



# TASMANIAN | Land | CONSERVANCY



Photo: Matthew Newton

## Valuing land, valuing people

Our friend and colleague, the late Rod Pearse, at the TLC's beautiful Blue Tier Reserve

### Issue 39 summer 2013

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### Jane Hutchinson | CEO

This newsletter announces some exciting wins for the organisation, especially on the conservation business front, yet is delivered with sadness.

Our biodiversity conservation work is maintained in many ways, one of which is generating income through conservation 'business'.

The international voluntary carbon market and the FCF Revolving Fund are two examples of the TLC's conservation business where we generate income through commercially based conservation enterprises.

We are thrilled to announce in this newsletter the successful completion of our carbon project based on our New Leaf forests.

This project has been three years in development. It would not have been possible without generous support from the Elsie Cameron Foundation and a global partnership with NGO Conservation International and BHP Billiton.

Generating income from the carbon stored in our forests is a substantial milestone for the TLC. It is an area in which we hope to demonstrate

leadership and innovation into the future.

The TLC Revolving Fund, which is backed by the Australian Government, is experiencing a strong start to this year's spring and summer seasons. Many environmentally-minded supporters have contacted us, interested in purchasing their own private nature reserve through the fund.

Revolving fund properties are purchased by the TLC because they represent an environmentally significant parcel of land in Tasmania. After being purchased they are covenanted and sold to be privately managed. To date, 15 properties totalling over 1,000 ha have been protected using this mechanism.

For many years Rod Pearse managed TLC's Revolving Fund program but sadly, he passed away recently. Rod was a valued staff member and our very dear friend and mentor.

He worked tirelessly beside us here at the TLC and his absence will be greatly felt by all of us and, I am sure, by many of you.

On behalf of the TLC, I would like to pay our deepest respects to Rod's family; may his conservation legacy and passion live on through us all.

protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity



Photo: Andy Townsend

The TLC's Fiver Rivers properties—a vast landscape in Tasmania's Central Highlands—now sequestering carbon



Photo: Sally Bryant

A felled stringybark with evidence of regeneration following logging activity in the area

## The TLC has international carbon credits for sale!

**Daniel Sprod** | TLC Landscape Ecologist

After several years of work—including moments when the future of the carbon economy looked uncertain—we are thrilled to announce that the Tasmanian Land Conservancy now has carbon credits for sale.

Our vision is for Tasmania to be a true 'leader in nature conservation and sustainability' and, through the successful launch of our carbon project, we move a little closer towards achieving this vision.

Through a global partnership with NGO Conservation International and BHP Billiton, who have helped fund the TLC's carbon project and mentored us throughout, we will be preventing about 35,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere each year.

This is equivalent to taking 7,000 cars off the road every year for the next 30 years.

It's a positive investment for environmental and financial sustainability because, through this new income stream, we are able to support conservation activities in other areas.

We also hope that this income will grow as carbon credits become a more important commodity.

Entering the carbon economy is enormously exciting for the TLC, especially now that we are exploring how to best market these credits.

As with all commodity markets, prices go up and down as demand and supply fluctuate. We are seeking the most innovative ways to leverage the carbon credits.

The credits assure a sustainable, annual income, but one which needs to be verified. This process requires us to prove that the forests are growing as we projected, that they have not been destroyed or damaged by fire or logging, and that the community and biodiversity benefits are indeed being generated as we expected.

The journey began with the remarkable generosity of Jan Cameron in helping the TLC purchase the forested New Leaf estate in 2010. In support of our strategic goals, our thoughts then turned to how the TLC could become active in this new economy.

The most obvious route to monetising ecosystem services on the New Leaf estate was to gain carbon credits from the cessation of logging.

We knew that there were international approaches already available, as some Australian companies had been set up to commercialise carbon, and the Australian Government had recently launched the Carbon Farming Initiative.

After seeking advice from the Federal Government, we settled on the international route as the most likely to yield success.

This has since been vindicated, as the Australian market is still in its formative stages.

An independent American company completed the audit of our carbon project and advised us that we have not only met the climate objectives of reducing emissions to the atmosphere, but also the required community standards through the provision of employment, research and recreation opportunities.

The TLC has met the highest biodiversity standard – the Gold Standard – for biodiversity protection objectives.

As declared on the Climate, Community and Biodiversity website ([www.climate-standards.org](http://www.climate-standards.org)) we are "confronting climate change, helping communities and conserving biodiversity".

The central standard that we have adhered to is Verified Carbon Standard ([www.v-c-s.org](http://www.v-c-s.org)), a framework established by international NGOs in 2005.

This standard is now being adopted and further developed for expanded use across the world.

We feel privileged to be part of these world-wide efforts to build a better future for the planet and all life on earth.





Photo: Matthew Newton

Rod was instrumental in making the revolving fund the success that it is today

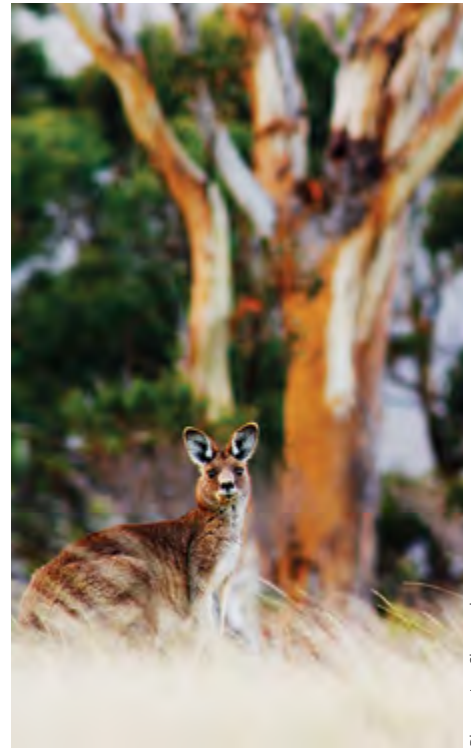


Photo: Joe Shemesh

Rod designed and led forester kangaroo survey work that is still being used to this day

## Rodney James Pearse 1948-2013

Our much loved former colleague and mentor Rod Pearse passed away on Thursday 3 October 2013 as the result of a brain tumour, diagnosed 11 months earlier.

Rod came to Tasmania in the 1970s from NSW to work as a wildlife officer with the newly formed Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It was an exciting time for nature conservation and Rod focused his efforts on a range of threatened species.

His early work involved surveying the Australian fur seal and the Cape Barren goose, both of which had declined to near extinction in Tasmania.

This work led to recommendations for the conservation of key breeding islands, and management actions resulting in population recovery of both these species.

Similarly, the forester kangaroo had also declined during the 1970s in Tasmania. Rod designed and led forester kangaroo survey work and produced recovery guidelines which saw the establishment of the Mt William National Park as secure habitat for the species.

These key nature conservation outcomes reflected Rod's measured approach to his work. Detailed survey data provided the basis for strategic on-ground management which included protecting important habitat in secure reserves.

Rod demonstrated an ability to consult with stakeholders, particularly those on the land, and obtain support for essential management actions.

In subsequent years Rod was promoted to the position of Chief Wildlife Officer then to Acting Director of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, a high ranking position he occupied for several years.

In 1995 Rod became the Director of Resources Wildlife and Heritage and a member of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Standing Committee.

In the late 1990s Rod became the Program Manager for Conservation and Land Management and during this period became the lead government facilitator for the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement.

This high level forum enabled Rod to establish and implement the Private Forest Reserve Program (PFRP) – the first major conservation program of its kind in Australia for protecting private land using perpetual conservation covenants on title

Rod then retired from State Government but shortly after rejoined the PFRP program as a negotiator and went on to lead the stewardship and monitoring team. Such was his passion and commitment to conservation.

Rod's long-time associate and TLC Board member, Peter Bosworth, said that Rod

was arguably one of the most influential people to effect conservation on private land in the last 20 years.

"Rod's foresight and ability to influence change in this area was especially significant," Peter said.

Today, conservation covenants are recognised as the primary mechanism for protecting native habitat on private land and more than 700 voluntary covenants have been established on properties across Tasmania.

Rod joined the TLC in 2007 to establish and manage the TLC's Revolving Fund and worked from the Launceston office.

Rod had the expertise and skill set to lead this program and, under his guiding hand, it has proven to be an invaluable mechanism for protecting land.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with Rod came to appreciate his quiet and thoughtful manner, and his extraordinary knowledge and understanding of conservation in Tasmania.

In the five plus years that Rod spent with the TLC his contribution to the organisation has been so much more than the sum of his conservation achievements.

He was one of those pivotal people who provided the intellectual ballast and experience to shape policies, direct programs and seize opportunities.



Rod setting up signage at Chimneys Lagoon, a TLC revolving fund property near St Helens

Photo: courtesy of The Examiner



TLC volunteers Bill Bragg and Erica Holding enjoying pulling Spanish heath at our Egg Islands Reserve

Photo: Denna Kingdom

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He was methodical, steady and quietly persistent; when he spoke you listened because his advice was always valuable.

In his eulogy, Rod's son James talked of a father who was a humble, self-disciplined man who liked routine.

"He was a quiet man - you could sit in a room with him for hours without a word being spoken and feel absolutely at ease in the silence," James said.

TLC's Andrew Cameron said that those words resounded with him the most.

"For close to five years I shared an office with Rod and the thought of that silence is still real to me as if it were yesterday.

It was the silence of sincerity and clarity – the silence of being oneself that I appreciated most about being with Rod," Andrew said.

On behalf of the entire organisation, we applaud Rod's outstanding contribution to conservation in Tasmania and, as a dear friend and colleague, we will all miss him greatly.

Rod leaves behind his wife, Anne-Marie, son James, daughter-in-law Tik, and grandson Jonathan James (JJ).

Our sympathy goes out to all his family.

## It's all happening on our reserves

**Leigh Walters** | TLC Reserve Management Services Manager

The winter months are, in general, a great opportunity for TLC Reserve Management staff to assess our previous on-ground activities and prepare for the busy spring, summer and autumn phases of our reserve management calendar.

These activities are essential to keeping our beautiful reserves in world-class condition and we are helped, in no small part, by a fleet of passionate volunteers.

As we move into summer we'll be concentrating on priority areas to manage biodiversity threats.

These activities include:

- Weed control at Liffey River;
- Plant and butterfly surveys at the Vale of Belvoir;
- Ragwort removal across our Central Highlands properties;
- Installing remote cameras as part of our fauna monitoring program on our Five Rivers conservation area in the Central Highlands;
- Continuing post-fire monitoring of vegetation recovery at our Silver Peppermint Reserve in the Derwent Valley;
- Developing and implementing fire management plans for the Vale of Belvoir and Long Point Reserves;
- Installing signage about our latest property acquisition, Gordonvale;

- Undertaking critical road and bridge maintenance at our Central Highlands properties;
- Working with neighbours to manage cross-boundary threats to the values on our properties, such as fire, weeds and wandering stock; and
- Undertaking scientific monitoring of vegetation plots at the Vale of Belvoir to determine the effect of grazing on grassland biodiversity.

We have also made a significant investment in staff training and equipment this year to enhance our capacity to manage our suite of reserves.

Fire management and response training has been especially high on our up-skilling list.

Having staff trained in this field will allow us to undertake prescribed burning, assist fire response services and take a significant step to self-sufficiency for the organisation.

A revised policy on fire has also been created and a fire action plan developed.

There are many, many opportunities for passionate people to volunteer their time and get out in the field with us. They'll be helping us care for some truly special parts of Tasmania.

If you're interested in volunteering with us here at the TLC, feel free to contact Phill Roach our Community Engagement Officer on 03 6225 1399 or at [proach@tasland.org.au](mailto:proach@tasland.org.au)





Photo: Jennie Churchill

Jennie's father, Jack Donne, fraternising with a mischief-maker



Photo: Matthew Newton

Jennie and Rob Churchill at the Vale of Belvoir



Photo: Kane Keilichi Hiki

A nationally threatened Tasmanian devil

## The Jack Donne TLC Foundation Fund

### Story by Jennie Churchill

*Jennie is a TLC Board member, regular donor and supporter. She recently started a foundation fund in memory of her father, Jack Donne, and talks about her motivation for doing so.*

My husband Rob and I first visited Tasmania in the 1990s and found ourselves taking an unplanned detour to the Franklin and King Rivers and Queenstown.

Our experience was deeply affecting, like stumbling on all the magnificence and horror of Tasmania's wilderness in one day.

Since then, we've walked some iconic Tassie tracks, purchased a beautiful patch of east coast sand dune, built a house and decided to make Tasmania home.

In 2009 we discovered the Tasmanian Land Conservancy during the time of the public appeal to raise funds to purchase and protect the hidden valley of the Vale of Belvoir, a stone's throw from Cradle Mountain.

We were impressed by TLC's innovative approach and dedicated conservation staff, so we decided to become regular donors.

I am now on the TLC Board and, with Rob, recently established the Jack Donne Fund in memory of my late father.

Dad had visited Tasmania many years ago and loved it. He followed our growing passion for Tasmania with pleasure and was proud of my role with the TLC, but became too frail to travel and never saw our beautiful patch on the east coast. It's one of my greatest regrets.

Establishing a TLC Foundation fund in his name was a way to keep dad connected with our love for Tasmania and to help protect its superb landscapes.

We intend to build on the Jack Donne Fund over time, as a way of supporting practical and lasting conservation outcomes in Tasmania.

Thinking about the long-term future is important to us and we have also committed to leaving a bequest in our wills to the TLC.

We believe the TLC Foundation and TLC bequest program are vital initiatives for achieving sustainable management of TLC's magnificent permanent reserves, including the Vale of Belvoir, into the future.

**If you would like further information on the TLC Foundation or on leaving a bequest, please call Jo on 0409 347 581 or email [jnaylor@tasland.org.au](mailto:jnaylor@tasland.org.au)**

## Help protect Tasmania's species at risk

Our reserves are home to species of high conservation significance, such as the nationally threatened Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll, wedge-tailed eagle and Miena cider gum.

By establishing permanent monitoring sites, including sensor cameras and audio recorders, we can gather visual and audio data about these important species in their natural habitat.

We aim to collect data across all our reserves so that we can accurately inform our conservation management, measure the effectiveness of our on-ground management activities and, most importantly, plan remedial actions around species at risk.

We've already established long-term monitoring sites on our Silver Peppermint Reserve (recovery after fire and re-colonisation by woodland birds), Vale of Belvoir Reserve (recovery after fire and impact of grazing) and Long Point Reserve (removal of gorse).

Long-term ecological photo monitoring is a cost-effective and minimal-impact practice which enables us to rigorously monitor fauna species in their natural habitat.

Your support will help us to set up permanent monitoring sites across all of our reserves.

**To make a donation visit [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au) or call us on 03 6225 1399.**





Photo: Matthew Newton

The Vale of Belvoir Reserve, where our wildflower supporter event will take place early next year



Photo: Matthew Newton

Our conservation scientists, James Hattam and Dr Sally Bryant, during a rapid assessment of the natural and cultural values at our Five Rivers conservation area

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### Events and volunteering

There will be plenty of opportunities to experience our magnificent reserves this summer, and we're hoping to see some familiar faces as well as a few new ones getting out in the field with us!

We have some great supporter events planned, with field trips scheduled for our Vale of Belvoir and Skullbone Plains reserves. We also hope you'll join us at the annual 'Friends of Chauncy Vale' Open Day in January 2014.

Our volunteering opportunities include:

- Liffey River - weeding.
- Vale of Belvoir - plant and butterfly surveys.
- Five Rivers conservation area (Central Highlands) - ragwort plant control.
- Silver Peppermint - post-fire quantitative research.
- Five Rivers conservation area (Central Highlands) - monitoring camera deployment and scat collection.

If you would like to receive information about these and other volunteer opportunities, please call Phill on 0438 826 606 or email [proach@tasland.org.au](mailto:proach@tasland.org.au)

### Awards to be proud of

The Tasmanian Landcare Awards were held in St Helens this year and we're thrilled to say that the historic partnership that resulted in the purchase of Gowan Brae—a vast and diverse property in the Central Highlands—won the Indigenous Land Management Award.

The ground-breaking collaboration between the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, the TLC, the Indigenous Land Council and the Australian Government heralded a new beginning in a relationship that will achieve the aspirations of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and we couldn't be happier to be part of that journey.

The donation that launched the TLC was also named one of Australia's top 50 philanthropic gifts.

In 2001 three friends chipped in \$50 each to create the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and kick-started our cause to protect Tasmania's special places.

This story of our humble beginnings is a testament to what can be achieved purely by 'giving it a go'.

These three friends were our co-founders Nathan Males, Jim Mulcahy and Greg Blake and they were celebrated at an event in Melbourne in October to honour Australia's Top 50 Philanthropic Gifts.

### Champion a cause

Our permanent reserves are some of the most significant sites in Tasmania for nature conservation.

We ensure protection of these unique environments within our care by putting science-driven conservation into action.

One of the simplest and most efficient ways to support the work of the TLC is to become a regular donor.

By making regular gifts, you will help us guarantee a sustainable future for nature conservation in Tasmania.

To become a regular donor visit [www.bit.ly/17nfpMg](http://www.bit.ly/17nfpMg) or call us on 03 6225 1399.

We are grateful to the following organisations for their recent support:



The TLC uses **free software or programs** for its online event registrations and communications.