



TASMANIAN  
LAND  
CONSERVANCY

# SPRING

## NEWSLETTER 75

Prosser River Reserve at dawn. Photo by Hayley Kingsley.

**It's been a busy winter for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC). Sloping Main Reserve was extended, thanks to the generosity of so many of you. And in this newsletter, we announce the creation of the Silver Plains Reserve. Each of our reserves has a unique story of acquisition and protection.**

The journey for TLC at Silver Plains started when it was purchased as part of the New Leaf Estate in 2010. Since then, TLC has managed the property for conservation, but its sheer size at 6,595 hectares made it difficult for us to commit to managing it in perpetuity. The funds generated through the New Leaf Carbon Project, where the TLC sells carbon credits generated from sequestration on its properties, provided the ability to fund

its management in the short to medium term. Over the years Silver Plains has become a hub for applied conservation science research and partnerships. With the sale of two other New Leaf properties with conservation covenants to a conservation-minded buyer, we were able to make the required capital contribution to the TLC Foundation to fund the long-term effective conservation management of Silver Plains and elevate it to our reserve estate to be owned and managed by TLC in perpetuity.

Private land conservation comes in all shapes and sizes, from Silver Plains Reserve to little backyards. Even an urban garden provides critical habitat for some of the rarest and most threatened species. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to take carriage

of the Gardens for Wildlife program and build on the great success of the Tasmanian Government in establishing and growing the program over many years. Gardens for Wildlife is a powerful and positive way to directly involve people in the effective long-term conservation of the things that make Tasmania so special and at the same time build awareness and a strong community conservation ethic.

A real highlight for me over the last few months was the launch of the New Eye on Nature exhibition at Wild Island, where the TLC community came together and experienced some of our reserves through the lens of three incredible emerging photographers, the quiet conservationists.

– **James Hattam**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## HIGHLIGHTS



Dr Ian Cresswell at his LFW property. Photo by Phil Wise.

### Page 2

Dr Ian Cresswell talks about writing a will that reflects your values & can be a lasting gift for your loved ones & nature.



Swans on Lake Sorrell. Photo by Kelly Slater.

### Page 4

We have an exciting announcement to make about a new TLC reserve near Lake Sorrell.



Collecting orchid seeds at Rubicon Sanctuary. Photographer unknown.

### Page 5

Good news from a project to ensure the future of the marsh leek-orchid.





# A WILL THAT REFLECTS YOUR VALUES

Photo by Eddie Safarik.

*Dr Ian Cresswell is a member of TLC's Board, a Natural Guardian, and has extensive experience working in environmental science, managing natural resource management agencies and programs. He was the co-Chief Author of the 2021 State of the Environment report for Australia and is an Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia*

**Crafting a last will and testament is more than just a legal obligation; it's an opportunity to leave a legacy that reflects your beliefs and desires. There's immense worth in taking the time to ensure that your will not only distributes your assets but also conveys your intentions, values and explanations to your loved ones.**

Your values are the principles that guided you through life, shaping your choices, relationships and experiences. As a TLC supporter, these probably include caring for nature, and perhaps the desire to protect Tasmania's special places forever. Incorporating these values into your will allows you to communicate what truly mattered to you. This is particularly important when bequeathing assets, as it helps prevent conflicts and misunderstandings among your heirs.

Clearly outlining your reasons for distributing assets in a certain way offers a deeper understanding of what influenced your decisions. For instance, if understanding and caring for wildlife is important to you you might allocate funds to the TLC, emphasising the importance of nature and conservation for our future. This ensures your assets are used in alignment with your

values and may also impart valuable life lessons to future generations.

Disputes arising from unclear or unexpected asset distribution can strain family relationships, sometimes irreparably. A carefully structured will that reflects your values can unify: when your loved ones understand the reasoning behind your decisions, they are more likely to respect and accept them. Well-thought-out explanatory notes can explain your thinking and be incredibly meaningful for your loved ones. This document, often referred to as an 'ethical will' or 'legacy letter', is a heartfelt way to share your wisdom and experiences, providing guidance, comfort and connection once you're gone.

Involving your family in discussions about your will is an opportunity for open dialogue. This might help them understand your decisions and share their thoughts, concerns and suggestions. This can strengthen family bonds and encourage collaboration, ensuring that your final decisions are well-informed and well-received.

Explaining the reasoning behind your decisions can help your heirs understand that your choices were grounded in your values and beliefs. For example, whatever you choose to leave to the TLC, your explanation could shed light on your passion for our cause and the positive impact you hope to make.

A will that reflects your values and provides clear explanations may also help deter legal challenges. When heirs understand the rationale behind your asset distribution, they are less likely to contest the will, as they can see that

your decisions were thoughtful and not influenced by external factors.

Courts often consider the intentions of the deceased when resolving disputes, and having a well-documented explanation of your choices can be a compelling piece of evidence in upholding the validity of your will.

Your last will and testament is your final statement on Earth, and possibly your largest ever set of gifts, so make sure it counts. It should reflect your values, leaving a lasting impact for the environment but also providing understanding for your loved ones. Beyond the legal aspects, it's a testament to who you are, what you stand for, and directs your assets to where you want to have the most impact. By promoting understanding and transparency, you can foster stronger relationships and help ensure that your legacy is carried forward in the way you envisioned.

– Dr Ian Cresswell



## ACT .....

**Making a gift in your will is a deeply personal choice. If you would like to discuss your options, call Annabelle on 03 6225 1399 or email [bequests@tasland.org.au](mailto:bequests@tasland.org.au)**





# TLC PEOPLE

Aimee Bliss and Matilda Terry at Little Swanport Reserve. Photo By Manderlee Anstice.

**Anyone who follows the TLC on LinkedIn will know that over the past few months we have been hiring all sorts of exciting roles.**

Our Conservation Programs team are the ones who work with landholders. They look after Land for Wildlife and the Midlands Conservation Partnership, and they work with regional NRMs and the state government to help landholders improve and protect habitat on their blocks. The team has just hired a new manager, so if you take part in one of these programs you might meet her soon!

Nicole Sherriff has most recently been the Head of Environment and Sustainability at Hobart Airport and was instrumental in getting the airport signed up to Land for Wildlife. She's also been the Parks and Reserves Manager at Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, and for the West Coast and Arthur Pieman Conservation Area.

We love spending time with supporters out on our reserves or at events around the state. Sharing the places we've protected is an important part of what we do, whether it be through working with volunteers to keep our reserves in great condition, or explaining our science projects at Discovery Days. That's why we're excited about the two new additions to the Philanthropy and Engagement Team.

Our new Engagement & Events Coordinator is Daniel McMahon. Dan has been a lodge manager in Alaska and on Freycinet, cellar door manager at Morilla, and comes to us from the Tasmanian Walking Company's special

experiences program. He will be working on supporter events, arts and cultural projects, and corporate partnerships.

Our new Community Engagement Coordinator, looking after volunteers and visitors to our reserves, is Gemma Dyke. Gemma comes to us from the Australian Antarctic Division where she's been working for seven years helping coordinate expeditions, field operations and re-supplies. She's also spent time as a Landcare Project Officer and Bushcare Officer.

And in the Science and Conservation Planning Team, Field Ecologist Hayley Kingsley joined us earlier this year. Helping people connect with and understand the wonderful workings of nature has been a lifelong passion for Hayley that led to a career in outdoor education and expedition guiding, exploring the vast landscapes of central and northern Australia and New Zealand. Hayley moved to Tassie in 2018 to pursue a career in conservation, completing a degree in Natural Environment and Wilderness Studies at UTAS.



Cider gum leaves. Photo by Kelly Slater.

## ANNOUNCING SILVER PLAINS RESERVE

**Silver Plains in the central highlands, the site of many of the TLC's research projects and our work with partners, has now become a 6,738 hectare reserve.**

This property is entirely native forest with patches of lowland native grassland and marshes. Bordering Lake Sorell, Silver Plains Reserve has old growth swamp peppermint along the extensive lake shores, and an intact black gum floodplain community along Lake River. There are 13 threatened fauna species and 11 threatened flora species, including the endangered Miena cider gum. Flocks of over one hundred Latham's Snipe are regularly seen on the marshes – this is one of the largest aggregations of this migratory bird known for Tasmania and Australia.

Due to its size and location, this reserve is the site of some of our longest and most fruitful collaborations: with scientists like UTAS' Prof Mark Hovenden, and our quoll research partners; with volunteer weeders who help us keep on top of ragwort and mullein; and with deer hunters who help us manage this destructive pest.

Monitoring and managing such a large reserve is very resource intensive but thanks to the covenanting and sale of two New Leaf properties to conservation-minded buyers, we've been able to make the necessary investment into the TLC Foundation to fund this work in perpetuity.





# A NEW EYE ON NATURE

Opening of A New Eye on Nature at Wild Island. Photo by Manderlee Anstice.

*This text is adapted from a speech James Hattam gave at the launch of A New Eye on Nature at Wild Island Tasmania, Hobart, on 7 July 2023.*

*A New Eye on Nature will be exhibited at Hive, Ulverstone, from December 2023 to February 2024.*

**Protection is just the start of the conservation journey, but without protection, we could never achieve effective long-term conservation. At the core of TLC's protection of places is photography.**

Founding TLC board member and award-winning nature photographer and film-maker, Matthew Newton, embedded photography into the TLC DNA and began the work of connecting people to the places we work to protect. Photography has raised tens of millions of dollars for the TLC, protecting tens of thousands of hectares and creating an active, engaged and inspired community of supporters around the world.

People often ask me what the 'secret sauce' of TLC is. It is community and connections across communities.

Over the years Matt Newton and Rob Blakers have connected TLC with their community of photographers through the Tasmanian Nature Photographers Group. These photographers captured the intricate and often hidden elements of our reserves. They go beyond the science of observation and into the art of being, watching, listening and interpreting.

So, after the success of our last art and nature collaboration, *Breathing space*, we thought what better way to contribute to a community that has given so much to us than to offer a series of immersive residencies for emerging photographers across our reserves.

In Autumn this year our first recipients headed off into the wilds. Kelly Slater - a lens-based artist whose practice explores environmental image making that goes beyond sentimental representations of landscape - visited Daisy Dell and Vale of Belvoir Reserves. Nick Green - a Tasman Peninsula photographer whose work serves as a meditative exploration of his environment and inner self - visited Eagle Rock Reserve. Karen Keefe - a midwife, Calm Birth educator and environmental activist who aims to portray her connection with nature - visited Skullbone Plains Reserve.

I want to share a story of one of the places that Kelly visited - Daisy Dell Reserve - and two very special humans.

Daisy Dell was protected in 2017 by TLC, but the protection for that landscape was fought for for decades by two men, Peter Sims and John Wilson. The reason I tell this story is because Peter and John epitomise the Quiet Conservationist. They are always in the background: working hard, determined, humble, generous and resolute. And for me, photographers are some of our greatest Quiet Conservationists.

Every reserve has a different origin story and sending a photographer

out is one of the most rewarding elements of building a campaign.

TLC has always valued creative expression in storytelling and as a way to share the complex layers of the landscapes where we work, both human and ecological.

Every time I look at a photo captured by a nature photographer I am reminded of what Anais Nin wrote in *Seduction of the Minotaur*, that 'we do not see things as they are, we see them as we are'. Nick, Kelly and Karen have invited us into their world, and through their lens we interpret what that means for us.

In the same way that the creation of a TLC reserve is an expression of the community's deep value and connection to nature, these works connect us to ourselves, the world we live in, the community that we form and the natural world that we depend on.

Thank you to Nick, Kelly and Karen for sharing your world with the TLC.



## EXPLORE .....

Find out more about our arts and nature projects and see some of the spectacular photographs taken on our reserves on the TLC's blog, **In Our Nature** at [tasland.org.au/blog](https://tasland.org.au/blog)



# GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Scarlet Robin. Photo by Peter Vaughn.

**The TLC values all land that supports wildlife, as we know that protecting our precious native species won't be achieved on big conservation reserves alone. That's why we work with landholders across a range of programs, including Land for Wildlife and the Midlands Conservation Partnership.**

But what about wildlife that's found on Tasmania's tiniest patches? Is it possible to create wildlife habitat on a veranda? What about a roadside verge, or in a suburban backyard? Ask a local Gardens for Wildlife member and the answer is a resounding yes!

The Gardens for Wildlife program (GFW) is a voluntary, community-based program that encourages and supports landowners who incorporate wildlife habitat and use sustainable practices in their gardens. Through a network of interconnected gardens in both urban and rural areas, even our most threatened species can find food, breeding areas and protection from predators.

After 15 successful years under the care of the Tasmanian Government, the GFW program will now be run by the TLC. But we need your help! If you are a current GFW member, you will have been sent an email or letter from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania with instructions to opt in so your membership can be transferred to the TLC. Only members who reply to opt in will be transferred, so please join us in this new chapter of Gardens for Wildlife.

Lisa Cawthen, GFW member and bat expert, told us about her garden. 'Our wildlife friendly garden is a sanctuary for us and wildlife. Nestled in the urban foothills of kunanyi, it provides habitat for more than 40 bird, mammal, frog, and reptile species that in return pollinate our edible garden, eat pests, bring in nutrients and provide us with constant entertainment. I am thrilled that the TLC are supporting this crucial program that encourages the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat in urban areas. With the TLC's support, our urban areas have a greener future already!'

From January 2024 we will invite new members to join, with plans afoot for more events to support your wildlife-friendly gardening endeavours. Stay tuned on our socials and upcoming newsletters for more details.



## ACT .....

Looking for ways to understand and protect wildlife on your property? Visit [tasland.org.au/](https://tasland.org.au/) landowners to see the many ways we can help.



Collecting orchid seeds. Photo by unknown photographer.

## ORCHID SEED-SAVING

**The marsh leek-orchid (*Paraprasophyllum limnetes*) is one of Tasmania's rarest plants. As far as we know, it's found in only place: TLC's Rubicon Sanctuary. The species is critically endangered, and figuring out how to help it flourish into the future has been a challenge, particularly when it's found on such a small plot of land and could be wiped out by one adverse event. And orchids can't just be picked up and planted elsewhere.**

To overcome the challenges, TLC has been collaborating with the Landscape Recovery Foundation and Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens) to conserve the orchid outside of the Sanctuary.

With the help of Rubicon's caretakers, Phil Collier and Robin Garnett, seeds have been collected from the marsh-leek orchid and are now stored in the seed bank at the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre. There they've been propagated, but propagating orchids is complicated: orchids and mycorrhizal fungi have a complex symbiotic association where each of the orchid's life stages depend on specific fungi. In the earliest stages, orchids rely entirely on their mycorrhizal fungi for all nutrients, including carbon. Those at the seed bank have been paired up with cultured fungi, and in good news they are showing early signs of germination.

The goal of the project is to propagate the marsh leek-orchid as a source of seed, both to increase seed storage and so that the species can be planted in other places, increasing its range in the future.





# WHAT'S ON

Hibbertia at The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Photo by Elise Jeffery.

## TASMANIAN COMMUNITY LANDCARE CONFERENCE

**October 13-15, Triabunna**

This unmissable weekend at Spring Bay Mill will bring together the grassroots community of Landcarers from across the state. There will be speakers, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, field days and networking opportunities. Visit [landcaretas.org.au/conference2023](http://landcaretas.org.au/conference2023)

## PRIVATE LAND CONFERENCE 2023

**October 16-18, Canberra**

ALCA's 2023 conference, 'Unite for Nature', will discuss innovative collaborations, long-standing partnerships and visionary thinking that are unlocking finance, galvanising action and forging networks to amplify the ongoing, urgent management, protection and restoration of Country. Visit [alcaconference.org.au](http://alcaconference.org.au)

## BRUNY ISLAND BIRD ADVENTURE

**Saturday 28 October, Inala Nature Tours**

Join us for a unique opportunity to participate in a birdwatching and property tour on the Inala conservation reserve on South Bruny Island, home to swift parrots and forty-spotted pardalotes and an incredible Gondwanan garden. Find out more and buy your ticket at [events.humanitix.com/bruny-island-bird-adventure-2023](https://events.humanitix.com/bruny-island-bird-adventure-2023)

## SAVE THE DATE: TLC AGM

**Sunday 19 November, Hobart**

This year's AGM will be held at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources on Macquarie Street, Hobart. Watch your inbox for more details and your invitation.

## SAVE THE DATE: END OF YEAR GATHERING

**Thursday 7 December, Hobart**

Our annual end-of-year gathering will be at Legacy Park in Hobart's Domain. Watch your inbox for details and an invitation.



Grass tree at The Big Punchbowl Reserve. Photo by Elise Jeffery.

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

### Tasmanian Land Conservancy

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James Hattam

