



Annual Reserve Report

Recherche Bay Reserve 2014-15



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INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) protects important natural areas as permanent reserves and aims to demonstrate excellence in reserve management for biodiversity conservation. To achieve this aim, the TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. The framework 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.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2014-15, 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

Monitoring			
Target	Indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Coastal forest	Floristic diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment Vertebrate fauna diversity	No data	Baseline data collection scheduled for 2016
Cultural heritage sites			
Community connection to landscape	# volunteer days on the Reserve		
	# visitors to the Reserve		
Management Effectiveness			
Strategy	Indicator	Status 2014-15	Trend
Protecting cultural heritage sites	Not yet defined	No data	No data
Community engagement	# events at the Reserve	0	Flat
	# of volunteer activities at the Reserve	0	Flat

MONITORING SUMMARY

Coastal Forest

Coastal forest and woodland occupies the entire Reserve. Several distinct forest types are recognisable. Tall, closed forest dominated by *Eucalyptus obliqua* covers most of the Reserve. The understorey vegetation comprises broadleaved shrubs and there are pockets of rainforest species, which is highly unusual for coastal southeast Tasmania. In areas with poorer soils the canopy is more open and dominated by *Eucalyptus nitida*. The understorey in these areas is heathy and comprises diverse shrubs, sedges and herbs.

While there has been a long history of selective logging in the area, the impact on vegetation has been minimal and it is in largely natural condition, with numerous mature trees.

Goals

- Maintain floristic diversity within 20% (ongoing)
- Maintain structural complexity within 25% (ongoing)
- Increase the recruitment of canopy species (ongoing)
- Maintain the extent of coastal forest within 10% (ongoing)
- Maintain the diversity of vertebrate fauna within 10%



Coastal forest

Ecological indicator	Current status	Trend
Floristic diversity	No data	Baseline data collection scheduled for 2016
Structural complexity		
Canopy recruitment		
Vertebrate fauna diversity		

Key findings

- No change this year

Recommendations

- Install TLC's ecological monitoring in 2015 - 2016

Cultural Heritage Sites

A significant area of the northeast peninsula of Recherche Bay 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, and timber harvesting and milling.

Goals

Conserve and enhance sites or areas of heritage significance



'The southern wall'

Cultural heritage indicator

Current status

Trend

Intactness of sites

Intact

Flat

Key findings

- No new findings this year

Recommendations

- No change

Community connection with the landscape

Recherche Bay Reserve provides the community with a range of recreational, educational, research and volunteering opportunities.

Goals

People regularly visit Recherche Bay Reserve for recreation, research, education or volunteering



Supporters visit the Reserve on an open day in 2013

Community indicator**Current status 2015****Trend**

Visitors

Unknown

Flat

Key findings

- People continue to visit the Reserve for recreation and on TLC hosted activities
- TLC hosted a bequester trip for about 10 people

Recommendations

- Continue to encourage community connections to the reserve by providing opportunities for research, education, recreation and volunteering

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS SUMMARY

Community engagement

The aim of this strategy is to engage with local communities and with the wider Tasmanian community. This will occur through a variety of means including open days. TLC will encourage public access to the Reserve for recreation.

The TLC provides opportunities for the community and individuals to achieve conservation. The local community, volunteers, the indigenous community and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in planning and land management activities. TLC Reserves provide excellent opportunities for education and scientific research. Sustainable economic development may be supported at some reserves where appropriate.

Key objective(s)

People regularly provides the community with recreation, education and volunteering opportunities

Outcome to 2015

TLC has hosted numerous community events and trips to the Reserve



Interpretive signs at Moss Glen

Progress to 2015

- TLC has hosted several open days and community events on the Reserve and off site.
- TV show the Gourmet Farmer filmed an episode that used the Reserve as a location.
- People regularly visit the Reserve by boat.

Key recommendations for future management

- Continue to provide opportunities for people to connect with the Reserve.
- Continue to maintain relationships with neighbours

Cultural heritage protection

An area of regenerating cleared land on the western margin of the property has been replanted with native tree species. Ongoing weed control works in this area will make more land available for restoration, and TLC intends to establish a diverse planting of local provenance species.

Key objective(s)

By 2016, cultural heritage sites and knowledge are fully documented

Outcome to 2015

Cultural heritage has been documented



Map of historic sites

Progress to 2015

- Heritage reports were commissioned at the time of the Reserve's acquisition
- Surveys have identified and recorded location of heritage sites

Key recommendations for future management

- Review and update the GIS layer of heritage sites from historical reports