



# Annual Reserve Report

---

## Recherche Bay Reserve 2017-18



[www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au)

## INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) protects important natural areas as permanent reserves and aims to demonstrate excellence in reserve management for biodiversity conservation. The TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation which comprises 5 key steps – planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, review/adaptation and communication.

Recherche Bay Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2006 and protects 144 hectares of coastal forest and sites of international cultural heritage significance in the far south of Tasmania. The Reserve adjoins the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area. The management of the Reserve is guided by the Recherche Bay Reserve Management Plan. The plan is implemented by TLC staff through an Annual Work Plan and Monitoring Plan. Details of ecological monitoring methods can be found in TLC's Ecological Monitoring Procedures Manual on [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au).

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

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


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

## RECHERCHE BAY RESERVE SCORECARD 2017-18

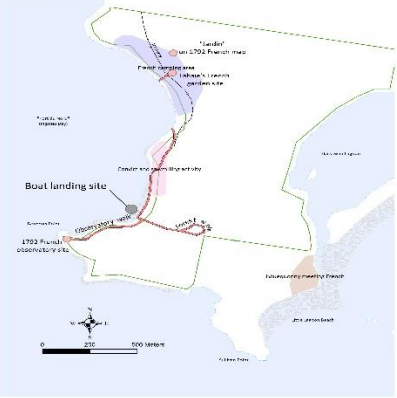
<b>Ecological Monitoring</b>			
<i>Target</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Status 2014-15</i>	<i>Trend</i>
Coastal forest	Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Trend data collection scheduled for Sep 2019
	Structural complexity	5 strata per site	
	Canopy recruitment	4.6 species per site	
	Vertebrate fauna diversity	9 terrestrial mammal sp	
<b>Management Effectiveness</b>			
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Status 2017-18</i>	<i>Trend</i>
Protecting cultural heritage sites	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped remain intact	Sites remain intact and partly documented.	Flat
	Cultural heritage sites remain intact	Sites remain intact	Flat
Community engagement	# events at the Reserve	0	Flat
	# of volunteer activities / vol days	0	Flat

Cover image: pottery shard found on the reserve: photo TLC

## ECOLOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY

<b>Coastal Forest</b>		<b>Status: Very Good</b>
<b>Goal</b> The condition of coastal forest is maintained		<b>Outcome: To be re-assessed Sep 2019</b>
<b>Description</b> Coastal forest and woodland occupies the entire Reserve. Features of special interest include a sea eagle nest overlooking Black Swan Lagoon, and areas of rainforest, which is unusual in coastal southeast Tasmania. Monitoring has shown that the vegetation is in excellent condition and supports a diverse community of native animal species. While cats are present on the Reserve they are in low numbers and do not pose a major threat at present.		Bennetts wallaby on camera trap 2015. Photo: TLC 
<b>Ecological indicator</b>	<b>Status 2014-15</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Floristic diversity	8 species per site	Baseline data collected in 2014-15 and trend data due to be collected in Sep 2019
Structural complexity	5 strata per site	
Canopy recruitment		
Vertebrate fauna diversity	4.6 species per site 9 terrestrial mammal sp	
<b>Key findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No reports of disturbances or fire events on the Reserve during 2017-18</li> <li>Ecological monitoring is due to be undertaken in Sep 2019</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat ecological monitoring to be undertaken in Sept 2019, or earlier if there is a significant ecological event such as fire.</li> </ul>		

## MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS SUMMARY

Community engagement		
<b>Key objective(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TLC provides the community with ongoing recreation, education and volunteering opportunities.</li> </ul>	<b>Status 2017-18</b> <b>On-track</b>	
<b>Strategy description</b> Public interest in the Reserve remains high and TLC aims to provide the community with opportunities to experience its outstanding natural and cultural values while preventing impact on any sensitive areas or values.	 <p>Recherche Bay walking trail</p>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Trend</b>
# events at the Reserve	0 events	Decrease
# of volunteer activities / vol days	0 activity / 0day	Decrease
<b>Progress in 2017-18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No events or volunteers days were held at the reserve this year</li> <li>Several meetings with private operators registering our concerns regarding their proposals to establish tourism ventures crossing our reserve. These were attended in collaboration with the adjacent landholders J Whitehead.</li> </ul>		
<b>Key recommendations for future management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide input and comment on tourism proposals recommending caution due to sensitive sites.</li> </ul>		

**Cultural heritage protection**

**Key objective(s)**

- By 2016, cultural heritage sites and knowledge are fully documented
- Cultural heritage sites remain intact

**Status 2017-18**  
**No change**

**Strategy description**

Cultural heritage sites have been mapped and documented. TLC occasionally provides the community with opportunities to visit sites of public interest, such as the Observatory and French Garden.

A significant area of the Reserve is listed under State and National Heritage Registers for its important cultural heritage values. The most pertinent of these values include the French exploration in 1792 and 1793 led by Bruni D’Entrecasteaux, involving botanical collections, astronomical observations, the planting of a vegetable garden and peaceful contact with Aboriginal people. Other values include extensive use of the land for convict coalmining, whaling, ship building, timber harvesting and milling.



TLCs Recherche Bay Reserve sign at Moss Glen. Photo: TLC.

Indicator	Current status	Trend
Cultural sites remain intact	Intact	Flat
Cultural heritage sites are documented and mapped	Cultural heritage sites documented and mapped.	Flat

**Progress in 2017-18**

- A watching brief on the Circa Architecture Morris-Nunn floating hotel development proposal and the emergency of several new proposals registering to cross our land.
- TLC are continuing to work on a visitation management plan to identify what levels of visitation are appropriate, and to recommend ways visitation can be managed to prevent impacting on natural (eagle and shorebird breeding and sensitive cultural heritage values).

**Key recommendations for future management**

- Continue to provide visitors with opportunities to appreciate the Reserve’s unique cultural heritage in ways that minimise impacts on those sites.
- Keep an active watching brief on all proposals to establish tourism ventures on or near our reserve.
- Continue to seek funding to help develop a visitation management plan in consultation with cultural heritage experts.