



Annual Report

Stony Farm Reserve 2016-17



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, review/adapt and communication.

Stony Farm Reserve was gifted to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy by the Schier family in 2014. The Reserve is 22.26 ha of forested land on the slopes of North Sister in north-east Tasmania. It contains threatened dry blue gum forest (DGL) and a number of threatened fauna species. The TLC has partnered with the North East Tasmania Land Trust (NETLT) to manage this Reserve.

The management of the Reserve is guided by the Stony Farm Management Plan with works implemented by NETLT supporters independently or in partnership with the TLC staff.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2016-17, and contains a:

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 TLC Board, supporters and other stakeholders.

Stony Farm Reserve Scorecard 2016-17

| Ecological Monitoring | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Target | Indicator | Status 2013-2014 | Status 2015-2016 | Status 2016-17 |
| Dry Forest condition | Structural complexity Canopy recruitment | 8 lifeforms/site 2 cohorts/site | | |
| Terrestrial mammals | Species richness | 6 native species 1 introduced species | 5 native species 0 introduced species | 4 native species 0 introduced species |
| | Proportion native species | 0.86 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| | Native species diversity indices | Simpsons 0.66 Shannon-Wiener 1.35 | Simpsons 0.67 Shannon-Wiener 1.27 | Simpsons 0.51 Shannon-Wiener 0.97 |
| Native carnivores | eastern quoll activity | 0 | 0.04 (1 detection, 27 trap nights) | 0 |
| | spotted-tailed quoll activity | 0 | 0 | 0.04 (1 detection, 24 trap nights) |
| | Tasmanian devil activity | 0 | 0.44 (12 detections, 27 trap nights) | 0.50 (12 detections, 24 trap nights) |
| | Cat activity | 0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights) | 0 (October 2015: 0.04) | 0 (November: 0.06) |
| Pest species | Cat activity | 0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights) | 0 (October 2015: 0.04) | 0 (November: 0.06) |
| Management Strategy | | | | |
| Strategy | Indicator | Status 2013-2014 | Status 2015-2016 | Status 2016-17 |
| Site Intactness and NETLT | Illegal access | No illegal access detected | No illegal access detected | No illegal access detected |
| | NETLT partnership | Communications ongoing | Communications ongoing | Communications ongoing |

Cover image: Tasmanian devil with facial injury Stony Farm Reserve May 2017. Credit: NETLT cameras Andrew Lohry

Monitoring Summary

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Dry Forest and Woodland | | Status: Very Good | | |
| Goal: The condition of the dry forest is maintained | | Outcome: On Track | | |
| Target Description: The mature dry forest ecosystem is a conservation target at Stony Farm Reserve which remains in good condition. It occurs across the entire Reserve comprising Blue gum forest DGL, Brown-topped stringybark dry forest (DOB); and small area of broad-leaved shrubs (SBR). | |  <p>TLC monitoring site STFA001 Stony Farm Reserve May 2014</p> | | |
| Target | Indicator | Status 2013-2014 | Status 2015-2016 | Status 2016-17 |
| Dry Forest condition | Structural complexity | 8 lifeforms/site | | |
| | Canopy recruitment | 2 cohorts/site | | |
| Terrestrial mammals | Species richness | 6 native species 1 introduced species | 5 native species 0 introduced species | 4 native species 0 introduced species |
| | Proportion native species | 0.86 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| Pest species | Cat activity | 0.01 (1 detection, 68 trap nights) | 0 (October 2015: 0.04) | 0 (November: 0.06) |
| Key findings in 2016-17 | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three veg monitoring sites were established in May 2014. Repeat site images are due to be collected in 2017-18. • Mammal monitoring is undertaken regularly at 1 to 3 sites. 10 mammal species detected are: T. devil, eastern quoll, spotted-tail quoll, feral cat, brushtail possum, wombat, echidna, potoroo, pademelon, Bennett's wallaby. • Devil facial tumour disease was detected in devils (see cover image) • The vegetation community remains in good ecological condition with no fire or weeds. | | | | |
| Recommendations | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat fauna camera monitoring in 2017-18 and re-analyse all image data into mammal species and time periods. | | | | |

Management Effectiveness Summary

| Site Intactness and NETLT relations | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Key objective(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site remains intact and NETLT relations maintained | | Status 2016-17 On-track | | |
| Strategy description The TLC has partnered with the North East Tasmania Land Trust (NETLT) to manage this Reserve. NETLT is a community-based group that protects land in north-east Tasmania www.netlandtrust.org.au . A Memorandum of Understanding between the TLC and NETLT was agreed in 2012 with the objective to work together to manage private land that will be a strategic addition to Australia's National Reserve System. The maintenance of an effective partnership with the NETLT is a high priority for the TLC. | |  <p>NETLT, TLC and members of the Schier family at the gifting of Stony Farm Reserve January 2013 Photo: NETLT web site</p> | | |
| Strategy | Indicator | Status 2013-2014 | Status 2015-2016 | Status 2016-17 |
| Site Intactness and NETLT | Illegal access | No illegal access detected | No illegal access detected | No illegal access detected |
| | NETLT partnership | Communications ongoing | Communications ongoing | Communications ongoing |
| Progress in 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Management Plan and Background document were completed in consultation with NETLT participation and available on the web Mammal monitoring improving information on terrestrial fauna Discussions with TLC volunteer Jane K-Williams on conducting velvet worm surveys Communications are being maintained with A Lohrey from NETLT | | | | |
| Key recommendations for future management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue ongoing relations with NETLT and undertake site visit with Andrew Lohrey in 2018 | | | | |