

Grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) at Panatana. Photo: Heath Holden



Jane at Five Rivers Reserve. Photo: Matthew Newton

As summer turns to autumn, I have reflected on the significance of the TLC being featured on the national stage through the Australian of the Year Awards. I am so proud we live in a country that not only values people and their contribution to our communities, but one that also values nature. Nature gives us so much – clean air, clean water, healthy soils, pollinated crops, spaces to recreate, inspiration for the arts, and cultural connection to place. It makes sense that we look after nature for our own wellbeing, for future generations and for nature itself. There's been a lot of looking after nature going on at the TLC over the past few months – from an enormous volunteer effort in the name of science and reserve management in the

Central Highlands, to property sales and purchases through New Leaf and the Revolving Fund, to successful carbon trading.

The TLC has escaped the devastating impact of the fires that recently swept the Tasmanian landscape. We praise the efforts of emergency response teams doing their utmost to preserve life and protect built and natural assets. We will continue to work with relevant agencies on future strategies for fire responses.

Thank you for your support of the TLC's nature conservation work and helping nature last.

Jane Hutchinson, CEO

HIGHLIGHTS



Jane and the other Tasmanian of the year recipients. Photo: Matthew Newton

Page 2 Jane got to experience the Australian of the Year awards in Canberra in January along with the other Tasmanian of the year recipients; Zac Lockhart (Young Tasmanian of the Year), Raymond Arnold (Local Hero) and Professor Ian Allison AO AAM (Senior Tasmanian of the Year).



Volunteers weeding at Liffey Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

Page 3 Getting the job done is only a part of the overall value of volunteering. Learn how volunteers are integral to our Conservation Science and Reserve Management programs and about the positive effects of providing opportunities for people to achieve nature conservation.



Eucalypt forest at Skullbone Plains Reserve. Photo: Rob Blakers

Page 4 Back in 2010 the TLC embarked on the New Leaf Project across 28,000 ha of native forest, which was purchased from Gunns Ltd. With the evolution of a carbon market, the TLC has been able to capitalise on the protection of these forests and generate a financial income for conservation.



2016 OUR YEAR FOR NATURE

Jane and the other Australian of the Year nominees at The Lodge with Prime Minister Turnbull and his wife Lucy. Photo: Matthew Newton

In November 2015, when TLC's CEO, Jane Hutchinson, was named Tasmanian Australian of the Year, she was given the opportunity to share with the nation her enthusiasm and passion for nature, and the way in which it touches everyone.

The Australian of the Year ceremony in Canberra was a wild ride. "Meeting such inspiring people from across the country filled me with optimism and determination to celebrate nature and the community that nature inspires," said Jane.

This award has created the space for Jane to talk about the TLC, nature conservation and the positive outcomes that flow from safeguarding the environment. The reach of Jane's message has been broad – from personally acquainting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull with the TLC's work, to profiling nature on three ABC channels 660 times throughout January. By the end of 2016, Jane will have spoken about the value of nature conservation to many individuals, communities and their leaders across Tasmania.

Inspiring people to recognise their connection to the environment is fundamental to instilling pride in the benefits of nature conservation. We are confident our community will flourish from the awareness that the award invites, so too growing the TLC's capacity to conserve landscapes in reserves, on farms and other private properties.

The following is an extract from Jane's opinion piece that appeared in *The Mercury* on January 23, 2016.

"The TLC's growth and dynamism is built on the strength of the community from which it springs. Volunteers and

supporters have fostered this organisation with optimism, and confidence in both our purpose and model for conservation. Nothing happens in isolation and we could not work without that input of individuals, organisations, community groups, government and skilled experts with whom we constantly collaborate.

Partnerships are critical, like the one we have with the Tasmanian Fire Service, who work so hard to protect Tasmanians and our assets. Partnerships can be innovative, like the one we have with Bush Heritage Australia and farmers in the Tasmanian Midlands to help look after the natural capital on working farms – of particular importance to farmers in dry conditions. And partnerships are friendships, like the one we have with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, as we jointly seek to preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage and nature. Our roots are firmly anchored in the fertile community from which we continue to grow.

Just as we benefit from the community within which we work, the TLC also aims to make a positive impact on Tasmanian society. Our collaborations with the University of Tasmania through the student placements with the TLC allow for a real exchange of skills and expertise, contributing to the careers of students in science, business and communications. TLC field days and events welcome friends, neighbours, supporters and newcomers onto our reserves to experience these amazing places.

Nature tourism operations that fit within the conservation scope of our reserves, the sale of environmental lifestyle properties and ecological farming methods.

The TLC is also committed to ensuring that the conservation economy and local economies cross-pollinate, so that the conservation dollar passes through the tills of local service stations, hotels, pubs and restaurants at every possible opportunity.

The driving purpose of the organisation is to help nature stand the test of time – because along with people, nature is one of our greatest assets. I think Australian's really like nature. When I think about Australian icons I think about the vast savannah grasslands in the north, the arid "red centre", the woodlands and rainforests, the magnificent coast lines that surround our continent and the beaches dotted along them, the harbours around which many of our cities are nestled and of course our unique, diverse wildlife. Nature is part of our national identity.

If you think of Australia like this then the chances are you like nature, and if you like it, you want to experience it again and again. By sharing nature, and what we all like about it, together we can help make it last."

Follow Jane Hutchinson's Tasmanian of the Year activities through our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



VOLUNTEERING YIELDS MUTUAL BENEFITS

Volunteer Georgina Zacks sets up a remote sensing camera at Five Rivers Reserve Photo: Phill Roach



Golden everlasting's (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) Vale Belvoir Reserve Photo: Matthew Newton

The TLC's summer workload would be insurmountable without volunteers. The dwindling summer days provide time to reflect on a productive field season, and the impressive volunteer-driven outcomes for nature conservation.

Against the dramatic backdrop of swathes of the Tasmanian landscape ignited by dry lightning and unseasonably heavy rains, the TLC safely conducted 14 volunteer field trips across nine properties. A total of 100 individual volunteers, generously donating their skills and energy for a combined total of 190 work days, were mobilised across private reserves and Revolving Fund properties.

Our long-term ecological monitoring program continues to underpin reserve management. Guided by TLC Conservation Ecologist, Matt Taylor, volunteers set and collected fauna images from remote sensor cameras, and performed fixed photo-point vegetation monitoring at the Lutregala Marsh, Brown Mountain, Silver Peppermint, Vale of Belvoir, Egg Islands, Five Rivers and Long Point reserves. Ecological monitoring has now been established on 12 reserves, with another four (Gordonvale, Brown Mountain, Blue Tier and Liffey) earmarked for next summer, thus completing the rollout of TLC's ecological monitoring program. Return visits are planned for each reserve already yielding valuable information about the species and habitats we manage.

Our volunteers took our Five Rivers Carnivore Monitoring Program into its third year, deploying 42 remote sensor cameras and conducting 40 carnivore scat collection transects. TLC Conservation Science and Planning Manager, Dr Sally Bryant, is delighted with the progress.

"We have collected a wealth of data on the Five Rivers Reserve over the last three consecutive years. This now provides us with an understanding of the relative abundance of Tasmanian devil, spotted-tail quoll and eastern quoll and will help guide our feral cat management in the future."

Following last spring's ecological burn at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (Newsletter 46), volunteers returned to the Vale for the annual grassland diversity surveys. The surveys, using line intercept transects, gathered data on vegetation diversity and species richness in response to different management regimes, including cattle grazing and ecological burning. This research is critical to our management of these diverse subalpine native grasslands.

Invasive weeds are an ongoing reserve management threat, but it is a fight that our reserve team and volunteers can claim ascendancy over. Over summer, 84 volunteers returned to eradicate broom at Flat Rock, foxglove at Liffey, gorse at Long Point, blackberry at Lutregala and ragwort and gorse on the Central Highlands, including on Five Rivers Reserve. In a tactical and logistical land management triumph, up to 650 kilometres of roads and tracks were traversed and sprayed by staff and volunteers over three Central Highland volunteer activities.

All of these weed eradication programs have been running for ten consecutive years and are in, or approaching, follow-up control phases offering the native species in our care a promising future.

Volunteers are at the heart of our conservation work; through friendships developed in the field, over lunch by the river or curry at day's end. For volunteer Viv Muller, back for her fifth Central

Highlands weeding trip, the mutual exchange of skills, the fermenting of new ideas amongst conservation-minded folk, the sense of personal ownership of a project and deep connection to a special place is alluring.

Eri Kato, Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University, Japan, volunteered with the TLC as part of a professional development trip. Eri lectures in rural area development and wildlife management, and learned about the TLC when she attended a Protected Area Learning and Research Collaboration course. Keen to maximise her take-home learnings, Eri jumped at the chance to attend one Central Highlands weeding and two ecological monitoring trips.

"The TLC's activities showed me a not-for-profit organisation's potential role in private land management. I learnt about collaboration with other organisations and community. I'm impressed with the TLC's long-term strategy, its collaboration between scientific and reserve works, and how it utilises volunteer activities to attract peoples' interest."

Feedback from volunteers like Jaida and Eri affirms that our emphasis on involving people is mutually beneficial. Not only are volunteers helping to get the job done, we are providing inspiring opportunities for people to achieve nature conservation.

Phill Roach
Community Engagement Coordinator



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Mr Stuart Barry (President - TLC). Photo: Matthew Newton

“I’ve come to appreciate... attributes that define a company’s success: great leadership, long-term financial strength, ethical business practices, evolving business strategies, sound governance, powerful brands, values-based decision-making.”

Ursula Burns, head of Xerox and the first African American woman to lead a Fortune 500 company, could have been referring to the TLC in her views on success. These elements, all of which have been nurtured throughout the life of this organisation, are a reflection on the character and composition of the TLC’s Board of Directors.

The TLC has always recognised the critical role of sound governance and finance in an environmental not-for-profit context. The broad range of professions and knowledge found on the board has helped the TLC grow in strength. These skills include business, environmental law, science, policy, leadership and management, micro-economics, farming, engineering, accounting and many years of academic and government leadership.

Stuart Barry now steers the board, bringing long-term business nous and ethical finance credentials. After six years on the board, Stuart understands the organisation and the business of conservation.

Let’s walk back through our past presidents and consider the elements of success injected so far. Having farewelled Geoff Couser from the chair, it is worth noting how past presidents have returned to the organisation in a different capacity. For example, past-president and long-term board member Peter Bosworth continues to chair the Conservation Science and

Planning Advisory Council. And of course, past-president Jane Hutchinson is now the Chief Executive Officer.

The TLC board is delighted to welcome back Nathan Males, our first president and founding CEO. Nathan has spent five years building an online food sales business and, after a break from conservation, Nathan has returned to inject a combination of historical organisational wisdom and fresh perspective.

Valuing nature and people embodies our belief in ethical business practices. This is evidenced by a determination to work within the local community, and contributing to building cultural and commercial strength in regional areas with respectful engagement with contractors, volunteers, neighbours, government agencies and landholder partners.

The TLC’s currency is not dollars, but rich diversity and robust ecologies. Right now, the world is in the red. However, the commitment of conservation organisations across Australia like the TLC, and their many supporters, give hope that we can balance the books. The TLC is built on the generosity of our volunteers. The enormity of the contribution of the TLC’s voluntary board is immeasurable.

Welcome our new board members, Ms Erika Korosi, Mr Nathan Males and Professor Ted Lefroy, and profound thanks to departing board members Mr Peter Bosworth, Assoc Prof Geoff Couser and Dr Karina Potter. Meet the group of amazing individuals steering the TLC ship at our website.

Revolving Fund property at Marakoopa Creek Photo: Chris Crerar

LOOKING FOR A LIFESTYLE CHANGE OR FANTASTIC WEEKENDER?

Limestone caves, an historic trappers hut and a pristine creek flowing from the foothills of the national park – these are just some of the features of Marakoopa Creek, a picturesque 26 hectares adjoining the World Heritage listed-Mole Creek Karst National Park. Situated just 13 km from Mole Creek Township, this property is also rich in natural values, such as endangered wet white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) forest, exposed limestone boulders, habitat for the endangered Tasmanian devil and a rare cave beetle.

All of this, plus an approved development application for a 2 bedroom cabin and plenty of space for a vegetable garden. The balance of the property is covered by 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 DPIPWE.

For further information please contact Janine Waldron on 0409 429 660 or jwaldron@tasland.org.au

All our properties for sale can be viewed at www.tasland.org.au/properties-for-sale



SILVER LINING

Eucalypt forests at Five Rivers Reserve. Photo: Andy Townsend

When the Tasmanian Land Conservancy bought 28,000 hectares of native forest in 2010, a new vein of business possibilities was opened.

This large tract of native forest, partly logged but largely biologically intact, offered the TLC great potential for a sustainable income. This coincided with the evolution of a carbon market both domestically and internationally, and while the development of the system was not always straightforward, the TLC stuck with the process and doggedly pursued its goal of entering the carbon market.

The New Leaf Carbon Project is now in place across 12,130 hectares, including Five Rivers Reserve. Using the “logged to protected forests” methodology, verified Carbon Units (VCUs, or tonnes of Co2 not emitted) were generated and traded on the international voluntary market using a registered trade exchange.

Traded in vintages, the TLC sold 73,711 units from 2011 and 2012 to Virgin Australia, so travellers who choose to offset their fare are contributing to the management of TLC’s reserves and the protection of threatened species habitat. Those units offset the equivalent pollution of driving nearly 3 million kilometres in a mid-sized car, or 3391 car trips between Melbourne and Sydney.

After 2012, the Australian system became the Emissions Reduction Fund and the tradable commodity of tonnes of CO2 not emitted became the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU).

The TLC is trading their ACCUs into the secondary, voluntary carbon market. Like other commodity markets, the price per unit is set between the buyer and the

vendor, and can vary according to market conditions.

Other entities trading in the secondary carbon market include airlines, banks, and manufacturers who want to show their clients that they think this is a serious issue, such as Origin Energy and Bendigo Bank. The TLC is one of just a few environment organisations using the carbon market to fund conservation activities. As well as mitigating the effects of climate change, the generated income supports the management of TLC properties for the protection of endangered Tasmanian devils, Clarence galaxias fish and centuries-old forests that exist on the reserves.

The income from carbon credits enables our continuing work on establishing permanent photo-monitoring sites in the landscape designed to track our wildlife.

The TLC’s carbon ventures are off to a good start and look set to continue into the future. As long as humans keep emitting, the TLC will be there to be part of the carbon cloud’s silver lining.

Stephenie Cahalan
Media and Communications



Panatana shoreline. Photo: Heath Holden

PROTECT PANATANA FOREVER

Thanks to your generosity we are more than half way there to protecting Panatana, FOREVER. This conservation project protects Aboriginal cultural heritage and important natural values for the benefit of nature, Aboriginal people and all Tasmanians. We have raised close to \$200,000 to date with a further \$140,000 needed to reach our goal.

BREAKING NEWS

We have just had wonderful news that every dollar you give will be matched dollar for dollar by The David and Jennie Sutherland Foundation, who have pledged their generous support.

Supporters such as David and Jennie Sutherland are an ongoing inspiration to the TLC. Their contributions are deeply appreciated and we could not achieve the significant outcomes for nature conservation in Tasmania without their incredible loyalty.

Please join David and Jennie to help make this ground breaking project a reality.

DONATE NOW

visit www.tasland.org.au/panatana
or phone 03 6225 1399.



View of Mount Wellington from Flat Rock Reserve. Photo: Andy Townsend

Spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). Photo: Andy Townsend

FLAT ROCK AND CHAUNCY VALE DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday 16 April

Flat Rock Reserve and Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary are the location of our next Discovery Day. Hosted in partnership by the TLC and the Friends of Chauncy Vale, there will be long and short walks, kids' activities and a BYO picnic lunch. Come and explore the extraordinary history and natural values of this remarkable landscape so close to Hobart.

The Discovery Day will be popular and tickets are limited. Spaces for each activity are limited so please register as soon as possible. Registrations close Friday 8 April 2016 or earlier if spaces are full. Register at frcvdiscoveryday.eventbrite.com.au or call the Hobart Office on (03) 6225 1399.

BEQUEST INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 5th May 2016 – 6pm Villa Howden

We are hosting a Bequest Informational Evening, where people can learn more about the program, listen to experts and have the opportunity to ask questions about bequests and other modes of planned giving.

Please call Sophie Marshall on 0419 389 390 or email smarshall@tasland.org.au to learn more or register for the event.

Have you already left a bequest to the TLC in your will? Please let Sophie know if you are a bequest supporter so we can invite you on our next bequest supporter reserve trip!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT?

The TLC always welcomes new volunteers, with a range of activities to suit your skills. Our volunteers help out by working on the reserves, assisting in science projects, and helping with our fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in receiving volunteer invitations or would like to learn more about getting involved with the TLC, register at tasland.org.au/volunteering/ or call our Community Engagement Coordinator Phill Roach on 0438 826 606.

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BOARD MEMBERS:

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- Prof Ted Lefroy
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Ms Jane Hutchinson

