



TASMANIAN
LAND
CONSERVANCY

18/19





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Prof Ted Lefroy

Mr Nathan Males

Mr Mark Temple-Smith

Mr Julian von Bibra

Cover: Eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) Photo: Sean Crane

Opposite: Brown Mountain Reserve Photo: Rob Blakers

Inside back cover: Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) Photo: Chris Crerar

Next page: Little Swanport Reserve Photo: Rob Blakers

An aerial photograph of a lush forest with a river winding through it. The forest is dense with green trees, and some trees have yellowed leaves. A prominent dead tree with white branches stands out in the center. The river is dark and flows from the top left towards the bottom. A dotted white line forms a rectangular border around the text area.

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



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



2019 has been yet another incredible year for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC). It is my pleasure to present the TLC 2018–2019 Annual Report, highlighting our organisation’s progress towards the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan goals.

The TLC’s vision for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation is ambitious and bold, yet it is something that we passionately believe is possible. Safeguarding our state’s unique natural values is central to achieving our vision, and protecting nature through a variety of mechanisms is key to the organisation’s success. From the TLC’s reserve estate, to working with landholders to identify, protect and manage important natural values on their own land, we are making great progress towards our 2020 goal of an additional 25,000 hectares of land managed for conservation.

The TLC’s network of reserves protects some of the most important natural areas in Tasmania. It conserves critical habitat for our rare and threatened species and serves as safe havens for the future. This year, the protection of our newest reserve at Little Swanport was a momentous achievement for the organisation. This 157-hectare reserve, located on Tasmania’s spectacular east coast, protects a diverse range of some of our most unique species and habitats, including the Tasmanian devil, Tasmanian bettong, eastern quoll, eastern barred bandicoot and the critically endangered swift parrot.

On behalf of the TLC Board, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important conservation campaign.

The TLC also prides itself on looking after nature through its long-term ecological monitoring program, which captures critical data for understanding these complex environments. This evidence allows the organisation to assess, prioritise and implement management where it is most needed. The TLC’s leading Science and Reserve Management programs continue to achieve lasting outcomes across the reserve estate, and sustained growth in the TLC Foundation over the past year has provided a reliable source of income to support this critical work.

While the TLC can demonstrate sound conservation management across our reserves, we are acutely aware of the greater impact we can have by working alongside other landholders to achieve even more. This year, we have continued to invest in exciting new initiatives and long-term, proven conservation programs across the state. These partnerships included the Forest Conservation Fund Revolving Fund, collaborating with Bush Heritage Australia to deliver the Midlands Conservation Fund, and working with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to deliver the Protected Areas Partnership Program, as well as our involvement in the highly successful Land for Wildlife program. The ongoing

“Safeguarding our state’s unique natural values is central to achieving our vision, and protecting nature through a variety of mechanisms is key to the organisation’s success.”

rollout of the innovative WildTracker™ program—which builds community capacity through citizen science—continues to achieve impressive ecological and social benefits. This is a key area of growth for the TLC to provide mechanisms for communities and individuals to achieve nature conservation.

As we enter the final year of the TLC 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, we are excited by the wide-ranging outcomes that have been achieved over the past four years, and the momentum that has been generated. As the organisation looks optimistically to the future, we remain steadfast in delivering organisational leadership through exceptional governance, a positive working environment, and financial sustainability for the TLC, long-term.



I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of fellow board member Lyn Maddock who retired from the board in November after nine years of service. Lyn's high-level governance and management expertise were instrumental to the TLC Board's leadership and culture. As I reflect on my ten years on the TLC Board and my final year as Chair I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a great organisation. I truly believe the TLC is in a unique position to achieve its vision for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation, and in doing so to connect more people to the value of nature and the benefits of conserving it.

I would also like to sincerely thank all the dedicated volunteers who contribute to the TLC in so many ways. This incredible community includes my fellow board members, the committed folk who 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 through newsletters and events, and the many people who so willingly share their expertise on our ever-popular Discovery Days. The TLC simply could not achieve what it does, without your support.

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

Stuart Barry
Chair

REPORT FROM THE CEO



I am continually inspired by the achievements of the TLC in protecting Tasmania's unique natural places, rare ecosystems and habitat for threatened plants and animals—and 2019 has been no exception.

The TLC's efforts are guided by the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, which is built on a foundation of four powerful and interconnected themes: protecting nature, looking after nature, innovating for nature, and involving people. This past year has seen steady progress across each of these impact areas.

The addition of two new reserves to the TLC reserve estate has been an exciting achievement. The protection of important places like Little Swanport is one of the great joys of being part of the TLC, and this conservation success story would not be possible without the support of the wider community. The progression of this campaign—from identifying this unique gem nestled on the Little Swanport River, to protecting its critical values in perpetuity in just 13 months—demonstrates the great ability of the TLC to protect nature efficiently and effectively.

On behalf of all of us at the TLC, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the success of this campaign! Thanks to the generosity of so many, Little Swanport Reserve has become a critical part of the protected area landscape, with the TLC joining the network of committed landholders to safeguard the critical habitat of this significant region.

This campaign reaffirmed to all of us the powerful connection that people have to nature in Tasmania, and the wonderful community of dedicated people who are willing to contribute to ensuring its protection.

The Tall Trees Reserve is yet another example of the importance of private land conservation. Adjoining Mt Field National Park in the Derwent Valley, Tall Trees Reserve protects 168 ha while also adding to the conservation buffer and connectivity of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Nearly ten years since the beginning of the New Leaf Project, this year saw the final loan from the Elsie Cameron Foundation relieved - a significant milestone for conservation in Tasmania. The TLC is enormously grateful to the Elsie Cameron Foundation and many other key donors who have supported the protection of 28,000 ha across Tasmania through the New Leaf Project.

The TLC retains thousands of hectares of land that we manage for conservation across the state (see details on page 20). From the TLC's early reserves at Long Point and Recherche Bay to New Leaf properties and Rubicon Sanctuary, we are committed to managing the natural values of our conservation estate.

This year, two TLC reserves were affected by the extensive bushfires that occurred in Tasmania over the summer season, with the Gordonvale and Five Rivers reserves directly impacted by the fires in the south-west and Central Plateau. Our highly

“The TLC's conservation successes are built on the commitment and generosity of our community...”

skilled and experienced team worked tirelessly alongside firefighting crews from the Tasmanian Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife Service, and local communities to contribute to the control effort. We sincerely thank the fire crews, volunteers and local landholders who gave their time and expertise to bring the fires under control. In response to the fires, the TLC's Science and Reserve Management teams have spent countless hours undertaking suppression activities, rehabilitation works and detailed monitoring of affected areas to track regeneration and guide management. Preliminary results from the monitoring program are indicating positive signs of recovery across both reserves.

The TLC continues to seek new ways to achieve conservation through innovative methods. The addition of acoustic monitoring to our long-term ecological monitoring program this year highlights the further development and investment in the TLC Science Program. By using remote acoustic recorders strategically deployed across the TLC reserve estate we can gather



even more information about the important places the TLC is managing for conservation. From frogs to birds and everything in between, by listening to nature we can build an even better picture of the complex ecosystems we are protecting for future generations. Another exciting development for the year is the momentum of WildTracker™. This ecological monitoring system was developed by the TLC to enable private landholders across the state to collect data on wildlife living on their properties. Through a citizen science ethic, a network of private landholders distributed spatially across Tasmania can contribute standardised data to help evaluate the conservation status of species and communities and contribute to a world-class reserve system in Tasmania.

The TLC's ever-popular Discovery Days continue to provide a unique opportunity to bring the growing TLC community together on the places they have helped protect. This year we saw over 200 supporters attend both the Daisy Dell and East Coast Discovery Days, with supporters, local landholders, volunteers and staff exploring the special values of Daisy Dell, The Big Punchbowl and Little Swanport.

I would like to make special mention and acknowledgement of the incredible contribution of the TLC staff—their passion, dedication and commitment are extraordinary, and it is a pleasure to work with such an exceptional team. On behalf of all of us at the TLC, I also want to express our sincere appreciation

to the businesses, organisations, landholders and individuals who share their skills, expertise and resources to achieve lasting conservation. The TLC's conservation successes are built on the commitment and generosity of our community, and I thank everyone who has supported us by donating, volunteering and managing their land for conservation so that together, we can protect Tasmania's unique natural places and species for generations to come.

James Hattam
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT THE TLC

YOUR SUPPORT

The TLC is a for-purpose, apolitical, conservation organisation that protects nature on private land. Since humble beginnings in 2001, with \$50 in the bank and a handful of volunteers, the TLC has 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 us all.

The TLC works with nature in four powerful ways:

PROTECTING NATURE

in the TLC's reserves, in partnership with private landholders, and by selling protected properties to conservation-minded buyers.

LOOKING AFTER NATURE

through reserve management principles informed by robust science.

INNOVATING FOR NATURE

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

INVOLVING PEOPLE

by providing opportunities to experience nature, achieve nature conservation and support the work of the TLC.



MARK TARLETON – TLC FOUNDATION

When Clare and I first came to Tasmania we were just passing through but, like many other visitors, we fell in love with this island and returned to settle. We half expected to go through a honeymoon phase, and for our infatuation to wear off, but it never did. The better we've come to know our home the more we've appreciated what a special place it is. But we've also become aware of how vulnerable our natural environment is and that we shouldn't take it for granted. Our lives have benefited immeasurably from Tasmania's natural environment, and it's nice to be able to do something in return, to help protect it. The TLC gives us the opportunity to do that and we've been regular donors for some years.

We also learned recently that we could create a fund with a special purpose within the TLC so we created a fund in memory of my mother, Maureen, who spent her last few years in Tasmania. For Maureen, native birds had been a constant source of joy. She rescued mistreated birds and became known as the go-to person for injured ones. So we established the Maureen Tarleton Fund, to be used for the benefit of native birds. She would be pleased that her legacy was to help the birds that meant so much to her.

Photo: Karen Brown



**LEON BARMUTA –
REGULAR GIVING**

I've been involved in conservation in many roles. From my observations, the hard bit has always been maintaining regular, sustained funding to keep things going. For the TLC, that means money to manage the properties it has acquired and, with the climate emergency bearing down on us even more quickly than anyone expected, it's a major challenge to 'keep the lights on'—or should that be 'keep the fences maintained'? So that's why I've talked my family into regular donations to the TLC. We've borrowed this environment from the future, so it's the best rental payment we can possibly make!

Photo: Karen Brown



**DAVID BUTLER AND CATHIE
PLOWMAN – VOLUNTEERS**

Working together as volunteers gives us increased opportunities to share our love of the Tasmanian bush, build our skills and make a contribution towards conservation. We especially like volunteering for the TLC as we are impressed with the amount they have achieved in a short time. The TLC has a great team of staff who we enjoy working with and who facilitate well-organised programs where volunteers are used efficiently and treated professionally. We feel that we are making a difference as our efforts assist the TLC's conservation objectives. Certainly, we are very happy to see a significant decrease in the weeds across the TLC's Central Highlands properties over the several years that we have been involved in that particular program.

Photo: Phill Laroche



**GARY CLARK – NATURAL
GUARDIAN (BEQUESTOR)**

I feel that whilst I may own a 'piece of bush' I am just a temporary custodian of the land. Whilst I hope to pass it on in good condition for future generations, there is no guarantee of its future. In contrast, indigenous Australians managed the land, and knowledge passed down, so that future generations may have a place of food and shelter. Thus, for me, making a bequest of land to the TLC ensures the land will be well managed, using sound science and cultural input. The TLC ensures that funds are available for the on-going management and this gives me a sense of peace that my land will be well preserved for the future.

Photo: Eddie Safarik



1

PROTECTING
NATURE

MISSION 1

The TLC's commitment to protecting nature on private land continues to drive our work. Acquiring land (either to keep or on-sell to conservation-minded landholders), and working with private landholders, are key mechanisms to deliver conservation.

Little Swanport Reserve

The TLC's successful Little Swanport campaign now permanently protects 157 ha of nationally threatened conservation values, bounded by more than a kilometre of the Little Swanport River. The diversity of species that this reserve now protects includes the Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll, Tasmanian bettong and brown bandicoot, as well as abundant woodland birds that occupy every habitat stratum, from tussock grasslands to old-growth blue gum nest hollows. Ecological monitoring was installed at 41 sites, a detailed background report was prepared and a management plan was drafted.

Tall Trees Reserve

In 2019, 168 ha of tall forest buffering the Mt Field National Park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was gifted to the TLC by the Elsie Cameron Foundation. The Tall Trees Reserve sits within an eight-kilometre radius of the TLC's Brown Mountain and Silver Peppermint reserves. This new reserve supports an understorey of diverse wet rainforest, including myrtle beech, sassafras, dogwood and celery top pine, amid tree ferns, musk and laurel fed by tributaries of the Jones River. With little evidence of recent disturbance, the reserve is located in a traditional logging landscape where historic mills and selective logging have

been replaced by commercial operations and plantation timber. The reserve is scheduled for a detailed survey, with the installation of ecological monitoring and aerial checks for eagle nests.

Protected Areas Partnership Program

The Protected Areas Partnership Program with DPIPWE has continued throughout the year, with TLC staff supporting landholders with conservation covenants on their land. One hundred and forty-four property visits were conducted, with the TLC team interacting with 75 landowners who have recently purchased properties with conservation covenants on title. A new, three-year contract to implement the landholder engagement aspect of the partnership was signed, commencing July 2019.

The program has a strong emphasis on visiting properties, assisting with management issues, and communicating the natural values of each site, with a focus on building relationships with new landholders. This year, TLC staff also provided advice to landowners in fire-affected areas and attended Conservation Landholders Tasmania field days.

This program is critical in supporting landowners who have agreed to manage all or part of their land for conservation, with many of the agreements developed through previous initiatives such as the Protected Areas on Private Land Program. The TLC's involvement with these conservation-minded landholders is a privilege that gives our staff an opportunity to understand the issues faced by landowners who are managing private land for conservation.



Beautiful firetail (*Stagonopleura bella*)
Photo: Chris Tzaros

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 2018-2019 financial year, two new reserves were acquired, adding another 328 ha to the TLC's conservation estate being managed for conservation in perpetuity. Another five properties with conservation covenants, totalling 857 ha, were sold through the Revolving Fund to conservation-minded landholders. The Midlands Conservation Fund maintained 16 stewardship agreements across 4,505 ha. The TLC also facilitated voluntary agreements with 31 landholders for the Land for Wildlife Program, adding 600 ha to the program. See page 20 for our full conservation footprint.

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: The TLC continues to use the world-class reserve system framework to guide decision making about where to secure new reserves, focus our Revolving Fund purchases and encourage future covenants on private land. In the future, we will also use the framework to target membership to the Land for Wildlife Program. The world-class reserve system was developed by the TLC's Science Council (a sub-committee of experts appointed by the TLC Board) and includes a GIS layer and map that can be easily interrogated and updated. For more information see tasland.org.au/projects/world-class-reserve-system-for-tasmania/.



“Buying a TLC Revolving Fund property at Rocka Rivulet/ Green Tier Creek has been one of the best experiences of my life! The purchase of close to 120 ha of native bush, free of weeds, makes me feel particularly pleased that I am doing something positive to protect the natural values of the area. I have spent considerable time at the site including many great walks and campfires with friends. It is great that the TLC is establishing a range of protected areas (including my own) in the Little Swanport Catchment.”

Matthew Cloudsdale



Midlands Conservation Fund

Our continuing partnership with Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) to deliver the Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF) is a great example of conservation innovation in the agricultural landscape. This program has maintained agreement areas across 4,505 ha of Tasmania’s most threatened ecosystems, and we continue to seek opportunities to work with other Midlands farmers to expand conservation management in the region.

An inaugural event, combining the MCF Annual General Meeting and a celebration of the MCF’s achievements, brought together landowners, MCF board members and staff from the TLC and BHA. Ecologists presented on the natural values that are being protected through the MCF, as well as current and potential research. The event was a great opportunity for landowners to gain knowledge and understanding of the various properties that are under MCF agreements in the Midlands, and the natural values that are being managed.

The TLC congratulates landholders who are engaged in the MCF for their commitment to nature conservation on their working farms. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Myer Foundation and the Sidney Myer 2009 Commemorative Grants Program, the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, David Thomas Foundation and other private donors.

Forest Conservation Fund Revolving Fund

The Revolving Fund has had another successful year, with property sales totalling more than \$900,000 across five properties. The highlight for the project has been the on-sale of several properties that have been held for many years, with new buyers being introduced into the conservation community. The link between the Revolving Fund and the TLC’s contract to deliver stewardship services through the Protected Area Partnership Program provides us with excellent opportunities to follow up interactions with new buyers and demonstrates the value of connecting with landowners. We continue to work with our partners, the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments, to deliver the program.

In the 10-year life of the Revolving Fund, more than 6,100 ha have been protected across 58 land titles. This protected area contains 55 threatened flora and fauna species and includes 1,680 ha of under-reserved forest communities and 1,138 ha of old-growth forest. Program staff continue to seek opportunities to purchase land with high conservation values, particularly old-growth forest.

Kingborough Environmental Fund

In May, the TLC began a unique partnership with the Kingborough Council, working with landowners to identify key properties containing a range of high priority vegetation communities and species. The arrangement is new for Tasmania, with the TLC acting as a conduit between the Kingborough Environmental

Fund and local landholders, preparing surveys on natural values in preparation for on-title conservation covenants. With expertise in the landscape, conservation agreements, and landowner relations, the TLC is well placed to deliver quality conservation outcomes for this program.

Land for Wildlife

In February 2019, the TLC commenced delivery of the Land for Wildlife Program in a 12-month transitional agreement with the Tasmanian Government. Growing this long-standing voluntary program will help the TLC contribute to a world-class reserve system in Tasmania, while actively expanding private landholder involvement in conservation. At 30 June 2019, 31 new properties had been registered across 600 ha, with a target of 60 properties and 1,000 ha by January 2020. Some of these new properties contain outstanding conservation values, including threatened black gum forest and breeding colonies of endangered forty-spotted pardalote and swift parrot.

Community Wildlife Monitoring

We continue to trial WildTracker™, the community wildlife monitoring program developed by the TLC. The initiative enables landholders to monitor wildlife on their land using a consistent methodology. Participation in WildTracker™ in 2018-2019 has grown through The Eastern Barred Bandicoot Project, delivered in partnership with NRM North and through monitoring in the Huon Valley, funded by the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Read more on page 23.



2

LOOKING AFTER
NATURE

MISSION 2

The Reserves Team manages all 20 of the TLC's reserves, as well as numerous Revolving Fund and New Leaf properties—covering a total of almost 26,000 ha. Management strategies and actions for all TLC properties are identified and implemented through a Reserves Management Work Schedule. This year, we have completed over 80% of our high priority strategies across all areas under management.

As the TLC's conservation estate continues to grow, so too does the time and effort required to manage our day-to-day activities. With the support of many partners, we continue to reduce threats to the natural values of all our properties.

Ongoing follow up is key to managing the threat of invasive weeds. The continued delivery of the weeding program across our Central Highlands reserves has resulted in more than 42,000 individual plants being treated, following a season for ragwort that was particularly conducive to germination. Spanish heath weed control at the Egg Islands Reserve continues, with outstanding results and very few plants now seeding. This success could not have been achieved without the continued dedication of our volunteers, to whom we are enormously grateful.

Significant work was done in 2019 in response to the Great Pine Tier fire. The fire ignited from a dry lightning strike, approximately 8 km north-west of the TLC's Five Rivers Reserve, and conditions enabled the blaze to travel quickly across the landscape. Fire-trained TLC staff rotated shifts on the fireground during January. Approximately 5,000 ha was burned at

the Five Rivers Reserve, and post-fire follow up on the property has included the rehabilitation of bulldozer tracks associated with access during control efforts, hazardous tree assessments and road clearing. In addition, ongoing fencing repairs along the Marlborough Highway have been undertaken and winter road management was prioritised to address increased surface runoff following the fires.

We wish to sincerely thank the fire crews from the Tasmania Fire Service and Parks and Wildlife Service, along with the Brady's Lake brigade, local landholders and the Central Highlands community for their support during this emergency.

Assessments have commenced, in conjunction with the Clean Energy Regulator (Australian Government), on the impact of the fire on the New Leaf Carbon Project, to determine the medium and long-term ramifications on carbon capture.

Nineteen annual reserve reports have been completed during the 2018-2019 financial year, providing an opportunity to assess reserve condition and adapt priorities in the individual reserve management plans. Keeping reserve data up-to-date is an onerous task, but one that is becoming progressively easier with the adoption of Story Maps—a more contemporary tool for reporting reserve information. Interfacing with geospatial software, ArcGIS, Story Maps combines text, interactive maps and other multimedia content to share information.



Mauve Splitting Waxcap (*Porpolomopsis lewelliniae*) Photo: Andy Townsend

GOALS

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

Progress: Ecological monitoring continues to play a critical role in providing essential data about the condition of our reserves. Information captured guides our conservation management priorities, ensuring that targeted efforts are reviewed annually to guarantee the best results for nature.

As detailed on page 17, information has been captured from a total of 622 monitoring sites in 2018-2019, including 382 flora sites, 186 fauna sites and 25 acoustic stations. The latest technologies provide us with a better picture of what's happening across our reserves. We develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental condition and threats to natural values by tracking species such as introduced fallow deer and feral cats. Motion sensor cameras are used to monitor native species health such as mange in wombat populations and prevalence of the devil facial tumour. Every year, this information helps us to learn more about species and ecosystem wellbeing, then management activities across our suite of reserves can be adapted to enable species to flourish.

Annual reports have been completed for nineteen TLC reserves in 2018-2019 and these are available for the individual properties through tasland.org.au/reserves/.



3

KNOWING
NATURE

MISSION 3

In 2018-2019, the TLC's Science Team completed ecological monitoring on seven reserves—one more than scheduled.

With a streamlined methodology, we can efficiently collect and assess data in minimal time. This enabled the TLC's staff to resurvey the Five Rivers Reserve immediately following last summer's bushfires and to collect critical data on fire impacts before regeneration began.

Since 2014, we have installed 600 fixed monitoring sites across our reserve estate (see table below) and this number will continue to grow as we expand our protected lands and capitalise on new monitoring

technologies. The TLC's monitoring program informs our adaptive reserve management, and its design and application is admired by many other conservation organisations. Not only do we track species response to environmental change, we also collect additional information on the prevalence of fallow deer, feral cats and wombat munge, which helps to build a more comprehensive picture of Tasmania's environmental wellbeing.

UTAS Masters student, Erin Harris, was the first recipient of the TLC's Bird Conservation Fund Research Scholarship in July 2018. Erin's work investigated the effectiveness of conservation covenants on eagle breeding success.

TLC Reserve	Monitoring Installed	Repeat Visits	No of Monitoring Sites in 2018-2019			
			Flora	Fauna	Acoustic	Other
Blue Tier	2017	0	4	3	-	-
Brown Mountain	2016	1	4	4	-	-
Daisy Dell	2018	0	12	5	-	-
Egg Islands	2015	1	10	7	2	-
Five Rivers	2014	5	104	45	6	5
Flat Rock	2014	1	22	10	-	-
Gordonvale	2017	0	11	10	-	-
Liffey	2016	0	4	4	-	-
Little Swanport	2019	0	27	10	4	-
Long Point	2014	2	23	25	5	-
Lutregala Marsh	2016	4	8	6	-	-
Panatana	2017	0	9	9	-	-
Recherche Bay	2015	0	10	10	-	1
Silver Peppermint	2014	5	10	5	-	-
Stony Farm	2014	3	2	2	-	-
The Big Punchbowl	2015	1	21	10	4	1
Tom Hay	2015	2	0	1	-	-
Vale of Belvoir	2014	4	80	15	4	22
Total Sites			382	186	25	29

Opposite: Orbweaver Photo: Andy Townsend



TLC's Head of Science, Dr Sally Bryant
Photo: Matt Newton

GOALS

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. 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 continues to use the world-class reserve system GIS layer and map, developed by the TLC's Science Council. This resource identifies priority areas for protection and underpins our decision making regarding the acquisition of new reserves, Revolving Fund purchases and conservation initiatives working with landholders on private land.

Strengthening our partnerships

Partnerships are critical to deliver conservation outcomes. In 2018-2019, strong partnerships have continued with the state and federal governments, local councils, regional NRM bodies, businesses, landholders, other conservation organisations and research institutes (see the table on page 18).

Leading the way

The development of the Five Rivers Environmental Account, world-class reserve system, citizen science initiatives and applied research projects highlight some of the ways in which the TLC takes a leading role in nature conservation.



Several species of lichens, including *Caloplaca* sp
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 work of the TLC continues to be shared in conservation forums. In 2018-2019, TLC staff have assisted in the development of programs, and in the presentation of content in forums facilitated by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), Ecological Society of Australia (ESA), Island Arks, the Institute of Australian Geographers, International Rangers Conference, UTAS and Greening Australia.

In addition to this, findings from other research collaborations, involving the TLC but led by other partner organisations have been shared across a range of forums.

We frequently share program information and expert knowledge with UTAS students as guest lecturers in ecology and various geography and environmental studies subjects. Additionally, we are regular participants and presenters in information forums with conservation landholders, fire ecologists and fire management professionals.

TLC staff continue to publish papers and technical reports in our areas of expertise, adding our voice to the latest scientific discourse.

Erin's thesis, which was awarded a High Distinction, highlighted the importance of proximity to roads and percentage of forest cover on nest disturbance. Issues such as property buffers and prescriptions for agricultural land were identified as requiring more research in the future. In June 2019, the results of Erin's research were introduced to bird conservation supporters at the home of Dr Sally Bryant, the TLC's Head of Science.

Over time, the research stimulated by this scholarship will help drive conservation efforts across the Tasmanian landscape, particularly on private land. We sincerely thank Tania Stadler for donating the first stipend through the TLC Foundation's Bird Conservation Fund.

Strong partnerships, particularly with UTAS, continue to grow our research portfolio and focus the spotlight on the TLC's reserves (see table below). Pest species, especially deer and feral cats,

are impacting habitat and wildlife, so it is critical for us to be active in this space. This year, the TLC's monitoring on Lutregala Marsh identified approximately five cats on the reserve, despite ongoing efforts by the Bruny Island Cat-Free program.

The impact of fallow deer in Tasmania is being investigated at Five Rivers Reserve and Silver Plains (TLC's New Leaf property in the Central Highlands), in partnership with UTAS and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. Silver Plains was also the release site for four healthy Tasmanian devils—each free of facial tumour disease—that were relocated from Maria Island.

Further north, monitoring of the ptunarra brown butterfly and threatened plants at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve continues to track population trends. This ongoing program would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers who so generously contribute their time and expertise.

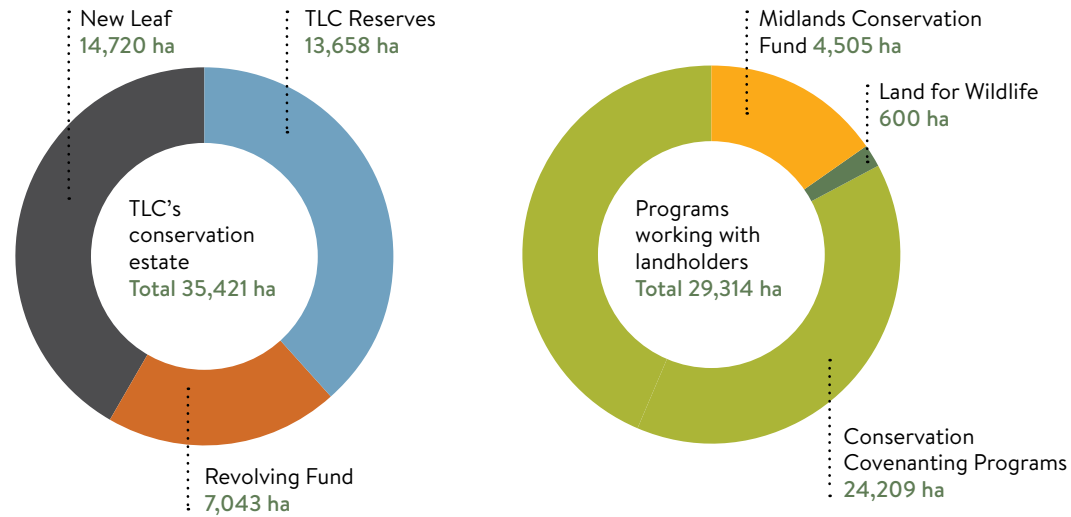
2018-2019 Research Collaborations	Partner / Investigator / University
Effectiveness of covenants on protecting eagle nesting	E Harris - UTAS
Impact of fallow deer in Tasmania	C Johnston - UTAS
Cost effective management of fallow deer	D Forsyth - Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, NSW Primary Industries
Aging of sphagnum peatlands on Skullbone Plains (final year)	G Hope - ANU
Acoustic bird monitoring using citizen science (final year)	S Whitmore - NRM South, STT, UTAS
Status of the Tasmanian devil in the Derwent Valley and Bronte	Save The Tasmanian Devil Program
Release of disease-free Tasmanian devils at Silver Plains	Save The Tasmanian Devil Program
Feral cat management on Bruny Island	Kingborough Council, DPIPWE, UTAS
Status of Clarence galaxias on Skullbone Plains	Inland Fisheries Service
Threatened grassland plants and ptunarra brown butterfly monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir Reserve (ongoing)	DPIPWE, Threatened Plants Tasmania
Global warming on grassland ecosystems (ongoing)	M Hovenden - UTAS
Productivity of eagle nests on TLC Reserves (ongoing)	Forest Practices Authority
Reconstructing climate change at the Vale of Belvoir (ongoing)	M Shawn-Fletcher - ANU
Research into sea level rise (Lutregala Marsh monitoring site)	Dr P Moss - UQ
Acoustic monitoring Skullbone Plains (national project)	Australian Acoustic Observatory, UQ



OUR CONSERVATION FOOTPRINT

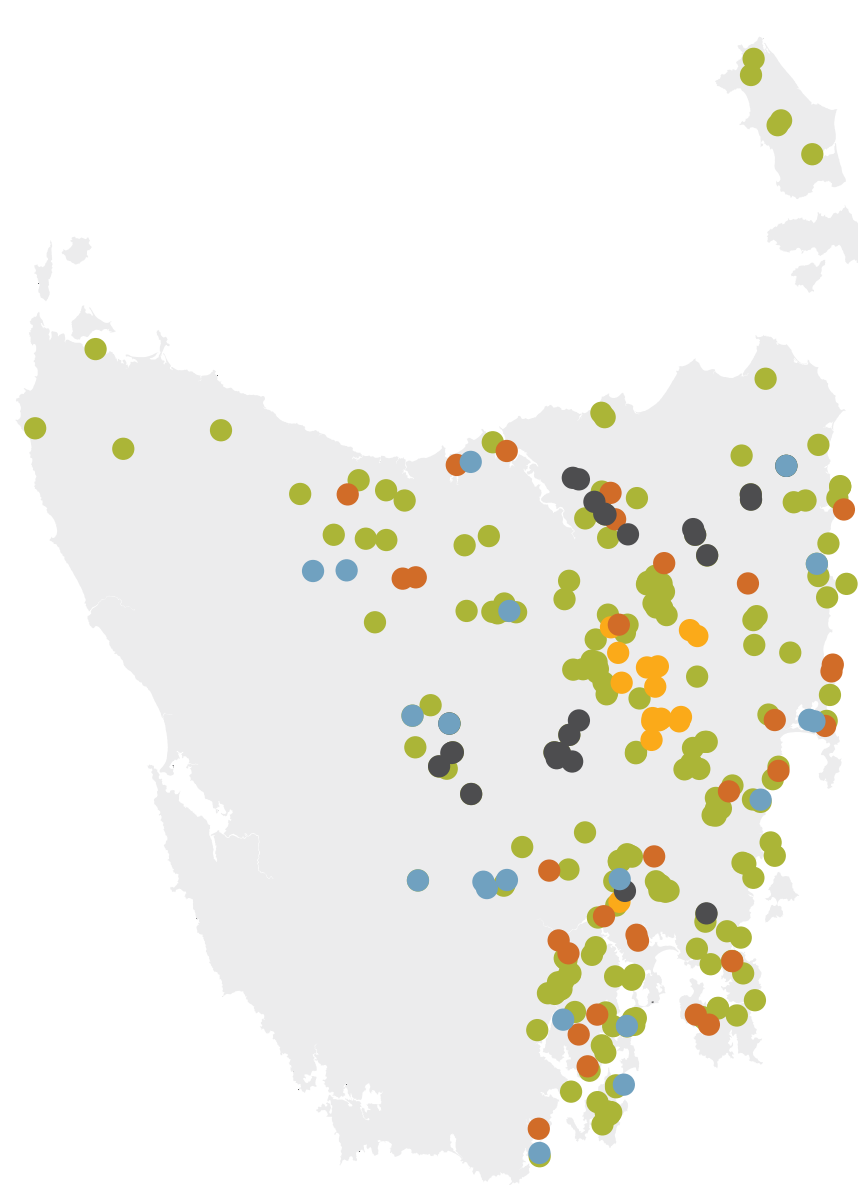
LAND PROTECTED BY TLC ACTIVITY

Total 64,735 ha



TLC 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	Donations	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
Stony Farm Reserve	22	Gifted	2015	Draft 2017
Panatana Reserve	54	Donations	2016	Draft 2017
Daisy Dell Reserve	105	Donations	2017	Draft 2017
Tall Trees Reserve	168	Gifted	2019	Scheduled 2019
Little Swanport Reserve	157	Donations	2019	Draft 2019
Total	13,658***			

NRS – National Reserve System
 *Skullbone Plains accounted for separately in this table
 **The Big Punchbowl Reserve area includes the extension completed in 2017-18
 ***These numbers may vary from year to year due to updates in the accuracy of the cadastral layers



- Revolving Fund properties
- TLC Reserves
- New Leaf properties
- Midlands Conservation Fund properties
- Conservation Covenanting Programs

TLC RESERVES

The TLC now has 20 reserves across the state. From Gordonvale to Recherche Bay and Egg Islands, from the Vale of Belvoir to Skullbone Plains and The Big Punchbowl, these reserves are the jewels in the TLC's conservation crown. We use the world-class reserve system framework to prioritise our conservation efforts, including land acquisition for the TLC's growing suite of reserves. Various elements are rated in the matrix including species present, habitat values, threats to the natural values, connectivity in the landscape and community context.

We were thrilled to add two new reserves to the TLC's suite in 2018-2019 – Little Swanport and Tall Trees, near Ellendale.

20 (13,658 ha)
Total reserves

2 (328 ha)
New reserves in 18/19

REVOLVING FUND

Since its establishment in 2007, the Revolving Fund has protected approximately 6,100 ha of natural ecosystems in Tasmania, spanning across 58 titles. Over 1,680 ha of under-reserved forest communities (bioregional, state and/or nationally listed) and 1,138 ha of old growth have been protected. What's more, these properties are being sold to conservation-minded landholders who are committed to managing the natural values onsite. Five Revolving Fund properties were sold in 2018-2019, further expanding Tasmania's conservation estate and conservation community.

5,855 ha
Total sold with conservation covenants on-title

5 (857 ha)
New properties sold in 18/19

Additional land is owned by the TLC and on the market or under contract.

THE MIDLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Through the Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF), the TLC, in partnership with Bush Heritage Australia, continues to maintain stewardship agreements with key property owners in the Tasmanian Midlands to protect and manage temperate grasslands and grassy woodlands. Identified as one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, the Tasmanian Midlands is rich in endemic and endangered species. The MCF brings farmers and conservationists together to help protect important habitats on working farms through information sharing, the development of stewardship agreements, supported management for the natural values onsite and conservation payments. We continue to seek opportunities to work with key landholders to expand conservation efforts in the area.

16 (4,505 ha)
Total stewardship agreements

100%
Agreements maintained in 18/19

LAND FOR WILDLIFE

In February 2019, the TLC commenced delivery of the Land for Wildlife Program in a 12 month transitional agreement with the Tasmanian Government. Our aim to grow this long-standing voluntary conservation program will help to secure a world-class reserve in Tasmania and will actively involve private landholders in nature conservation. Some of the properties registered this year contain outstanding conservation values including threatened black gum forest and breeding colonies of endangered forty-spotted pardalote and swift parrot.

600 ha
Land added to the program

31
New landholders registered in 18/19



4

INNOVATING FOR
NATURE

MISSION 4

The TLC remains committed to the further development of the Econd. Converted from ecological monitoring data, this common unit of measurement was created by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists to track the co-benefit of biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Our Five Rivers Reserve data now represents the most comprehensive environmental account produced by a conservation organisation. The Econd value for Five Rivers decreased this year in areas where forest cover, floristic diversity and structural complexity were severely impacted by fire. Data from the Vale of Belvoir Reserve will form our next environmental account as we assess natural reference condition measures for this grassland landscape. The Econd methodology continues to gain attention across the nation, with the TLC's Head of Science, Dr Sally Bryant, introducing the Five Rivers Reserve Environmental Account at several recent forums, including the 2018 National Private Land Conservation Conference, which was delivered by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA).

Through ALCA, the TLC keeps up-to-date with current trends and initiatives in conservation finance. We also maintain approximately 15,000 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) per annum through the TLC's New Leaf Carbon Project. These can be sold on the open market or through the Clean Energy Regulator. Over the last six years, the TLC's ACCUs have been bought by Virgin Australia for passengers opting in to offset their carbon miles.

Our commitment to informing and promoting conservation actions through ecological monitoring is extending beyond the TLC's properties. WildTracker™ is a citizen-science wildlife monitoring program developed by the TLC and trialled over the past three years. The initiative enables landholders to monitor wildlife on their land and in their local area using a consistent methodology. Collected data is scientifically rigorous, and contributes to regional and state-wide assessments of wildlife in Tasmania. It is also used to target conservation actions to species most in need, especially threatened or less-known species. Participation in WildTracker™ has grown in 2018-2019. The Eastern Barred Bandicoot Project, delivered in partnership with NRM North, involved 70 property owners, collected data from 105 sites, and included three training and two feedback workshops. In addition, efforts funded through the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program continued in the Huon Valley, where 36 property owners collected data from 48 sites, and training and feedback workshops were also conducted. The tremendous success of the trials, underpinned by the findings of an independent scoping study, led the TLC to trademark WildTracker™ and we are currently investigating the development of a WildTracker™ digital platform.



Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)
Photo: Heath Holden

GOALS

Goal 4.1 The TLC will be recognised by staff, supporters and others as having a culture of innovation.

Progress: The TLC continues to embrace new opportunities that strategically align with our missions. From the opt-in contribution towards the Little Swanport campaign for Dark Mofo ticket buyers, to delivering the Land for Wildlife program, we credit ourselves on trying new things.

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

Progress: The TLC's WildTracker™ citizen science initiative is expanding ecological monitoring at a landscape scale to improve data on species distribution. Furthermore, with six years of consecutive data, the Environmental Account for Five Rivers Reserve, developed with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists now provides the most comprehensive environmental account produced by a conservation organisation that measures condition in the landscape.

Goal 4.3 Expand returns from ecosystem service enterprises.

Progress: The New Leaf Carbon Project (NLCP) continues to provide funding for the TLC's nature conservation work through the sale of ACCUs.



5
INVOLVING
PEOPLE

MISSION 5

As ever, the TLC's work is reliant on the involvement of a committed community of people—from our volunteers, donors and Natural Guardians (people who plan to leave a gift to the TLC in their will), to our reserve neighbours and conservation-minded landholders. Without the support of this conservation community, our achievements would stall.

Connecting supporters and the local community to the TLC's reserves through our Discovery Days remains a powerful way to show nature conservation in action. In September 2018, we held an East Coast Discovery Weekend, during which over 100 people visited The Big Punchbowl and/or Little Swanport reserves. Then, in April, more than 80 TLC supporters were treated to a day at the Daisy Dell Reserve and neighbouring Iris Farm Nature Reserve. At both events, a range of experts (including staff and special guests) introduced the values of the properties from indigenous, ecological, creative and community-based perspectives.

The Discovery Days, and our connections to these places, are enriched through stories and we are indebted to all the presenters for sharing theirs with everyone who attended. Special thanks also goes to Daisy Dell Reserve neighbours Gary Clark, John Wilson, Peter Sims (and their dog Jessie), and to the TLC's volunteers for supporting the delivery of the Discovery Days.

Volunteering has been part of the TLC's DNA from its inception, and continues to be central to our work. From helping coordinate our Discovery Days to providing good governance, from treating weeds to assessing motion sensor camera images and preparing our newsletter for the quarterly mailout, every volunteer contributes directly to the achievement of the TLC's strategic goals. Volunteers are ever-present in all that we do to protect nature—active across every program, in every team and at every reserve.

The Natural Guardians Program continues to grow, with more supporters confirming their intention to leave a lasting gift to the TLC in their will. Making this pledge to nature is one of the most powerful contributions that supporters can make to our conservation work. We continue to deliver an annual reserve visit to say thank you and offer our Natural Guardians a first-hand experience of the places they are helping us to protect and manage. In 2018, our Natural Guardians were invited to explore the spectacular Vale of Belvoir Reserve, alongside TLC staff and special guests. We encourage people who have included the TLC in their will to let us know about their extraordinary decision, so we can thank them personally and invite them on these special trips.



Weeding on 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 \$754,964*. In 2018-2019, 641 volunteer days were contributed by 159 individual volunteers. This continues a trend towards increased contribution from each individual volunteer. The conservative replacement cost of this contribution equals \$180,416.04*, for which the TLC is extremely grateful. For the first year, the TLC will be following the new national accounting standard to put the contribution of volunteers (replacement value) on the financial papers, see tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/.

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



Ahmet Bektas and Mel Lambourne, Teros
Photo: Keshia Saarman-Jones

“After working on aid and environmental projects on three continents, Melinda and I experienced a world of wonder and pain. The one thing that was absolutely clear was that our planet needs all the love it can get. We aim to embody this with Teros by providing products and workshops for a greener way of living and also by giving back a part of our revenue to improve our environment. As personal supporters and sometime volunteers with the TLC, we’ve seen how it has helped protect habitats and given Tasmania’s unique plants and animals a better chance for the future. We’ve been delighted that Teros’ donations have helped the TLC secure the purchase of Little Swanport and thus provide an important oasis for our delightful swift parrots.”

Ahmet Bektas, Teros

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 continues to guide activities to build brand recognition and media exposure through well-crafted communication. Currently, approximately 5,500 people receive the TLC’s quarterly newsletter. Additionally, our social media following is around 6,800 subscribers who help to extend our reach to new 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 detail the benefits of nature conservation, beyond the ecological.

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

Progress: Through the generosity of local, interstate and international supporters, almost \$3 million was received across all our fundraising programs in the 2018-2019 financial year. These came in various forms, from regular giving every month and donations to the Little Swanport campaign, to gifts to the TLC Foundation and bequests.

In May 2019, the inaugural reserve visit for TLC Foundation Fund founders and affiliates was held at The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Like the Natural Guardians reserve visits, this will become an annual excursion, specially crafted for the Foundation’s major supporters. At this year’s event, TLC staff introduced our acoustic monitoring program, which has been funded by interest earned off the Foundation’s endowment.

Guests were also joined by Dr Douglas Quin (sound designer at Syracuse University) and Dr Carolyn Philpott (musicologist at UTAS), who hosted a cross-disciplinary acoustic workshop with the TLC at Daisy Dell and the Vale of Belvoir earlier in the year. A clip was compiled from the workshop, exploring the sounds of nature as an ecological and creative informant, and this was launched at the beginning of the Foundation Fund founders reserve visit.

The opportunity for the TLC to work with Carolyn came about through a forum at Tarraleah in September 2018. Initiated by Ben Richardson from UTAS, the cross-disciplinary gathering explored themes of aesthetics, education, the creative arts, storytelling and nature conservation, and featured an excursion to the TLC’s Skullbone Plains.

We continue to recognise creative collaborations as important avenues to connect new audiences to nature conservation and our work. At the beginning of 2018, a Nature-based Arts Advisory Committee was established by the TLC’s Board to

make recommendations that ensure any major arts initiatives involving the TLC are strategic, based on our reserves, and aligned to our conservation objectives.

Sharing our message to new and existing supporters is an important part of our ongoing communication effort. We continue to reach out to our community through our quarterly newsletters, social media platforms and website content. Throughout the year, we have also released press statements and responded to media enquiries on particular conservation topics aligned to our mission.

In addition, the TLC has been part of various outreach events this year— from the Festival of Bright Ideas, to a Sydney supporter function, held at the Surry Hills home of board member Clare Bower and her partner, Ian Breedon.

We’re proud of our long and fruitful partnership with UTAS. This year, the TLC hosted Environmental Studies post-graduate, work-integrated learning placement students, as well as the recipient of the Bird Conservation Fund Research Scholarship—UTAS Masters student, Erin Harris (see page 17). Interns and post-graduate students gain exposure to conservation in practice, while also making significant contributions to the TLC’s ecological monitoring, reserve planning and applied research. We extend our thanks to all the UTAS students who’ve contributed to the TLC over the past year.



860 active donors



198 confirmed bequestors



641 volunteer days



188 regular donors
(giving every fortnight or month)



159 active volunteers



\$180,416 replacement cost of volunteer activities*

*Replacement cost 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. Overall value of volunteering to the community was calculated using Volunteering Tasmania's 'Value of Volunteering Calculator'.



6

LEADING FOR
NATURE

MISSION 6

There has never been a more important time for strong leadership in nature conservation. The rapid rate of change across our society, technology, and the environment requires us to reconsider the most effective mechanisms to protect nature in Tasmania. Current and forecast trends, and the threats and opportunities they bring, are all being considered as the TLC Board reviews the organisation's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The new 2020-2025 Strategic Plan will be developed in the next financial year, continuing our commitment to achieve the very best results for the protection and management of important habitat within our state.

The TLC's strengths as an organisation are underpinned by solid governance, financial sustainability, and our people—from business partners to donors, staff and volunteers. These attributes are leveraged by our understanding of the private land conservation sector in Australia, and particularly in Tasmania.

2018-2019 has been a year of hard work, innovation and consolidation. The TLC has now transitioned to a new customer relationship management platform that enhances our ability to understand and connect with our stakeholders and the broader community. The system streamlines the way information is managed, while providing the capacity to integrate across programs, including the capture of land-based data.

This year, our Conservation Business Team embarked on an overhaul of the TLC's budgeting process. This has achieved a well-structured, detailed budget with higher levels of team ownership and accountability. The Risk and Audit Committee (appointed by the TLC Board), continues to look for ways to improve the transparency and detail in our financial reporting. Find the Annual Financial Report at tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/newsletters-and-annual-reports/.

At the TLC we value people and this year, we implemented a new system to maintain and enhance the performance of our staff, while also nourishing the TLC's organisational culture and individual wellbeing. Feedback-Feedforward is designed to maximise staff effectiveness and delivery, with an approach that aspires to meet the needs of individual staff members while investing in open dialogue. Through frequent two-way conversations between staff and managers, this system promises to improve productivity, satisfaction and wellbeing in our workplace.

In December 2018, the Risk and Audit Committee undertook a risk management workshop to identify the TLC's organisational risk and ensure that we have appropriate management strategies in place. A policy review is now in progress, to strengthen our risk management and ensure compliance with current legislation and regulatory frameworks.



TLC's Conservation Ecologist, Matt Taylor, at the Little Swanport Discovery Day Photo: Eddie Safarik

GOALS

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

Progress: We remain committed to effective governance across the organisation, from the board and CEO, to the management team. In the previous financial year (2017-2018), the Risk and Audit Committee endorsed the TLC's Good Governance Policy, which was then approved by the TLC Board. The policy will be assessed in the year ahead as part of a broader policy review schedule.

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

Progress: As we near the end of the current strategic plan, the TLC strengthens a range of income streams, mitigating the risk of reliance on any one source. Our carbon project continues to provide income within the domestic market to fund operations, while the Revolving Fund generates resources to leverage conservation opportunities. The TLC Foundation continues to grow through donations as well as realised and unrealised capital gains that have occurred during the year. Other philanthropy programs also generate income through our acquisition campaigns, regular giving and bequests. Corporate engagement is also growing with businesses facilitating giving pathways for clients or making donations themselves.



THE TLC FOUNDATION

Since its establishment in 2009, the TLC Foundation has provided critical support for the effective conservation management of our suite of reserves, comprising more than 13,000 ha of significant habitat.

Looking after our protected areas is fundamental to ensuring their continued function as safe havens for the future. Threats to the reserves' natural values must be addressed, their ecological condition monitored, and management adapted to give our diverse species the best chance to flourish.

As an endowment fund, the TLC Foundation enables the independent, long-term resourcing required to guarantee that this mighty work is achieved.

Capital from the Foundation is ethically invested to provide a reliable source of income for the long-term conservation management of the TLC's reserves. The Foundation continues to be managed by JBWere, and is overseen by the TLC Foundation Committee. A sub-committee of the TLC Board, the Foundation Committee operates under strong and transparent governance arrangements. This committee comprises Jennie Churchill (Chair/current board member), Susan Gough (independent/former board member), Erika Korosi (current board member), Sam McCullough (independent/former board member) and Stephen Atkinson (independent). The Foundation's

annually reviewed Investment Policy Statement guides investment management and includes a robust and environmentally responsible ethical screening process. Gifts are preserved to generate return while managing risk.

Through the generosity of TLC supporters, the TLC Foundation has continued to grow during the 2018-2019 financial year with a capital contribution of \$1,147,709. This includes \$747,709 in donations and bequests, and \$400,000 from the Little Swanport campaign for the ongoing management of the Reserve. The number of named funds has increased by another five, and many existing named funds continue to grow through the generous support of fund founders and personal supporters.

With the growth in the Foundation through donations and positive returns on investments, we're edging closer to achieving sustainable funding for the effective ongoing conservation management of the TLC's current reserves—including continued weed control, maintaining property access, and ecological monitoring.

TLC FOUNDATION FUNDS

as at 30 June 2019

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
Bush Science Fund
Cameron Blackburn Fund
Cathy Gibbons Fund
Chris Harwood Fund
Bower and Breedon Family 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 and Norah Donne Fund
Janet Cohen Fund
Julie Fakes Fund
June Fisher Fund
Jupe Family Fund
Luan & Yoong Fund
Maggie Nettleship Bird Fund
Maureen Tarleton Fund
M & M Temple-Smith
Grandchildren Fund
Marshall Family Fund
Michael Buxton Fund
Nathan Males & Malbarry Family Fund
Naylor Bird Fund
Peter and Karen Cosier Fund
Peter Lemon Fund
Peter Riedel Fund
Potts Family Fund
Prior Family Fund
Samantha Jane Hignett Fund
Snack Fund
Solas Fund
Susan Gough Fund
Tania Stadler Fund
Tertini Foundation Fund
Thomas and Grace Couser Fund
Tom Hay Bequest Fund
Twin Gums Fund
Von Bibra Fund
Warwick Ashley Elpidos Fund

Bequests

Carolyn Parsons
Elizabeth Anne James
Helga Anna Wilhelmine Thompson
Isa Mitchell
Jill Roberts
Joan Parnell
Joseph Bedford
Josephine Upcher
John Thompson
Mary Jane Slover
Pamela Rothwell
Stephen Blanden



Fencing at Daisy Dell Reserve Photo: Phill Laroche

“Rob and I established the Jack and Norah Donne Foundation Fund in memory of my parents because we could see the critical need for the TLC to have the ongoing capacity to care for – with scientific rigour – its magnificent reserves into the future. Since then, my role as Chair of the Foundation Committee has given me hands-on knowledge of, and even greater confidence in, the Foundation’s exceptional governance processes and prudent investment policies.”

Jennie Churchill

The income generated in 2018-2019 has provided funding for the following activities:

2018-2019 KEY ON-GROUND RESERVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Trained TLC staff worked alongside authorities responding to the Great Pine Tier fire, which burned around 5,000 ha of the TLC’s Five Rivers Reserve. Our efforts were subsequently directed to rehabilitation and access maintenance throughout the reserve. Fire management planning across our reserve estate continues, with the support of an expert volunteer fire ecologist.
- Although delayed due to the summer fires, our targeted weeding program continued at Five Rivers Reserve. Volunteers worked beside TLC staff to continue our efforts to control gorse, ragwort and mullein for the eighth consecutive year.
- Weed control also continued at the Liffey Reserve, with the treatment of foxglove now in its seventh consecutive year. While the number of plants continues to decrease, efforts must be maintained due to surrounding infestations.
- At Egg Islands Reserve in the Huon River, we conducted our tenth year of Spanish heath control. Persistent annual efforts from staff and volunteers have prevented the re-establishment of this tenacious invader. This year, only 1,838 individual plants were found over four days of weeding.

- Follow-up weed control was conducted at The Big Punchbowl Reserve, on the east coast, in spring. The network of tracks on the property has been maintained and signage has been installed to enhance the experience of visitors.
- Likewise, TLC staff have installed new fencing and walking track signage and completed track maintenance at Flat Rock Reserve, in Tasmania’s south. Work has also been completed to upgrade access and manage the track network at the TLC’s Daisy Dell Reserve, near Cradle Valley.
- Opportunities for people to visit Skullbone Plains, at Five Rivers Reserve, have been maintained this year, thanks to the TLC’s upgrade of seven kilometres of road. The road upgrades also ensure adequate access for science and management activities. As part of our annual general maintenance program, culverts and table drains across the reserve were also checked and cleaned out.
- Access management at Five Rivers included the installation of four km of fencing along the Marlborough Highway to ensure the reserve’s natural values remain protected from unauthorised access. Preventing illegal trespassing across all reserves remains a significant ongoing task.
- In May, one new staff member was appointed to the Reserves Team to help us reach our target of completing 100% of all high priority land management activities across the TLC’s reserves, every year.

2018-2019 KEY ON-GROUND RESERVE CONSERVATION SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Ecological monitoring was repeated across seven reserves this year (Five Rivers, Vale of Belvoir, Long Point, Silver Peppermint, Lutregala Marsh, Tom Hay and Little Swanport Reserve), with data collected from a total of 595 sites (382 vegetation, 186 fauna and 25 acoustic).
- In addition, annual assessments for the ptunarra brown butterfly and threatened grassland flora were undertaken at 22 monitoring sites on the Vale of Belvoir. Five eagle nests were also checked for their breeding status.
- The data collected from the TLC’s Lutregala Marsh continues to inform the Bruny Island Cat Management Program. Our four years of records show that cat numbers remain steady at four-to-five individuals on the reserve, despite ongoing removal efforts. Likewise, fallow deer numbers have remained stable in spite of island-wide culling.
- Images from our motion sensor cameras have been scored, data analysed, and annual reserve reports compiled and published at tasland.org.au/reserves. These reserve reports provide a scorecard that shows the health, condition and key actions undertaken on every TLC reserve during the year.
- In the previous reporting period, The Big Punchbowl Reserve was extended along the northern boundary by 70 ha. During 2018, geology and vegetation surveys were conducted on the new section by expert volunteers.



Egg Islands Reserve Photo: Rob Blakers

- A reserve management plan was completed for Panatana Reserve and a comprehensive background report also compiled for Little Swanport. As the TLC’s latest acquisition, a reserve management plan has also been drafted.
- The TLC’s monitoring program is demonstrating its value following the Great Pine Tier fire. Six consecutive years of data monitoring at the Five Rivers Reserve has built an invaluable picture that will enable us to assess the rate of post-fire vegetation recovery. Motion sensor cameras are enabling us to track changes in feral cat and deer numbers, and the prevalence of devil facial tumour disease and wombat mange. Ecological monitoring continues to guide reserve management priorities across the TLC’s reserves.
- The TLC’s Five Rivers Environmental Account was officially launched at the National Private Land Conservation Conference in Brisbane in October 2018—a global first for a conservation organisation! A collaboration with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, this methodology has converted the reserve’s ecological monitoring data into a common unit of measurement (Econds). Like a carbon credit, Econds have the potential to underpin future biodiversity markets and return financial benefits for on-ground conservation management.
- Ten song meters were purchased through the Foundation’s Bird Conservation Fund (BCF), enabling us to embed acoustic monitoring into our long-term ecological program. While we await the development of recognisers and automated software to interpret the collected sound, its safe storage means we will have multiple years of data ready to analyse in the future.
- The first recipient of the BCF research scholarship was Erin Harris, a UTAS Masters student who investigated the effectiveness of conservation covenants on eagle breeding success in Tasmania. We congratulate Erin on the quality of her thesis, which earned a High Distinction.
- Three UTAS intern students and a bevy of committed volunteers have once again given their time and expertise to help us deliver a highly successful 2018-2019 science program.

TLC FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Opening balance	\$12,017,614
Capital contribution	\$1,152,709
Income generated	\$645,091
Market value movement	\$458,371
Costs*	-\$64,589
Income remitted to the TLC	-\$279,000
Closing balance	\$13,930,196

* Comprised of JBWere management fees and transaction fees on trades made during the year.
NOTE: these figures are still in draft, pending the finalisation of the Financial Statements and JBWere Tax Statements.



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



Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc

Auditor's Independence Declaration

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Dear Members

As auditor for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc for the year ended 30 June 2019, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

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

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

Yours sincerely

.....
Michael Burnett B.Com.F.C.A.
Registered Company Auditor: 281
Partner
Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Dated: 16 / 10 / 2019

Level 1, 18 Ross Avenue,
Rosny Park, 7018
PO Box 26, Rosny Park, 7018
Tasmania, Australia

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OFFICERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Your officers present this report to the members of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2019. The names of each person who has been an officer during the year and to the date of this report, and the total number of meetings attended by each officer are:

Name	Position	Date appointed	Date of cessation	Meetings attended	Meetings eligible to attend
Mr Stuart Barry	Chair	Oct-09	-	5	6
Ms Jennie Churchill	Vice chair	Nov-12	-	5	6
Ms Clare Bower	Member	Feb-18	-	6	6
Mr Peter Cosier	Member	Oct-10	-	4	6
Mr Peter Downie	Member	Nov-12	-	3	6
Ms Erika Korosi	Member	Nov-15	-	2	6
Prof Ted Lefroy	Member	Nov-15	-	4	6
Ms Lyn Maddock	Member	Oct-09	Nov-18	0	2
Mr Nathan Males	Member	Nov-15	-	5	6
Mr Mark Temple-Smith	Member	Nov-16	-	5	6
Mr Julian von Bibra	Member	Nov-16	-	6	6

Details of officers' qualifications, experience and special responsibilities can be found on page 7 of the Annual Financial Report.

THE TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY'S 2050 VISION FOR TASMANIA

Our vision is for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation.

THE TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY'S 2050 MISSION

In partnership with other organisations, communities, individuals and governments, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy 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 of 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.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy 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 auditor's declaration of independence appears on page 5 of the Annual Financial Report and forms part of the officers report for the year ended 30 June 2019. Signed in accordance with a resolution of the officers.

On behalf of the committee:



Stuart Barry

Chair

Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Hobart, 17 October 2019

OUR COMMITMENT



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. 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. We seek to continually improve our processes to achieve these goals, and to deliver more conservation outcomes. 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 expenses with full disclosure of expenditure provided in our Annual Financial Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Bower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Bower
Chair
TLC Risk and Audit Committee

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Donations and bequests		2,302,582	2,596,285
Grants received		345,250	441,707
Carbon income		213,675	213,675
Consultancy services		155,229	53,280
Interest received		52,401	41,086
Reserve income		23,248	14,925
Sales income		6,337	75,012
Rental income		6,390	3,059
Franking credits received		-	71,655
Payments to suppliers and employees		-2,144,547	-3,174,094
Other		4,889	86,645
Net cash flows from operating activities	21	965,454	423,236
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sales of property		895,379	1,533,517
Purchases of plant and equipment		-37,713	-26,100
Purchases of properties		-528,322	-1,048,676
Contributions to Foundation Funds		-1,226,015	-533,383
Net cash flows from investing activities		-896,672	-74,642
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Loans advanced		5,000	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-162,737
Net cash flows from financing activities		5,000	-162,737
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		73,782	185,858
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		3,939,869	3,754,011
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	10	4,013,651	3,939,869

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

STATEMENT OF INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$
INCOME			
Donations and bequests	3	2,812,217	3,079,065
Project and consultancy services	5	562,484	576,947
Conservation grants		347,940	372,336
Contributed labour (volunteering)		180,416	263,503
Carbon income	12	194,250	194,250
Foundation redemption	4	135,000	180,000
Five Rivers redemption	4	144,000	192,000
Interest income		52,401	41,086
Sale of properties	13	-162,843	467,149
Reserve income		16,425	13,459
Sundry income		11,760	71,095
TOTAL INCOME		4,294,049	5,450,892
EXPENSES			
Employment	6	1,363,249	1,315,015
Conservation management	7	512,061	505,990
Organisational support	8	273,496	294,877
Contributed labour (volunteering)		180,416	263,503
Fundraising and engagement	9	172,472	275,987
Vehicles (fuel and maintenance)		48,542	36,042
Depreciation		26,482	27,447
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,576,719	2,718,861
NET OPERATING SURPLUS		1,717,330	2,732,030
OTHER INCOME			
TLC Foundation income	4	759,872	482,497
CURRENT YEAR EARNINGS		2,477,202	3,214,528

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

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and equivalents	10	4,013,651	3,939,869
TLC Foundation funds	4	13,930,196	12,017,614
Receivables		193,435	257,600
Total current assets		18,137,281	16,215,083
Non-current assets			
Permanent reserves	11	16,613,647	16,103,647
New Leaf properties	12	8,443,663	8,443,663
Revolving Fund properties	13	2,807,754	3,348,154
Other properties	14	510,500	500,000
Plant and equipment	15	77,688	66,457
Total non-current assets		28,453,252	28,461,920
TOTAL ASSETS		46,590,533	44,677,003
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	16	125,436	213,879
Unexpended grants	17	4,024,991	4,360,943
Provision for employee entitlements	18	230,335	241,283
Total current liabilities		4,380,762	4,816,105
Non-current liabilities			
Capital provisions	19	216,268	264,735
Private loans	20	75,000	157,668
Provision for employee entitlements	18	26,851	24,045
Total non-current liabilities		318,118	446,448
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,698,881	5,262,553
NET ASSETS		41,891,652	39,414,450
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		39,414,450	36,199,922
Current year earnings		2,477,202	3,214,528
Total equity		41,891,652	39,414,450

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/

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc.

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 2019, 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 committee statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

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 *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and for such internal control as the Committee 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 is 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Burnett'.

.....
Michael Burnett B.Com.F.C.A.
Registered Company Auditor: 281
Partner
Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Dated: 16 / 10 / 2019



TASMANIAN
LAND
CONSERVANCY

VALUES

AT THE TLC WE VALUE:

NATURE – FOR NATURE’S SAKE AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANKIND.

PEOPLE – WE RESPECT THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE, CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES AND WE TREAT EACH OTHER EQUALLY AND FAIRLY.

INQUIRY – SCIENCE, RESEARCH, CURIOSITY AND QUESTIONING LEADS TO INNOVATION.

COLLABORATION – WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN PARTNERSHIP THAN ON OUR OWN.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY – OUR SUPPORTERS PUT THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN US TO DELIVER NATURE CONSERVATION RESULTS.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTONOMY – TO SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OUR ORGANISATION.

EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND RESULTS – BECAUSE WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT ACHIEVING NATURE CONSERVATION FOR NATURE ITSELF AND FOR THE WELLBEING OF PEOPLE, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

The TLC acknowledges the 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

