



# SPRING 2022

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Black gum blossom (*Eucalyptus ovata*), Sloping Main. Photo: Andy Townsend

**Spring is here, the snow is melting, the birds are calling and wattles are coming into profuse flower after the winter rains across the TLC's reserves.**

The Big Punchbowl Reserve on the Freycinet Peninsula is brimming with water and full of life of all shapes and sizes: the chorus of frogs is deafening, aquatic plants are springing up on the wetland's fringes, and countless waterbirds are taking advantage of the idyllic conditions. In August, we spent a day at the reserve with our loyal regular donors. As a proud regular donor myself it was a great day out, with so many amazing TLC supporters who are critical to supporting long-term management and conservation science across our estate. It is such a pleasure connecting with the TLC community on the land which you have all helped protect.

I am always inspired by the personal connections and commitment of our supporters to conservation in Tasmania. I was lucky enough to get away in July for a personal break and walk the Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory. On my last night on the trail, I wandered into the Wallaby Gap Campground and met a delightful woman, Annie from Darwin. As we shared a bench to cook our dinner, Annie told me about her connection to Tasmania and conservation as well as her support of an organisation called the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, who she's been a regular donor to since 2009. It was such a pleasure to have that fortuitous meeting with Annie, and for me it symbolised the significance of the TLC in connecting people and places, even when you are in the middle of a desert.

I am also delighted with how the campaign to protect Sloping Main has progressed. I'm particularly inspired by how many Tasman Peninsula locals have got involved in fundraising to turn this very special place into a nature reserve. Once again, it's those connections between people and places that make all the difference.

In our Spring Newsletter, you will also learn more about the ways business are supporting our work, the exciting restoration partnership at Long Point Reserve and some amazing new people joining the TLC team.

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), Sloping Main. Photo: Andy Townsend

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Great news from Sloping Main.



Egg Islands Discovery Day, Photo: James Hattam

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Boating on the Huon, soaking up the sun at The Big Punchbowl - a host of days out on TLC reserves.



Long Point. Photo: Heath Holden

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Returning water to the salt marshes of Long Point Reserve.





Aerial view of Sloping Main. Photo: Eddie Safarik.

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

**We could not be more delighted with the response to our campaign to protect Sloping Main. There has been an extraordinary outpouring of support from TLC supporters. Since we began the campaign in late May you have donated more than \$1 million to make Sloping Main a reserve. Thanks to the generosity of the Elsie Cameron Fund, those donations have been matched dollar-for-dollar.**

It is so heartening to discover the enthusiasm for conservation among Australians (and even overseas: thank you to those who have donated from afar). It fills us with hope for the future that our work to protect Tasmania's native vegetation has raised just as much support as previous campaigns focussed on a charismatic fauna species. Tasmanian plant lovers are the best!

And we have been thrilled to see how many new donors are supporting this reserve because of their personal connection to the Tasman Peninsula or to Sloping Main itself. The response from locals has been overwhelming. We shouldn't be surprised, given how rich the peninsula is in Revolving Fund properties and Land for Wildlife members: we already knew the people of the Tasman Peninsula love conserving nature on private land.

As we work towards completing fundraising to protect this property in perpetuity, we've been making a few visits to Sloping Main to plan for the future. Jarrah Vercoe, the TLC's Revolving Fund Coordinator, was on the peninsula last week and reports

that Sloping Main is looking amazing. 'After the recent rains,' he told us, 'the reserve is brimming over with life. The ephemeral wetlands are full of water and the property is teeming with birds. I can't wait to share this magical place with supporters'.

If you're wondering why we're putting our energy and our supporters' funds into protecting this particular place, Sloping Main has a greater diversity of threatened vegetation than any of our other reserves. There are seven threatened vegetation communities on Sloping Main.

It doesn't approach the size of somewhere like Five Rivers or Kelvedon Hills, but within its 425 hectares Sloping Main will protect a precious 40 hectares of critically endangered black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest in beautiful condition, which makes a huge difference when this community is generally found in patches of less than two hectares, and most often in very poor shape.

We hope to have good news about the protection of Sloping Main very soon.

## BUSINESSES DOING GOOD

**Did you know that the TLC provides all kinds of innovative and inspirational ways for businesses to contribute to the protection of nature?**

At the TLC, we are proud to partner and work with many businesses and social enterprises that dedicate themselves to making the world better.

The 1% for the Planet initiative links member businesses with high-impact not-for-profit organisations. Businesses give at least 1% of their gross sales directly to their chosen organisation. Owners of Hobart sustainable lifestyle shop Teros, Mel Lambourne and Ahmet Bektas, donate a percentage of gross sales to the TLC. Ahmet explains, 'Protecting the environment shouldn't be a discretionary choice.'

Other businesses have established named funds in the TLC Foundation. US-based fashion business Another Tomorrow founder Vanessa Barboni Hallik sources responsible wool from Tasmania and says, 'We believe in partnering for impact in the communities from which we source. The TLC has remarkable relationships with landowners and giving to them was a clear and meaningful choice.'

If you're interested in giving to the TLC through your business or finding out more about the businesses that support us, contact Engagement & Giving Manager Jessie Bodor on [jbodor@tasland.org.au](mailto:jbodor@tasland.org.au)

## GIVE .....

**Recurring donations help us plan ahead and make strategic decisions for the future.**

**To set up a regular donation, visit [tasland.org.au/donate-monthly](http://tasland.org.au/donate-monthly)**





Egg Island Discovery Day. Photo: James Hattam

**Our annual Discovery Day is the jewel in our events crown, bringing together all kinds of supporters for a wide range of activities on one of our reserves. This year, in June, we took to the Huon River in a restored sailing ship. Over three days we made five trips up and down the river with more than 100 TLC supporters, seeing the Egg Islands Reserve from a flattering angle.**

We were lucky enough to be ferried by the crew of the sailing ship *Yukon*, which arrived in Franklin in 2011 after a 16-month trip from Strynøe in Denmark. The *Yukon* has now begun its return trip.

On our cruises, we heard about the reserve's natural values, including the largest patch of critically endangered black gum forest in southern Tasmania. Black gum–Brookers gum forests have declined by up to 90% since European settlement and face continuing threats. Working with NRM South, the TLC has been working to protect these forests, as well as swift parrot habitat, all over Tasmania.

Dr David Hamilton told us that the forests, wetlands, riverbanks and marshes of the Egg Islands provide foraging or nesting habitat for 87 Australian bird species. The endangered grey goshawk, Australasian bittern, and wedge-tailed eagle have all been officially recorded on the reserve.

We heard about the gargantuan weeding efforts on the islands. When we created Egg Islands Reserve, it was dense with Spanish heath: in one area it was almost the only plant species that you could see, in thickets so dense that it was difficult to see a few metres into

the distance. Fourteen years later and thanks to the incredible efforts of TLC volunteers, Spanish heath is almost eradicated. Along with the removal of New Zealand flax, in collaboration with pakana services, this weeding program has transformed the reserve and made space for native species to thrive.

We were also treated to an entertaining run-down on the region's cultural history, thanks to the local knowledge of Frank's Cider owner and multi-generational Franklin resident, Naomi Clark, who also provided lunch for us at Frank's.

In mid-August we had a beautiful day at The Big Punchbowl Reserve with some of the TLC's regular donors. The Punchbowl was full following rains that had recently belted the east coast, and the area was alive with birds and frogs. We had a delicious morning tea at Devil's Corner before heading to the reserve, where volunteer Jon Marsden-Smedley explained how the property is managed for conservation. It was great to have three local Land for Wildlifers attend as well, and to hear a lot of lively chat about the program. While some of the attendees headed off on a 3km hike around the reserve, others took advantage of the sunshine to soak up the natural ambience. This was the first supporter trip for our new Engagement & Giving Manager, Jessie Bodor, who was delighted to meet some of the people who make our work possible. Thank you to everyone who came along!



Egg Island Discovery Day. Photo: James Hattam

## WILDTRACKER

**We are thrilled to announce that the redeveloped WildTracker website has been released into the wild at last and is ready to accept new participants.**

WildTracker is a citizen science web platform designed for private landholders to upload photos collected using wildlife camera-traps, tag those photos with the species that are present and share their favourite snapshots with friends, family and neighbours. The data collected will be used by scientists at the TLC to better understand how our local wildlife communities are faring and where particular species – both native and exotic – can be found.

The WildTracker program is a great way to learn about the animals living in your backyard, their needs and how you can help support them.

As part of the WildTracker program, we are currently equipped to lend cameras to Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife members who would like to participate but don't have a camera-trap of their own. Otherwise, if you are one of the many Tasmanians who already own a camera, why not visit [wildtracker.com.au](http://wildtracker.com.au) and put your monitoring efforts to good scientific use!

We are especially interested in recruiting participants with properties located near to TLC reserves and others who have grand plans to improve habitat for wildlife on their property.





# RESTORING LONG POINT

Round-leaf pigface (*Disphyma crassifolium*), Long Point. Photo: Heath Holden

**Long Point Reserve is an intricate habitat of low-lying saltmarshes, coastal grasslands and sand dunes supporting coastal woodlands. The extensive temperate saltmarsh, listed as nationally vulnerable, is the largest in Tasmania. These ecosystems are an ideal breeding and feeding ground, and a critical summer habitat for migratory water birds from all over the world.**

Long Point is the site of a number of restoration works, including one to remove drainage infrastructure that is impeding the natural flow of water. We're collaborating on this project with Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) as part of a project supported by NRM South through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Over the past three years NGT has been piecing together the history, ecological values and trajectory of change of these wetlands and looking for ways to improve their management. Some drains and levees on this property date back to the 1800s, built to encourage pasture by stopping high tides from pushing into the low-lying ground. In the 1990s deeper drains were constructed to facilitate an aqua-culture project that was never quite fulfilled.

This project aims to restore the natural inundation patterns and water flows across the saltmarsh landscape by filling in the drains to their natural levels, based on historical information, aerial imagery and hydrological modelling. Crucially, restoration will also allow for seamless transitions and upslope

migration of saltmarsh communities in readiness for increased storm surges and predicted sea-level rise.

To return the saltmarsh to its natural state, the work is guided by a hydrological restoration plan developed by NGT with the TLC, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and NRM South. Initial restoration has been completed at the adjacent 'Grange' property and along 300m of the TLC drainage network. Restoration methods are being trialled and refined for local site conditions; weather permitting, restoration will be completed in early 2023!

With NGT and Dr John Aalders, the TLC Science team is doing detailed monitoring to make sure we understand the changes in both water movement across the site and the vegetation community response. We're really looking forward to seeing the drains removed and understanding how the plants and animals respond.

As part of the same larger NRM South project, TLC has been controlling gorse across the reserve and planting local shrubs and trees to replace it. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre is using TLC's WildTracker program to monitor how local animals respond to these changes. Each year the WildTracker cameras record over 9,000 images of eleven native and five introduced species. They confirm what we see onsite, with many photos of Bennett's wallaby and wombats, but also excitingly good numbers of spotted-tailed quoll and devils.

## OFFICE MOVE

**Last year wasn't just our 20th birthday, it was also the 17th anniversary of our residence in the little Tudor-style buildings on the Taroona/Sandy Bay border in Hobart. In fact, some of you may have gone along to the grand opening of 827 Sandy Bay Road when, on 16 July 2004, the TLC hosted an exhibition of macroscopic images of orchids taken by Allegra Biggs-Dale.**

Newsletter #3, released at the time, noted that 'Many people have donated furniture and computer equipment for the office. So far we have 3 computers with monitors, a scanner, a printer, 2 desks and a filing cabinet'. It was an auspicious start! But now, 18 years and 68 newsletters later, we have around 25 desks and at least that many computers, and we've lost track of how many filing cabinets we own. It was all more than our Sandy Bay Road home could handle! Our Hobart staff needed more space and consequently, we've moved house.

You will now find us on Macquarie St in the CBD in the old Hutchins School.

## ACT .....

**Update your address book with the details of our new nipaluna/Hobart office.  
183 Macquarie St, Hobart |  
PO Box 4558, Hobart TAS  
7000 (phone number stays the same).**





# TLC PEOPLE

TLC's Annabelle Sweetman (left) and Jessie Bodor (right). Photo: Karen Brown

Silver Plains. Photo: Matthew Newton

**Last newsletter we let you know that Dr Cath Dickson is now Head of Science at TLC, while our Engagement and Giving Manager, Margie Jenkin, moved on to the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network. That's meant new appointments to fill the gaps.**

We are thrilled to welcome Jessie Bodor as the TLC's new Engagement and Giving Manager. Jessie will be working from our Launceston office, a promising development for those up north who are keen to see more supporter events in that half of the state. Jessie hails from the mainland where she practiced law before fundraising at the National Trust (NSW). She is passionate about connecting supporters to important not-for-profits like the TLC where volunteering, donations and bequests create real change. Jessie's love for nature is thanks to her grandfather, a bird expert who was pivotal in Victoria's early nature conservation efforts.

With Cath moving on from her previous position as Conservation Management & Planning Coordinator, Elise Jeffrey is capably filling the role, making sure our science and reserves management teams work seamlessly together to keep our monitoring and management top-notch. Elise has 25 years' experience in conservation and land management; she's a zoologist, has a Land for Wildlife property on Bruny, and loves exploring new wild places.

Also new to the science team is Aimee Bliss, Field Ecologist. She is excited to use her field experience to contribute to the TLC science teams' work monitoring and managing the TLC reserve estate. When not in the

field for work you'll most likely find her trail running, rock climbing or gardening at her home at the foothills of kunanyi.

And in Conservation Programs we are joined by Kaely Kreger, who grew up in the green foothills unfurling from the Cradle high country to the Bass Strait. Kaely is excited to be working towards establishing conservation covenants to protect threatened species habitat and vegetation communities.

Our Engagement & Giving team welcomes Anna Povey and Manderlee Anstice. Anna has been with the TLC for eight years already, working out of the Launceston office and helping conservation covenant landowners steward their blocks. Since our arrangement with the Tasmanian Government has changed, Anna is now joining Phil Wise coordinating Land for Wildlife, looking after landholders up north. Manderlee Anstice is helping us with graphic design: she has worked for a number of conservation organisations in Australia and is now applying her extensive skills to our newsletters, soon-to-launch WildTracker resources, Revolving Fund 'Land for Sale' signs and so many more much-needed items.

## EXPLORE .....

**To find out more behind-the-scenes information about the TLC, including how we use your donations and what kind of work we do on our reserves, visit [tasland.org.au](http://tasland.org.au)**

## SILVER PLAINS NOVEL

**In August, Cath Dickson and Jane Rawson from the TLC were delighted to attend the launch of *Daughter of the Plateau*, a new novel by Tasmanian author Karen Harrland. This book is special to the TLC because it was inspired by our Silver Plains property, where Karen stayed at the White House during the novel's early creation.**

'This weatherboard cottage sits just back from the tranquil expanse of Lake Sorrel. The mountains of the Central Plateau blast sheets of sleet on it from above, and, if you're slow enough, stories can be caught in the wind. As I sat in front of the fire with my mug of tea, all those years ago, a new book began to take shape,' she told us.

*Daughter of the Plateau* is told by Manna, 'named for the regal white gums and yellow-tailed black cockatoos of the Central Highlands of Tasmania; a wild, strong, fiercely independent child'.

Karen says, 'I feel an immense gratitude for the time I spent on Silver Plains. Not only was I able to be on site to feel the characters and draw the story from the mountains, I also know the property is in safe hands. Wild places are precious, and organisations like the TLC know that, and act on it.'

To find out more about the book, visit [karenharrland.com](http://karenharrland.com) or drop in to your local independent bookstore.



# WHAT'S ON

Black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), Sloping Main. Photo: Andy Townsend

## CHAUNCY VALE ACTIVITY DAY

**Sunday 25 September 2022**

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is hosting a day of walks, talks and children's activities, including a bird talk from the TLC's Dr Glen Bain. For more information visit [chauncyvale.com/activity-day-2022](https://chauncyvale.com/activity-day-2022)

## ALCA CONSERVATION FINANCE INTENSIVE

**Thursday 27 October 2022, Canberra**

ALCA's 3rd Conservation Finance Intensive will take place as an in-person workshop. For more information, visit [alca.org.au/events](https://alca.org.au/events)

## CONSERVATION LANDHOLDERS TASMANIA FORUM

**Saturday 19 November 2022**

CLT's annual forum, 'Fire and rain: conservation in a changing climate', will run all day at Campbell Town Recreation Centre. For more information, visit [events.humanitix.com/clt-forum](https://events.humanitix.com/clt-forum)

## SAVE THE DATE: AGM

**Sunday 20 November 2022**

Join us in Kingston for a wrap-up of the year's activities, the presentation of the Annual Report and a special presentation celebrating ten years of conservation in the Midlands. Watch your inbox for invitations.

## SAVE THE DATE: LAND FOR WILDLIFE/ WILDTRACKER WORKSHOP

**3 & 4 December 2022**

Inala Nature Tours will take Land for Wildlife members on a tour of Bruny Island's birdlife. If you're signed up for LFW, watch your inbox.

## SAVE THE DATE: END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

**Thursday 8 December 2022**

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



Sweet wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*), Sloping Main. Photo: Andy Townsend

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