



Issue 9

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How will we manage?



Photo: Leanne McLaughlin

Student Volunteers tackle gorse at Long Point

On an unseasonably warm autumn morning a group of ten volunteers stand at the top of a hill and breathe in the spectacular view for the first time. In a few hours they will have worked hard removing the gorse that has invaded 43 hectares of woodlands at Long Point.

The team has flown in from America, Canada and Europe with International Student Volunteers, an organisation that arranges volunteering holidays for students. All of them are keen to start working in this wetland that has been recognised as important on an international scale.

Volunteers are a vital component to managing the conservation values at Long Point. Whilst a large portion of the gorse at Long Point has been sprayed recently by contractors – with financial assistance from the Australian Government's Envirofund Program – some areas are not suitable for spraying. The presence of a native vegetation understorey and proximity to the water are the primary reasons for this. Where spraying is unsuitable, the available options for control become labour intensive. With only a limited capacity to use paid contractors, the TLC is dependent upon volunteers to achieve its conservation goals at Long Point.

The gorse infestation that the volunteers are working on looks and feels like a

dense sea of spikes. To allow the team to gauge their efforts, a 10m x 10m grid is marked across the slope to focus their energy. The team members divide to attack the gorse from different angles and are completely hidden from each other.

Joe dives into the base of a large gorse plant with loppers, making jokes and wincing at the spiky leaves prickling his arms and back. As the bulk of the plant falls aside, Nick drags it out and adds it to the growing pile a few metres away. After a few more branches have been cleared, Kenan moves in to dab the bright pink glyphosate onto the freshly cut stumps.

Later the entire group looks over their work – now a patch of grassy ground with pink polka-dots, where only hours before stood dense gorse. The entire grid square has nearly been cleared in less than three hours, and the feeling of accomplishment energises the team. "This place is so pretty!" Whitney and Aubrie agree, as the team packs up and the sun sinks lower over the hills. "Imagine what it'll look like when we're done!"

While cutting and painting is undeniably hard physical work, the feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day, having spent time in such an inspiring place, is unsurpassed.

Denna Kingdom



Trust Fund Established

A future from the past

David Obendorf discusses his support for the TLC

Successes and Challenges

As another financial year hurries to a close it is astonishing to reflect on the achievements of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy over the last 12 months. Your financial and moral support has enabled the TLC to complete the purchase of three new reserves: Long Point Reserve, Lutregala Marsh Reserve and, of course, the well publicised Recherche Bay Reserve.

Each of these precious pieces of land sustains rare and threatened Tasmanian species and, in the case of Recherche Bay Reserve, protects internationally significant historic heritage. The TLC's reserves also contribute significantly to the conservation of other reserves in the landscape. By selecting land that adjoins other protected areas we are increasing the long-term viability of habitat, ensuring that native plants and animals can move in the landscape, and reducing the risk of species extinction.

Alongside the establishment of new reserves, our growing challenge is the management of our existing land. In this issue, Denna discusses work already underway to manage the weeds at Long Point Reserve. A combination of grant funds and willing volunteers is making an impact on the gorse.

Overall, the financial year has been incredibly exciting and we are making very positive steps towards achieving the conservation goals of the organisation. You can contribute to the TLC's conservation work by considering a tax-deductible donation to the organisation (particularly at the close of the tax year) or by joining the TLC's Conservation Investment Program - making monthly contributions to make the TLC's ongoing work possible.

Thank you for your support.

Nathan Males



Photo: Karen Barry

My mother, Miriam, died in December 2005 - two days shy of her 90th birthday. As one of her four children I knew I'd receive a portion of her estate. When a cheque arrived from the family solicitor I began thinking how to best honour my mum and at the same time respect her wish to provide for her children and grandchildren. If I donated this money to a worthy cause I'd fulfil part of that intent but it wouldn't reflect Miriam's care for me and my two children. It seemed like a difficult dilemma but by working with the TLC I have found a great solution.

I've always been interested in private land conservation projects involving the purchase of important tracts of natural environment. When land acquisitions through private donations commenced in Tasmania in the late 1980s I was a keen participant. After attending the recent celebration of the purchase at Recherche Bay by the TLC, an idea began to evolve.

I began thinking about giving a portion of my dear mum's estate to the TLC to establish a trust fund to provide an income stream for the conservation of its lands I rang Nathan Males, the CEO of the TLC, and explained my idea of offering the loan of a capital amount to be placed in an interest-bearing trust fund from which TLC could obtain regular interest payments. Nathan was delighted and reinforced the critical importance of this type of income for the TLC.

As the TLC grows and gains more land to manage, the ongoing funding requirements also grow. I am very pleased to pioneer a new way for us, a community of supporters, to help TLC with the challenges ahead. This was a very happy outcome for me personally and a fitting tribute to the memory of my mother.

My intention is to leave the funds with the TLC for the long term and perhaps bequeath them or gift them permanently in time. In the mean time, the funds are available to me with some months notice should I need them and the TLC will provide me with tax deductible receipts as the interest is earned and donated.

Conservation Covenants

What exactly is a Conservation Covenant?

Jim Mulcahy explains

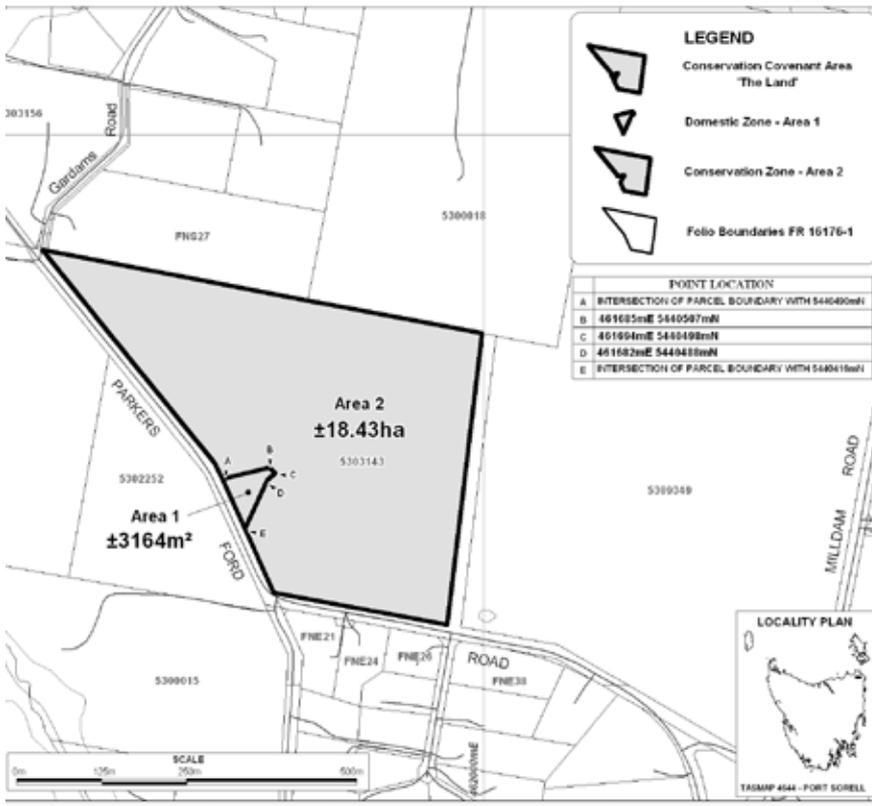
Dorothy Reeves Reserve an example of a working conservation covenant.

The covenant on the 19 hectare Dorothy Reeves Reserve has two zones; a Conservation Zone (Area 2) and a Domestic Zone (Area 1).

The covenant conditions for the Conservation Zone allow limited human use such as provision and maintenance of walking tracks and boundary fences.

The covenant conditions for the Domestic Zone allow owners to build a house and establish a garden with few restrictions. The Domestic Zone is designed to protect the entire Reserve from any impacts of residential use (eg no introduction of known environmental weeds).

Dorothy Reeves Reserve is currently for sale. Expressions of interest around \$150,000 are invited.



For the past four years the TLC has been a partner in a state government program called the Protected Areas on Private Land Program. This program works with land holders to facilitate the permanent protection of conservation values on private land through the registration of formal conservation agreements under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. These agreements are usually in the form of Conservation Covenants.

The term 'covenant' is commonly used to describe a restrictive legal instrument that is attached to a land title and travels with that title from owner to owner (in this sense it is said to 'run' with the title). This ability to run with the title of the land means that legal covenants are binding on future owners and can potentially provide an effective mechanism for achieving long-term conservation outcomes on private land.

The use of covenants of one form or another for conservation purposes has become increasingly popular in Australia in recent times, and the use of conservation covenants are currently promoted and supported by all levels of government.

As well as assisting other private landowners to register conservation covenants over their land, the TLC registers covenants over all of the properties it acquires. In the case of revolving fund properties the covenant provides the mechanism to ensure that the conservation values are protected under future ownership.

In the case of permanent TLC reserves, the covenant provides a 'safety net' against the possibility that the TLC ceases to be the owner of the land at some point in the future.

In general the TLC deals with conservation covenants under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, but there are other forms of covenant that can be used for conservation purposes. Another type of covenant that is being used more and more frequently for conservation purposes is a Part 5 Agreement under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

If you would like to know more about conservation covenants or would like assistance with a conservation covenant over your own property, please feel free to contact our office.



Recherche Bay update

Only \$1.55 million to go

There are many pleasing aspects to working for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy but one of the highlights has to be opening the morning's mail. As we publicised in our last newsletter, the fund raising for the repayment of the generous loan from Dick and Pip Smith is now fully underway and we are heartened by the daily decrease in the outstanding balance owed.

Whilst we still have a long way to go, in fact around \$1.55 M, we are undertaking a national fund raising campaign through a number of quality publications and also working hard behind the scenes in international circles.

Being a very small organisation our fund raising strategy focuses on working with individuals and organisations, rather than events and promotions, which may take considerable time and cost to achieve relatively small returns.

One organisation that has been supportive of our fund raising is Hobart Cruises, who have

organised a number of day cruises to Recherche Bay from Hobart. These trips have proved to be very popular and Hobart Cruises are donating 5% of the profits from the cruises to the Recherche Bay Fund.

Another very supportive organisation has been Fullers Bookshop who have very kindly allowed us to include an article and our brochure in their recent newsletter mailout. Thank you to all Fullers newsletter subscribers who have been generous.

A special thank you also goes to the Mercury Newspaper, specifically journalist Rod Boucher, Education Services Manager, who published a double page colour spread in the Mercury on the 27th April featuring the TLC and Recherche Bay.

Thank you to all of you who have generously donated and offered support in so many positive ways.

Joanne Naylor

2nd and 9th of July
Book your seat on the Recherche Bay Cruise from \$108
Call Hobart Cruises on 1300 137 919
5% of profits are donated to the TLC



Photo: Denna Kingdom

Call for volunteers

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy has now established a register of volunteers who are keen to participate in weekend working bees. As yet, working bees are only necessary at Long Point, however other reserves may be included in the future.

Volunteers need to be enthusiastic and physically able to undertake manual activities, such as cutting and painting, lopping or planting seedlings.

Please contact Denna to register your interest, or for more information, by email dkingdom@tasland.org.au or by telephone 6225 1399.