



Annual Report

Panatana Reserve 2018-19



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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. The TLC has adopted an adaptive management framework – the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation which comprises– planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, reviewing and communication.

This Reserve was acquired by the TLC in 2016 to protect 54 hectares of ephemeral wetlands, coastal forest and saltmarsh adjacent to the Rubicon Estuary on the north coast of Tasmania. The Reserve adjoins 190 ha of Indigenous Land Corporation purchased land known as ‘Panatana’ now managed by the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC), who also lease land to the south known as ‘Marshalls Hill’. The TLC, ILC and SRAC have agreed to collaboratively manage all parts of Panatana as a single reserve and to be guided by the Panatana Reserve Management Plan. The plan is implemented by TLC staff through their Annual Work Plans with details of ecological monitoring methods found in TLC’s Ecological Monitoring Procedures Manual on www.tasland.org.au.

This report describes progress made towards delivery of the management plan in 2018-19, 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 the TLC Board, the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation, ILC, TLC supporters and other relevant stakeholders.


PANATANA RESERVE SCORECARD 2018-19

Ecological Monitoring				
Target	Ecological indicator	Status 2017-18	Status 2018-19	Trend
Coastal Forest and Woodland	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Not assessed as yet	Unknown
Wetland Coastal Complex	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Not assessed as yet	Unknown
Terrestrial Mammals	Species richness Proportion native species Native species diversity indices	7 native species, 2 introduced species 0.78 Simpsons 0.64, Shannon-Wiener 1.19	Baseline	Reassess in 2020
Feral Cats	Feral Cat Activity Feral Cat occupancy	0.04 (4 detections from 112 trap nights) 0.5 (detected at 2 of 4 sites)	Baseline	Reassess in 2020
Management Effectiveness				
Target	Indicator	Status 2017-2018	Status 2018-19	Trend
Reserve Management				
	Annual Reserve Inspection	Inspection Undertaken	On Track	On Track
	Management Actions	Addressing management issues	On track	On track
	Legal TLC Right-Of-Way	No legal Right Of Way in place	Legal Right Of Way in place	Achieved
	Liason with SRAC	Communication open and regular	On track	On track

MONITORING SUMMARY

Ecological Monitoring		Status: Very Good	
Goal Track changes in the ecological condition of Panatana Reserve using standard TLC monitoring procedures		Outcome: On Track	
Description Ecological monitoring across Panatana Reserve will help guide its future management and track changes in condition of key targets as well as help detect natural variations. Monitoring should be undertaken using TLC standard monitoring methodology to ensure consistency and to enable comparisons with other reserves in the landscape.			
Target	Ecological indicator	Status 2017-18	Status 2018-19
Coastal Forest and Woodland	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Not assessed as yet
Wetland Coastal Complex	Florist diversity Structural complexity Canopy recruitment	Not assessed as yet	Not assessed as yet
Terrestrial Mammals	Species richness Proportion native species Native species diversity indices	7 native sp, 2 introduced sp 0.78 Simpsons 0.64, Shannon-Wiener 1.19	Reassess in 2020
Feral Cats	Feral Cat Activity Feral Cat occupancy	0.04 (4 detections / 112 trap nights) 0.5 (detected at 2 of 4 sites)	Reassess in 2020
Key findings 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Baseline information for fauna was collected in 2017 and no major updates are available for this year.The vegetation indices need to be re-assessed and standard vegetation monitoring installed as soon as practical in collaboration with SRAC.			
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Score the vegetation data or re-collect using consistent TLC methodologyRepeat ecological monitoring in 2020.			

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS SUMMARY

Reserve Management		Status: Good	
Key Objective Panatana Reserve can be showcased as a significant nature reserve.		Outcome: Improving	
Strategy description Panatana Reserve has a number of management issues relating to weeds, dumped rubbish, fencing dis-repair, limited public facilities and illegal access which need addressing to ensure it reflects the values of a significant nature conservation reserve to the community. TLC needs to complete legal Right-Of-Way to ensure management is ongoing. Reserve management should always be undertaken in partnership and communication with SRAC.			
		Bridge along access track from Bakers Beach Road Photo TLC	
Strategy Indicator	Status 2017-18	Status 2018-19	Trend
Annual Reserve Visits	Reserve visits undertaken	Reserve visits undertaken	On Track
Management Actions	Addressing management issues	Addressing management issues	On track
Legal TLC Right-Of-Way	No legal Right Of Way in place	Legal Right Of Way in place	Achieved
Liason with SRAC	Communication open and regular	Communication open and regular	On track
Key findings – 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panatana and Marshall's Hill were identified by Tasmania Fire Service as a moderate priority for fuel reduction control due to the adjacent Bakers Beach Road being the only access road to the Bakers Beach community. TLC are working with Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation and the TFS to mitigate these risks, and a draft bushfire risk assessment has been completed. There were no unauthorised fires on the Reserve in 2018-19 In partnership with SRAC we have upgraded and improved drainage on the main vehicle track through the property to allow for safe access and management. <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> is present but not widespread across the Reserve. The movement of people and vehicles can exacerbate this or transport it to areas beyond the Reserve that are currently <i>Phytophthora</i> free. Visitor infrastructure, including signs, roads, walking tracks and gates need to be maintained to support visitor management. <i>Management Plan has been finalised and signed off by TLC, ILC and SRAC</i> The legal Right-of-Way has been signed off TLC has assisted SRAC with installing a toilet block Northern boundary fence has been repaired. Reserve manager maintains good communication with SRAC and ILC 			
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue management actions and maintain regular communication with SRAC Work with SRAC to maintain opportunities for visitors to experience the values of the reserve. 			