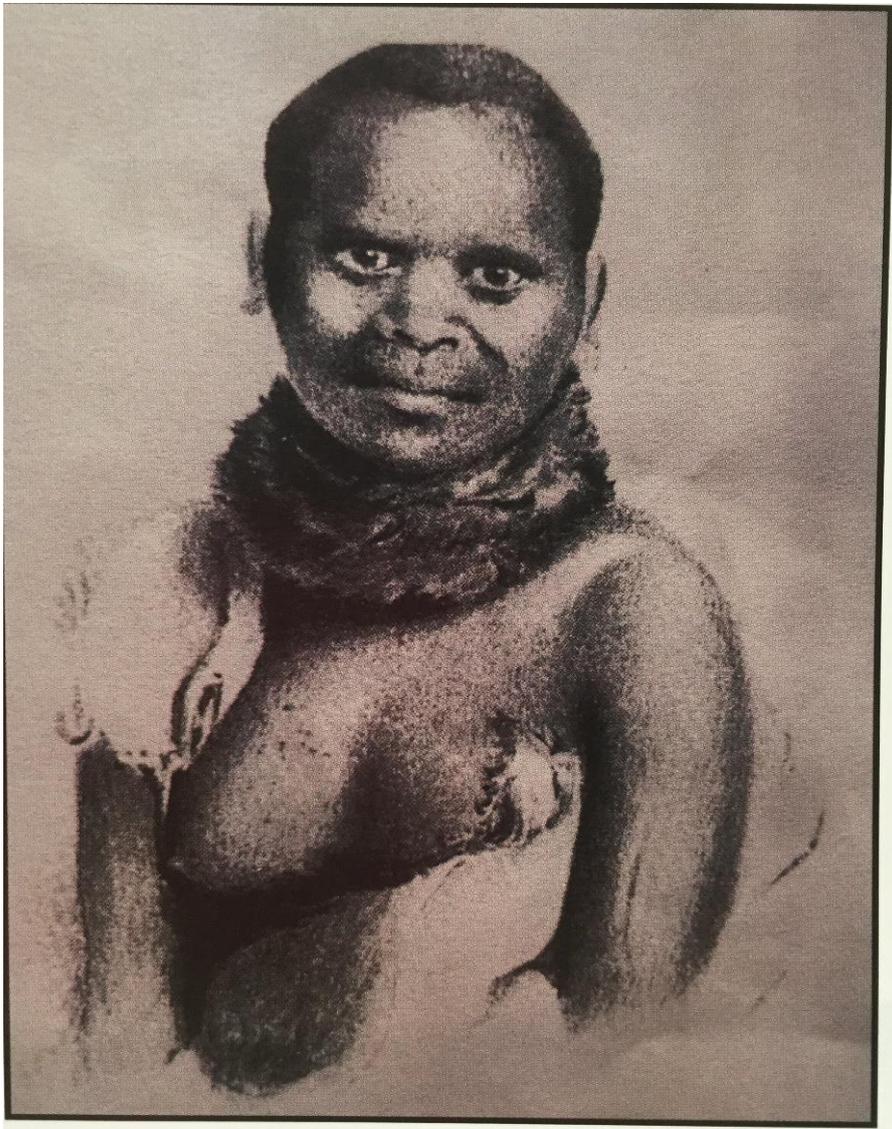




Annual Report

Panatana Reserve 2017-18



www.tasland.org.au

INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) protects important natural areas as permanent reserves and aims to demonstrate excellence in reserve management for biodiversity conservation. The TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation which comprises– planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, reviewing and communication.

This Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2016 to protect 54 hectares of ephemeral wetlands, coastal forest and saltmarsh adjacent to the Rubicon Estuary on the north coast of Tasmania. The Reserve adjoins 190 ha of Indigenous Land Corporation purchased land known as ‘Panatana’ now managed by the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC), who also lease land to the south known as ‘Marshalls Hill’. The TLC, ILC and SRAC have agreed to collaboratively manage all parts of Panatana as a single reserve and to be guided by the Panatana Reserve Management Plan. The plan is implemented by TLC staff through their Annual Work Plans with details of ecological monitoring methods found in TLC’s Ecological Monitoring Procedures Manual on www.tasland.org.au.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2017-18, and is divided into three sections:

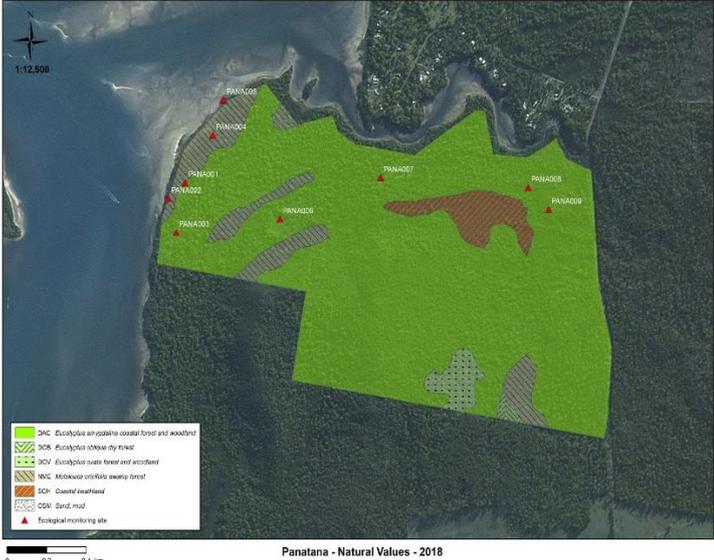
1. Reserve Scorecard – a table summarising the results of management effectiveness and ecological monitoring to date;
2. Management Effectiveness Summary – providing details of the implementation of key management strategies and making recommendations for plan improvement;
3. Ecological Monitoring Summary – providing details of the status of conservation targets and trends of key ecological indicators

The recommendations made in this report are used to adapt and improve management of the Reserve, update the management plan, and revise work and monitoring plans for the coming year. Key findings of this report are communicated to the TLC Board, the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation, ILC, TLC supporters and other relevant stakeholders.

PANATANA RESERVE SCORECARD 2017-18

Ecological Monitoring			
Target	Ecological indicator	Status 2017-18	Trend
Coastal Forest and Woodland	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Unknown
Wetland Coastal Complex	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Unknown
Terrestrial Mammals	Species richness Proportion native species Native species diversity indices	7 native species, 2 introduced species 0.78 Simpsons 0.64, Shannon-Wiener 1.19	Baseline data
Feral Cats	Feral Cat Activity Feral Cat occupancy	0.04 (4 detections from 112 trap nights) 0.5 (detected at 2 of 4 sites)	Baseline data
Management Effectiveness			
Target	Indicator	Status 2017-2018	Trend
Reserve Management			
	Annual Reserve Visits	Reserve visit undertaken	On Track
	Management Actions	Addressing management issues	On track
	Legal TLC Right-Of-Way	No legal Right Of Way in place	Not progressed
	Liason with SRAC	Communication open and regular	On track

MONITORING SUMMARY

Ecological Monitoring	Status: Very Good	
Goal Track changes in the ecological condition of Panatana Reserve using standard TLC monitoring procedures	Outcome: On Track	
Description Ecological monitoring across Panatana Reserve will help guide its future management and track changes in condition of key targets as well as help detect natural variations. Monitoring should be undertaken using TLC standard monitoring methodology to ensure consistency and to enable comparisons with other reserves in the landscape.	 <p style="text-align: center;">Panatana Reserve vegetation communities and monitoring sites. Map: TLC</p>	
Target	Ecological indicator	Status 2017-18
Coastal Forest and Woodland	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet
Wetland Coastal Complex	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet
Terrestrial Mammals	Species richness Proportion native species Native species diversity indices	7 native species, 2 introduced sp 0.78 Simpsons 0.64, Shannon-Wiener 1.19
Feral Cats	Feral Cat Activity Feral Cat occupancy	0.04 (4 detections from 112 trap nights) 0.5 (detected at 2 of 4 sites)
Key findings 2017-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline monitoring was installed in October 2017 when 9 vegetation reference panoramas were collected (see map above). • A number of fauna cameras were installed on the reserve in June 2017 by Scott Carver UTAS to assess the prevalence of wombat mange. • 4 TLC Fauna cameras were installed 10 October 2017 and collected 7 November 2017. Nine mammal species were detected including Bennett's wallaby, pademelon, brush-tailed possum, brown bandicoot, water rat, echidna, feral cats and the nationally significant spotted-tailed quoll and Tasmanian devil. Spotted-tailed quoll were detected at two sites and Tasmanian devil at six of the nine sites with no animals showing sign of devil facial tumour disease from the photos obtained. Ringtail possum, pygmy possum, fallow deer and rabbit were not identified in 2017 nor were wombats which have been decimated locally by the devastating wombat mange outbreak. 		
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score the vegetation data or re-collect using consistent TLC methodology • Repeat ecological monitoring in 2020. 		

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS SUMMARY

Reserve Management		Status: Fair
Key Objective Panatana Reserve can be showcased as a significant nature reserve.		Outcome: Improving
Strategy description Panatana Reserve has a number of management issues relating to weeds, dumped rubbish, fencing dis-repair, limited public facilities and illegal access which need addressing to ensure it reflects the values of a significant nature conservation reserve to the community. TLC needs to complete legal Right-Of-Way to ensure management is ongoing. Reserve management should always be undertaken in partnership and communication with SRAC.		
Dumped cars were removed from Panatana. Photo TLC		
Strategy Indicator	Status 2017-18	Trend
Annual Reserve Visits	Reserve visits Undertaken	On Track
Management Actions	Addressing management issues	On track
Legal TLC Right-Of-Way	No legal Right Of Way in place	Not progressed
Liason with SRAC	Communication open and regular	On track
Key findings – 2017-18		
TLC Block		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 wrecked cars need removing, needing ~2 days to clear vegetation for access. This would then allow other impacts such as illegal access to the centre of the TLC block. • Erosion on main access road. Water needs to be diverted off the road. Some erosion control is needed. Use blue metal to fill in present eroded areas. (approx. 2m²) • Diverted some water from the hill to the west of erosion. Further works should be looked at. It is very easy digging it is possible to do this work by hand. • Old farm gate is damaged and needs removing. (Cut off hinges with angle grinder) • The roading needs to be re-mapped. Nearly all side roads are completely overgrown. • Bottles and cans need to be removed from south eastern corner • No fence on Bakers Beach Road boundary. Appears to be no illegal access. The steep spoon drain restricts access points. • Test for the presence of Phytophthora and manage accordingly. • Need to progress the TLC legal Right-Of-Way with ILC as per contract conditions. 		
ILC / SRAC Block		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge decking is unsafe and needs replacing ASAP. The wood decking dimensions are 17Ft long x 12Ft wide. The metal structure underneath is fabricated from old materials with a limited life span. The original metal structure is not a plumb surface for the decking boards. Install a plastic drain after the potential water volumes are calculated (approximately 600mm dia.). The old bridge would need to be removed. Fill and boxing at intake/exit may be required if fitting a round pipe. • Fence repairs needed on the south boundary on middle block ~10 star pickets, 60 ties needed. • Main access road to hut is overgrown and needs slashing within the next 1-2 years. 		
Recommendations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue management actions and maintain regular communication with SRAC 		