

REVOLVING FUND LAND FOR SALE

This regular feature of your newsletter will keep you informed about covenanted properties for sale. You are also welcome to advertise your own conservation property here or place a wanted ad if you are looking for land to conserve. To place an ad contact Jim Mulcahy on (03) 6225 1399

Orchid heaven - A rare and important woodland property near the beach

The Dorothy Reeves Reserve at Port Sorell is now for sale.

Only minutes from Port Sorell and beautiful beaches this attractive 19 hectare property of open Black gum woodland and sphagnum bog nurtures a range of threatened species from endangered orchids to burrowing crayfish. There are 33 species of orchids on this block, including one critically endangered and one that was until recently unknown!

Surrounded by cleared and introduced pasture this important oasis of remnant bushland needs a willing custodian. The land is protected under a conservation covenant with approximately one hectare available for occupation and construction of a dwelling.

We are seeking expressions of interest with offers over \$145,000 from anyone who wants a beautiful home site and an active role in protecting this outstandingly important place.

King Island Hideaway with your own forest reserve!

Bordering the Martha Lavinia Nature Reserve on the east coast of King Island and only 10 minutes from beaches and Sea Elephant estuary, lies this 200 hectares of important native vegetation.

The majority of the block is densely vegetated with large stands of King Island Blue gum, Brookers gum, White gum, Melaleuca forest and lots of King Island scrub. A covenant protects these areas of the block while allowing for the construction of a walking track.

A 2 bedroom house and dam are located on the remaining 4 hectares of cleared paddock. The house, which is in need of a little attention, overlooks the coast and is only 20 minutes drive from the world famous cheese factory.

Expressions of interest with offers of over \$85,000 are invited contact TLC on (03) 6225 1399.

I am supporting the work of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy by making a one off tax deductible donation of:

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____ *

I am supporting the work of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy by making a regular monthly credit card donation of:

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$50 Other \$ _____ *

I am paying by: Cheque/money order made Payable to "The Tasmanian Land Conservancy Fund"

Bankcard Matsercard Visa

Card number _____ Expiry date _____

Cardholders name _____ Cardholders Signature _____

Personal details: Name Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____ Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ I would like newsletters by email only.

Please send your donation to: Tasmanian Land Conservancy PO Box 103 Battery Point TAS 7004

* All donations of more than \$2 are tax deductible

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NEWSLETTER

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email: info@tasland.org.au

web: www.tasland.org.au

Ph: 6225 1399

ABN 88 743 606 934

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The 2003-2004 Board
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(Secretary)

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(Board member)

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(Board member)

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(Board Member)

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Jim Mulcahy
(Conservation Officer)

Volunteers
Scott Coleman
(Newsletter, office renovations)
Jean Richmond
(Office manager)



Unique Opportunity

Nathan Males introduces the TLC Tasmanian Revolving Fund Appeal

Revolving funds allow an organisation like the TLC to buy properties with conservation values, protect the values using a covenant (see Jim's article on page 3) and resell the land to be cared for by new owners. The beauty of revolving funds is that they allow an amount of money to be used repeatedly to protect important natural places.

It has always been part of TLC's vision to start a revolving fund for Tasmania and we are thrilled to have already teamed up with the King Island NRM group to operate a King Island revolving fund. We moved closer to the ultimate goal when a critically important property for orchid conservation came onto the market near Port Sorell (see page 4). As the property could not be purchased as a permanent reserve by the state government, we decided to find a way to purchase it ourselves, borrowing the funds at short notice from two supporters and the bank. The covenant is now close to completion and we are seeking a conservation-minded purchaser.

Since then, we have been searching for a way to establish a fund to revolve properties throughout Tasmania (without borrowing from the bank), and a wonderful opportunity has arisen to help us get started.

A generous TLC supporter has offered to sell us a forested property near Cygnet for the price he bought it for in 1972! The 20 hectare property consists of a forested ridge of dry sclerophyll woodland and slopes of wet sclerophyll with towering blue gums (*E. globulus*) and stringy barks (*E. obliqua*). It is a great place for a weekend retreat for someone who likes to brush with nature. The current owner would be happy for us to protect the property using a covenant and resell it. If we could do this, we could add significantly to the funds available for purchasing other revolving fund properties.

To take advantage of this opportunity and to be in a position to act rapidly when important natural places are available we need to build a fund - to build a fund we need your help.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. If each of the existing TLC supporters contributed just \$100 we would have sufficient funds to begin our work in earnest.



Permanent Reserves News

‘Raising funds to acquire areas of critical Tasmanian habitat and manage them forever’

Long Point Permanent Reserve Project – The Waiting Continues

Jane Hutchinson reports

What is that old adage? ‘The wheels of justice grind very slowly’... Well it seems that is the case with the Long Point appeal to the Resource Management Planning and Appeals Tribunal. With the hearing listed and ready to proceed in May, one of our witnesses became very ill and the hearing had to be adjourned until the 12th of July. So, unfortunately, we have to wait for another month for our day in the tribunal. Our legal advisers remain confident that the outcome of the hearing will be positive and the subdivision application will be approved. Fingers crossed!

In the meantime, we have secured a \$25,000 ‘Envirofund’ grant from the Commonwealth Government to carry out weed control on Long Point. So, we will have some management responsibility for Long Point regardless of the outcome of the tribunal and we are looking forward to rolling up our sleeves. Hopefully, when we do, it will be on our own 1000 acre reserve!



Revolving Fund News

‘buying and protecting Tasmanian natural places – reselling them to reuse the funds’

Jim Mulcahy explains his role as conservation officer at TLC



As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, I have recently become the TLC’s first full-time staff member. I have been employed for the past five years as a Conservation Agreements Officer with the State-run Protected Areas on Private Land Program (www.papl.tas.gov.au). The position was previously based at the Australian Bush Heritage Fund, but has now been transferred to the TLC. The salary for the position comes from a Commonwealth grant administered by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

My role as a Conservation Agreements Officer involves the promotion, negotiation and facilitation of formal conservation agreements between private landowners and the state government. These agreements generally take the form of a Conservation Covenant under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Covenants are legal agreements that are attached to the title of the land and ‘run with the title’ so that they are binding on future owners. Conservation covenants are covenants designed to provide permanent protection for natural values on private land.

To encourage private landowners to enter into conservation covenants, the state government offers an exemption from State Land Tax for land protected under covenant. Many councils also offer rate rebates for land protected under conservation covenants.

Being legal documents, conservation covenants are a bit scary and people often ask me questions along the lines of:

“Why would I want to sign this and have to answer to the government when I’m already doing a good job of looking after the land?”

My response to this is simple. The benefits of these agreements are in providing long-term protection for your land. Imagine the worst land manager that you have come across and now imagine that that person, or someone just like them, is the next owner of your land. If this thought distresses you then a conservation covenant is worth considering, because it is the only mechanism that offers you some control over how your land can be managed into the future.

There are two programs operating in Tasmania that facilitate conservation covenants under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. The Private Forest Reserve Program (PFRP) offers covenants over forest communities identified as a high priority for conservation under the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (www.privaterfa.tas.gov.au). In return for covenants through this program, landowners may be eligible for up-front incentive payments and ongoing management funds. This program has completed covenants over nearly 28,000ha of priority forest on 147 properties. A further 4,500ha on 32 properties is currently in the process of being covenanted.

To complement the operations of the PFRP, the Protected Areas on Private Land Program was established to pursue conservation covenants over important non-forest vegetation communities. Until recently, this program has not had financial incentives available to encourage landowners to enter into conservation covenants. However, some funding is now available to encourage covenants over native grasslands and significant freshwater ecosystems (eg wetlands, saltmarsh and riparian areas). The Protected Areas on Private Land Program has completed covenants over nearly 2,200ha on 61 properties. A further 2,000ha on 91 properties is currently in the process of being covenanted.

If you would like more information about conservation covenants, then please feel free to contact me at the TLC office or to contact either of the programs directly.



TLC News

Newsbrief

While Long Point is still a little way off there has been much to do in our new home. Tazzie, our newest volunteer has blown in from Western Australia and lent a great deal of speed and enthusiasm to the redecorating, which has gone ahead in leaps and bounds. Thanks heaps Taz!,

The “Gallery” is now painted and beginning to look the part. Jim is happily settled in our new office and it already feels very much like home.

Thanks to Nathan, our beloved and charismatic leader, for all his work on this issue while I have been preoccupied with the painting. It has been good to have a break from my never ending struggle with “word”.

See you all at the launch.

Bye

Scott Coleman

Editor



Office and Gallery Opening Invitation

When we started painting out the new office space, everyone who came in said “wow this would make a great gallery”. So, we decided to double the office space as a gallery for nature photography. Allegra Biggs-Dale from Bruny Island will be the first to exhibit with her beautiful macroscopic images of orchids.

We are planning a **celebration** to launch the new office and open the first exhibition of the nature photography gallery at **827 Sandy Bay Road** on **Friday 16th July at 5.30pm**.

Everyone is very welcome. refreshments will be available

Equipment Donated-Thankyou

Many people have donated furniture and computer equipment for the office. So far we have 3 computers with monitors, a scanner, a printer, 2 desks and a filing cabinet. Thankyou to everyone who donated.