



SUMMER 2017

NL 52

Scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*). Photo: Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond

In this newsletter, we celebrate the protection of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's (TLC) newest reserve, Daisy Dell. We take you on an armchair tour of the remarkable natural values of Egg Islands Reserve in the Huon River, and tell you about the recent tours that the TLC's Natural Guardians took around the islands in the tall ship The Yukon. We'll also update you on the efforts of the Bird Conservation Fund in ensuring the critical habitats of our reserves are protected for generations to come.

We love showcasing our reserves, and so we hope you can join us at the Skullbone Plains Discovery Weekend and Loo With A View launch in March 2018. As always, a terrific range of TLC staff and experts will be on hand to share their insights.

Tasmania was very much in the spotlight in October, when conservation and business leaders converged in Hobart for the National Private Land Conservation Conference. Hosted by the TLC, the conference was a buzz of conversations, experiences and ideas about valuing and protecting nature. Special thanks to the TLC volunteers who helped our staff deliver the event.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November marked 10 years since our acquisition of Recherche Bay – a pivotal milestone for the TLC and conservation in Tasmania. At the AGM, we thanked Susan Gough for her sterling contribution to the TLC, serving 10 years on the Board.

We are delighted that Susan will remain involved as a member of the TLC Foundation Committee.

It has been a wonderfully full and fruitful year, made possible by the generosity of so many people. I look forward to catching up with some of our supporters at our end of year Christmas barbeque, to celebrate the conservation successes of 2017. For those of you who can't make it, thank you so very much for your support and interest in our work.

Every best wish for the holiday season and the New Year ahead.

Jane Hutchinson
Chief Executive Officer

HIGHLIGHTS



Strong-billed honeyeater (*Melithreptus validirostris*). Photo: Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond

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The long-term conservation of our birds is one step closer, courtesy of the TLC's newly established Bird Conservation Fund.



Grassland paperdaisy (*Leucochrysum alicans* var. *tricolor*) Daisy Dell Reserve. Photo: Peter Sims

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Find out more about how the TLC celebrated the most recent addition to its protected area network – Daisy Dell Reserve.



Delegates registering for the Conference. Photo: Chris Crerar

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Valuing and accounting for nature were up for discussion at the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference.

BIRD CONSERVATION FUND



Crescent honeyeater (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*). Photo: Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond

Tracking bird life, Five Rivers Reserve. Photo: Matthew Newton

The TLC has established a special Bird Conservation Fund – a long-term project that combines evidence-based research and ecological monitoring with direct conservation management actions. This Fund recognises and addresses the unique needs of bird species, ensuring effective and long-term conservation of our birds for generations to come.

We're captivated by the inherent beauty and delicate visibility of birds. They bring us pleasure and inspire hope in a rapidly changing world. But Tasmania's birds are more than just feathered beauties. Their diversity, uniqueness, and the role they play, are intrinsic to the ecology of this remarkable island.

"How often we hear that a species is 'common and widespread' as though it is unimportant or has no value. But what we call common today was probably far more common 50 years ago; our benchmark has shifted and so have our birds."

Dr Sally Bryant

Research shows that many bird species are declining across Australia, and Tasmania is no exception (State of Australia's Birds Report, 2015). More than 40 Tasmanian species are listed as threatened, and these declines also extend to our most common and widespread species, due to threats like habitat loss, invasive pests and climate change. Four bird species have already become extinct, with others at risk.

Few locations in the world offer more than 220 species of resident or regular visitor birds (including 12 endemic species). Our birds can be found in diverse landscapes, just a

few hours' drive from urban centres. From remote mountains to coastal woodlands, grasslands and wetlands, the TLC reserves protect many of Tasmania's birds, including rare and threatened species.

Habitat protection is only the start of our conservation journey. The TLC is committed to protecting critical habitats for Tasmania's bird life. By establishing reserves like Egg Islands, Long Point, Lutregala Marsh and The Big Punchbowl, we are protecting habitat for threatened species like the Australasian bittern, swift parrot, and numerous breeding shorebirds. At Recherché Bay and Five Rivers Reserves, we manage a number of active eagle nests and habitat for forest species such as the masked owl and grey goshawk, while the Panatana Reserve serves as a secure nature bank for bird diversity, recognising the importance of protecting ecologically intact bird communities while they still exist.

The fundamental objective of the Bird Conservation Fund is to build greater capacity in our ecological monitoring program. Monitoring is essential, and requires finely-tuned eyes and ears on the ground. However, with our reserves scattered across the state, we can't be everywhere to track such mobile species. So, the TLC has pioneered an innovative, scientifically robust, repeatable and cost-effective monitoring program, made possible by the Bird Conservation Fund, that will now include acoustic monitoring.

The Fund will enable the TLC to purchase and deploy remote-sensing acoustic recorders across our reserves. This critical information on bird populations will ensure we can target management where it is most needed. On-ground actions will include nest box installation, invasive species control, and appropriate ecological burning regimes, to ensure the habitats that these species rely on are protected.

The Fund will also facilitate applied scientific research, via an annual \$5,000 postgraduate scholarship, focusing on critical knowledge gaps in bird conservation across Tasmania.

We have raised nearly \$200,000 for the Fund so far, thanks to the generosity of many supporters. We need to raise an additional \$300,000 to ensure our birds are given the best chance of survival.

James Hattam
Philanthropy and Engagement Manager

GIVE
Please join us to safeguard our unique birds by making a donation at tasland.org.au



DAISY DELL

Mountain purplepea (*Hovea montana*), Daisy Dell Reserve. Photo: Matt Taylor

On the evening of Friday 29 September, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy celebrated its latest momentous protected area milestone – Daisy Dell Reserve.

Local community partners, campaign supporters, TLC staff and volunteers filled Launceston’s Design Tasmania with good cheer, warm conversation and heartfelt salutations. The evening was complimented with Photographer Heath Holden’s breathtaking backdrop of intimate, nocturnal wildlife imagery, and volunteer Georgie Seddon’s superb native floral arrangements.

TLC Chief Executive Officer, Jane Hutchinson, warmly welcomed guests, and described Daisy Dell Reserve’s long list of important values – its high-priority landscape, Cradle highlands context and connectivity, rich floral diversity, and unique Tasmanian wildlife. Jane also expressed gratitude to the supporters whose efforts helped protect Daisy Dell’s 322 healthy hectares, which safeguard the exquisite, endangered grassland paper daisy, the rare mountain purple pea, the eastern and spotted-tailed quoll, and the Tasmanian devil.

Kentish Council Lord Mayor, Don Thwaites, made a commendable effort in driving the length of the Midlands Highway at dusk to arrive just in time to deliver his speech. Don’s kind words of support and congratulations were gratefully received by the assembled TLC community, many of whom were Kentish Municipality residents.

Honoured guests and Daisy Dell champions, Peter Sims and John Wilson, were warmly embraced by

the crowd. Peter and John received special thanks on behalf of Daisy Dell’s other neighbours, Gary Clark, Megan Clarke and Trent Hutchinson, for their combined roles as Daisy Dell caretakers, campaigners, advocates and conservationists. Peter spoke passionately about TLC’s stewardship of the campaign and his personal relief that this landscape is now protected and in safe hands.

In acknowledging the Daisy Dell neighbours, TLC’s Philanthropy and Engagement Manager, James Hattam, framed the Daisy Dell campaign as a success story built on a foundation of community. James shared how Daisy Dell connects so many people. He recalled generous donations, handwritten notes, moving personal stories, and the thrilling, creative, and humbling in-kind contributions received from TLC supporters throughout this hugely successful campaign.

With the generously gifted Devil’s Corner wines flowing, new friendships kindled and old ones flaring, the guests lingered well after the speeches had finished. Folks finally, reluctantly, made their way into the cool night with a posy of native flowers, confident in the knowledge that their gift will ensure that nature thrives across the open glades, majestic woodlands and secret rainforests of Daisy Dell Reserve, in perpetuity.

**Phill Roach
Community Engagement Coordinator**



Mt Communication Revolving Fund Property. Photo: Andy Townsend

FOR SALE - MT COMMUNICATION

The Forest Conservation Fund Revolving Fund has an exciting new property – Mt Communication and Mt Zion, located on the Tasman Peninsula.

The property, which will protect 950 hectares, has five titles for sale. It was acquired for its size, location, context and range of threatened species and vegetation communities. Conservation covenants will be designed for the property, allowing for suitable house sites, while maintaining natural values. The property protects wedge-tailed eagle nests, more than 140 hectares of threatened blue gum forest, a discrete patch of white gum forest (habitat for the critically endangered swift parrot and forty-spotted pardalote) and intact old growth coastal eucalypt and she-oak woodland.

To find out more about the Revolving Fund, or arrange an inspection, contact Janine Waldron (0409 429 660) or Leigh Walters (0407 891 025).

Revolving Fund Team

EXPLORE

View all our conservation properties for sale at

tasland.org.au/properties-for-sale



RESERVE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bird's eye view of the Egg Islands. Photo: Matthew Newton

In 2008, the TLC purchased 136 hectares – nearly half – of the Egg Islands, with support from the Australian Government and generous members of the public.

The Egg Islands Reserve is a long, narrow stretch of remarkably intact land, nestled in the Huon River near Franklin. This is a place of contrast – from the middle of the islands, the wetlands and woodlands appear completely untouched by humans, yet the steady hum of traffic rises from the highway just a few hundred metres away.

The TLC's Egg Islands Reserve complements the existing Egg Islands Conservation Area, which is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Its protection ensures that the values of the islands will be maintained in perpetuity.

The Egg Islands Reserve protects a significant area of rare and endangered black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest and provides habitat for 87 native bird species, including the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).

In 2016, we established 10 monitoring sites across the island to measure flora and fauna diversity and changes in structure and condition. Not only is the vegetation in good ecological health, especially following weed removal, but a fabulous range of small, critical weight range-mammals live on the island (which is curious, as the landform often sinks during high tides and heavy rains).

Our monitoring cameras captured 14 species, including healthy numbers of pademelon, potoroo, brown bandicoots and eastern-barred bandicoots,

but no feral cats! The absence of cat predation means the island could be a safe haven for vulnerable small mammals. Endangered swift parrots regularly feed in the black gum forests and can breed on the island safe from disturbance. The booming call of the Australian bittern rises from marshes in the northern and southern ends of the island. Sea eagles regularly forage across the Huon channel and have been captured on camera, eating their prey on the banks of the island.

The vegetation communities of Egg Islands Reserve are in excellent condition, with only small areas, previously cleared for farming, affected by weeds. TLC volunteers and staff have undertaken weed control each year since 2010, resulting in excellent regeneration of native woodland species, including black gum.

Community support for the Egg Islands is consistently strong, with volunteers assisting with scientific surveys and weed control. The local community have embraced the islands and TLC, with many locals volunteering on weed control activities. In addition, the Living Boat Trust at Franklin offers boat-based tours of the islands, and local artists have featured the Egg Islands in their artworks.

Denna Kingdom
Reserve Manager

Dr Sally Bryant
Conservation Science & Planning
Manager



Bequest supporters enjoying the day, Egg Islands Reserve. Photo: James Hattam

NATURAL GUARDIANS

The annual Natural Guardians (bequest) trip was a memorable experience. We boarded The Yukon tall ship to sail the Huon River and explore the rich habitat of our Egg Islands Reserve. We drifted along the banks of the reserve, listening to the stories of supporters who have a deep understanding of, and connection with, the islands. TLC's James Hattam and Dr Sally Bryant were on board to highlight the island's fascinating history, outstanding natural values, and on-ground management.

The weather was perfect and there were plenty of opportunities to learn, meet lovely people, and appreciate the importance of protecting this special landscape in a relaxed environment.

This annual trip is our way of thanking our Natural Guardians.

By leaving a gift in your Will to the TLC, you will join our Natural Guardians. This group has been established to recognise and bring together supporters who have made the profound commitment to nature by leaving the TLC a gift in their Will.

Sophie Marshall
Bequest and Supporter Relations

ACT

To learn more, visit

tasland.org.au

or contact Sophie Marshall at

smarshall@tasland.or.au



VALUING NATURE

Prof Ted Lefroy presenting to delegates at the conference. Photo: Chris Crerar

As a member of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), the TLC hosted the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart from 18–20 October.

The conference theme was Valuing Nature, and delegates were invited to consider how the environment’s wellbeing is attributed – from natural capital and ecosystem services to community and cultural connections.

Keynote speakers included Conservation International President, Jennifer Morris; Natural Heritage, Integrated Catchment Management and Waikato Regional Council team leader, Alan Saunders; and Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and Djelk Rangers General Manager, Ricky Archer.

Almost 250 people attended the event, including conservation practitioners, landowners, policy makers, philanthropists, business leaders and academics. During the three days, around 65 people presented in workshops, plenary and concurrent sessions.

The annual conference is an important initiative to grow the national private land conservation network across Australia. TLC’s Jane Hutchinson is the current ALCA Chair, and the event provided a great opportunity to also share some of the TLC’s work and ideas with conference presenters and attendees.

Four pre-conference workshops were held, including a full day Conservation Planning and Monitoring field trip to Flat Rock and Chauncy Vale Reserves, hosted by the TLC. Shorter workshops were held on philanthropy, reserve visitation and intergenerational leadership.

Hobart turned on the weather for the welcome drinks, held on the waterfront at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). The screening of the film Banking Nature in the Aurora Theatre then set the scene for the conference.

The main plenary sessions got underway the following day. Speakers addressed a range of topics, from biodiversity on farms to indigenous land management and island conservation. A highlight for many delegates was the lively debate on putting nature on the balance sheet.

After all this food for thought, delegates were ferried to MONA for the conference dinner. TLC Chair, Stuart Barry, was MC for the evening, which also featured Pete Hay’s reflections on art and nature.

Concurrent sessions ran throughout Friday, with a post-conference gathering hosted by Greening Australia that evening.

For a terrific taster of the conference, watch the short video on Valuing Nature at <https://vimeo.com/tasland>.

The conference would not have been possible without the generosity of our funders, the ALCA Board, and the TLC staff and volunteers who put in a stellar effort to deliver the event.

The 2018 National Private Land Conservation Conference will be hosted by the Queensland Trust for Nature in Brisbane, October 24-26th.

**Phill Roach and Margie Jenkin
Conference Coordinators**



TLC’s 2016-17 Annual Report. Photo: Loic Le Guilly

ANNUAL REPORT

We have achieved significant outcomes for nature in Tasmania over the past year – from the protection of Daisy Dell, to Poets and Painters - Celebrating The Big Punchbowl, the Vale of Belvoir Discovery Day, and the work we do alongside committed landholders to protect nature on their land.

The 2016–2017 Annual Report sets out the TLC’s achievements and progress towards our strategic goals.

“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”.

Jane Hutchinson, CEO

We could not have achieved so much for nature without the incredibly generous support of so many people – thank you.

You can read the report online, or email info@tasland.org.au if you would like to obtain a hard copy.

EXPLORE

Read the full report at tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports.



Volunteers weeding foxglove, Liffey Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

Juvenile eastern ground parrot (Pezoporus wallicus). Photo: Peter Vaughan

EXPLORE - YOU ARE INVITED!

It's been one almighty year for private land conservation in Tasmania. Let's get together and revel in what we have achieved!

Our end of year BBQ will be held at 12.30 pm on Thursday 14 December, on the lawns at the TLC office – 827 Sandy Bay Rd, Lower Sandy Bay. Join us for a gold coin donation, it won't be the same without you! RSVP at <https://tlcxmasbbq2017.eventbrite.com.au> for catering purposes.

SAVE THE DATE

Skullbone Plains Reserve Discovery Weekend and 'Loo with A View' Unveiling

Block out Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March in your 2018 calendars, because we're planning a whole, wild weekend of nature appreciation and activities! And we have some 'Loo with a View' business to attend to as well. We will send out invitations in the New Year.

ACT

Volunteer at Liffey and in the Central Highlands

We need additional volunteers to help eradicate weeds at beautiful Liffey Reserve, on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 December. Do good, feel good. Register at <https://volunteerliffey.eventbrite.com.au>.

Our popular, annual Central Highlands Weeding will take place in three stages: 22–25 January, 5–8 February and 14–16 February 2018. Remote, rugged and rewarding. Pitch in for a couple of days or sign up for the full stint. Register at <https://volunteercentralhighlands2018.eventbrite.com.au>.

GIVE

The TLC's Bird Conservation Fund combines evidence-based research and ecological monitoring with direct management actions to ensure effective and long-term conservation of our birds for generations to come.

Please join us to safeguard our unique birds by making a donation at tasland.org.au.

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