



SUMMER 2019

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Prickly beauty (*Pultenaea juniperina*), Tinderbox Hills. Photo: Andy Townsend

What an incredible year 2019 has been! From the protection of the Little Swanport and Tall Trees reserves to the continued successes across our conservation programs, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) has a lot to celebrate as 2019 draws to an end.

In November, the TLC launched its latest conservation campaign, to protect Tinderbox Hills. We have been working in this landscape since the TLC was established in 2001 and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to protect this irreplaceable patch of Tasmania, home to some of our most threatened species. Tinderbox Hills really does epitomise the significant natural values which exist all around us in Tasmania. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the campaign so far.

The continued success of the TLC's Revolving Fund (five properties sold this year) and of Land for Wildlife (61 properties registered) emphasises the appetite for private landholders to actively contribute to conservation efforts. And the recent discovery by TLC ecologist Joe Quarmby of a species new to Tasmania on a property on Bruny Island shows the fundamental role that private land plays in nature conservation across Tasmania.

In the closing weeks of 2019 we celebrate and farewell some incredible individuals from the TLC, with the retirement of Dr Sally Bryant and Stuart Barry. Both Sally and Stuart will leave an indelible mark on the TLC and nature conservation in Tasmania. We sincerely thank them for their unwavering commitment and

dedication over the past 10 years and look forward to them continuing to be involved with the TLC.

We also want to wish season's greetings to all our supporters, donors and volunteers. Thank you for the effort you have put in to protect the wild places and vulnerable species so integral to the Tasmania we know and love. Whatever you celebrate and however you celebrate it, we hope the end of the year brings you and those closest to you joy, peace and perhaps a little time to enjoy nature.

Thank you again for your support over 2019. Our growing community of supporters inspires us to dream big and strive to achieve even more for nature conservation across Tasmania.

James Hattam
Chief Executive Officer

HIGHLIGHTS



Forty spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*). Photo: Andrew Browne

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Tinderbox Hills is a conservation jewel on Hobart's doorstep – help us make it a reserve by contributing to our newest campaign.



Tall Trees Reserve. Photo: Rob Blakers

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With the protection of Tall Trees Reserve, we've added an important buffer to Mt Field National Park.



Natural Guardians reserve visit. Photo: Margie Jenkin

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Take a trip to Panatana Reserve and Rubicon Sanctuary with our Natural Guardians, and find out how you can leave a bequest to the TLC in your will.



HELP PROTECT TINDERBOX HILLS

Tinderbox Hills. Photo: Andy Townsend

The forty spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) is one of Australia’s most-endangered birds, rarely seen outside Tasmania’s offshore islands and in a few scattered locations on the Tasmanian mainland. It’s tiny, adorable, and very hard to find, so it is particularly thrilling that we now have an opportunity to conserve vital forty spotted breeding habitat barely half an hour from Hobart.

Tinderbox Hills, just outside Kingston in southern Tasmania, is one of the last areas of undisturbed nature so close to the capital. Only 67 hectares, this property is nonetheless home to 200 flora species, with a diversity that is both stunning and ecologically significant. The importance of this conservation jewel has only increased as surrounding suburbs spread.

The beauty of Tasmania is that we can live near nature, and Tinderbox Hills is a perfect example of a beautiful woodland on the doorstep of human habitation. The trees here are alive with birdsong; threatened species, at risk of disappearing forever, share this landscape with residents of Hobart, Kingston and the towns of the Tinderbox Peninsula. But this way of living can only continue if we protect peri-urban habitat like Tinderbox Hills: these key patches of land play a critical role in our conservation efforts.

The forty spotted pardalote is internationally and locally recognised as an endangered species. In 2010, around 1500 birds remained—a 60% decline

since 1995—mostly on Tasmanian islands but with a few around Tinderbox, Howden and Coningham, south of Kingston. The populations on Flinders Island and at Coningham and the Peter Murrell Reserve are now close to extinction.

Dr Sally Bryant is not just the TLC’s Head of Science, she is also the chair of the National Recovery Team for forty spots. She says, ‘Our very own forty-spotted pardalote is one of Australia’s most fascinating yet critically threatened woodland birds. If we don’t protect Tinderbox Hills now, this last intact breeding colony and dispersal corridor onto mainland Tasmania will be lost forever.’

As a reserve, Tinderbox Hills will not only provide irreplaceable nesting and feeding habitat for birds, including the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), but will be a sanctuary for eastern quolls (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), eastern barred bandicoots (*Perameles gunnii*), Tasmanian bettongs (*Bettongia gaimardie*) and long-nosed potoroos (*Potorous tridactylus*). It will be a safe haven for some of our rarest and most-threatened plants and animals.

Protected, this will become part of a vital conservation area of more than 200 hectares of private and public reserves, in a neighbourhood with one of the highest densities of Land for Wildlife properties in Tasmania. Tinderbox Hills truly is a Tasmanian treasure.

The TLC protects nearly 14,000 hectares of Tasmania in reserves across the state. But just as importantly, we work with landholders on their own properties to make sure another 29,000 hectares of Tasmania is countryside where animals, plants and humans can thrive together.

We pride ourselves on working alongside landholders to achieve conservation. We are grateful to the current owners of Tinderbox Hills, who have managed this land for generations, for giving us the opportunity to buy and conserve this important property.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this campaign already: your response has been profoundly heartening. We have included a donation slip with this newsletter, but if you have already contributed to this campaign, please consider passing it on to a friend or colleague in case they would like to support our work.

GIVE

You can help us preserve this beautiful, critical habitat by donating at tasland.org.au/donate-now.

Find out more about Tinderbox Hills at tasland.org.au/reserves/tinderbox-hills





NEW TALL TREES RESERVE

Tall Trees Reserve. Photo: Jan Tilden

While celebrations were afoot for the purchase and protection of Little Swanport Reserve earlier this year, another new reserve flew under the radar.

Tall Trees Reserve adds a 178-hectare buffer to the Mount Field National Park. Only eight kilometres from two of our other reserves—Brown Mountain and Silver Peppermint—Tall Trees is an important addition to the mosaic of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, connecting vital pieces of wilderness and making it easier for the species that live there to travel and survive.

This reserve supports massive old-growth swamp gum or giant ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) forest, with some trees towering over 70 metres tall. There are also areas of gum topped stringybark (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) forest, including trees that are hundreds of years old and riddled with hollows.

Ancient tree ferns, ground ferns such as hard waterfern and silky fanfern form beautiful fern glades. The understorey is dominated by rainforest species including myrtle beech and celery top. Sassafras, Tasmanian laurel and Tasmanian blanketleaf are also common. Walking around Tall Trees is like taking a trip back to the super-continent of Gondwana, with its ancient myrtles and tree ferns.

The reserve provides habitat for the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, Tasmanian devil, and spotted tailed quoll, as well as many other birds and mammals. The wet sclerophyll and

rainforest vegetation is home to shy, rarely seen species including the pink robin and endemic scrubtit.

The TLC is now planning monitoring activities for this new reserve, with a detailed survey, installation of ecological monitoring and aerial checks for eagle nests all coming up.

Tall Trees was protected thanks to the Elsie Cameron Foundation. The TLC is enormously grateful to the foundation for helping us create this and many other reserves.

EXPLORE

Read about the Tall Trees Reserve and other TLC properties in the 2018/19 Annual Report at tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports



ANNUAL REPORT

The TLC's 2018/19 Annual Report is now available for download from the TLC website.

The Annual Report tracks how the TLC is performing against our six missions: protecting nature, looking after nature, knowing nature, innovating for nature, involving people and leading for nature.

The report looks back at the successful campaign to protect Little Swanport, and notes that a second reserve—Tall Trees—was also established during the reporting period. This year we have added a data visualisation of all the land protected by TLC activity—through New Leaf, the Revolving Fund, our network of reserves and through our landholder programs. Together, they comprise an impressive 64,735 hectares.

We've included profiles of some of the TLC's supporters, so you can find out more about what drives Tasmanians to volunteer, give regular donations, make a gift in their will or set up a named fund in the TLC Foundation. We have loved hearing the individual stories of supporters who make our work possible.

The Annual Report is also a great place to find out more about our innovative science programs. Read about how the development of the Wild Tracker app and program is supporting individual landholders to monitor wildlife on their land, or how the data we've collected at Five Rivers Reserve has become the most comprehensive environmental account produced by a conservation organisation.

Of course, the Annual Report is also packed with beautiful, high-quality images of Tasmania's natural places, thanks to the many talented, meticulous photographers who work with us.



KINGBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Joe Quarmby and *Acacia acinacea*. Photo: Sally Bryant

Kingborough Council has been accumulating financial offsets since 2004, contributed by developers big and small who have reduced biodiversity or removed trees. Now the TLC is partnering with the council to use some of those funds to deliver a private land conservation program.

Landholders who place parts of their property under conservation covenant under the program will get stewardship payments from the Environmental Fund to help manage that vegetation. The money can be spent on management activities such as weed control, fencing and revegetation. The project is targeting the protection of threatened vegetation communities, such as black peppermint forests, that are under threat from land clearance. It also targets threatened species habitat, including habitat for the endangered swift parrot and forty-spotted pardalote.

This is a new arrangement for Tasmania, with the TLC acting as a conduit between the Kingborough Environmental Fund and local landholders, surveying natural values in preparation for formal protection. The TLC's expertise in the landscape, conservation agreements, and working with landholders make us a perfect fit for this job.

The TLC is currently assessing properties in Kingborough to see if they are suitable for the program.

To find out more about the Kingborough Environmental Fund or if you think your property might fit the bill, visit the Kingborough Council website at kingborough.tas.gov.au

TLC ECOLOGIST DISCOVERS NEW ACACIA SPECIES ON BRUNY ISLAND

Late in August, when he was hard at work assessing Bruny Island properties for the Kingborough Environmental Fund, TLC's Conservation Ecologist Joe Quarmby was surprised to find an acacia he never expected to see in Tasmania.

When he first saw it Joe did not recognise the species, but later identified it as *Acacia acinacea*, or gold dust wattle. While it's common in Victoria, South Australia and NSW, this species has never been recorded in Tasmania before.

Joe took a sample of the plant to the Tasmanian Herbarium, and staff confirmed that it was indeed *A. acinacea*. Botanists from the Herbarium later travelled to Bruny with Joe to have a closer look. Leaf samples were also collected for a genetics study by UTAS. While many species of *Acacia* have been introduced to Tasmania in recent years, *A. acinacea* appears to have been growing on Bruny for a very long time and is unlikely to have been planted.

Joe has reported the species to DPIPWE's Threatened Species Section and anticipates that it will be listed as an endangered species. TLC is now working with the landholder to protect the property under conservation covenant.

If you've seen *Acacia acinacea* on your property or anywhere else in Tasmania, we would love to hear about it: get in touch!



Scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*). Photo: Peter Vaughan

LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Since February, the TLC has been delivering the Land for Wildlife (Lfw) program, through an arrangement with the Tasmanian Government. Lfw is a nonbinding voluntary scheme which encourages, supports and recognises private landowners who are incorporating nature conservation on their properties.

By the end of June, we had registered 31 new properties for the program; we're aiming for 60 by January, with 1,000 hectares added to the program. So far we've added properties with outstanding conservation values, including threatened black gum forest and breeding colonies of endangered forty-spotted pardalotes and swift parrots.

In October the decision was made to transition the program to the TLC, and in November we ran two events for Lfw property owners and those interested in the program, with trips to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Liffey Reserve. If you already own a Lfw property, you should have had a letter asking you to opt in to the TLC's administration of the scheme; if you haven't already, please send back your opt-in form so we can keep in touch with you and continue to grow the program.

ACT

Find out more or sign up for Lfw at tasland.org.au/programs/land-for-wildlife/

NATURAL GUARDIANS RESERVE VISIT

Panatana Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden

Every year we take a special trip with those TLC supporters who have left a gift for us in their will – the Natural Guardians. In October, we upped the ante and went to two properties: Rubicon Sanctuary and Panatana Reserve.

More than 30 Natural Guardians came on this great day out. First stop was Rubicon Sanctuary, a property generously given to the TLC by Phil Collier and Robin Garnett ten years after they originally purchased it from the TLC's Revolving Fund.

Rubicon, in the north of the state, is home to around 60 native orchid species. The sanctuary protects the marsh leek orchid, pretty leek orchid, black tongue finger orchid, plum sun orchid and Holmes sun orchid, all of which are threatened species. The sanctuary's management program ensures all these species are thriving. During our visit, we got real insight into the incredible floral variety, thanks to a tour from Phil and Robin themselves.

Then it was off to Panatana, protected in 2016 and managed in collaboration with the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation. David Gough from Six Rivers provided a moving and fascinating welcome to country.

Panatana borders Narawntapu National Park. As well as protecting the property's endangered swamp paperbarks and its exquisite painted button quails, this reserve guards important cultural values. Panatana retains many tangible expressions of Aboriginal cultural heritage, revealing lives sustained by the land over

countless generations – we were lucky enough to hear about these during our visit. From start to finish, this was a day of immersive storytelling from people who truly value the natural and cultural jewels of Tasmania.

We also discussed the work of the TLC Foundation. Unless otherwise specified, gifts in wills go to the Foundation, an endowment fund established in 2009 to secure the independent, long-term resourcing necessary for the effective and crucial management of our reserves. Natural Guardian bequests are vital to the ongoing work of the TLC.

The reserve visit was also an opportunity to launch our new Natural Guardians short film, a profound and moving testament to the reasons why people leave bequests to the TLC. Including beautiful footage of the reserves these Natural Guardians are helping protect, the film is well worth watching – you can see it now at tasland.org.au/bequests-to-the-tlc.

Our annual reserves trips are our way of saying thank you to the Natural Guardians, a very special group of people who make our work possible. If you would like to find out how to leave a gift to the TLC in your will, please visit our website or call the office. If you have included us in your will already, please get in touch with Sophie Marshall, the TLC's Planned Giving Coordinator on smarshall@tasland.org.au. We'd love to say thank you, check that we can honour your wishes and invite you on these fabulous trips.



Dr Sally Bryant. Photo: Matthew Newton

TLC PEOPLE

The average length of time Australians stay at any one job is three years and three months. Janine Waldron and Denna Kingdom have both smashed that record, saying goodbye to the TLC during October after 12 and 15 years respectively. Janine is off to the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, and Denna to the Tasmania Fire Service. Both have been invaluable to the TLC, contributing so much to its growth and development, and we will miss them very much. We've also had two additions to the TLC – Mel Eyes is now our Business Coordinator, and Jane Rawson is our Communication and Marketing Coordinator.

Head of Science, Dr Sally Bryant, has also announced her retirement, though she'll still be contributing to the TLC as a Research Associate, keeping an eye on forty-spotted pardalotes both through that work and as chair of the bird's National Recovery Team. She's looking forward to working on a predator-proof nest box design, but even more than that she's looking forward to spending lots of time at her new East Coast bush block. We're happy Sal isn't leaving us altogether – we don't know what we'd do without her.

Board Chair Stuart Barry is finishing up his tenure as well and handing over to current Vice Chair, Jennie Churchill, who has been a member of the board since 2012. Stuart has achieved a great deal in this position, and we thank him for his valuable contribution. Welcome also to new board members, Dr Ian Cresswell and Stephen Atkinson.



Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) at Tinderbox Hills. Photo: Andy Townsend

Seablite (*Suaeda australis*). Photo: Andy Townsend

FIVE RIVERS RESERVE AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER WEEDING

January and February

We will continue the grand hunt for invasive weeds across our Central Highlands properties in 2020.

There are three multi-day volunteer trips scheduled from 29 January until 21 February. For full details and to register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com.au/tlccentralhighlandsweeding2020>

DAISY DELL AND VALE OF BELVOIR RESERVES VOLUNTEERING

Friday 27 to Sunday 29 March

Pitch a tent and pitch in with a variety of reserve management tasks at our Cradle Mountain region reserves.

For full details and to register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com.au/tlcdaisydellandvalevolunteer2020>

IN OUR NATURE

For updates from our reserves, stories from supporters, insights into our science program and reflections on our work, visit the TLC blog, 'In our Nature'.

tasland.org.au/blog/

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