



WINTER 2018

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Old-growth blue gum stands tall at Little Swanport, with Maria Island in the background. Photo: Andy Townsend

Conservation successes are built on a foundation of vision, leadership and tangible outcomes that galvanise communities, gather momentum and build trust throughout society. The TLC is consistently looking for new and exciting ways to achieve nature conservation by engaging citizens in applied science, showcasing nature's values through literature and art, and providing opportunities for people to connect to nature.

Throughout years working as an ecologist, and as a passionate conservationist, I believe in the human connection to nature and the power of involving people in conservation to achieve lasting change. It is

therefore a great privilege to continue this journey as the TLC's new CEO, following seven remarkable years from Jane Hutchinson. I deeply thank the TLC Board for this opportunity and Jane for her unwavering leadership and commitment to the TLC. It is fair to say I have some large shoes to fill.

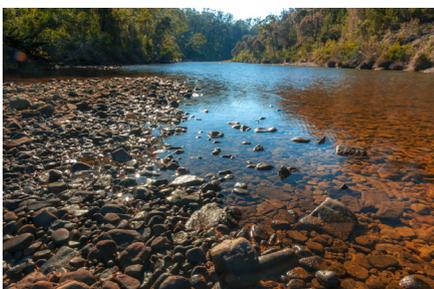
It is also with great excitement that in this newsletter we introduce our latest campaign to purchase and protect Little Swanport. Little Swanport is surrounded by a patchwork of private and public reserves where only a quarter of old-growth blue gum forest remains. Securing the property will provide an important ecological link within this landscape, and help

to prevent fragmentation of habitat that underpins the area's biodiversity significance. We sincerely thank those who have already donated, and encourage others to join us in ensuring Little Swanport's protection.

The TLC has achieved so many incredible results since its humble beginnings in 2001. Yet there is still much more to be done to protect nature for future generations, and grow our conservation community by instilling a fundamental value of nature and people. I look forward to continuing that journey with you.

James Hattam
Chief Executive Officer

HIGHLIGHTS



Aquatic and terrestrial habitats meet at Little Swanport. Photo: Andy Townsend

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Discover why Little Swanport in Tasmania's south-east will make a vital addition to the state's protected area network of permanent reserves.



Newly appointed CEO James Hattam talks with supporters at Flat Rock Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

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Learn more about our exciting new CEO transition, as we farewell Jane Hutchinson and welcome James Hattam into the TLC's leading role.



Community Engagement Coordinator Phill Roach leads a photography workshop at the Skullbone Plains Discovery Weekend. Photo: Chris Crerar

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Activities abounded at the Skullbone Discovery Weekend and Loo with a View Launch, as we look behind the scenes of TLC's biggest event to date.



LITTLE SWANPORT

Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). Photo: Chris Tzaros, *Birds, Bush and Beyond*



Old-growth blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Little Swanport. Photo: Andy Townsend

The decline of Tasmania’s majestic old-growth blue gum forests (*Eucalyptus globulus*) continues to threaten the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), whose population depends upon this threatened forest community for its survival.

With your help, we can purchase and permanently protect 150 hectares of prime swift parrot habitat at Little Swanport, located between Triabunna and Swansea on Tasmania’s stunning east coast.

Securing habitat at Little Swanport will protect three threatened forest communities, each containing large amounts of old-growth formation so rarely seen in Tasmania’s south-east forests. Since European settlement only a quarter of old-growth blue gum forest remains within the region, with the few remaining stands offering vital food, shelter and nesting habitat for a variety of animals, including the critically endangered swift parrot.

The rapidly declining swift parrot migrates annually from mainland Australia to Tasmania and relies upon flowering and old-growth eucalypts for survival. Yet with so much forest lost and fewer than 2000 swift parrots remaining, unless foraging and breeding habitats are protected scientists predict the world’s fastest parrot could be extinct within 15 years.

In addition to protecting swift parrot habitat, a winter survey found Little Swanport supports over 24 bird species including other woodland

dependent species such as robins and spotted-quail thrush (*Cinclosoma punctatum*). Purchasing this property will not only ensure their habitat is protected, but the TLC’s Bird Conservation Fund will activate a potent mix of research and evidence-based ecological monitoring to help guide their long-term survival.

“The critically endangered swift parrot relies on large patches of old-growth forest containing a combination of breeding, nesting and foraging habitat. This property at Little Swanport on Tasmania’s east coast has all three,”

**Difficult Bird Research Group,
Australian National University**

Little Swanport is also an important link between aquatic and terrestrial habitats that support a variety of rare plants and wildlife. For example, a 1.3 kilometre direct river frontage secures a unique ecotone for freshwater and estuarine species to survive and flourish. The Tasmanian bettong (*Bettongia gaimardi*) and threatened species such as the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*) and eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) have already been captured on motion sensor cameras, and the eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*) is reported there by the

previous owner.

Collectively, this high-value species diversity makes the Little Swanport property critical for nature conservation, and a significant addition to Tasmania’s network of reserves.

The TLC has long prioritised the natural values of the surrounding Little Swanport landscape for protection and has worked with numerous landholders to establish perpetual conservation covenants on their land. The addition of Little Swanport into this reserve network will provide an important ecological link and ensure this precious east coast landscape remains connected through conservation corridors that offer the best possible chance of survival for the creatures that call it home.

Thanks to the generosity of the David and Jennie Sutherland Foundation and an anonymous donor, every dollar donated before June 30 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.

Will you help us raise the \$750,000 needed to purchase, protect and manage Little Swanport’s critical natural values?

GIVE
Please join us to protect Little Swanport by making a donation at tasland.org.au
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CEO UPDATE

Jane Hutchinson and James Hattam. Photo: Matthew Newton

The humble establishment of the TLC that began in 2001 with \$50 in the bank and a handful of committed volunteers is a story TLC supporters know well.

Behind the TLC's triumphs has been a diversity of people – supporters, volunteers, and staff – who have enabled the organisation to grow to become one of Tasmania's largest private landholders. No person has been more prominent throughout this progression than Jane Hutchinson.

Nathan Males was Jane's predecessor to CEO. He was the organisation's co-founder, first president and first CEO – he even worked for a year without pay. Nathan essentially paved the way for Jane to build an organisation that would last. Now, after seven remarkable years, Jane's time as CEO has come to an end.

"We've had three distinct phases," Jane explains.

"A start-up phase, a consolidation and foundation building phase – which I occupied – and now we're entering the next phase which is to engage with people on the Tasmanian, Australian and global stage."

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, a carbon program, building a team, and forming historic partnerships with Tasmania's Aboriginal community – accolades that collectively contributed to her

receiving the 2016 Tasmanian of the Year Award.

"What I'm most proud of is that the TLC has had actions beyond words and that's the stuff that really counts," Jane says.

"We now have an organisation that will last through changes in values and funding and the way people see nature conservation, so the next exciting part is involving people in that journey," she says.

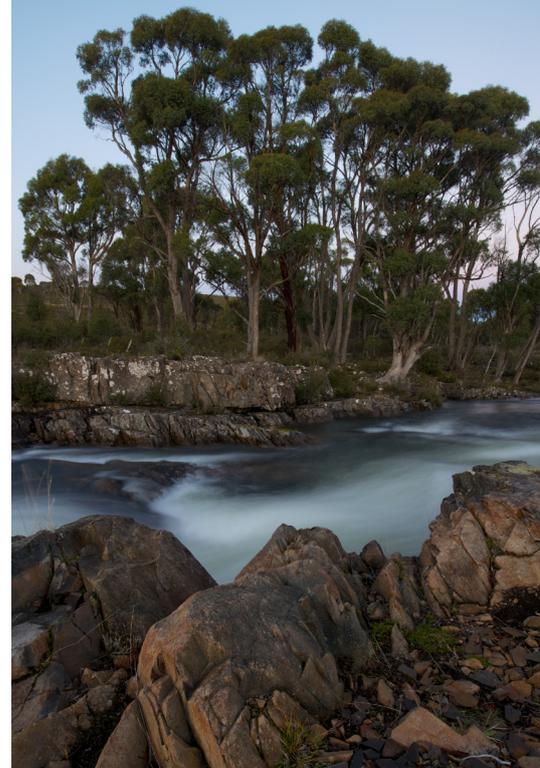
Leading that journey will be James Hattam, who after a thorough nationwide search, the TLC is thrilled to announce as our new CEO.

James has had over a decade of experience in the conservation sector, having begun his career in Victoria as a ranger before starting conservation initiatives alongside community groups.

"The more I did that, the more interested I became in the community behind protected area management," he explains, adding that it had been a goal to work for a not-for-profit organisation in Tasmania.

"I was drawn to it, and from a professional perspective always admired it," he says.

James' initial goal was realised over five years ago when he commenced as an ecologist for the TLC where setting up voluntary covenants showed him the huge commitment private land holders make to broader conservation outcomes.



trawtha makuminya is one of several historic partnerships formed between Tasmania's Aboriginal community and the TLC. Photo: Matthew Newton

"I quickly realised that people want to do meaningful things to protect nature and the unique values of Tasmania which mean so much to them," he says.

The prospect for greater action motivated James to take on the role of the TLC's Philanthropy and Engagement Manager in 2015. It also led him to become a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas, within the International Union for Conservation of Nature. James is also an active contributor to the Young Professionals Network of the Commission and its Oceania regional focal point, and a board member of leading literary journal, *Island* magazine.

Looking ahead, Jane is optimistic about the TLC's future under James's leadership.

"It's very useful to have someone who understands the scientific principles of conservation and is energised to expand the community...when we think about the future of nature conservation, James is a perfect fit," she says.

With James' leadership the TLC will continue to achieve conservation that values nature and the economic, cultural and social benefits it provides us all.

To celebrate the extraordinary results our TLC conservation community has achieved with Jane's leadership and vision, we will be hosting a farewell on Wednesday 4 July at Hobart's State Cinema. For details on how to join us, see the What's On section of this newsletter.



RESERVE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Liffey Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

Few places have had as much of an influence on the global conservation movement with as little recognition as the Liffey Valley.

The area is wild yet worn from a rich and ancient human heritage holding insights into the forces which have shaped landscapes across Australia for generations. It is a cultural place, commencing as an aboriginal meeting point that has since brought a continuum of people together who've shared conservation history, knowledge and stories to the masses.

Following the Franklin River campaign, Bob Brown was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 1990. The prize money was used to make a deposit on land destined for wood chipping. The subsequent establishment of Liffey Forest Reserve in 1991 marks a watershed moment in the history of the Australian conservation movement, initiating the country's first private land conservation organisation, Bush Heritage Australia.

Some 20 years later and timber giant Gunns announced it was selling off much of its native forest estate in Tasmania, when Bob Brown noticed a block for sale in the Liffey Valley. Just 14 hectares and bordering existing conservation reserves, the block wasn't pristine but formed a vital addition to the reserve landscape.

"I took the unusual and desperate step of telephoning Gunns' CEO Greg L'Estrange in Launceston...he was immediately interested in my suggestion that the block go to TLC's

good hands - and so it did!" he recalls.

The now World Heritage listed TLC reserve rises steeply from the Liffey River and harbours beautiful mature blackwood trees (*Acacia melanoxylon*) scattered among the intact riparian vegetation. The remainder of the property contains regenerating wet eucalypt forest, with a mid-storey of large old silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) and a wide variety of ferns, including two to four metre tall tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*).

Liffey Reserve is being managed to allow the forest ecosystem to regenerate naturally, and our committed reserve management team and volunteers have worked hard to ensure that weed species do not negatively impact on this process, so that its natural and cultural legacy may live on in perpetuity.

BCF SCHOLARSHIP

The TLC's Bird Conservation Fund (BCF) will continue to combine evidence-based research and ecological monitoring with direct management actions via an annual postgraduate scholarship focusing on critical knowledge gaps in applied bird conservation across Tasmania.

The scholarship ranges from \$3,000 to \$5,000 generated from interest on the BCF capital, with this year's award generously donated by Dr Tania Stadler, to enable the funds to grow. The first recipient is University of Tasmania Masters student Erin Harris, who will investigate the effectiveness of eagle nest protection zones.



Erin Harris helps host a TLC event at the Vale of Belvoir. Photo: Phill Roach

"When it comes to covenants on eagle nests in Tasmania, little is known about their efficacy. I hope to determine the effectiveness of conservation covenants on eagle nests in the state," Erin says.

The TLC's Head of Science, Dr Sally Bryant, says information from Erin's project will help guide future management practices.

"We want to know if the prescriptions are working and how management may differ on nests found on unprotected land," she explains, adding that Erin was an outstanding choice for receiving the first ever BCF scholarship.

"Erin is really well known to us, she was an intern and has been a consistent volunteer with us - providing hundreds of volunteer hours on field work, helping code our fauna images and attending events."

Tania Stadler's incredible contribution to this project means Erin will have financial support to undertake activities such as aerial nest checking and landholder engagement, which otherwise are unattainable to students. We thank Tania for her donation and the direct influence she has made to nature conservation.

ACT

Please join us to safeguard our unique birds by making a donation at tasland.org.au/science



ON THE RESERVES

The Skullbone Plains Discovery Weekend saw the reserve transform into a mini festival camp site. Photo: Chris Crerar

Warm laughter and song rises, mingled with soaring sparks fleeing a scattering of fire pits. Festoon lights swing in the breeze, animating long shadows to dance against an illuminated forest backdrop. Children wildly run in and out of the brightly coloured marquee and crowd, who reactively reel, cradling their drinks and plates of food-truck fare closer. Sounds more celebration than conservation but it is assuredly both.

The TLC's Skullbone Plains Discovery Weekend was every bit an ecology festival, equally celebrating the intricate landscape of Skullbone Plains and the community-driven conservation that supports it. The impetus behind the gathering, a tall wooden and corrugated iron box that has attained a certain degree of notoriety: the TLC's Loo with a View. Created by volunteers and staff and crowdfunded by a diversity of donors, the newly installed 'Loo' was definitely deserving of a 'do'.

The Loo is special, but it is what the Loo and other visitor infrastructure - tent platforms, track signage and improved access roads - enable that is really worth celebrating; Skullbone is now equipped for sustainable, minimal impact visitation. With a booking and new visitor guide, supporters can now access the remote reserve and deepen their connection with nature they help protect.

The Skullbone Discovery Weekend kick started just that. By day, young and young at heart supporters were led by expert staff and volunteers

across the reserve to explore. The venturers made ecological monitoring discoveries, marveled at moss, mastered shutter speeds and focal lengths, interpreted birdcalls and the meaningful moments of silence in between, soared on cleverly crafted wedge tail eagle wings and were shown how local cultural relationships with the land have revealed, shaped, and protected it.

By night, questers who strayed from the lit clearing made fascinating chiropteral discoveries, while those less intrepid cosied up in communal comfort and were treated to a moving acoustic performance of songs penned for fireside revelry in the Tasmanian bush. Such gatherings reveal the diversity of TLC supporters and the multiplicity of ways they connect to land. They also reveal how bonding together in nature inspires its protection. This rewarding experience wouldn't have happened without the tremendous support of dedicated volunteers, local community, donors and sponsors, including the Australian Government Community Heritage Icon Grants. We are very grateful for our conservation community.

**Phill Roach
Community Engagement Coordinator**

EXPLORE.....

Watch a Skullbone Plains Discovery Weekend mini-doco at tasland.org.au/skullbone-plains-reserve/



Pamela Rothwell has left a lasting legacy. Photo: supplied

HONOURING PAMELA ROTHWELL

Pamela Rothwell (Pam) had the wonderful generosity and foresight to leave a bequest to the TLC, a powerful and lasting way to ensure the places she loved would be protected and managed for future generations.

Having communicated with Pam over the years, and most recently with her family, we knew that Pam wanted her bequest to support a project such as the purchase and permanent protection of land. To honour this, her gift will be put towards our current campaign. Pamela's son Roy, who resides in Tasmania with his wife and children, thinks that she would be happy to be associated with the Little Swanport project.

"Pam had a heightened sense of curiosity in all manner of things, embracing art, politics, history, music, gardening, geography, travel, languages, textiles and design, knitting and craft, sport, and domestic animals," explains Roy.

Pamela thoroughly investigated several conservation organisations before making her final bequests and we are heartened and so grateful that she was passionate about nature conservation in Tasmania and trusted in the TLC to ensure that her bequest and specific wishes associated would be respected and honoured.

**Sophie Marshall
Bequest & Supporter Relations**



WHAT'S ON

Jane Hutchinson at Skullbone Plains Reserve. Photo: Matthew Newton

'SKULLBONE PLAINS' SPECIAL SCREENING AND JANE HUTCHINSON'S FAREWELL

Join us at Hobart's State Cinema for a very special screening of Roar Film's 'Skullbone Plains' followed by a celebration of the extraordinary results our TLC conservation community has achieved with Jane's leadership and vision.

- Arrive 5:45pm for 6pm start, Wednesday 4 July 2018
- Cinema 1, State Cinema, North Hobart
- Limited tickets \$20.00 (includes a complimentary beverage).
- Available exclusively at: <https://janehutchinsonfarewell.eventbrite.com.au>

BEQUEST INFORMATION EVENING

Please join TLC staff, board members and expert speakers to learn more about this powerful way of giving. All welcome to this free event.

- 6-8pm Thursday 19 July 2018
- Design Tasmania, Cnr Brisbane & Tamar Streets, Launceston
- RSVP smarshall@tasland.org.au

FESTIVAL OF BRIGHT IDEAS

The TLC will be at Tasmania's dynamic, annual festival of all things science again this year. Visit our exhibition to chat with staff and explore how we are applying new innovations in bioacoustic monitoring.

- Saturday 18 August 2018
- Princess Wharf 1, Castray Esplanade, Salamanca, Hobart

SAVE THE DATE: EAST COAST DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Block out the weekend of Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September in your 2018 calendars; we are preparing an inspiring dose of nature exploration for you at The Big Punchbowl Reserve and at Little Swanport. Tickets on sale and invitations to be sent during August.

EGG ISLAND VOLUNTEERING

Help us protect nature by removing weeds on our beautiful Egg Islands Reserve.

- 1 & 2 July 2018; 3 & 4 August 2018; 27 & 28 August 2018
- Register at: <https://volunteereggislands2018.eventbrite.com.au>



A burst of colour at Blue Tier Reserve. Photo: Chris Crerar

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