

TASMANIAN  
LAND  
CONSERVANCY

17/18









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Cover: Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). Photo: Chris Tzaros; Birds, Bush and Beyond  
Opposite: Endemic *Richea scoparia* at Skullbone Plains. Photo: Matthew Newton  
Inside back cover: Stands of white peppermint (*Eucalyptus Pulchella*) in rich lowland woodland.  
Photo: Andy Townsend  
Next page: Egg Islands Reserve. Photo: Rob Blakers

An aerial photograph of a lush, green forest. In the foreground, a river flows through the trees. The background shows rolling hills partially covered in mist or low clouds, creating a serene and atmospheric scene. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image, enclosed in a dotted white border.

OUR VISION IS  
FOR TASMANIA  
TO BE A GLOBAL  
LEADER IN NATURE  
CONSERVATION





# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



It is my pleasure to present the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's (TLC) 2017–2018 Annual Report. Protecting nature is at the core of all TLC operations, and we have made significant progress in this goal over the past year through the implementation of our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. By seeking new ways to achieve conservation that values nature and the economic, cultural and social benefits it provides, we are confident that we can achieve enduring outcomes for nature.

Amidst the excitement of establishing a new reserve, and launching the campaign of another, the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) Revolving Fund achieved its best year on record. We also strengthened ties with dedicated landholders to identify, protect and manage important areas on their properties through key partnerships. These included collaborating with Bush Heritage Australia to achieve targeted outcomes of the Midlands Conservation Fund, and working with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to deliver the Protected Areas on Private Land Program.

The launch of the TLC's Bird Conservation Fund was another of the year's highlights. This fund will continue to combine evidence-based research with direct management actions to ensure effective and lasting conservation for our bird species. The funding of long-term ecological

monitoring programs across our reserves continues to be supported by the TLC Foundation, which also gathered significant momentum during the past year. We sincerely thank everyone who supports the Foundation, thereby providing the TLC with enduring financial sustainability that ensures the areas we protect are managed for conservation for generations to come.

A diverse group of people has contributed to the TLC's triumphs – supporters, volunteers, and staff – and it is these dedicated individuals who have enabled the organisation to grow and become one of Tasmania's largest private landholders. No person has been more prominent throughout this progression than Jane Hutchinson. This year, we farewelled Jane after seven years as the organisation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). During Jane's time as CEO, the TLC has had an incredible impact on the physical and cultural landscape of Tasmania. Highlights include initiating business schemes and our carbon program, building a strong team, and forming historic partnerships with Tasmania's Aboriginal community. These significant achievements collectively contributed to Jane receiving the 2016 Tasmanian of the Year Award. We sincerely thank Jane for her commitment and dedication to the TLC and nature conservation and wish her well in her future endeavours.

“BY SEEKING NEW WAYS TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION THAT VALUES NATURE AND THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS IT PROVIDES, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE ENDURING OUTCOMES FOR NATURE.”

We were also thrilled to announce James Hattam as the TLC's third CEO. James has had more than 10 years' experience in the environment sector, spanning government and not-for-profit organisations across Australia. He has been an integral part of the TLC for more than six years; beginning as an ecologist with the Protected Areas on Private Land Program and establishing conservation covenants with private landholders around the state. Following this, James became the TLC's Philanthropy and Engagement Manager in 2015. We warmly welcome James to his new role as CEO.



We are very excited to welcome Clare Bower to the TLC Board this year. Clare has 20 years' experience in providing governance and risk advice to Australian and global organisations, including major ASX-listed companies, public sector departments and the not-for-profit sector. We're grateful to have Clare involved and contributing her skills to the TLC.

Last, but not least, I wish to sincerely thank all the incredible volunteers who contribute to the TLC in so many ways. These generous people include my fellow Board members, the committed folk that spend countless hours weeding alongside TLC staff, the volunteers who score thousands of monitoring images of our reserves, our loyal group of supporters who help spread the TLC message within the community through newsletters and events, and the wonderful

people who so willingly provide their expertise on our enormously popular Discovery Days. It is because of your support that the TLC continues to achieve lasting outcomes for nature in Tasmania and serves as a leading example of the strength of involving people in conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Barry', written in a cursive style.

**Stuart Barry**  
Chair

# CEO'S REPORT



The TLC's goal for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation is a bold and exciting one. The 2016–2020 Strategic Plan provides the perfect road map to achieve this vision, underpinned by the four powerful and interconnected themes of protecting nature, looking after nature, innovating for nature, and involving people. The plan ensures we prioritise and target our efforts to achieve the most significant and lasting outcomes, and has certainly helped me to discover our organisation's strengths and commitments as I step into my new role as CEO.

I wish to sincerely thank the TLC Board for the opportunity to contribute to an organisation of such high conservation calibre. With my roots firmly planted in the natural world, and complimented by experiences in conservation ecology and management, I am truly excited and humbled by the opportunity to become the TLC's third CEO. Having had the great privilege of working alongside Jane Hutchinson over the past six years, and witnessing her incredible leadership and conservation achievements, it is no surprise to me that Jane has left an indelible mark, not just on the TLC, but on the Tasmanian landscape.

In an eventful year that included celebrating the establishment of Daisy Dell Reserve, an extension to The Big Punchbowl Reserve, and the launch of our exciting conservation campaign to protect the critical habitats of Little Swanport, the TLC continued

to harness the strength of Tasmania's diverse conservation community in a variety of ways. The highly successful FCF Revolving Fund achieved a record 11 property sales, protecting 1,238 hectares and connecting even more property owners to private protected areas. Meanwhile, we continued to work alongside committed landowners through a diversity of innovative partnerships – including the Midlands Conservation Fund, which brings farmers and conservationists together to help protect one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world.

While protecting nature is critical, we also appreciate that protection is just the beginning of the conservation journey. We pride ourselves on looking after nature through our long-term ecological monitoring program, which captures data that is key to understanding the complex ecosystems our reserves protect. This evidence allows us to assess, prioritise and implement management where it is most needed. From weed management at the Egg Islands Reserve to the ecological burning program at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve, the TLC's reserve management program continues to achieve significant outcomes across our entire reserve estate.

Involving people is fundamental to these management efforts, and so we welcome all people to explore their connection to nature by volunteering with the TLC, visiting our reserves, and attending our events. A major highlight from this year's event calendar occurred in March, when the

“WHILE PROTECTING NATURE IS CRITICAL, WE ALSO APPRECIATE THAT PROTECTION IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE CONSERVATION JOURNEY.”

TLC hosted more than 100 supporters at our Skullbone Plains Reserve Discovery Weekend. This exciting event provided supporters, volunteers and staff with the unique opportunity to explore Skullbone Plains Reserve, learn more about what makes this area so important, and contribute to conservation.

From fostering one-on-one connections, to building a multitude of important networks, the growth of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) continues to provide a collaborative vehicle that acknowledges the significant contribution that private land conservation makes at a local and national level. Private landholders own and manage two thirds of the Australian landmass, and each one has inspiring stories of commitment and dedication to the conservation of Australia's natural assets. The strength of this conservation community was demonstrated when the TLC, as an ALCA member, hosted the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart. Over three





days, delegates from across the country converged on the city to celebrate and champion the role that private land conservation plays in strengthening the natural, social and cultural fabric of Australia – from providing ecosystem services to galvanising community connections through case studies of innovation and collaboration.

The TLC continues to tackle conservation challenges with innovative solutions that value nature. A great example of this is the carbon economy. The ongoing sale of carbon credits delivers a strong and reliable income stream for the TLC that directly supports our conservation programs. The tried and tested FCF Revolving Fund continues to achieve lasting outcomes – sales of conservation properties this year

resulted in \$1,500,000 of income, which will be reinvested into the Fund to purchase and protect new conservation properties. Additionally, the completion of the Five Rivers Environmental Account highlights the TLC's commitment to the development of market solutions for nature conservation, offering the powerful potential for achieving great conservation outcomes in Tasmania, and indeed, Australia-wide.

On behalf of everyone at the TLC, I want to express our deep gratitude to the organisations, landholders and individuals who willingly share their skills and resources to achieve lasting conservation outcomes. The TLC's conservation successes are built on the commitment and generosity of the TLC community, and I thank everyone who has supported us by donating, volunteering and spreading

the important story of our work, so that together, we can achieve even greater results for nature conservation.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'James Hattam', is positioned above the name and title.

**James Hattam**  
Chief Executive Officer

# ABOUT THE TLC

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## YOUR SUPPORT

The TLC is a not-for-profit, apolitical, science and community-based organisation that raises funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites by buying and managing private land in Tasmania. The organisation began in 2001 with \$50 in the bank and a handful of volunteers. Since then, we have grown to become one of Tasmania's largest private landholders. Our mission is to look after Tasmania's unique natural places, rare ecosystems, and the habitat of threatened plants and wildlife on private land. We value nature and the cultural, social and economic benefits it provides to us all.

The TLC works with nature in four powerful ways:

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### PROTECTING NATURE

in the TLC's reserves, in partnership with private landholders, and by selling protected properties to those who wish to own land and continue to protect it.

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### LOOKING AFTER NATURE

through reserve management principles informed by robust science.

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### INNOVATING FOR NATURE

by using smart business principles, bold ideas and leading technologies.

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### INVOLVING PEOPLE

by providing opportunities for them to experience nature, achieve nature conservation, operate mutually beneficial businesses, and support the work of the TLC.

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SUE BLACKBURN – TLC FOUNDATION

I grew up with a love of coastal environments which began with our family picnics at beaches near Hobart. As well, I had always thought it would be very special to have some bushland to "look after".

Our family land at Binalong Bay came through an estate and fortunately I was able to buy it with my sister Elizabeth Ellis and my children Chris and Anna. I knew of the TLC, having seen advertisements for the TLC Revolving Fund. The TLC's agreement to covenant our land was a wonderful outcome because prior to this I had little concept as to whether the land would be of interest for conservation.

Through the TLC I learnt about our land in ways that were not possible for me

alone. This was the beginning of my exciting and collaborative relationship with the TLC.

My TLC story does not end there. In 2017 I wanted to do something in memory of my husband Cameron Blackburn who died of leukaemia in his early 20s. A Fund in the TLC Foundation seemed the perfect memorial. I approached Cameron's family and his brother Gerald was enthusiastic about joining me in this venture. It is wonderful to have the Cameron Blackburn Fund to contribute to protecting Tasmania's unique land and seascapes that Cameron loved so much.

Photo: Eddie Safarik





**STEVE SMITH – VOLUNTEER**

As a professional with a background in conservation biology, I have a great appreciation for the value of privately managed conservation reserves. The TLC reserve portfolio and management program are simply outstanding, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute my small part as a volunteer.

Volunteering with the TLC has allowed me to enjoy some beautiful places and meet many wonderful people. I'm fortunate to have taken part in flora and fauna monitoring and to have rubbed shoulders with some outstanding ecologists in the process.

The TLC staff and collaborators are friendly, dedicated and generous with their knowledge. I'm always looking forward to my next volunteer experience.

Photo: Eddie Safarik



**DAVID AND ALISON HUGO – REGULAR GIVING**

We are very excited to be regular givers to the TLC. We discovered the TLC when the organisation campaigned to protect iconic Recherche Bay in 2006. We willingly donated to help protect this landscape and its significant historical and natural values. We were then – and continue to be – inspired by the TLC's vision, innovation and passion to preserve, protect and nurture Tasmania's wild, beautiful and natural places for long-term biodiversity conservation.

The TLC plays a vital role in ensuring Tasmania's high value landscapes are understood, recognised and managed for our future generations to enjoy – including families like ours. Giving regularly ensures that we are part of the current conservation story, and can continue to be part of the conservation journey into the future.

Photo: Jenny Purtell



**JO NAYLOR – BEQUESTOR**

The environment can survive without us, but we cannot survive without the environment. I count myself very fortunate to live in Tasmania and to be able to so readily experience the unique flora and fauna of this inspiring island, but I worry about what will be lost in future generations.

It is said that 'what you don't know, you don't miss', but what a tragedy it would be to lose the ecosystems that support such incredible flora and fauna in Tasmania – all because we don't take enough concerted action to value and protect them. That's why I established a TLC Foundation fund and have the TLC in my will. From my time working at the TLC, I know that my gifts will be invested wisely for the benefit of the natural environment, and for future generations.

Photo: Eddie Safarik





1

PROTECTING  
NATURE



# MISSION 1

The TLC continues to protect the highest priority areas for nature conservation in Tasmania, through building a world-class system of reserves, working in partnership with private landholders, and selling protected properties to those who wish to own land and steward it. The 2017-2018 financial year has been an incredible time for building upon each of these approaches to nature conservation. Not only have we secured a new reserve, extended an existing one, and commenced a campaign for another, but we have also established a community wildlife monitoring program and achieved a record number of FCF Revolving Fund property sales.

The new financial year had a remarkable start, with a successful fundraising campaign to purchase and protect Daisy Dell Reserve. A comprehensive Background Report and Management Plan was completed, to guide the protection of the newly established reserve's outstanding natural and cultural values. This was further complimented by the efforts of skilled volunteers, who worked beside our dedicated reserves team in wild highland conditions to complete a boundary fence and locked gates to prevent illegal access. To top off this phenomenal string of achievements, ecological monitoring was installed at five fauna and 12 vegetation sites at Daisy Dell, just six months after its establishment as a TLC reserve. Preliminary surveys have already recorded more than 160 vascular

plant species, five of which are listed on Tasmania's Threatened Species Protection Act, 1995.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of a handful of individuals and innovators, the TLC was also able to extend The Big Punchbowl Reserve, which is located on the Freycinet Peninsula, adjacent to the internationally significant Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site. Donations from the International Living Future Institute, an anonymous donor, the David and Jennie Sutherland Foundation, and Joan Masterman, allowed us to purchase 75 hectares of land to add to the existing Big Punchbowl Reserve. This means that more than 300 hectares of this iconic landscape are now protected in perpetuity.

Finally, our latest conservation campaign to protect 150 hectares of land at Little Swanport has received tremendous support, demonstrating the significant understanding so many people have of the urgent need to protect Tasmania's threatened east coast forests. Early surveys of the property have revealed an abundance of wildlife, including the Tasmanian devil, Tasmanian bettong, and spotted quail-thrush, as well as water rats, which use the river corridor. The property is already showing good signs of recovery from past logging and stock grazing, with the emergence of new growth spurred by winter rains. Hence, we now look forward to welcoming a host of returning woodland birds in spring, including the prime mover of our fundraising campaign so far: the critically endangered swift parrot.



Eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*).  
Photo: Craig Riddington

## GOALS

**Goal 1.1** By 2020, in partnership with other private landholders, manage an additional 25,000 hectares of highest priority areas.

**Progress:** During the 2017-2018 financial year, more than 840 hectares of land were added to the reserve system through the FCF Revolving Fund purchase and covenanting of a property at Mt Communication.

The Midlands Conservation Fund almost doubled in size, adding 1,869 hectares under stewardship agreements. In addition, The Big Punchbowl Reserve was extended by 75 hectares, and the new Daisy Dell Reserve will now protect 322 hectares of land in perpetuity.

**Goal 1.2** By 2017, the TLC will develop a plan to secure the remaining areas required for a world-class system of reserves.

**Progress:** Our ambitious project to identify a world-class reserve system, under the auspices of the TLC's Science Council, has come to fruition this year with the production of a world-class reserve system GIS layer, and a map that can be easily interrogated and updated.

This amazing support tool now underpins our decision making about where to secure new reserves, focus our FCF Revolving Fund purchases, and encourage future covenants on private land. A detailed technical report, including the tool's development and specifications, will soon be available online.









“We have a self-managed superfund. A few years ago, our children checked the fund for us and found we had shares in gas fracking, coal power stations, coal mining, gambling and oil. We didn’t like what we discovered so as a family we decided to sell our fossil fuel and unethical shares. It was around this time we found out about the TLC’s Revolving Fund and looked at land for sale on the east coast. We considered a few properties before falling in love with one just south of Swansea. We purchased the property and paid for it with the sale of our shares. We’ve always been interested in the environment and conservation, so our family was very happy with the concept of turning unethical shares into conserving land. It gave us something we love and can share, brought the money back to Tassie, and to cap it off, it’s been a very sound investment.”

The Houston Family

### Community Wildlife Monitoring

One of the most exciting programs of 2017-18 has been our expansion into community wildlife monitoring, and the benefits this promises for the management of private land for conservation. Following an incredibly positive trial program – involving 124 landholders at 182 properties and spanning 10,000 hectares – we successfully gained a Save The Tasmanian Devil Program grant to improve information on devil distribution on private land. We also received support from Natural Resource Management (NRM) North to expand monitoring across the north.

Using the TLC’s permanent reserves as a reference point, we now intend to expand ecological monitoring at a landscape scale to improve data on species distribution, and also increase our understanding of landholder motivations to protect their land. This innovation will be delivered in partnership with the University of Tasmania (UTAS), the Derwent Catchment Program, local councils, and NRM branches. The success of WildTracker to date can be attributed to our champions in the community and their willingness to contribute to nature conservation.

### Protected Areas Partnership Program

TLC staff continue to interact with more than 230 landowners from across Tasmania via a Protected Area Partnership with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). These interactions give the TLC critical insight into the issues and pressures affecting private land conservation areas, and allow us to raise these concerns with the DPIPWE. Maintaining diverse support and increasing Tasmania’s private land conservation estate is vital to the TLC. Without the commitment of private landowners, we would be unable to accomplish many of the conservation goals that we currently achieve.

### Revolving Fund

By buying properties with natural values, protecting those special areas with a covenant, then selling them on to conservation-minded people, the FCF Revolving Fund continues to achieve incredible results for nature conservation. This year was the best on record for the Fund – achieving 11 property sales covering 1,238 hectares of land, with a value of \$1,500,000. We are excited by the building momentum of the FCF Revolving Fund, and we are committed to its continued success. Learn more about the FCF Revolving Fund and discover current properties for sale by visiting [tasland.org.au/properties-for-sale](http://tasland.org.au/properties-for-sale).

### Midlands Conservation Fund

The Tasmanian Midlands is home to some of the most threatened ecosystems in the world. Our engagement with a range of farmers through the Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF) allows us to discuss and formally protect these areas, which are located in the prime agricultural region of Tasmania. Delivered in collaboration with Bush Heritage Australia, the MCF has experienced yet another solid year of progress. Not only did the program double in size to help protect an impressive 4,500 hectares, but the Fund continues to grow, with a current value of \$4.17 million.

We look forward to continuing to build relationships that support landowners to conserve habitat on their farms. We also gratefully acknowledge the very generous support of the Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund 2009 Commemorative Grants Program, the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, the David Thomas Foundation, private donors and, of course, the landowners themselves, who commit to the MCF stewardship agreements and make nature conservation in the Midlands possible.





2

LOOKING AFTER  
NATURE



# MISSION 2

Adaptive, long-term management is fundamental to safeguarding the TLC's reserve estate for future generations. We continue to build upon baseline data, via repeat ecological monitoring that guides management practices and determines how our reserves are cared for into the future – from flagship reserves, such as the Vale of Belvoir and Five Rivers, to lesser-known conservation gems like Stony Farm Reserve.

During the 2017-2018 financial year, we expanded our monitoring program via the initial installation of sites on Daisy Dell Reserve and Panatana Reserve. Management plans were also established for both these reserves, including valuable contributions from locals and neighbours. As the TLC reserve estate

grows, so too does the time and effort required to manage our day-to-day activities – including weed and feral animal control, fire management, and maintaining essential infrastructure to ensure appropriate access, research, and management of the reserves. Thankfully, with the support of our dedicated partners, we have continued to reduce threats to natural values across our reserves, with 27 invasive species actively managed across 95 percent of our reserve estate, including 11 species of national or state significance. Another achievement this year was the installation of our Loo with a View at Skullbone Plains Reserve – an important piece of infrastructure that facilitates reserve visitation while limiting visitor impact.

TLC Permanent Reserve	Ecological Monitoring Installed	Trend Data Collected
Recherche Bay	2015	Planned Nov 2018
Egg Islands	2015	2018
Lutregala Marsh	2016	Flora 2017, fauna annually
Flat Rock	2014	2018
Silver Peppermint	2014	2016, planned Nov 2018
Brown Mountain	2016	Due 2019
Gordonvale	2017	Due 2020
Vale of Belvoir	2014	Annually
Five Rivers	2014	Flora 2018, fauna annually
Long Point	2014	2016, planned Nov 2018
The Big Punchbowl	2015	2018
Lower Liffey	2016	Due 2019
Blue Tier	2017	Due 2020
Panatana	2017	Due 2020
Tom Hay	2015	Planned Nov 2018
Stony Farm	2014	2018
Daisy Dell	2018	Due 2021



Trigger plant (*Stylidium*).  
Photo: Phil Roach

## GOALS

**Goal 2.1** Adaptive reserve management will be effective and reported on annually.

**Progress:** A total of 153 fauna and 357 flora monitoring sites are now located across the TLC's entire reserve estate. Vital data about the health of these landscapes guides management of the reserves, while also helping to tell the story of Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage and values. For example, in December 2017 the TLC's Five Rivers Reserve was featured in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Remarkable Devil exhibition, in which our fauna data on devils, quolls and cats was woven into the devil's story of survival in the Central Highlands. Meanwhile, repeat monitoring of the Vale of Belvoir's grasslands is ensuring that phasing out cattle grazing and replacing it with ecological burning will not reduce species diversity or richness.

Each year, our science and reserves teams collect a plethora of detailed information about the work undertaken in each specific reserve. These teams continue to use adaptive management principles to identify issues and develop solutions through assessment, prioritisation, and implementation. We are now preparing to communicate the intricacies of this work in a variety of new ways – including the innovative, engaging and contemporary web-based platform, Story Maps. This tool allows people to interact virtually and navigate across our entire permanent reserve estate to gain a deeper understanding of TLC's work, and the values we are protecting.





3

KNOWING  
NATURE



# MISSION 3

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We expand our knowledge of nature through innovative strategies, complimented by robust collaborative partnerships that facilitate the exchange of information to help achieve greater conservation outcomes. For example, the ambitious five-year targets listed in our 'Knowing Nature' strategy continue to be met. In year three of this strategy's delivery, key achievements included establishing improved reporting, a peer review of our ecological monitoring program, and meeting our schedule of management plan production and ecological monitoring. Meanwhile, our emphasis on strengthening partnerships has been highlighted by developments to our community wildlife monitoring trials, as well as three sophisticated research projects delivered by international student volunteers. The partnership and support we've received from experienced professional and amateur volunteers has enabled the development of algorithms for acoustic monitoring across our reserves. In addition, our long-term monitoring of threatened plants and the ptunarra brown butterfly at the Vale of Belvoir continues to enhance our understanding of this landscape. We sincerely thank all our skilled volunteers who contributed to these projects and to nature conservation in Tasmania.

The number and scope of research projects involving the TLC's land also continues to grow, particularly through our collaboration with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and a growing

network of other institutions (see table on page 18: 2017-2018 Research Collaborations). For example, our understanding the impact of fallow deer on the environment, and our ongoing involvement with feral cat management has helped us to support Honours projects on our reserves this year through our partnership in a successful Australian Research Council Linkage grant with UTAS and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries. Furthermore, our involvement with the Protected Areas Learning Research Collaboration (PALRC) continues to grow capacity for effective management and governance of protected areas in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. This partnership helps foster, facilitate and coordinate protected areas research and disseminate research findings. We look forward to continuing to help build international capacity and collaboration in protected area management and training in the future.

A new structure and mode of operation for our Science Council has been proposed. Our hope is that this development will expand specialist involvement in our science programs and expedite our delivery of many important sub-projects to help us reach our goal of making Tasmania a world leader in nature conservation.



TLC Conservation Ecologist Rowena Hamer at Egg Islands Reserve. Photo: Andy Townsend

## GOALS

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**Goal 3.1** Develop the TLC's Conservation Science and Planning Strategy by the end of 2016

**Progress:** The TLC's Conservation Science and Planning Strategy, 'Knowing Nature', was completed in 2016. This strategy contains three areas where our Science and Planning team contribute significantly towards the achievement of our 2020 strategic plan. These focus areas include: excellence in protecting nature, strengthening our partnerships, and leading the way. Progress in these areas is as follows:

**Excellence in protecting nature:** the TLC's project to identify a world-class reserve system has been boosted via the production of a world-class reserve system GIS layer and a map. Few organisations have a tool of this calibre, which will be used to underpin our decision making about where to secure new reserves, focus our FCF Revolving Fund purchases, and encourage future covenants on private land.

**Strengthening our partnerships:** the TLC continues to tackle an impressive and diverse array of conservation issues through forming strong partnerships with community groups and individuals (e.g.: community wildlife monitoring), local councils, and regional, state and federal organisations and institutions, such as ALCA (see Table on page 18: 2017-2018 Research Collaborations).

**Leading the way:** Our world-class reserve system methodology, citizen science initiatives and applied research projects on our reserves showcase some of the many ways in which we take a leading role in nature conservation.





Native box (*Bursaria spinosa*).  
Photo: Andy Townsend

## GOALS

**Goal 3.2** By the end of 2016, TLC will participate in forums to facilitate exchange of knowledge for collaborative conservation outcomes.

**Progress:** The TLC continues to ensure our work is communicated and shared in numerous arenas and at high levels. During the 2017-2018 financial year, former CEO Jane Hutchinson showcased the TLC's excellence in private protected area management at the International Land Conservation Network's Global Congress in Chile. At this event, Jane discussed the simple, cost effective and scientifically robust long-term ecological monitoring program installed across the TLC's entire reserve estate.

We were also fortunate to present at three national forums on the preparation of environmental accounts, with our Five Rivers Reserve case study also featured in the National Environmental and Accounting Strategy Action Plan. Additionally, in November 2017, the TLC was honoured to bring together key participants in the private land conservation sector by hosting the third ALCA National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart. This conference delivered a wealth of existing accumulated expertise and offered great potential to further enhance the private land conservation sector.

## “THE MOST EXCITING THING IN CONSERVATION IN THE LAST 15-20 YEARS HAS BEEN THE RISE OF PRIVATE CONSERVATION.”

Professor Ted Lefroy, Director of the Centre for the Environment, University of Tasmania

## 2017-2018 RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Research Program	Partner / Investigator / University
Global change in alpine conifers	J Worth – Forestry Research Institute, Tsukubha, Japan
Mammal monitoring in multi-use landscapes – Five Rivers	L Thomson (Hons) – UTAS
Ethnobotany of Cider Gum	Vlad Jiranek – Uni of Adelaide
Impact of fallow deer	UTAS ARC Linkage Grant, NSW DPI
Aging of sphagnum peatlands on Skullbone Plains Reserve (ongoing)	DPIPWE and ANU
Acoustic bird monitoring using citizen science	NRM South, NRM Cradle Coast, NRM North, STT, UTAS
Fire history of The Big Punchbowl Reserve (ongoing)	UTAS and ANU
Status of the Tasmanian Devil in the Derwent Valley and Bronte	DPIPWE, Save the Tasmanian Devil Program
Impact of lyrebirds at Brown Mountain Reserve	UTAS - Hons
Feral cat management on Bruny Island	DPIPWE, UTAS, Kingborough Council
Status of Clarence galaxias on Skullbone Plains Reserve	Inland Fisheries Service
Fauna monitoring at MCF-supported properties	UTAS ARC Linkage Grant
Threatened plants and butterfly monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (ongoing)	DPIPWE, Threatened Plants Tasmania
Prevalence of wombat mange in Tasmania	DPIPWE and UTAS
Global warming on grassland ecosystems (ongoing)	M Hovenden – UTAS
Productivity of eagle nests on TLC Reserves (ongoing) and GIS eagle tracking at Silver Plains	J Pay (PhD) – UTAS, Forest Practice Authority
Reconstructing climate change at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (ongoing)	M Shawn-Fletcher – ANU
Invertebrate fire ecology at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (ongoing)	DPIPWE
Ecology of saltmarsh habitats at Lutregala Marsh Reserve and Long Point	J Alders – UTAS







# OUR CONSERVATION FOOTPRINT



**Midlands Conservation Fund** Enduring, landscape-scale conservation. A further six agreements have been signed, bringing the total of the MCF to date to 4,505 hectares covered by stewardship agreements.

**Revolving Fund** 11 properties sold this year, comprising more than 1,238 hectares. A total of 48 properties (5,007 hectares) have been sold since the Fund's inception.

**New Leaf** Total of 14 properties (3,712 hectares) sold with a conservation covenant since 2010, with an additional 4,634 hectares being managed for conservation.

TLC permanent reserve	Hectares**	Acquisition	Year	Management Plan Status
Long Point Reserve	387	NRS & Donations	2005	Approved 2008
Silver Peppermint Reserve	43	Gifted	2005	Final draft 2016
Lutregala Marsh Reserve	42	Donations	2005	Final draft 2016
Recherche Bay Reserve	144	Donations	2006	Approved 2007
Flat Rock Reserve	455	NRS & Donations	2006	Approved 2010
Egg Islands Reserve	125	NRS & Donations	2007	Approved 2009
Brown Mountain Reserve	87	Gifted	2007	Final draft 2016
Vale of Belvoir Reserve	474	NRS & Donations	2008	Approved 2013
Skullbone Plains Reserve	1,618	Grants, NRS & Donations	2010	Approved 2014
Liffey Reserve	15	Donation	2010	Final draft 2014
Blue Tier Reserve	83	Donations	2012	Draft 2017
Gordonvale Reserve	81	Donations	2013	Approved 2015
Five Rivers Reserve	9,280	Grants	2014	Approved 2014
The Big Punchbowl Reserve	317**	Donations	2015	Approved 2015
Tom Hay Reserve	<1	Gifted	2015	Approved 2016
Stoney Farm Reserve	22	Gifted	2015	Draft 2017
Panatana Reserve	54	Donations	2016	Draft 2017
Daisy Dell Reserve	105	Donations	2017	Draft 2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,333</b>			

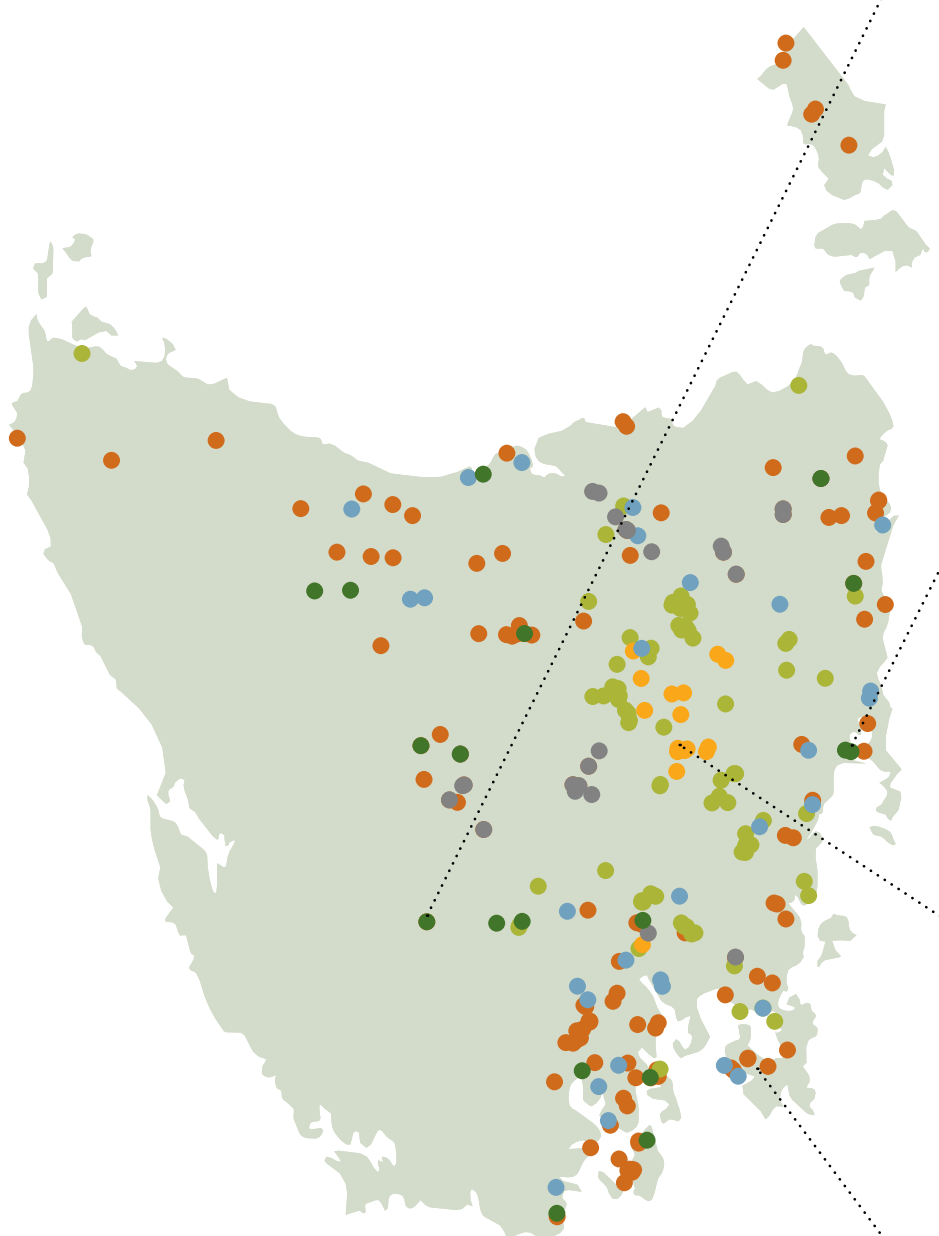
NRS - National Reserve System

\*Skullbone Plains accounted for separately in this table.

\*\*The Big Punchbowl Reserve area includes the extension.

\*\*\*These numbers may vary from year to year, due to updates in the accuracy of the cadastral layers from time to time.





- Permanent reserves
- New Leaf properties
- Revolving Fund properties
- Midlands Conservation Fund properties
- Facilitated Agreements
- PAPL (Protected Areas on Private Land)

### FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNT

The TLC has developed an Environmental Account for Five Rivers Reserve, using an asset condition accounting method created by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. This is the first case study to be developed on a private reserve in Australia that could convert ecological monitoring data into a common unit of measurement – called Econd.

The methodology used has been gaining attention Australia-wide, with speculation mounting that Econd could become a tradable commodity, earning a financial return in the market place similar to carbon credits.

### THE BIG PUNCHBOWL EXTENSION

Generous donations from a small number of individuals and innovators allowed the TLC to purchase 75 hectares of land to add to the existing Big Punchbowl Reserve. Located adjacent to the internationally significant Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site, more than 300 hectares of this iconic landscape is now protected in perpetuity by the TLC.

### THE MIDLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

The Tasmanian Midlands is one of 16 nationally recognised biodiversity hotspots and is home to one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world. This year, our engagement with a range of farmers to protect this area through the Midlands Conservation Fund saw the program double in size to an impressive 4,500 hectares.

### REVOLVING FUND SUCCESS

The purchase and covenanting of a property at Mt Communication on the Tasman Peninsula by the FCF Revolving Fund means an additional 840 hectares of land is now protected. Since its inception, the FCF Revolving Fund has sold a total of 48 properties, spanning 5,007 hectares. This has been the FCF Revolving Fund's best year on record, with 11 property sales covering 1,238 hectares.





4

INNOVATING FOR  
NATURE



# MISSION 4

By fostering a culture of inquiry, science, research and curiosity – and working in collaboration with state, national and international institutions – we strive to create ambitious solutions to conservation challenges.

The TLC's New Leaf Carbon project (NLCP) is an excellent example of the ways in which the TLC is willing to look to new ideas to generate income. This project generates approximately 15,000 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) per annum, which can be sold on the open market or through the Australian Government's auction scheme. Over the past five years, the TLC has sold ACCUs to Virgin Australia – a successful commercial relationship which allows Virgin to purchase verifiable ACCUs that have a substantial biodiversity benefit, and enables the TLC to continue to maintain the carbon neutrality and biodiversity of these forests.

The TLC has developed the first case study on a private reserve that could convert ecological monitoring data into a common unit of measurement – called Econd. This innovation led to the TLC presenting at three national forums this year on the preparation of environmental accounts. In addition, in April 2018, our Five Rivers Reserve case study was featured in the federal government's National Environmental and Accounting Strategy Action Plan – a first for a conservation organisation.

The TLC aims to stay at the forefront of these innovations, especially those that generate financial rewards for conservation and best-practice land management.

Another innovation in the 2017-2018 financial year was our initial work to develop and deliver a new customer relationship management (CRM) system for the TLC. The CRM system will enable improved information management and security while building efficiencies that will increase integration across our organisation. This innovative system will ensure that donations made to the TLC go even further for conservation.



Common wombat (*Vombatus urinus*).  
Photo: Matthew Newton

## GOALS

**Goal 4.2** By 2020, at least two mechanisms new to the TLC will be engaged to achieve nature conservation.

**Progress:** The TLC's community wildlife initiative that embraces citizen science will expand ecological monitoring at a landscape scale to improve data on species distribution and increase our understanding of landholder motivations to protect their land. Furthermore, the ongoing collaboration with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists surrounding the creation of an Environmental Account for Five Rivers Reserve is intended to introduce a methodology that records, presents and interprets ecological monitoring data across our permanent reserve estate in an innovative new way.

**Goal 4.3** Expand returns from ecosystem service enterprises.

**Progress:** After a substantial investment in project setup and an initial period of consolidation, the New Leaf Carbon Project (NLCP) is proving to be a sound way of contributing to the financing of nature conservation on several TLC reserves. Additionally, the ongoing collaboration with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists could potentially see the TLC earn a financial return for its environmental accounts.





5

INVOLVING  
PEOPLE



# MISSION 5

Involving people continues to be a quintessential aspect of our work to protect nature on Tasmanian private land. The commitment, expertise, participation and generosity of our community is fundamental to achieving our goal for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation.

Without the support of our volunteers much of our work would slow to a crawl – or even grind to a halt! The scale and scope of volunteer involvement is truly phenomenal, and we couldn't possibly do without them. The TLC remains committed to ensuring that every TLC volunteer role relates directly to the achievement of a strategic goal, and the collective, positive impact of this is evident in our volunteer feedback. From scoring ecological monitoring data, surveying wombat dens at the Vale of Belvoir, and inspiring young minds at a reserve Discovery Day, to weed control on the Central Highlands, developing fire management plans for the TLC's reserves, and envelope stuffing for our campaign mailouts, every one of our volunteers makes a significant and generous contributing to our important work, and we can't thank them enough.

David Attenborough noted that, "no one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced". For the TLC, involving people in nature is not only a lot of fun, but a critical element in achieving sustainable outcomes for nature conservation. However, in sensitive environments, certain infrastructure is needed to ensure the

natural environment is not negatively impacted by human presence. This is why the official opening of Skullbone Plains Reserve for visitation at our Discovery Weekend in March, coincided with the launch of our Loo with a View and the release of a reserve visitor information guide. This hugely successful event was attended by 100 supporters, who were treated to eclectic ecological activities – from nature photography workshops to expert nature interpretations and evening bat spotting. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the staff, donors, sponsors and dedicated volunteers who made the Loo and the celebratory weekend possible.

Connecting our supporters to the places they have helped protect can occur through visiting our reserves, but also through the creative interpretations of another's experiences. Eighteen months of planning and site visits to the TLC's Big Punchbowl Reserve culminated in July with the book launch and exhibition of Poets and Painters – Celebrating The Big Punchbowl. This year, nine eminent and emerging poets and nine painters produced work together inspired by the Reserve. The publication was also celebrated at the Melbourne Writers Festival and Tasmanian Writers Festival. This collaboration was delivered by the TLC with Bett Gallery, through funding from the Purves Environmental Fund and Purryburry Trust, along with other local support. Carol Bett and treasured Tasmanian poet and academic, Pete Hay, curated the project.



Volunteers commute to the Egg Islands Reserve.  
Photo: Rob Blakers

## GOALS

**Goal 5.1** The TLC's volunteer strategy will provide an opportunity for volunteers to collectively contribute more than 2,000 days per year towards the TLC's conservation activities by 2020.

**Progress:** The overall value to the broader Tasmanian community of involving volunteers in the TLC's work represents a phenomenal \$1,311,396\*. In the 2017-2018 financial year, 190 individual volunteers contributed more than 935 volunteer days. Compared with previous years, these figures demonstrate a trend towards a greater contribution from each individual volunteer. The conservative replacement cost of this contribution equals \$263,503.11\*. The TLC is extremely grateful for this generous commitment by our volunteers.

\*Volunteer contribution replacement cost and overall value of volunteering to the community was calculated using Volunteering Tasmania's 'Value of Volunteering Calculator'.



Poets and Painters exhibition launch.  
Photo: Chris Crerar

## GOALS

**Goal 5.2** By the end of 2016, the TLC's communications plan will be developed, with the aim that 10,000 people will receive regular TLC communications by 2020, and 50% of Tasmanians will be aware of the TLC.

**Progress:** The TLC's communications plan has been finalised, and this document outlines activities to build brand recognition and media exposure through well-crafted communication. Currently, more than 4,500 people receive the TLC's quarterly newsletter, and the organisation also has a diverse social media following, with more than 5,500 subscribers who collectively springboard our media content reach to untapped audiences.

**Goal 5.3** By the end of 2017, measurement of the cultural, community and commercial benefits of nature conservation will be possible.

**Progress:** Individual Annual Reserve Reports currently measure and report community involvement and visitation in each of our reserves. These reports have been developed under the Knowing Nature strategy and continue to progress.

**Goal 5.4** An annual income from donations of at least \$2 million.

**Progress:** In the 2017-2018 financial year, \$3 million in public donations and bequests were received across all our fundraising programs.

“PEOPLE ARE AS DIVERSE AS NATURE IS. ALL OF US HAVE SOMETHING UNIQUE WE CAN GIVE BACK TO NATURE.”

Paul Pritchard - TLC volunteer

At the end of September, the TLC celebrated the acquisition of Daisy Dell – an achievement that wouldn't have been possible without local community champions, campaign supporters, TLC staff, and volunteers. This 322 hectare property is a high-priority landscape, which has terrific connectivity to the Cradle highlands and protects floristic diversity and important wildlife – including the eastern quoll, spotted tail quoll and Tasmanian devil. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who supported the campaign so generously – particularly Peter Sims, John Wilson, Gary Clark, Megan Clarke and Trent Hutchinson for their combined roles as Daisy Dell caretakers, campaigners, advocates and conservationists.

As more people recognise the power of leaving an enduring legacy to nature conservation in Tasmania, the Natural Guardians (bequest) program continues to grow. In 2017, bequest supporters joined TLC staff to the rich habitat of our Egg Islands Reserve on the Huon River, aboard the historic wooden ketch, Yukon. Meanwhile, our interstate supporters were invited to attend our annual information evening on leaving a bequest, which was held in Melbourne.

University of Tasmania postgraduate students continue to engage in placements with the TLC. These projects add significant value to our programs, ranging from science and planning to reserve management or philanthropy and engagement. The placements also provide vital, real-world learning opportunities for students. In addition to our UTAS placements, this year the TLC conservation science team hosted three long-term international tertiary student interns from Denmark, Germany and the United States. These interns gained valuable conservation science experience, while making valuable contributions to ecological monitoring, GIS mapping, and science communication projects. We are immensely grateful for their contributions.





## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT 2017-2018

Volunteer Activity	Total Volunteer Hours		\$ Replacement Cost of Activities	
	16/17 Total	17/18 Total	16/17 Total	17/18 Total
Governance	993.75	1041.25	34,989.94	36,662.41
Conservation science and planning	3181	2059.5	112,003.01	72,515.00
Reserve management	2064	3,058	72,673.44	107,672.18
Administration support	0	43	0	1,514.30
Community engagement	1,198	1,282	42,181.58	45,139.22
Conservation business	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand totals</b>	<b>7,436.75</b> (929.59 days)	<b>7,482.75</b> (935.47 days)	<b>261,847.97</b>	<b>263,503.11</b>

\* Replacement cost is calculated at \$35.21 per hour, as defined within the Tasmanian State Government-commissioned *The Economic Value of Volunteering in Tasmania Report, May 2014*, and as endorsed by Volunteering Tasmania. This figure is considered to be conservative. The overall value of volunteering to the community was calculated using Volunteering Tasmania's 'Value of Volunteering Calculator'.





6

LEADING FOR  
NATURE



# MISSION 6

The TLC continues to lead by example across all facets of our work through an ongoing pursuit for excellence that emphasises solid foundations of good governance. From engaging with outstanding personnel, developing innovative best-practice programs, building a landscape-scale approach to conservation, embracing national and international collaborations, and developing staff, volunteers and supporter satisfaction, our aim is to foster a culture of innovation that sees us become a global leader in nature conservation.

As a key member of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), the TLC was honoured to host the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference in Hobart. The event brought together key participants in the private land conservation sector and challenged delegates to consider how the environment's wellbeing is attributed – from natural capital and ecosystem services, to community and cultural connections. The annual conference is an important initiative to grow the national private land conservation network across Australia, and hosting the event gave us a terrific opportunity to raise the profile of the TLC.

The TLC staff and Board continue to expand their knowledge and capacity to contribute to nature conservation by embracing opportunities provided by JBWere philanthropic services to access latest trends and research in

governance. Both the TLC's former and newly appointed CEOs have continued to champion leading for nature. In 2017, Jane Hutchinson attended the Harvard Business School, focusing on strategic perspectives in non-profit management. Then, in 2018, Jane attended the International Land Conservation Network's Global Congress in Chile, where she discussed the simple, cost effective and scientifically robust long-term ecological monitoring program installed across the TLC's entire reserve estate. Most recently, current CEO, James Hattam, received a scholarship from the McKinsey Academy designed to accelerate the development of emerging leaders.

Opportunities to buy properties sometimes arise on the market at short notice. To be able to act quickly when these opportunities arise, the TLC has established the Nature Bank. This is a well of funds that increases the TLC's agility to buy land when it becomes available, thereby achieving important conservation outcomes. This highlights yet another way that the TLC stays at the forefront of achieving tangible results for nature conservation in Tasmania.



Jane Hutchinson and James Hattam.  
Photo: Matthew Newton

## GOALS

**Goal 6.1** By 2016, the TLC will have developed and implemented a Good Governance Plan.

**Progress:** The TLC is committed to effective governance at all levels within the organisation, beginning with the Board, CEO and our management teams. At its March 2017 meeting, the Risk and Audit Committee endorsed the TLC's Good Governance Policy, which was then approved by the TLC Board out of session in May 2017. The TLC has implemented random testing of our Risk Management Framework to ensure the framework responds effectively in mitigating and managing risk.

**Goal 6.2** By 2020, long-term financial sustainability will be achieved, based on diverse income streams and a sustainable business model.

**Progress:** We have achieved positive outcomes in this area through our philanthropic conservation campaign, regular giving, bequests, the continued growth of the TLC Foundation through the establishment of new named funds, and capital growth within the Foundation – all of which help to fund the long-term, effective conservation management of the TLC reserve estate.

In addition, our carbon project continues to provide the TLC with reliable income to support the organisation's day-to-day operations.

Key programs such as the FCF Revolving Fund continue to demonstrate long-term partnerships between the TLC and government, which assist in funding the TLC's important conservation programs.





# THE TLC FOUNDATION

The TLC's reserves protect some of the most important natural areas in Tasmania. While acquiring land is critically important, looking after our reserves is fundamental to ensuring these properties continue to serve as conservation havens for the future. The TLC Foundation is an endowment fund established in 2009 to secure the independent, long-term resourcing required to guarantee the effective conservation management of our reserves. To do this, capital from the Foundation is ethically invested to provide a reliable source of income for the TLC's long-term ecological monitoring program and reserve management activities.

The TLC Foundation Committee is a subcommittee of the TLC Board that provides governance and accountability in overseeing the investment and expenditure of the Foundation. The committee members are: Jennie Churchill (Chair), Susan Gough (independent/former Board member), Erika Korosi, Sam McCullough (independent/former TLC Board member), Roderic O'Connor (independent/former TLC Board member), and Stephen Atkinson (independent). The Foundation is invested with, and managed by, JBWere, under strong and transparent governance arrangements. Investments are guided by an annually reviewed Investment Policy Statement and undergo a robust and environmentally responsible ethical screening process. Gifts are preserved to generate return while managing risk.

Thanks to our many generous supporters, the TLC Foundation has continued to grow since its establishment in 2009. This year is no exception, with \$533,383 added to the Foundation, including donations from supporters, bequests and other contributions from the TLC. Supporters regularly contribute to named funds; by the end of the 2017-18 financial year, 51 named funds had been established, including 10 within the reporting period.

The TLC's own Bird Conservation Fund (BCF) was launched this year, and received more than \$115,000 in donations from our public fundraising campaign. Funds generated through the BCF provide the TLC with a vital source of income to support bird-focused work across our reserves. This important work combines evidence-based research and ecological monitoring with direct management actions, to ensure the long-term conservation of our birds. Already, these methods are being used to collect widespread data from some of our most isolated reserves and for our more cryptic species. The BCF will also facilitate applied scientific research, via an annual \$3,000-\$5,000 postgraduate scholarship, focusing on critical knowledge gaps in bird conservation across Tasmania.

## TLC FOUNDATION FUNDS

as at 30 June 2018

AKSW Fund  
Alcorso Art and Nature Fund  
Barry Family Fund  
Biodiversity Management Fund (TLC)  
Bird Conservation Fund  
Bird Conservation Fund (TLC)  
Bosworth Family Fund  
Brown Mountain Fund  
Bryant Bird Fund  
Cameron Blackburn Fund  
Cathy Gibbons Fund  
Chris Harwood Fund  
Dorothy Reeves Fund  
Endemic Crustacean Fund  
Five Rivers Endowment Fund  
George Gearing Bird Fund  
Ginny Jackson Fund  
Hawkins Family Fund  
Hope Family Fund  
Houston Family Fund  
Jack & Norah Donne Fund  
Janet Cohen Fund  
Julie Fakes Fund  
June Fisher Fund  
Jupe Family Fund  
Luan & Yoong Fund  
M & M Temple-Smith Grandchildren Fund  
Marshall Family Fund  
Nathan Males and Malbarry Family Fund  
Naylor Bird Fund  
Peter and Karen Cosier Fund  
Peter Riedel Fund  
Potts Family Fund  
Samantha Jane Hignett Fund  
Snack Fund  
Solas Fund  
Susan Gough Fund  
T Stadler Fund  
Tertini Charitable Foundation Fund  
Thomas and Grace Couser Fund  
Twin Gums Fund  
von Bibra Fund  
Warwick Ashley Elpidos Fund

### Bequests

Carolyn Parsons  
Elizabeth Ann James  
Helga A W Thompson  
Joan Parnell  
Joseph Bedford  
Michael Buxton  
Stephen Geoffrey Blanden  
Tom Hay

“THE REAL BENEFITS OF THE FOUNDATION ARE THAT IT ACTIVELY SUPPORTS SCIENTIFICALLY BASED, LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF RESERVES. IT GIVES US A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO POOL OUR SMALL CONTRIBUTION WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND BE A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER AND MORE INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATION EFFORT THAN WE COULD EVER ACHIEVE ALONE.”

Peter and Jo Voller, Twin Gums Fund

As the Foundation grows, through gifts from dedicated supporters and positive returns on investments, we move closer to achieving sustainable funding for the effective, ongoing conservation management of all TLC’s reserves. Income generated in 2017-18 has funded a range of critical activities – from targeted weed control that has continued to reduce threats on natural values, to extensive ecological monitoring data that has helped inform land management across our reserve estate. These activities include:

#### 2017-18 KEY ON-GROUND RESERVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- The ongoing Five Rivers Reserve weeding program continued to achieve positive results, thanks to a huge volunteer effort that saw an equivalent of 110 volunteer days spent with TLC staff and contractors over 11 days. A significant reduction in gorse, ragwort and mullein were all recorded for the seventh consecutive year.
- Weed control continued at the Lower Liffey Reserve, with foxglove now being treated for six successive years. The infestation is noticeably decreasing, indicating that viable seeds stored in the soil are declining.
- Volunteers worked alongside staff to methodically identify and treat Spanish heath on Egg Islands Reserve. Three days of work resulted in the discovery of just 2,397 individual Spanish heath plants, dispersed over the original five-hectare area that was first scoured when TLC purchased the property in 2007. This now equates to around

one plant every 10 square metres, reduced from an estimated 2,000–5,000 plants.

- Gorse control continued at Long Point Reserve. More than a decade of work has resulted in a 95 per cent decrease in weed density; however, the long viability of the seed means annual follow-up is required for another 10-20 years.
- Fire risk management was undertaken across all TLC properties. This process identified where wildfire may have serious impacts upon people, property or important conservation values. The TLC will use this information to actively minimise the risks posed by fire, by working with neighbours and other stakeholders.
- Preventing illegal trespassing across all TLC reserves is a significant ongoing task. This year, volunteers worked with staff to construct boundary fencing at Daisy Dell Reserve, to ensure the Reserve’s natural values remain protected from unauthorised access.
- Through the Vale of Belvoir Reserve ecological burning program, TLC staff, in partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, conducted a 17-hectare low intensity burn of the highland grassland communities.
- Visitation opportunities to Skullbone Plains at Five Rivers Reserve were improved through the installation of the crowd-funded Loo with a View, and the development of a walking track, signage and visitor brochure. These improvements

enhance the experience for visitors and, importantly, help to minimise visitor impacts on the sensitive alpine ecosystem of Skullbone Plains.

#### 2017-18 KEY ON-GROUND RESERVE CONSERVATION SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Ecological monitoring has been installed across all TLC reserves and expanded to include acoustic monitoring for birds and frogs. Digital photosphere technology has also been adopted, to better capture vegetation data and track change through time. Repeated monitoring on the Five Rivers, Vale of Belvoir and Lutregala Marsh reserves has guided grazing, burning and the Bruny Island Cat Management Program, respectively.
- Reserve management plans have been completed for the Stony Farm, Daisy Dell, Blue Tier and Liffey reserves.
- TLC’s ongoing collaboration with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists has resulted in the construction of an Environmental Account for Five Rivers Reserve, converting the Reserve’s ecological monitoring data into Econd – a common unit of measurement. As is the case with carbon credits, Econds have the potential to underpin future biodiversity markets and return financial benefits for effective conservation management outcomes. The Five Rivers Environmental Account featured in the National Environmental Account Strategy Action Plan; a global first for a conservation organisation!





Volunteers at Egg Islands Reserve. Photo: Rob Blakers



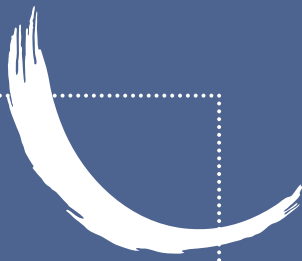
Tasmanian Eastern Bettong.  
Photo: Joe Shemesh

- Post-fire monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir recorded the effect of controlled disturbance on grassland diversity, including the effects of burning on threatened species, such as the nationally endangered ptunarra brown butterfly. Results indicated that the butterfly population could persist in grassland areas that have been subject to low intensity burns. It was also found that such burns promote floral species diversity for at least six years after burning.
- Articulating science communication took an innovative step forward this year via the trial of digital 'Story Maps', which have been employed to better present and communicate annual reserve information.
- Fauna images and data collected through our monitoring program were scored from across TLC reserves, courtesy of three overseas graduate volunteers, two University of Tasmania interns, and a bevy of committed citizen science volunteers.
- The TLC's Five Rivers Reserve Carnivore Monitoring Program was showcased to thousands of people when it was featured at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Remarkable Devil Exhibition and at the Festival of Bright Ideas. It also formed a science presentation at the 12th International Mammal Congress in Western Australia.

## TLC FOUNDATION 2017-18 OVERVIEW

Opening balance	\$10,995,083
Capital contribution	\$533,383
Total income generated by the TLC Foundation	\$860,251
Income remitted to the TLC	\$372,000
Closing balance	\$12,017,614*

\*The Foundation achieved an investment return of 7.8% over the 12 months 30 June 2018 (after all contributions and distributions).



TASMANIAN  
LAND  
CONSERVANCY

# 2050 MISSION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITIES, INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENTS, THE TLC WILL:

- 1 TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BUILDING A LANDSCAPE-SCALE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION, INCLUDING A WORLD CLASS SYSTEM OF RESERVES
- 2 DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
- 3 CONTRIBUTE TO TASMANIA BECOMING A CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE IN NATURE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING
- 4 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS FOR ACHIEVING NATURE CONSERVATION
- 5 PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND MECHANISMS FOR COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE NATURE CONSERVATION
- 6 DEMONSTRATE ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL GOVERNANCE, A POSITIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



# AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

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## Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

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Dear Sirs,

As auditor for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc for the year ended 30 June 2018, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of the above-mentioned Company.

Yours sincerely  
Accru Hobart Pty Ltd

Michael Burnett B.Com., FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
Partner

17 October 2018

.....  
Date

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Tasmania, Australia

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**Chartered Accountants + Business Advisors**  
Sydney + Melbourne + Brisbane  
Perth + Adelaide + Hobart

Accru Hobart Pty Ltd ABN 36 009 552 694 is an autonomous and separately accountable member of Accru and CPA Associates International Inc.  
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

# OFFICERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Your officers present this report to the members of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc.

## OFFICERS

The names of each person who has been an officer during the year and to the date of this report are:

Name	Position	Date appointed	Date of cessation	Meetings eligible to attend	Meetings attended
Mr Stuart Barry	Chair	Oct-09	-	6	6
Ms Jennie Churchill	Vice Chair	Nov-12	-	6	6
Mr Peter Cosier	Member	Oct-10	-	6	3
Mr Peter Downie	Member	Nov-12	-	6	5
Ms Susan Gough	Member	Nov-07	Nov-17	2	2
Ms Erika Korosi	Member	Nov-15	-	6	3
Prof Ted Lefroy	Member	Nov-15	-	6	4
Ms Lyn Maddock	Member	Oct-09	-	6	6
Mr Nathan Males	Member	Nov-15	-	6	5
Mr Mark Temple-Smith	Member	Nov-16	-	6	6
Mr Julian Von Bibra	Member	Nov-16	-	6	6
Ms Clare Bower	Member	Feb-18	-	3	2

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The association measures performance through the establishment and monitoring of benchmarks and budgets. These are reviewed in detail by the Board monthly and any exceptions investigated further.

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE

The auditors declaration of independence appears on page 5 and forms part of the officers report for the year ended 30 June 2018.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the officers. On behalf of the committee:



**Stuart Barry**

Chair  
Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Hobart, 17 October 2018



# OUR COMMITMENT

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The TLC prides itself on strong governance with rigorous processes that drive thorough and strategic decision making. We believe in a consistent, transparent and accountable approach to reporting. What's more, our processes and systems associated with budgets and expenditure are systematically scrutinised to ensure that every supporter dollar delivers a strong return for nature conservation. Efficiencies are implemented across our programs wherever possible to maximise strategic value and benefits on the ground. While there are still no national standards or guidelines in relation to how charities account for fundraising and administration costs, the TLC continues to closely monitor these expenses.

The trust our supporters have in the TLC and our commitment to nature in Tasmania, is what underpins our promise to achieve the very best results possible.

# STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Donations & Bequests		1,620,285	1,707,129
Grants received		450,176	231,062
Carbon Income		213,675	402,223
Foundation Endowment Income		180,000	225,000
Five Rivers Endowment Income		192,000	240,000
Franking credits received		71,655	115,081
Interest received		32,209	42,749
Consultancy services		52,947	385,318
Reserve Income		14,835	21,999
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,479,781)	(2,139,946)
Other		75,235	12,534
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>423,236</b>	<b>1,243,149</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property		1,895,855	1,495,851
Purchases of Plant and Equipment		(26,100)	(40,785)
Property Purchase(s)		(1,411,014)	(584,800)
Contributions to Foundation Funds		(533,383)	(932,427)
<b>Total cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>(74,642)</b>	<b>(62,160)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of Borrowings		(162,737)	(217,017)
<b>Total cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>(162,737)</b>	<b>(217,017)</b>
Net increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		185,858	963,971
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		3,754,011	2,790,039
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,939,869</b>	<b>3,754,011</b>

This statement can be read in conjunction with the notes found at:  
[tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/](http://tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/)



# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTE	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Conservation Grants		372,336	360,658
Project & Consultancy Services	2	590,406	899,180
Carbon Income	3	194,250	365,652
Interest Income		32,209	42,749
TLC Foundation Income	4	482,497	165,779
Foundation Redemption	5	180,000	225,000
Five Rivers Redemption	5	192,000	240,000
Sale of Properties		467,149	117,510
Donations & Bequests	6	3,079,065	2,691,196
Sundry Income	7	68,193	51,024
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>5,658,106</b>	<b>5,158,749</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Office & Admin overheads	8	308,517	213,722
Travel & Accommodation	8	62,232	50,644
Insurance	8	47,948	11,827
Depreciation		27,447	51,809
Employment	9	1,534,492	1,653,645
Fundraising	10	152,046	70,151
Reserves - Land Management	11	310,897	544,438
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>2,443,578</b>	<b>2,596,236</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>3,214,528</b>	<b>2,562,513</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Revaluation Increments - Land		-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>3,214,528</b>	<b>2,562,513</b>

This statement can be read in conjunction with the notes found at:  
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# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTE	2018	2017
			\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Assets	12	3,939,869	3,754,011
TLC Foundation Funds	13	12,017,614	10,995,083
Receivables	14	257,600	247,755
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>16,215,083</b>	<b>14,996,849</b>
<b>Non - Current Assets</b>			
Permanent Reserves	15	16,103,647	15,388,647
Revolving Fund Land	16	3,348,154	3,477,877
New Leaf Land	17	8,443,663	8,846,632
Gifted Land	18	500,000	-
Plant & Equipment	19	66,457	67,803
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>		<b>28,461,920</b>	<b>27,780,959</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>44,677,003</b>	<b>42,777,808</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	20	213,879	176,958
Unexpended Grants	21	4,360,943	4,619,262
Provision for Employee Entitlements	22	241,283	144,794
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,816,105</b>	<b>4,941,014</b>
<b>Non - Current Liabilities</b>			
Private Loans	23	157,668	1,296,405
Capital Provisions	24	264,735	264,735
Provision for Employee Entitlements	22	24,045	75,733
<b>Total Non - Current Liabilities</b>		<b>446,448</b>	<b>1,636,873</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>5,262,553</b>	<b>6,577,886</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>39,414,450</b>	<b>36,199,922</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		210,000	210,000
Retained Earnings		35,989,922	33,427,409
Current Year Earnings		3,214,528	2,562,513
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>39,414,450</b>	<b>36,199,922</b>

A full copy of the Annual Financial Report, including detailed notes, can be downloaded at: [tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/](http://tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/)



# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Retained Earnings</b>		
Opening Balance 1 July	35,989,922	33,427,409
Add: Comprehensive income	3,214,528	2,562,513
Less: Transfer to Reserves	-	-
<b>Closing balance 30 June</b>	<b>39,204,450</b>	<b>35,989,922</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Opening Balance 1 July	210,000	210,000
Add: Revaluation movements	-	-
<b>Closing balance 30 June</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS EQUITY</b>	<b>39,414,450</b>	<b>36,199,922</b>

# INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act).

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

We were appointed as auditors of the entity in 2018 and thus were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the comparative figures. As such, our assurance provided is limited to the 2018 figures. Please refer to the previous auditor's audit report for assurance on the 2017 figures.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

### Responsibilities of the Committee and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

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#### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Michael J Burnett B.Com. FCA  
Registered Company Auditor: 281  
Partner, Accru+ Hobart  
Lvl 1, 18 Ross Avenue  
ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

17 October 2018

.....  
Date

The TLC acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land.

The TLC also wishes to thank the many individuals and organisations with whom we work – through partnerships, collaborations and in-kind support.

# PARTNERS









**Tasmanian Land Conservancy**

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