Comprising both coastal forest and a gorgeous wetland, it is home to diverse water-birds and an array of threatened species. This unique conservation property is accessed via a sealed road, is adjacent to services and includes a domestic zone to enable development (STCA).

\$197,500

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 012



Tall White Gums, Gunns Plains

Perfect for horticulture, hobby farming or just living the quiet life – this 20ha property features rare and magnificent tall white gum forest, trickling streams, caves and a picturesque view across a rural and forest landscape. An orchard and a four bedroom house occupy 4ha of cleared land. Excellent soils and an average rainfall of 1,200mm per year complete this special property.

\$320,000

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 007



Shiny Grassrees, Clarence Point

Located 48 kilometres north of Launceston on the gorgeous West Tamar near the coastal resort of Greens Beach, this 40ha property features an endangered forest and a large population of endangered grass trees. A house site has Council planning approval.

\$190,000

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 010



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www.tasland.org.au



Australian Government

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy is a registered environmental organisation. We raise funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites, endangered species habitats, and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. ABN: 88743 606 934

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These properties were purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy through a Revolving Fund, which is used to buy land with significant conservation values to protect forever through the use of a conservation covenant. The TLC's Revolving Fund is funded from a number of sources. The primary source is the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund. Other funding sources include the King Island Natural Resource Management Group and DPIPW. Money raised from the sale of Revolving Fund properties is directed into the purchase of other Revolving Fund properties in Tasmania, extending the value from every dollar within the Fund.