



16/17





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Cover: Common wombat with baby (*Vombatus ursinus*). Photo: Loic Le Guilly
Opposite: Scaly buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*). Photo: Andy Townsend
Next page: Gordonvale Reserve. Photo: Grant Dixon



OUR VISION IS
FOR TASMANIA
TO BE A GLOBAL
LEADER IN NATURE
CONSERVATION

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



I am pleased to present to you the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's 2016–2017 Annual Report. The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) has really thrived over the past year, with much achieved through the implementation of the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. We have bold ambitions, such as the identification and protection of an additional 25,000 hectares of high conservation value land, and we are confident that we can achieve this through partnerships and shared goals.

We have harnessed the skills, thoughtfulness, expertise and commitment of the broader community to look for innovative ways to reach this target. The World-Class Reserve System criteria, developed by the TLC's volunteer Science Council, offers a clear lens through which to identify the parts of Tasmania that really need protection from imminent and future threats to their ecological significance. We thank the Science Council and all those who contributed to the development of this method for the considerable time and effort they have spent on its formulation.

The TLC has continued to work towards protecting nature with the declaration of our eighteenth reserve at Daisy Dell. I was lucky enough to attend the Discovery Day at the Daisy Dell and Vale of Belvoir reserves in February. This was a great opportunity to meet supporters and TLC community members, as well as observe the synergy of the neighbourhood partnerships that have

resulted in this immensely positive outcome of extending the reach of protected areas.

The TLC also continues to look after nature, for nature, with great success; as shown through our ecological monitoring and stewardship programs that operate in close partnership with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and private landholders. The Revolving Fund and New Leaf continue to ensure financial and ecological security on private land well beyond 2017.

The excellence in conservation science, planning and reserve management that the TLC insists upon is the cornerstone of our success as a conservation organisation. The work of our in-house science team, which regularly collaborates with national experts, is what keeps the TLC on the cutting edge of conservation science – an achievement of which we are immensely proud.

The growth of the TLC Foundation is helping to achieve the financial sustainability and growth of the Nature Bank; enabling the TLC to respond to opportunities to secure areas of high conservation in an efficient and timely manner. We sincerely thank everyone who continues to support the TLC Foundation, thereby empowering us to ensure that the areas we protect will be managed for conservation forever.

This year, we farewell and offer our heartfelt thanks to a long-standing

member of the TLC Board, Susan Gough. Susan has given her energy and dauntless commitment to this organisation over many years and, while we welcome fresh perspective and ideas on the Board, it is always very hard to say goodbye to the highly valued wisdom and insight of our friends and colleagues. We are thrilled that Susan will continue to support the governance of the organisation as a member of the TLC's Foundation Committee.

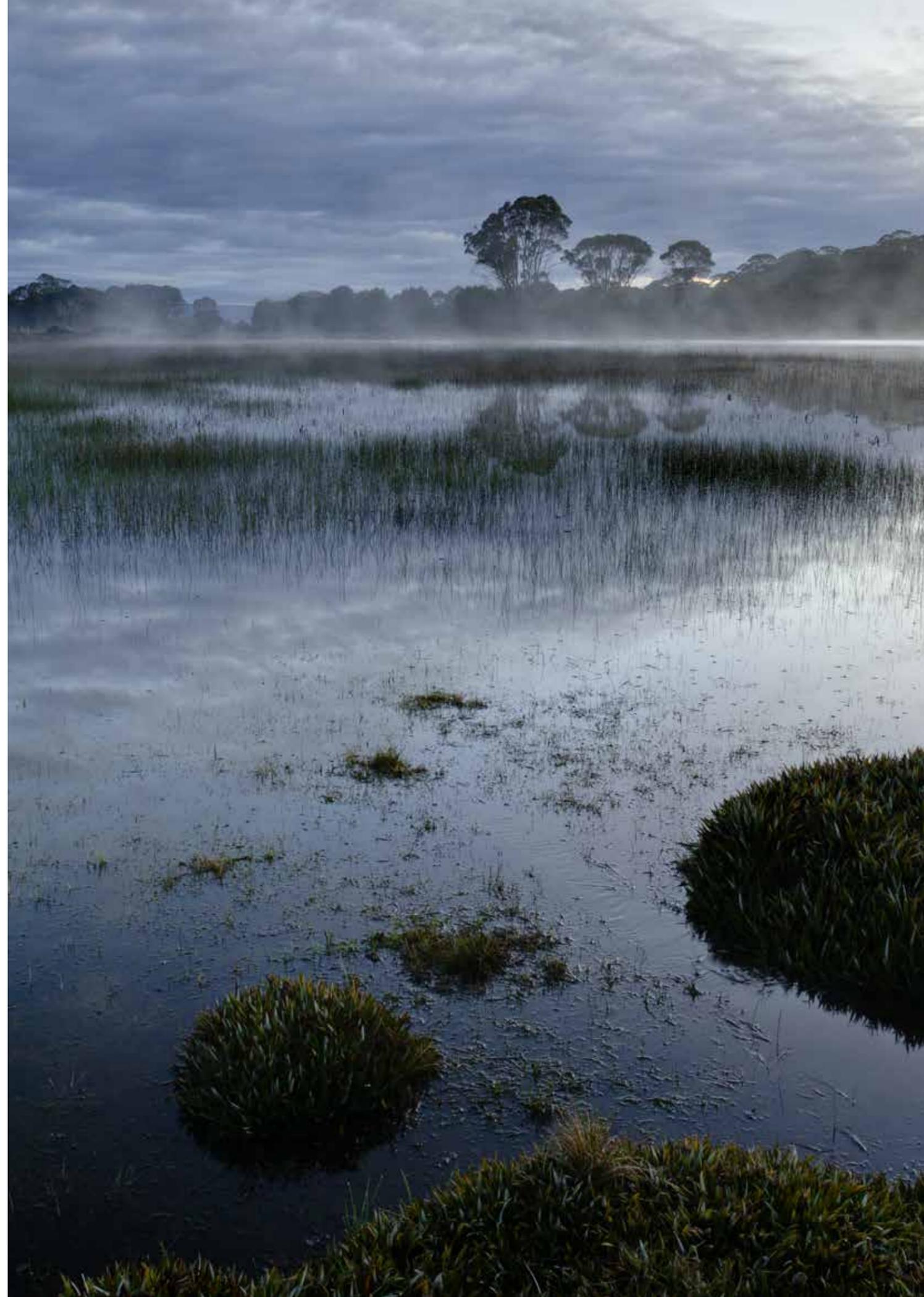
Finally, I wish to send a special round of applause to all those marvellous volunteers who contribute so much in so many different ways. From my fellow Board members to the keen-eyed folk that score thousands of images of our reserves, to the tireless helpers that mail out our newsletters, invitations and annual reports, and act as guides on our enormously popular Discovery Days. It is due to you that the TLC presents such a dynamic and vital face – not just to Tasmania, but the whole world – and for that we are so very grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Barry'.

Stuart Barry

President – Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Above: Stuart Barry. Photo: Matthew Newton
Opposite: Skullbone Plains Reserve. Photo: Grant Dixon



CEO'S REPORT



In the previous annual report, I professed excitement at the delivery of the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. One year into its implementation, I am confident that my excitement was well founded. The Plan's simple but effective goals of protecting nature, looking after nature, innovating for nature, and involving people have offered very clear signposts for prioritising and decision-making. In an organisation like ours that is small, yet highly ambitious, this clear articulation of our strategy makes it easy to work in the present, with a keen eye to the future. If you have not already done so, I urge you to look at our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan online at www.tasland.org.au/aboutus.

With these goals in mind, we have had a great year working to build strong connections within Tasmania and the national and international conservation communities. Nowhere is this more apparent than at Daisy Dell, where the protection of 322 hectares in a new reserve was made entirely possible by the local community, immediate and close neighbours, and our wonderful TLC supporters, who never fail to step up when it is time to protect irreplaceable places and the life they support. The formalisation of this new private reserve now fits neatly within another community of protected areas in the surrounding landscape, including the nearby Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair Wilderness World Heritage Area and the Vale of Belvoir Conservation Area, as well as the TLC's own Vale of Belvoir Reserve.

The protection of King's Run, a west coast icon, is the third partnership project of its kind that we have been involved in. With the dual goals of conserving Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and natural heritage, it is a legacy project of which we are enormously proud.

Another community within which the TLC is thrilled to be operating is the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) – a national collaboration between conservation bodies with a focus on private land. When the alliance met in Melbourne in late 2016, those assembled were utterly united in their sense of purpose to achieve great outcomes for conservation on private land across the country. The TLC is thrilled to act as host to the ALCA community for the National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart in October 2017.

The Big Punchbowl Reserve was the site for a community gathering of a different kind when the TLC hosted eighteen artists for Poets and Painters – the iconic Tasmanian arts event curated by Bett Gallery owner Carol Bett and beloved poet Pete Hay. Over the course of the summer, nine poets and nine painters experienced the nature of the reserve, including the rare event of the wetland really brimming with water, then spent the ensuing months creating their responses. As the financial year drew to a close, magnificent works and nuanced words were delivered to the Bett Gallery in readiness for the project's July launch. This TLC

WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT OUR WORK IS RIGHT NOW, YET IT IS THE GENERATION OF TASMANIANS TO COME THAT WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS, AND I FEEL SO CONFIDENT THAT THE WORK WE UNDERTAKE COLLECTIVELY NOW WILL YIELD MANY BENEFITS IN THE FUTURE.

Above: Jane Hutchinson. Photo: Matthew Newton
Opposite: King's Run. Photo: Loic Le Guilly



art and nature collaboration was yet again supported by the Purves Environmental Fund and Purryburry Trust, and for this, we are extremely grateful.

On a different note, the TLC continues to work in the carbon economy, and our sale of carbon credits continues to deliver a strong and reliable revenue stream, all of which is allocated to managing our private reserves. The TLC is also exploring the development of market solutions to facilitate nature conservation, offering the powerful potential for achieving great conservation outcomes in Tasmania, and indeed, Australia-wide.

The TLC has had another strong year of implementing our conservation programs, including our Midlands Conservation Fund partnership with Bush Heritage Australia and

the committed farmers of the Tasmanian Midlands. The TLC's Revolving Fund, supported by the Australian Government through the Forest Conservation Fund, has had an outstanding year of sales in conservation properties to new landholders who want nature protection to form the cornerstone of their lifestyle.

Through the Protected Area Partnership Program – which we deliver on behalf of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) – we continue to work with covenant landholders around the state, providing guidance, advice and support on the ground.

I will finish by returning to the theme of community, and I will echo the words of our Chair, Stuart Barry, when

I extend my most heartfelt thanks to the supporters, volunteers and landholders with whom the TLC has the very great honour to work.

We know how important our work is right now, yet it is the generation of Tasmanians to come that will measure our success, and I feel so confident that the work we undertake collectively now will yield many benefits in the future. So, on behalf of the TLC and all those plants, animals and places we seek to protect, I offer my profound thanks for all your support.

Jane Hutchinson
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmanian Land Conservancy

ABOUT THE TLC

YOUR SUPPORT

The TLC began in 2001 with \$50 in the bank and a handful of volunteers. Since then, we have grown to become one of Tasmania's largest private landholders. Our mission is to look after Tasmania's unique natural places, rare ecosystems, and the habitat of threatened plants and wildlife on private land. We value nature and the cultural, social and economic benefits it provides to all of us.

The TLC works with nature in four powerful ways:

PROTECTING NATURE

in the TLC's reserves, in partnership with private landholders, and by selling protected properties to those who wish to own land and continue to protect it.

LOOKING AFTER NATURE

through reserve management principles informed by robust science.

INNOVATING FOR NATURE

by using smart business principles, bold ideas and leading technologies.

INVOLVING PEOPLE

by providing opportunities for them to experience nature, achieve nature conservation, operate mutually beneficial businesses and support the work of the TLC.

The TLC is a not-for-profit, apolitical, science and community-based organisation that raises funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites by buying and managing private land in Tasmania.



MICHAEL BENTLEY – TLC FOUNDATION

Christine Caleidin and I chose to move to Hobart in 2011. For us, Tasmania was where our project of conviviality – living with the natural world – could be realised.

Paraphrasing from the definition of public health, we saw conservation as the art and science of protecting places of natural wonder. The TLC does this well in Tasmania and it's why we chose to support it. Collaborations in Skullbone Plains and the Big Punchbowl are outstanding examples of how to create a sense of wonder about this beautiful corner of our living planet.

Sadly, Christine died in 2016. I established the Solas Fund in loving memory of her to support the art and science of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

Among her many talents, Christine was a silk painter. She had a discerning eye for colour and revelled in the splendour of the ever-changing Tasmanian light. Solas is the Irish word for light. I am proud that Christine's memory lives on through the TLC Foundation.

Photo: Karen Brown



EVAN HUNTER – REGULAR GIVING

I first heard of the TLC in 2006 when the organisation played a pivotal role in securing the protection of a highly contested block of private land at Recherche Bay in southern Tasmania, now managed as part of the TLC's permanent reserve estate.

This was a lightbulb moment for me in realising the crucial role that organisations such as the TLC can play in private land conservation. The fact that the TLC has grown to become one of the largest land owners in Tasmania is testament to the breadth of conservation values existing on private land.

I contribute to the TLC because it is crucial for Tasmania to have an organisation whose entire focus is on identifying, acquiring, protecting and managing private land for conservation values.

Photo: Karen Brown



WALLY HERMANN – VOLUNTEER

Almost four decades ago, I unsuspectingly went down the muddy track from Leary's Corner, past Charleston's Hut and into the Vale of Belvoir. It was in exhilaration that I first sighted that unique sub-alpine meadow, fascinating karst geology and hydrology, and enchanting pockets of rainforest. My life has since been enormously enriched by many happy days spent rambling, picnicking, wombat-spotting, fishing and skiing in that magic valley – it is my spiritual home.

I'm delighted that it is now protected forever by the TLC; bringing their expertise and resources in research and environmental management to conserve its natural values. I've been pleased to assist as a volunteer, in fauna monitoring, botanical surveying and weed control. Vive la Vale!

Photo: Heath Holden



JEN AND GEORGE ETTERS Hank – BEQUESTORS

As biologists, we understand the necessity to conserve our environment so that future generations enjoy the beauty and biological diversity of Tasmania, as we have.

We first visited Tasmania more than 30 years ago and it was love at first sight! We bought our bit of Tasmanian bush paradise, and came down for holidays when we could. We finally retired here and appreciate it more as time goes on.

It seemed natural, then, to bequeath some money to the TLC so they can continue to be the guardian angels for all the values we ascribe to Tasmania's environment. We urge readers to look into doing the same, if you appreciate Tasmania as we and so many others do.

Photo: Karen Brown



MISSION 1

Protecting nature continues as the prime motivation behind the TLC's work. This year, through the generosity of our supporters, we acquired our newest permanent reserve, Daisy Dell. Daisy Dell is a critical natural corridor linking the habitats of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area with the forests of the northern tiers. It is a mosaic of sub-alpine grasslands, sedgeland, eucalypt forests, woodlands and rainforest.

The TLC teamed up with the Indigenous Land Corporation, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania and Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to protect Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural heritage on private land. These partners were joined by the Bob Brown Foundation and former landowner, Margo King and her family, in securing King's Run – an important West Coast icon – in memory of the late Geoff King. The conservation of this extraordinary property is a legacy for all Tasmanians and we were thrilled to be part of it.

The TLC began an eight-month trial of a community-based wildlife monitoring program in three regions in southern Tasmania. The aim was to develop a system for monitoring wildlife on private land that could be rolled out statewide, through actively engaging citizen scientists to collect and analyse ecological data. This information is vital for the TLC to make inroads into increasing the area of land managed for conservation in Tasmania as part of securing a World-Class Reserve System.

During the trial, 120 landholders received training in how to monitor birds, mammals and vegetation on their land. Data was collected from 182 sites spread over 10,000 hectares, covering 10 major habitat types, from coastal wetlands to montane rainforests. Fourteen mammal species and more than 50 bird species were recorded and this data has been used to identify important areas for wildlife; particularly conservation-dependent species like eastern quoll and bettong. This project was delivered in partnership with the Bruny Island Environment Network, Bruny Island Community Association, Kingborough Council, NRM South, Huon Valley Council, Derwent Catchment Project, the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and Birdlife Tasmania.



Striated pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*).
Photo: Peter Vaughan

GOALS

Goal 1.1 By 2020, in partnership with other private landholders, manage an additional 25,000 hectares of highest priority areas.

Progress A further 8,264 hectares of high conservation value private land has been permanently protected and is under management. This includes the protection of the trawtha makuminya – a 6,878-hectare property owned and managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal community adjoining the TLC's Five Rivers Reserve.

Property sales through the TLC New Leaf project and Revolving Fund secured the protection of 1,666 hectares of land. Perpetual covenants on our Gordonvale and Blue Tier reserves were also registered.

Goal 1.2 By 2017, the TLC will develop a plan to secure the remaining areas required for a world-class system of reserves.

Progress Guided by the TLC Science's Council, the World-Class Reserve System GIS assessment was finalised, with spatial refinement and preparation for publication both nearing completion.

The information gathered through this prioritisation is integrated into the TLC's Decision Support Matrix, informing future property purchases and providing the basis for future strategic discussions required to complete the reserve system.

In May, workshop participants identified strategic areas to help secure a World-Class Reserve System in Tasmania. The proposition deemed most successful was the expansion and strengthening of private land custodianship, including incorporating monitoring to validate conservation management.

Opposite: Rainforest Glade, Daisy Dell Reserve.
Photo: Chris Crerar

1 PROTECTING NATURE



Revolving Fund Property. Photo: Matthew Newton

Opposite: Grasslands at Beaufront,
Midlands Conservation Fund property.
Photo: Matthew Newton

Protected Areas Partnership Program

This year the TLC, in partnership with DPIPWE, delivered services to landowners of conservation covenanted land. The TLC has worked hard to ensure that landowners receive the best information regarding their properties. Landowners have engaged in numerous ways with the program, including installing wildlife cameras on their land, thus providing information that informs future management of privately protected areas. A highlight of the year was reaching the milestone of more than 100,000 hectares of private land in Tasmania now managed under conservation covenant. A big thank you to all involved.

Midlands Conservation Fund

The Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF) continues to support landowners with high conservation value land. There are currently 10 landholders with a Conservation Agreement and 2,636 hectares managed under these agreements.

Management outcomes relating to vegetation condition and weediness remain positive and participation rates remain at 100%.

A second round of the MCF commenced in 2017. Progress includes the establishment of an additional 1,855 hectares of high conservation value land now enjoying protection through an MCF agreement.

Forest Conservation Fund Revolving Fund

The Forest Conservation Fund Revolving Fund (also known as the Revolving Fund) has achieved eight property sales, covering 823 hectares. These sales ensure that we can continue to purchase and protect more land into the future and help other private landholders become great stewards of nature. We continue to undertake management actions at the remaining properties while they await sale.

MISSION 2

The TLC's website demonstrates the impressive amount of information we have accumulated about our permanent reserves; not just their special values, but also our management and monitoring. All reserves now have comprehensive background reports, up-to-date management plans and annual reports detailing on-ground work undertaken throughout the year. The annual reports track how we are addressing threats and management priorities across our permanent reserves. We create a detailed work schedule for each reserve and report against this annually, giving an indication of the effectiveness of our management systems.

Reserve management activities, such as ensuring appropriate access to properties, undertaking planned burns, and weed control, are consistent annual tasks. We are pleased to report that TLC reserves are in good condition, with the trend data in many areas showing positive progress. During 2016–2017 we installed ecological monitoring on the Brown Mountain, Blue Tier and Gordonvale Reserves and collected trend data on the condition and health of the Vale of Belvoir Reserve. This body of work reflects our commitment to maintaining the TLC's reserves in good ecological condition.

To read these documents in full, go to tasland.org.au/reserves

| TLC Permanent Reserve | Ecological Monitoring Installed | No. of Monitoring Sites Fauna-Flora | Trend Data Collected |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Long Point | 2015 | 13–30 | 2016 |
| Silver Peppermint | 2014 | 5–10 | 2015 |
| Lutregala Marsh | 2016 | 5–10 | Due 2019 |
| Recherche Bay | 2015 | 4–8 | Due 2018 |
| Flat Rock | 2014 | 10–28 | Due 2017 |
| Egg Islands | 2015 | 5–10 | Due 2018 |
| Brown Mountain | 2016 | 4–4 | Due 2019 |
| Vale of Belvoir | 2014 | 16–85 | 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| Liffey | 2016 | 4–4 | Due 2019 |
| Blue Tier | 2017 | 5–5 | Due 2020 |
| Gordonvale | 2017 | 10–10 | Due 2019 |
| Five Rivers (inc Skullbone Plains) | 2014 | 45–100 | 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| The Big Punchbowl | 2015 | 9–25 | Due 2018 |
| Tom Hay | 2015 | 1–1 | Due 2018 |
| Stony Farm | 2014 | 3–3 | Due 2017 |
| Panatana | Due 2018 | Due 2018 | Due 2021 |

Opposite: Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). Photo: Heath Holden



Volunteer finds snake skin, Liffey Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

GOALS

Goal 2.1 Adaptive reserve management will be effective and reported on annually.

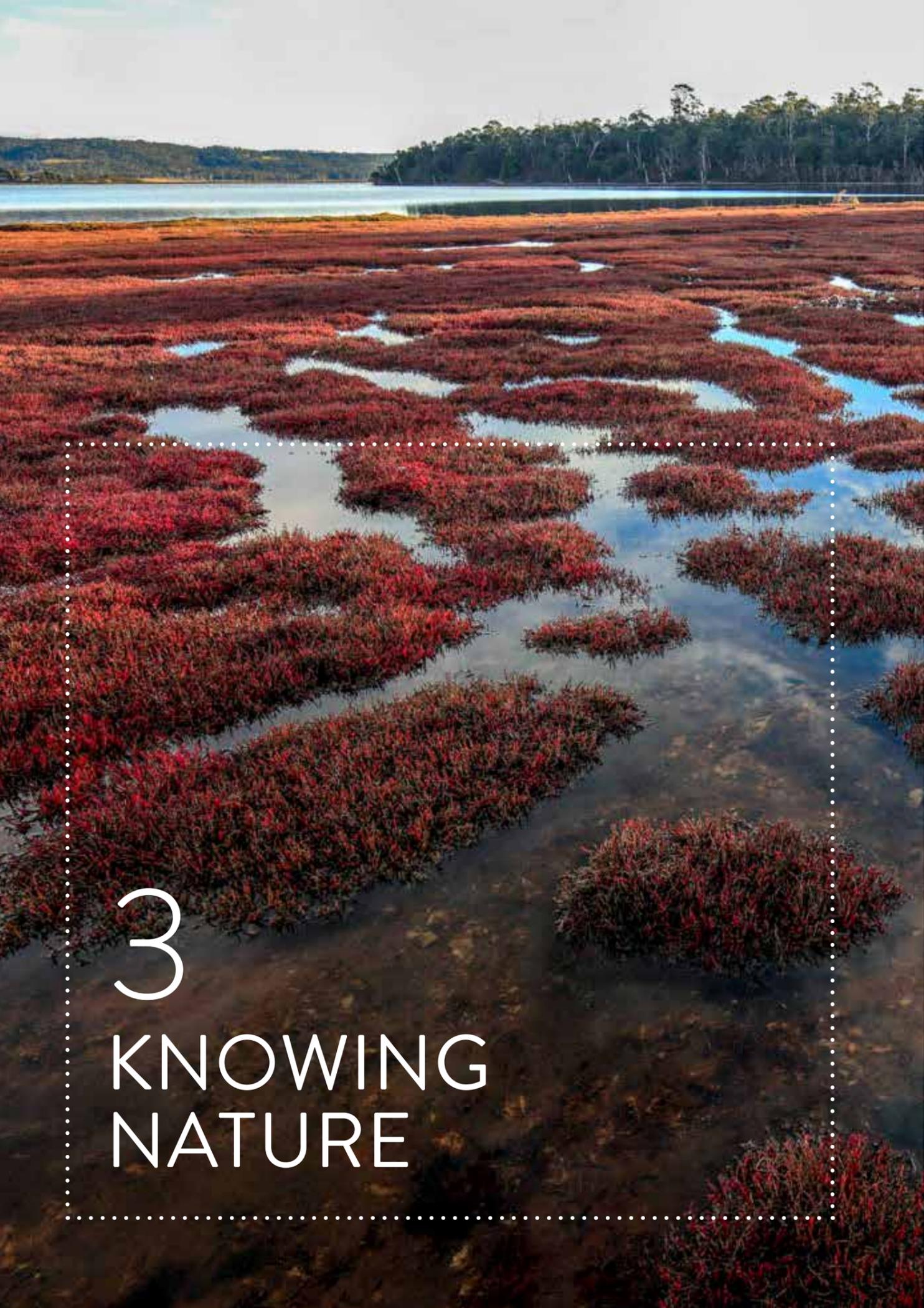
Progress Annual Reserve Reports align directly with each reserve's management plan and conservation targets and are informed by reserve management activities and ecological monitoring data. These reports detail key actions and assess the effectiveness of our management. Trend data indicates positive progress in addressing key threats.

The TLC has been using scientific monitoring to determine the best practice management of highland Poa grasslands, which occur at the Vale of Belvoir and Five Rivers reserves. The grasslands at the Vale of Belvoir have remained in excellent condition throughout their 150-year history of low-intensity cattle grazing and burning.

The results of our research suggest that, without disturbance from either cattle grazing or burning, species richness will decrease. Cattle grazing alone appears to produce little change in either species richness or community composition, while burning has a statistically significant positive effect on both of these indicators of grassland condition.

The presence of fire appears to encourage the growth of grass and herb species, while a lack of fire appears to favour sedge species. We continue research into fire frequency, timing and intensity, to understand how to best manage highland Poa grasslands.

2 LOOKING AFTER NATURE



MISSION 3

Our delivery of the first year of the Science and Planning team's 'Knowing Nature' Strategy produced a very good scorecard on what were some ambitious targets. Actions well underway or completed include: improved management plan delivery, ecological monitoring, an environmental accounts trial (Econd), private land monitoring trial, mitigation research, high-level communications and continued strengthening of our partnerships.

The Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration (PALRC) continues to be a significant partnership for the TLC and is growing in size, fostering stewardship and conservation management for nature.

For more information see palrc.org

Another important collaboration, focused on making the greatest possible contribution to private land conservation, is the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA). This year, the TLC assumed the position of Chair of ALCA and is hosting the third National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart from 18–20 October 2017.

For more information about ALCA, see alca.org.au, and for the conference, visit plc-conference.org.au.

New and ongoing research, both on and off TLC land, continues to tackle a huge range of conservation issues through strong partnerships (see table: 2016–2017 Research Collaborations). We continue to foster

partnerships with UTAS, NRM South and Sustainable Timber Tasmania to further develop the potential of acoustic monitoring, and this year provided support for a UTAS PhD scholarship. Increasing concern over the expansion of fallow deer has led to our partnership on an ARC Linkage grant application, spearheaded by UTAS. This, and our participation in the Bruny Island Cat-Free program with Lutregala Marsh Reserve (a key management site), has strengthened our support for community-based conservation. Monitoring of the ptunarra brown butterfly and threatened plants at the Vale of Belvoir would not be possible without the help of experienced professional and amateur scientists. Our science partnerships remain invaluable.

Our involvement in the ABC's 'Wildlife Spotter', as part of 2016 National Science Week, put our reserves centre stage as we enlisted the help of thousands of volunteers across the country to classify our fauna-monitoring images. While this attracted huge media interest and a wide reach, our quality in-house team of volunteers and interns continued to support our baseline work, especially Jane Keble-Williams, Erin Harris, Jess Brown, Frank Bird, Peter Jarman, Wally Herman and Will Barker, to name but a few. We sincerely thank them all.

Opposite: The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Photo: Rob Blakers



Short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*). Photo: Heath Holden

GOALS

Goal 3.1 Develop the TLC's Conservation Science and Planning Strategy by the end of 2016.

Progress Implementation of the TLC's Conservation Science and Planning Strategy, 'Knowing Nature 2016–2020', continues to achieve significant results. The strategy focuses on three key areas where the Science and Planning team are contributing most towards the organisation achieving its 2020 strategic plan goals. Progress in these areas include:

Excellence in Protecting Nature: Further development of the criteria to assess and prioritise a World-Class System of Reserves, completion of all TLC Reserve Management Plans (two in draft), implementation of long-term ecological monitoring, and investigating innovative ways to use this data to better inform management - e.g. environmental accounts (Econd).

Strengthening Our Partnerships: The implementation of three pilot projects, which engage landholders for community wildlife monitoring. The monitoring also provides valuable data on ecological condition. Skilled TLC volunteers have been tasked with collecting and quantifying data to increase effectiveness and efficiency in monitoring activities, and are working closely with key stakeholders (e.g. UTAS) to add value and increase exposure to best available knowledge.

Leading the Way: Taking a lead role in the development of numerous projects, including the development of the World-Class Reserve System methodology, citizen science initiatives, and applied research projects on our reserves.

A full copy of the strategy is available at tasland.org.au/science.

3 KNOWING NATURE



Southern grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*).
Photo: Heath Holden

GOALS

Goal 3.2 By the end of 2016, TLC will participate in forums to facilitate exchange of knowledge for collaborative conservation outcomes.

Progress The TLC continues to ensure our work is communicated and shared in numerous arenas and at a high level. This past year, presentations were made at the National Private Land Conservation Conference in Melbourne and the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. Through key collaborations and partnerships we can achieve greater and lasting outcomes.

The Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration [PALRC] is going from strength to strength. This year, Charles Sturt University joined the partnership and we have delivered the first round of PALRC scholarships, established a Community of Practice for protected areas practitioners, and delivered a further two short courses – the first in partnership with UTAS and independent consultants, Conservation Management, and the second in partnership with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute.

“I WAS DELIGHTED TO SPEND TIME THIS YEAR AT THE VALE OF BELVOIR AND FIVE RIVERS RESERVES, LOOKING AT TLC PROGRAMS AND HELPING WITH WEED CONTROL. HAVING WORKED AS AN ECOLOGIST MANY YEARS AGO, IT WAS FASCINATING TO SEE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY BEING APPLIED IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TLC TEAMS ON THEIR EXCELLENT, SCIENCE-BASED RESERVE MANAGEMENT.”

Dr Chris Harwood

2015-2016 RESEARCH PROGRAMS

| Research Program | Partner / Investigator / University |
|---|--|
| Global change in alpine conifers | J Worth – Forestry Research Institute, Tsukubha Japan |
| Mammal monitoring in multi-use landscapes – Five Rivers | L Thomson – UTAS |
| Ethnobotany of cider gum | Vlad Jiranek – Uni of Adelaide |
| Impact of fallow deer | UTAS ARC Linkage Grant |
| Aging of sphagnum peatlands on Skullbone Plains (ongoing) | DPIPWE and ANU |
| Acoustic bird monitoring using citizen science (ongoing) | NRM South, NRM Cradle Coast, NRM North, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, UTAS |
| Fire history of The Big Punchbowl Reserve (ongoing) | UTAS and ANU |
| Status of the Tasmanian devil in the Derwent Valley and Bronte regions | DPIPWE, Save the Tasmanian Devil Program |
| Feral cat management on Bruny Island | DPIPWE, UTAS, Kingborough Council |
| Status of Clarence galaxias on Skullbone Plains | Inland Fisheries Service |
| Fauna monitoring in TLC's Midlands | UTAS ARC Linkage Grant |
| Threatened plants and butterfly monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (ongoing) | DPIPWE, Threatened Plants Tasmania |
| Global warming on grassland ecosystems (ongoing) | M Hovenden – UTAS |
| Productivity of eagle nests on TLC Reserves (ongoing) and GIS eagle tracking at Silver Plains | Forest Practice Authority, J Pay – UTAS |
| Reconstructing climate change at the Vale of Belvoir (ongoing) | M Shawn-Fletcher – ANU |
| Invertebrate fire ecology at the Vale of Belvoir (ongoing) | DPIPWE |
| Ecology of saltmarsh habitats at Lutregala Marsh Reserve and Long Point | J Alders – UTAS |

Opposite: James Hattam (TLC) and Dr Sally Bryant (TLC), Five Rivers Reserve. Photo: Matthew Newton



OUR CONSERVATION FOOTPRINT

New Leaf properties Total of 13 properties (3,218 hectares) sold with a covenant since 2010. Currently 5,128 hectares being marketed for conservation lifestyle.

Protected Areas on Private Land Program Six new covenants over 6,911 hectares.

Midlands Conservation Fund Enduring, landscape-scale conservation. 2,636 hectares covered by stewardship agreements.

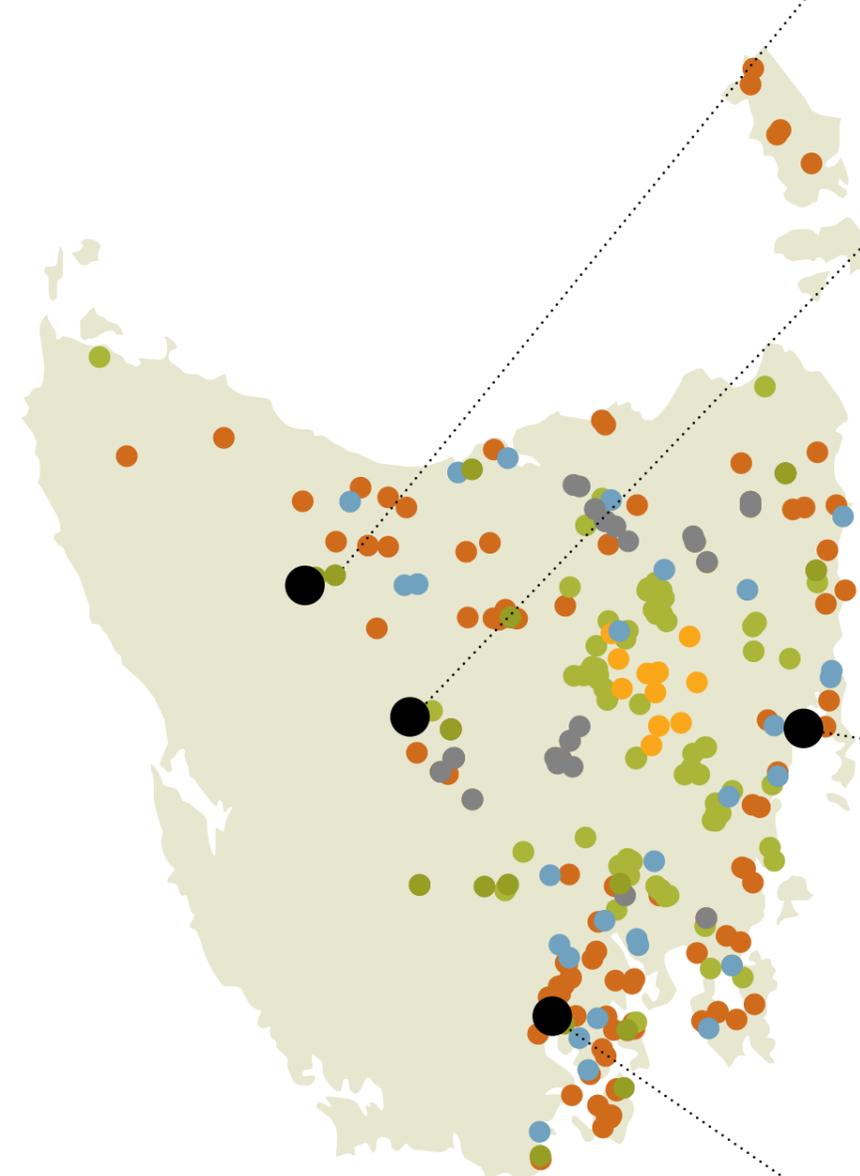
Revolving Fund Eight properties (more than 823 hectares) sold this year. Total of 37 properties (3,751 hectares) sold since inception.

| TLC permanent reserve | Hectares** | Acquisition | Year | Management Plan Status |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|
| Long Point Reserve | 387 | NRS & Donations | 2005 | Approved 2008 |
| Silver Peppermint Reserve | 43 | Gifted | 2005 | Approved 2016 |
| Lutregala Marsh Reserve | 42 | Donations | 2005 | Approved 2016 |
| Recherche Bay Reserve | 144 | Donations | 2006 | Approved 2007 |
| Flat Rock Reserve | 455 | NRS & Donations | 2006 | Approved 2010 |
| Egg Islands Reserve | 125 | NRS & Donations | 2007 | Approved 2009 |
| Brown Mountain Reserve | 87 | Gifted | 2007 | Approved 2016 |
| Vale of Belvoir Reserve | 474 | NRS & Donations | 2008 | Approved 2013 |
| Skullbone Plains Reserve* | 1,618 | Grants, NRS & Donations | 2010 | Approved 2014 |
| Liffey Reserve | 15 | Donation | 2010 | Approved 2017 |
| Blue Tier Reserve | 83 | Donations | 2012 | Draft 2017 |
| Gordonvale Reserve | 81 | Donations | 2013 | Approved 2015 |
| Five Rivers Reserve | 9,280 | Grants | 2014 | Approved 2015 |
| The Big Punchbowl Reserve | 242 | Donations | 2015 | Approved 2015 |
| Tom Hay Reserve | <1 | Gifted | 2015 | Approved 2016 |
| Stony Farm Reserve | 22 | Gifted | 2015 | Draft 2017 |
| Panatana Reserve | 54 | Donations | 2016 | Draft 2017 |
| Daisy Dell | 105 | Donations | 2017 | Draft 2017 |
| Total | 13,258 | | | |

NRS – National Reserve System

*Skullbone Plains accounted for separately in this table

**These numbers may vary from year to year due to updates in the accuracy of the cadastral layers from time to time.



- Permanent reserves
- New Leaf properties
- Revolving Fund properties
- Midlands Conservation Fund
- Facilitated Agreements
- PAPL (Protected Areas on Private Land)

REVOLVING FUND SUCCESS

- Eight properties sold this year to committed landholders, protecting 823 hectares.
- \$969,000 re-invested into the Revolving Fund through sales.

FIVE RIVERS CARNIVORE MONITORING PROJECT

- Fourth consecutive year of fauna monitoring.
- More than 177,400 processed images across 8,045 trap nights.
- 10,200 mammal detections with an average of 15 mammal species identified per year.
- Findings show the coexistence of native carnivores and feral cats, the relative abundance of critical weight range small mammals and the site occupancy of the native herbivores compared to feral species.

POETS AND PAINTERS – CELEBRATING THE BIG PUNCHBOWL

During an exciting and innovative union of art and nature, The Big Punchbowl Reserve hosted another unique species: the artist. In a unique take on the Tasmanian institution, Poets and Painters, eighteen poets and painters immersed themselves in the reserve, drawing inspiration for their work from the natural environment. This was a joint project between the TLC and Bett Gallery and was supported by the Purves Environmental Fund and Purryburry Trust.

EGG ISLANDS RESERVE WEED MANAGEMENT

- 4.6 hectares of Spanish heath threatened the critical habitat of Egg Islands when it was protected in 2007.
- The density of the infestation has decreased from 90% to less than 1% through weed control undertaken by volunteers and staff.
- This year was the eighth consecutive year of weed control on the reserve.

MISSION 4

4 INNOVATING FOR NATURE

The TLC continues to explore and develop innovative conservation business projects, and a fantastic example of this is the New Leaf Carbon project. New Leaf was one of a small number of carbon sequestration projects across Australia that successfully transitioned from the International Verified Carbon Standard to the Australian Carbon Credit Unit system. The project contributes to the overall goals of the TLC by bringing carbon finance to the balance sheet. The project has been a major undertaking by the TLC and provides important income for reserve management and scientific programs on TLC reserves. We have been successful in selling a sub-set of our Australian Carbon Credits Units to Virgin Australia. We look forward to continuing to strengthen that relationship and expanding our engagement in existing ecosystem services markets (such as the carbon market).

Our decision to trial the Wentworth Group's 'Accounting for Nature' model to express and compare the health of our reserves is proving to be successful. The model converts our scientific information into an accounting framework, using a common unit of measure (i.e. the Econd). From this, we have produced a detailed set of environmental accounts for the Five Rivers Reserve, showing an Econd score for flora steady at around 90, and for fauna

at around 80 – signifying the loss of the Thylacine and rarity of several small mammals. We hope to expand this methodology in the future and use it to interpret data from other privately protected areas in Tasmania to help inform statewide reporting frameworks.

In 2016, we identified the outstanding areas needing protection in Tasmania in order to achieve a World-Class Reserve System. The number and spread of these properties means that expanding TLC reserves, and engaging the help of other private landowners, is critical to making this possible. The overwhelming success of our community-based wildlife monitoring trial this year validates the genuine willingness of people everywhere to play a role in looking after nature. If we can galvanise and expand private land contributions then there is every chance of success.



Sharing skills with the community, Panatana Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden

GOALS

Goal 4.2 By 2020, at least two mechanisms new to the TLC will be engaged to achieve nature conservation.

Progress The community wildlife monitoring program empowered landholders to carry out ecological monitoring of their own properties through a coordinated citizen science approach, equipping them with the resources and skills to collect and quantify ecological data. TLC Science and Planning staff are continuing to explore ways in which such programs could be utilised to achieve even greater nature conservation outcomes (e.g. creating formal, informal or temporary protected areas).

Goal 4.3 Expand returns from ecosystem service enterprises.

Progress The New Leaf Carbon project remains a first class example of the significant successes and outcomes – both environmental and financial – that are possible through a well-developed ecosystem service enterprise.

Through our established networks, the TLC continues to seek new opportunities to expand ecosystem service enterprises, such as water markets, mitigation banking and biodiversity markets. Momentum in these areas is building globally and the TLC is well positioned to respond to opportunities as they arise – with multidimensional data from our long-term ecological monitoring program and a demonstrable example of a detailed set of environmental accounts through the Econd trial at Five Rivers Reserve.



MISSION 5

5 INVOLVING PEOPLE

Involving people is a fundamental pillar of the TLC's efforts to protect nature and achieve our mission for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation. The skills, knowledge and expertise of the TLC community has formed the basis of the organisation's successes over the years. The commitment and dedication of our supporters, volunteers, landholders and partners ensures the protection of important ecosystems, security of critical habitats and management of key threats.

Connecting our supporters to the landscapes and ecosystems that they have helped to protect remains a priority for the TLC. Exploring our reserves as part of a conservation community is one of the most powerful vehicles for driving conservation; highlighting the numerous benefits of nature conservation to the broader community.

Reserve Discovery Days provide an opportunity for the TLC to report on stewardship and monitoring, management challenges and progress, as well as to celebrate the role volunteers, community and partnerships play in helping us achieve our conservation goals.

This year, we hosted more than 270 supporters at our Panatana, Vale of Belvoir and Daisy Dell Discovery Days. For many participants, Discovery Days represent a chance to experience, in action, what their support enables.

Poets and Painters – Celebrating The Big Punchbowl was a joint initiative between Bett Gallery and the TLC that brought together 18 creative practitioners to experience and interpret The Big Punchbowl Reserve. After a three-day retreat on site in October 2016, artists and poets worked in pairs to create work that was subsequently exhibited and published. Related exposure for the TLC has included interstate and local print media, national news coverage and festival book launches. The TLC thanks project supporters, participants and co-curators/editors, Carol Bett and Pete Hay for showcasing this incredible reserve to a new audience.

The bequest program continues to grow, and this year we introduced our Natural Guardians group, recognising and bringing together supporters who have made a profound commitment to nature by leaving a gift to the TLC in their Will. Bequests play a crucial role in ensuring our long-term vision, and we are so grateful to those people who have had the generosity and foresight to leave a gift to the TLC.



Artist at work, The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Photo: Matthew Newton

GOALS

Goal 5.1 The TLC's volunteer strategy will provide an opportunity for volunteers to collectively contribute more than 2,000 days per year towards the TLC's conservation activities by 2020.

Progress 929.59 volunteer days were contributed by 321 individual volunteers (83 more volunteers than in the 2015–2016 financial year). The conservative replacement cost of this contribution equals \$261,847.97*, for which the TLC is extremely grateful.

The overall value to the broader Tasmanian community of involving volunteers in the TLC's work represents a phenomenal \$1,036,379*.

The implementation of the Volunteer Strategy continues with steady improvement.

*Volunteer contribution replacement cost and overall value of volunteering to the community was calculated using Volunteering Tasmania's 'Value of Volunteering Calculator'.

Goal 5.2 By the end of 2017, measurement of the cultural, community and commercial benefits of nature conservation will be possible.

Progress Community involvement and visitation are currently being measured and reported in Annual Reserve Reports. A detailed metric to incorporate cultural, community and commercial benefits across our reserve estate is at draft development stage and will be trialled in the year ahead.

Opposite: Volunteers at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve. Photo: Phill Roach



The next generation, Blue Tier Reserve.
Photo: Chris Crerar

GOALS

Goal 5.3 By the end of 2016, the TLC's communications plan will be developed, with the aim that 10,000 people will receive regular TLC communications by 2020, and 50% of Tasmanians will be aware of the TLC.

Progress The TLC Future Communication Strategy has been drafted and is undergoing final review.

4,678 people are receiving regular (newsletter) TLC communications.

33,633 social media users and 16,774 web visitors are viewing TLC posts.

Continued growth in traditional media coverage provides positive results – e.g. the TLC has appeared online and on ABC television, radio and in print (Island magazine, Green magazine and 40 Degrees South magazine).

Goal 5.4 An annual income from donations of at least \$2 million.

Progress Implementation of the TLC's Fundraising Plan 'Positively Philanthropic' continues and is achieving significant results. Ongoing review of the plan will inform priorities and fundraising activities.

Across fundraising programs in 2016–17, the TLC raised \$2.2m in donations from the public.

There are currently 916 active donors.

“WE REALLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND ‘CONNECT’ WITH THE TLC PROPERTIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE OF THAT WHILE OUR DAUGHTER IS STILL YOUNG SO THAT SHE LEARNS TO LOOK AT THE LANDSCAPE THROUGH ECOLOGICAL EYES.”

Tim and Andrea on visiting the Vale of Belvoir Reserve with their daughter Caitlin.

TLC volunteers are active in every team and across almost every project we undertake. From core sampling at the Big Punchbowl Reserve and designing artwork and architectural plans for our ‘Loo With A View’ crowdfunding campaign, to reviewing our People and Culture Policy and providing strategic guidance on our Advisory Science Council, TLC volunteers are passionate enablers and we can't possibly thank them enough. Every volunteer role at the TLC relates directly to the achievement of a strategic goal and every volunteer at the TLC is a vital partner in our conservation journey.

Our Work Integrated Learning Placement partnership with the University of Tasmania continues to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.

By completing an 80-hour placement, postgraduate Masters students gain valuable applied experience in a real work setting. The TLC benefits from the extra bandwidth that these skilled volunteers provide. This financial year, three placements included an analysis of the fire-sensitive values across the TLC reserve estate, assessing the impact of fallow deer on carbon stocks, and conducting analysis of, and producing a strategy for, our social media engagement.

Without the incredibly generous support of so many people, we could not have achieved so much for nature. A special thanks also to our photographers, graphic designers and videographers, and to Pemberton Productions, Fullers Bookstore and the State Cinema.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT 2016-2017

| Volunteer Activity | Total Volunteer Hours | | \$ Replacement Cost of Activities | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 15/16 Total | 16/17 Total | 15/16 Total | 16/17 Total |
| Governance | 689 | 993.75 (124.22 days) | 24,259.69 | 34,989.94 |
| Conservation Science and Planning | 1770 | 3181 | 62,321.70 | 112,003.01 |
| Reserve Management | 3057 | 2064 | 107,636.97 | 72,673.44 |
| Administration Support | 12 | 0 | 422.52 | 0 |
| Community Engagement | 643 | 1198 | 22,640.03 | 42,181.58 |
| Conservation Business | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Totals | 6171 (771 days) | 7436.75 (929.59 days) | 217,280.91 | 261,847.97 |

* Replacement cost calculated at \$35.21 per hour as defined within the Tasmanian State Government-commissioned The Economic Value of Volunteering in Tasmania Report, May 2014, and as endorsed by Volunteering Tasmania. This figure is considered to be conservative. Overall value of volunteering to the community was calculated using Volunteering Tasmania's 'Value of Volunteering Calculator'.

White-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*). Photo: Peter Vaughan





MISSION 6

The TLC continues to press the boundaries and aims to lead by example across all aspects of the work we do; from undertaking cutting edge research, developing innovative and robust conservation programs, and engaging with our supporters, to leading national and international collaborations for the benefit of nature conservation beyond our shores. We aim to lead in the development and support of our people, not only to be efficient and effective in ensuring the organisation is well governed and managed, but to have the highest possible level of staff, volunteer and supporter satisfaction while letting our conservation results speak for themselves.

In this relentless pursuit of excellence, the TLC has revised and implemented its Board Plan, developed and implemented a Good Governance Policy, undertaken random testing of risk controls, identified areas for improvement under governance self-assessment processes, developed and implemented a People and Culture Policy, and reviewed governance and operational processes and procedures in line with an annual work plan. Our TLC Board and sub-committee teams have contributed 994 hours of time, equating to more than \$35,000. This is an extraordinary commitment of time and skills for which we are very grateful.

TLC staff have continued to excel at a national and international

level, with many staff presenting at international meetings such as the World Conservation Congress, the National Private Land Conservation Conference, IUCN Symposium on Maintaining Australia's Natural Wealth, Australian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Conference, Australian Women's Leadership Symposium, RMIT Workshop on Private Land Conservation Research, NSW Conservation Council Bushfire Conference, The Hut and Environmental Community Association Conference, Global Eco Asia Pacific Tourism Conference, Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network Conference, and Public Pedagogies Institute Conference. TLC staff continue to go above and beyond, volunteering many hours because of their commitment and passion for nature.

We are making solid progress towards diversifying income streams, through ensuring the TLC Foundation achieves its goal of providing sufficient income to resource the effective conservation management of TLC's Permanent Reserves, and generating income from social enterprise activities such as carbon credit sales and consultancy services. Our fundraising efforts have continued to deliver our most important revenue source: donations. We are so grateful for every dollar contributed towards our conservation work.

Mount Communication Revolving Fund property.
Photo: Andy Townsend

GOALS

Goal 6.1 By 2016, the TLC will have developed and implemented a Good Governance Plan.

Progress The TLC's Good Governance Policy was adopted by the TLC Board this year.

The TLC is committed to having effective governance at all levels within the organisation, starting with the Board, CEO and management team. The TLC is also committed to continuous improvement in governance performance.

The TLC has implemented random testing of our Risk Management Framework to ensure the framework responds effectively in mitigating and managing risk.

Goal 6.2 By 2020, long-term financial sustainability will be achieved, based on diverse income streams and a sustainable business model.

Progress The TLC continues to employ a multi-pronged approach to providing income for continuing financial stability:

Philanthropy The TLC Foundation is an ongoing source of reliable and sustainable income for supporting the TLC's Reserves (see Foundation Report). In addition, supporter donations to the TLC's Public Fund ensure that the work the TLC undertakes away from our Reserves increases in scale and scope.

Private sector business Fee-for-service and other conservation business opportunities, such as biodiversity market opportunities, continue to support TLC's operations.

Government support Project grants present excellent opportunities for securing funding, particularly for on-ground reserve work.

6 LEADING FOR NATURE



THE TLC FOUNDATION

The TLC Foundation is an endowment fund established in 2009 to secure the independent, long-term resourcing required to ensure the effective and crucial management of our reserves.

From the remote mountain tops to coastal environments, woodlands, wetlands and grasslands, our reserves protect some of the most important natural areas in Tasmania. They conserve critical habitat for our rare and threatened species and serve as safe havens for the future.

While acquiring and protecting land is critically important, effective long-term management of these areas is fundamental to ensure they remain safeguarded for future generations. To achieve this, the capital of the TLC Foundation is invested through a rigorous environmental and ethical screen. The TLC will not knowingly invest in an organisation that operates at the expense of the environment, human rights, public safety, the dignity of its employees or the communities in which the organisation operates. The funds generated through investments provide the TLC with a permanent, reliable and vital source of income for our reserves.

The TLC Foundation has enabled the important development of a rigorous, long-term, scientific ecological monitoring program which captures a multitude of data from across our reserves; data that is key to us understanding these ecosystems.

Through these well-established planning systems, and information gathered through our monitoring program, the TLC is well positioned to assess, prioritise and implement targeted management activities and ensure that these unique natural places, rare ecosystems and critical habitats are protected.

The Foundation Committee, a sub-committee of the TLC Board, provides governance and accountability in overseeing the investment and expenditure of the foundation. The Committee members are: Jennie Churchill (Chair), Susan Gough, Erika Korosi, Sam McCullough (independent/former TLC Board member), Roderic O'Connor (independent/former TLC Board member) and Stephen Atkinson (independent). Strong and transparent governance arrangements are critical to the TLC and its supporters. The TLC Foundation is invested with, and managed by, JB Were. Investments are guided by an Investment Policy Statement, which includes a robust, environmentally responsible ethical screen. Gifts are honoured and preserved to generate a reasonable return while managing risk.

TLC FOUNDATION FUNDS

as at 30 June 2017

- AKSW Fund
- Barry Family Fund
- Biodiversity Management Fund (TLC)
- Bird Conservation Fund
- Bird Conservation Fund (TLC)
- Bosworth Family Fund
- Brown Mountain Fund
- Bryant Bird Fund
- Carolyn Parsons Bequest
- Cathy Gibbons Fund
- Chris Harwood Fund
- Dorothy Reeves Fund
- Elizabeth Ann James Bequest
- Endemic Crustacean Fund
- Five Rivers Endowment Fund
- Ginny Jackson Fund
- Hawkins Family Fund
- Hope Family Fund
- Jack and Norah Donne Fund
- Joseph Bedford Bequest
- Julie Fakes Fund
- June Fisher Fund
- Jupe Family Fund
- Luan and Yoong Fund
- Marshall Family Fund
- Michael Buxton Bequest
- Naylor Bird Fund
- Peter Riedel Fund
- Potts Family Fund
- Samantha Jane Hignett Fund
- Snack Fund
- Solas Fund
- Stephen Geoffrey Blanden Bequest
- Susan Gough Fund
- T. Stadler Fund
- Thomas and Grace Couser Fund
- Tom Hay Bequest
- Twin Gums Fund
- von Bibra Fund
- Warwick Ashley Elpidos Fund

“THE TLC FOUNDATION GAVE OUR FAMILY THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LONG TERM PROTECTION OF OUR BEAUTIFUL ISLAND. IT’S DEEPLY COMFORTING FOR US TO KNOW THAT WE ARE HELPING TO ENSURE THAT OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INTO THE FUTURE.”

Jannie Marshall – Marshall Family Fund

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, the TLC Foundation has seen continued growth since its establishment. This year is no exception, with a further \$977,204 in capital contributions to the Foundation. As the Foundation grows, through gifts from dedicated supporters and positive returns on investments, we continue to close the gap in reaching our goal to achieve sustainable funding for the effective conservation management of our reserves in perpetuity.

The income generated in 2016–17 has funded the implementation of critical conservation management activities across our reserve estate.

2016–17 KEY ON GROUND RESERVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

(Please note: many activities are undertaken on an annual basis, as demonstrated below, with annual events across a range of Reserves targeting long term issues. The key to much of our Reserve management work is follow up.)

- Central Highlands volunteer program – 75 days of work (weeding). The main focus of other on-ground work has been a 3.5km fence construction and trenching to prevent illegal access, and two weeks of general road maintenance to allow for safe visitor access.
- Surveys for endangered ptunarra brown butterflies at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve; observation of a healthy population persisting in the burn area and in unburned areas.
- Continued management effectiveness monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve to determine the effects of cattle grazing and ecological burning on the floral diversity of the grasslands.
- Long Point Reserve – gorse control undertaken with only 20% of the original gorse (50 hectares) extent remaining. The very wet conditions at times throughout the year appear to have led to further germination; planning for works over summer 2017–18 complete.
- Egg Islands Reserve – Spanish heath control completed by volunteers and staff for the eighth consecutive year. We continue to observe a decrease in weed population.

- Continued maintenance of weeds at Lutregala Marsh Reserve by staff and volunteers.
- Foxglove control undertaken at Liffey Reserve by volunteers and staff for the fifth consecutive year, with weed density now sparse in most areas.
- Road upgrade at Panatana Reserve.
- Updating of infrastructure and interest point maps across a range of reserves.
- Hosting of International Student Volunteers, spending two weeks across a number of Reserves.
- All Reserves Fire Strategy started.
- Correspondence with TFS regarding planned burning of areas neighbouring several TLC Reserves.

2016–17 KEY ON GROUND RESERVE CONSERVATION SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Installed ecological monitoring on Brown Mountain, Gordonvale and Blue Tier Reserves and collected trend data for the Vale of Belvoir Reserve post-ecological burning.
- Trialled the use of 360° photospheres as a method for monitoring vegetation change, with the potential to replace traditional photo-monitoring on TLC reserves.
- Repeated fauna monitoring on Five Rivers Reserve, analysed four years of mammal monitoring data and had an abstract accepted at the International Mammal Congress, Perth 2017.
- Presentation at State of GIS national



Grasslands in full bloom, Vale of Belvoir Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden



Volunteers weeding, Liffey Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

- conference on climate change impacts on highland vegetation, using Five Rivers Reserve as a case study.
- Developed an Environmental Account and Econd for the Five Rivers Reserve; the first case study on a private reserve in Australia.
- Completed a successful trial of private land monitoring in three regions of Tasmania, involving 124 landholders and 182 properties and covering 10,165 hectares.
- Partnered with ABC Science and the Australian National Museum on the Wildlife Spotter citizen science project, which involved more than 50,000 people from around Australia in TLC’s ecological monitoring work.
- Showcased our science programs with workshops at the Festival of Bright Ideas, Sustainable Living Festival, Public Pedagogies Institute and BioBlitz.
- Continued involvement with the Bruny Island Cat-Free program, with Lutregala Marsh Reserve adopted as a key cat management site.
- Completed Open Standards Management Plans for Stony Farm, Liffey and Brown Mountain Reserves and annual reserve reports for all TLC reserves.
- Completed a proposal to improve the status of the Clarence galaxias on Skullbone Plains Reserve in trout-free areas.
- Continued collaboration with NRM and UTAS on acoustic monitoring of bird communities and with UTAS on fallow deer in Tasmania.
- Mentored two international students for six weeks and harnessed the effort of more than 200 skilled volunteers who contributed 3,000+ hours to progress our applied conservation works.
- Hosted two UTAS work placement students, who completed risk assessments on feral animal and bushfire impacts on TLC Reserves.

TLC FOUNDATION 2016-17 OVERVIEW

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Opening balance | \$10,011,772 |
| Capital contribution | \$977,204 |
| Total income generated by the TLC Foundation | \$516,750 |
| Income remitted to the TLC | \$510,643 |
| Closing balance | \$ 10,995,083* |

*The Foundation achieved an investment return of 6.81% over the 12 months 30 June 2017 (after all contributions and distributions).



2050 MISSION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITIES, INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENTS, THE TLC WILL:

- 1 TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BUILDING A LANDSCAPE-SCALE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION, INCLUDING A WORLD-CLASS SYSTEM OF RESERVES
- 2 DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
- 3 CONTRIBUTE TO TASMANIA BECOMING A CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE IN NATURE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING
- 4 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS FOR ACHIEVING NATURE CONSERVATION
- 5 PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND MECHANISMS FOR COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE NATURE CONSERVATION
- 6 DEMONSTRATE ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL GOVERNANCE, A POSITIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY INC.**

As engagement partner for the audit of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
Registered Audit Company
Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director

Date: 17 October 2017



A member of Bentleys, an association of independent accounting firms in Australia. The member firms of the Bentleys association are affiliated only and not in partnership. A member of Kreston International, a global network of independent accounting firms.



OFFICERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Your officers present this report to the members of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc.

OFFICERS

The names of each person who has been an officer during the year and to the date of this report are:

| Name | Position | Date appointed | Date of cessation | Meetings eligible to attend | Meetings attended |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Stuart Barry | Chair | Oct-09 | - | 6 | 5 |
| Ms Jennie Churchill | Vice Chair | Nov-12 | - | 6 | 5 |
| Mr Peter Cosier | Member | Oct-10 | - | 6 | 5 |
| Mr Peter Downie | Member | Nov-12 | - | 6 | 6 |
| Mr Josh Geelan | Member | Aug-14 | Dec-16 | - | - |
| Ms Susan Gough | Member | Nov-07 | - | 6 | 6 |
| Ms Erika Korosi | Member | Nov-15 | - | 6 | 5 |
| Prof Ted Lefroy | Member | Nov-15 | - | 6 | 6 |
| Ms Lyn Maddock | Member | Oct-09 | - | 6 | 3 |
| Mr Nathan Males | Member | Nov-15 | - | 6 | 4 |
| Mr Mark Temple-Smith | Member | Nov-16 | - | 6 | 4 |
| Mr Julian von Bibra | Member | Nov-16 | - | 6 | 3 |

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The association measures performance through the establishment and monitoring of benchmarks and budgets. These are reviewed in detail by the board monthly and any exceptions investigated further.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE

The auditor's declaration of independence appears on page 4 and forms part of the officers report for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the officers. On behalf of the committee:



Stuart Barry

President
Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Hobart, 17 October 2017

OUR COMMITMENT



The TLC believes in a transparent and accountable approach for reporting how every supporter dollar is used to achieve our nature conservation work. Our passion for conserving nature for nature's sake, and the trust our supporters have in the TLC to maximise the benefits of their generosity, is what drives our commitment to achieve efficient and effective results. Despite the lack of any national standards or guidelines in relation to fundraising and administration costs of Australian charities*, the TLC is drafting an approach to consistent, transparent and accountable reporting that sets a benchmark for best practice in our sector.

*Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions

The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Photo: Andy Townsend

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | NOTE | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Donations & Bequests | | 1,725,774 | 1,162,481 |
| Grants received | | 360,658 | 63,592 |
| Carbon Income | | 365,652 | 259,440 |
| Interest received | | 42,749 | 37,963 |
| Consultancy services | | 385,942 | 271,177 |
| Reserve Income | | 20,661 | 22,794 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | | (1,672,120) | (1,894,908) |
| Other | | 29,025 | 138,093 |
| Net cash flows from operating activities | 21 | 1,258,341 | 60,632 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Proceeds from sales of property | | 1,531,543 | 750,275 |
| Purchases of Plant and Equipment | | (40,785) | (20,663) |
| Property Development | | (584,801) | (161,037) |
| Total cash flows from investing activities | | 905,957 | 568,575 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Repayment of Borrowings | | (217,017) | (194,092) |
| Total cash flows from financing activities | | (217,017) | (194,092) |
| Net increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | | |
| | | 1,947,281 | 435,115 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 12,801,811 | 12,366,695 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR | 9, 10 | 14,749,093 | 12,801,811 |

This statement can be read in conjunction with the notes found at www.tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | Note | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|-----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Conservation Grants | | 360,658 | 63,592 |
| Project & Consultancy Services | 2 | 899,180 | 936,589 |
| Carbon Income | 3 | 365,652 | 442,272 |
| Interest Income | | 42,749 | 37,963 |
| Foundation Income | | 390,779 | 22,561 |
| Five Rivers Endowment Income | | 240,000 | 57,143 |
| Sale of Properties | | 117,510 | - |
| Donations & Bequests | 4 | 2,691,196 | 2,812,481 |
| Donation of Land | | - | 100,000 |
| Sundry Income | 5 | 51,024 | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 5,158,749 | 4,472,601 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Office & Admin overheads | 6 | 213,722 | 202,683 |
| Travel & Accommodation | 6 | 50,644 | 40,101 |
| Insurance | 6 | 11,827 | 10,032 |
| Depreciation | | 51,809 | 64,952 |
| Employment | 7 | 1,653,645 | 1,682,455 |
| Fundraising | 8 | 70,151 | 51,646 |
| Reserves - Land Management | 9 | 544,438 | 316,768 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | 2,596,236 | 2,368,638 |
| NET OPERATING SURPLUS | | 2,562,513 | 2,103,963 |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | | | |
| Revaluation Increments - Land | | - | - |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | | 2,562,513 | 2,103,963 |

This statement can be read in conjunction with the notes found at www.tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| | NOTE | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | 10 | 3,754,011 | 2,790,039 |
| TLC Foundation Funds | 11 | 10,995,083 | 10,011,772 |
| Receivables | 12 | 247,755 | 416,444 |
| Total Current Assets | | 14,996,849 | 13,218,256 |
| Non - Current Assets | | | |
| Permanent Reserves | 13 | 15,388,647 | 14,803,847 |
| Revolving Fund Land | 14 | 3,477,877 | 4,264,302 |
| New Leaf Land | 15 | 8,846,632 | 9,439,185 |
| Plant & Equipment | 16 | 67,803 | 86,907 |
| Total Non - Current Assets | | 27,780,959 | 28,594,241 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 42,777,808 | 41,812,496 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Payables | 17 | 176,958 | 294,423 |
| Unexpended Grants | 18 | 4,619,262 | 4,905,852 |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | 19 | 144,794 | 125,884 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 4,941,014 | 5,326,159 |
| Non - Current Liabilities | | | |
| Private Loans | 20 | 1,296,405 | 2,478,844 |
| Capital Provisions | 21 | 264,735 | 280,000 |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | 19 | 75,733 | 90,085 |
| Total Non - Current Liabilities | | 1,636,873 | 2,848,929 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 6,577,886 | 8,175,088 |
| NET ASSETS | | 36,199,922 | 33,637,409 |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | | 210,000 | 210,000 |
| Retained Earnings | | 33,427,409 | 31,325,348 |
| Current Year Earnings | | 2,562,513 | 2,103,963 |
| Transfer to Reserves | | - | (1,902) |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 36,199,922 | 33,637,409 |

This balance sheet can be read in conjunction with the notes found at www.tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Retained Earnings | | |
| Opening Balance 1 July | 33,427,409 | 31,325,348 |
| Add: Comprehensive income | 2,562,513 | 2,103,963 |
| Less: Transfer to Reserves | - | (1,902) |
| Closing balance 30 June | 35,989,922 | 33,427,409 |
| Reserves | | |
| Opening Balance 1 July | 210,000 | 208,098 |
| Add: Revaluation movements | - | 1,902 |
| Closing balance 30 June | 210,000 | 210,000 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS EQUITY | 36,199,922 | 33,637,409 |

This statement can be read in conjunction with the notes found at www.tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY INC.

Opinion

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The special purpose financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entities' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Responsibility of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of Management of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the registered entities ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.

The TLC acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land.

The TLC also wishes to thank the many individuals and organisations with whom we work – through partnerships, collaborations and in-kind support.

PARTNERS



- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director

Hobart

17 October 2017



