



TASMANIAN
LAND
CONSERVANCY

AUTUMN 2017

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Leptorhynchus sp. Photo: Andy Townsend

With the onset of the warmer months, our Reserves and Science Teams sprang into action. Working tirelessly alongside our dedicated and ever committed volunteers, we have achieved so much across our reserves. There was also naturally, a lot of fun had along the way!

Thank you so much to all who lent a hand over the summer period, from our annual weeding and ecological monitoring programs to the tremendously popular Discovery Weekend at the Vale of Belvoir and Daisy Dell. Over 120 supporters attended the weekend's activities

and new supporters mingling with returning visitors who were once again drawn to this special place.

As many of you have expressed, Daisy Dell is a special place, and one that we are thrilled to be working towards protecting, alongside a committed community of landholders. Thank you to those who have contributed to its protection— we are almost there, so please keep that support coming!

Celebrating success is so important, and this year we are marking the achievement of ten years of revolving funds in Tasmania. Revolving funds

are used to purchase land, protect it with a conservation covenant and then re-sell the land to a like-minded owner. At an event in the state's north, we celebrated what makes the Revolving Fund program so special; the commitment of the landholders, their stories, and the safeguarded land for which they are now custodians of.

Thank you again for your terrific support.

Jane Hutchinson
Chief Executive Officer

HIGHLIGHTS



James Hattam setting up a monitoring camera. Photo: Heath Holden

Page 2 Our mighty crew of volunteers is winning the fight against weeds, and scientists find a jewel in the crown of Five Rivers Reserve.



Supporters at recent Discovery Day Event, Vale of Belvoir Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden

Page 3 Making new connections to place and strengthening existing ties, our recent Vale of Belvoir Reserve and Daisy Dell Discovery Days were a huge success.



Randalls Bay Revolving Fund Property. Photo: Matt Newton

Page 4 Find out how passionate landowners are helping the TLC to protect threatened natural landscapes, as we celebrate ten years of revolving funds in Tasmania.



Volunteers on weeding trip, Central Highlands. Photo: Phill Roach

Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*). Photo: Heath Holden

LOOKING AFTER NATURE

An oceanographer, a deer hunter and a nurse are sitting around a table. This isn't the start of a joke but, from the laughter emanating from the group it's probable that someone has just told one.

Our unlikely trio are all Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) volunteers, who have just finished a long day weeding at the TLC's Central Highland properties. They've spent the past few days combing the landscape in search of weed species that invaded the properties years ago. This summer, 37 volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds worked alongside the TLC staff and other experts, contributing nearly 100 days of voluntary effort to weed over 18,000 hectares of land – a herculean effort by anyone's standards.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the TLC has undertaken this massive task, and it's paying off – with a 30% decrease in weeds found from last year. This work has been funded, in part by NRM South, we are so grateful for their ongoing support in this partnership.

The weeding effort also meets other land management goals. The end of summer is a time when illegal access to the TLC properties becomes an issue – people are looking for places to get 'free' firewood and others are hoping to find places to shoot deer without permission. We also monitor the condition of roads and other infrastructure, which if left unmaintained can become seriously expensive to repair. By searching

all of our properties for weeds, we can identify places where an issue is developing and put a stop to it before it gets out of hand.

Spending warm summer days searching all the nooks and crannies of our properties also throws up unexpected finds. Old stone chimneys were found, and previously unrecorded threatened plant species were discovered while weeding. This year, we came across a pair of scientists who'd just discovered an endangered Miena jewel beetle, which is the first record of the species on the TLC's land.

Listening to the banter around the table, you'd be forgiven for thinking that our unlikely trio were old friends but, in fact, they were complete strangers at the start of the week. Listening to them share their stories, the connection between them becomes apparent – they're all here for their love of Tasmania's bush, and the TLC provides them the opportunity to share it with others.

**Denna Kingdom
Reserve Manager**

KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS

It's been four years since we rolled out fauna monitoring across the TLC's 11,000ha Five Rivers Reserve; initially to check the status of Tasmanian devils and the spread of devil facial tumour disease in the greater Bronte area.

This February, we again set 40 sensor cameras, not just to provide us with a better understanding of the status of our

largest marsupial carnivore, but to capture important information about the other terrestrial mammals in the reserve, including spotted-tailed quoll, eastern quoll and wombat.

The importance of this monitoring is proving more critical than ever. With the recent spread of sarcoptic mange in wombats at Narawntapu National Park and nearby 'Cockatoo Hill', we want to be on the front foot if, or when, this debilitating disease reaches our reserve, and be better prepared to treat any affected animals at burrow sites.

From the 650 wombat images collected during previous years, all look healthy, and as our data shows an occupancy rate of around 80% over this period, we are confident that the wombat population has been fairly stable up until now. This year, with the help of 11 Wildlands student volunteers from the USA, we began to map wombat burrows by walking transects through grasslands and recording burrow density and activity. In one grassland alone with eight people surveying, we found 45 burrows in four hectares. It's wombat paradise! We've developed a simple survey technique that anyone can follow; if you've got some spare time, please register to help us map more burrows, and better protect the amazing species that live in them.

**Sally Bryant
Conservation Science & Planning Manager**

ACT

Experience nature from the comfort of your own home by joining the TLC's ecological monitoring team.

Visit tasland.org.au/volunteering



DISCOVERING THE VALE

Protected and thriving, *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolour*. Photo: Heath Holden

In early February, 120 supporters converged on the TLC’s Vale of Belvoir Reserve, to experience its resplendent wildflowers and to learn about its uniqueness and challenges. Everyone left inspired, bearing an indelible imprint of the power of community-based conservation.

The stellar tone was set by the TLC Board member Julian von Bibra in his opening address. Julian celebrated the all-important role community plays in protecting the Vale; from the vital stewardship of the former owners, the Charleston family, to the donors who gave generously to the 2008 campaign; from the enthusiastic monitoring and science expert volunteers, to the passionate involvement of local landowners; all contributing more than the sum of their parts.

Supporters divided into adventure groups, led by guest experts with local knowledge and a passion for the Vale. Whilst the groups appreciated their leadership, the experts benefited too. For good friends and TLC Science Council members Louise Gilfedder and Fred Duncan, leading a Vale tour was the proverbial ‘icing on the cake’. “It was a great pleasure and a significant professional reward. I started working on highland grasslands with Fred in the 1990s” said Louise, clearly thrilled. “To have Kevin, Wendy and Lisa Charleston present and feel the all-important, long-term connection to this wonderful property from former landowners, scientists and land managers was rewarding.”

The fact that the TLC inherited the Vale in outstanding ecological condition due

to traditional cattle grazing and mosaic burning was echoed by all leaders.

Along the way, groups made interpretation stops to learn about ecological burns and monitoring. Groups learned how two years after a planned ecological burn, flowering herbs had proliferated as a result of the reduced competition from tussock grasses. For Reserves Manager Denna Kingdom and fire ecology consultant Jon Marsden-Smedley, the sea of orange-flowered everlasting paper daisies (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*) across the burn area represented the successful outcome of more than five years of careful, challenging planning and practice.

Immediately prior to the discovery day, citizen scientists were traversing the Vale’s karst-pocked grasslands, collecting data from fauna cameras and monitoring vegetation at fixed photo monitoring points. Holding court under a magnificent 300 plus year-old Cider gum, Conservation Ecologist Matt Taylor and long-term volunteer Erin Harris shared their findings with reclining but attentive supporters. Matt revealed that monitoring has shown that, whilst grazing traditionally played an important function in maintaining flora species diversity, cattle were also impacting the Vale’s wetland habitats and water quality. He foresees a progressive reduction in grazing and an increase in the use of fire to best manage all of the Vale’s natural values into the future.

Erin’s volunteer journey demonstrates the return on investment for involving community in conservation and Matt was proud to have her by his side.



Long-term volunteer, Erin Harris. Photo: Phill Roach

“Erin has been part of the team since we began work three years ago. At first she felt she’d been thrown in the deep end. But she’s come back every year to develop her highland plant ID skills and she now knows about as much as anyone about the ecology of these unique grasslands”.

The experience was a formative one for Erin. “It made me realise how many people are out there that care for our environment. Being able to present findings to supporters really made me appreciate my role. I started off as a learner and then I became the educator. Relaying why we monitor changes at the Vale put things into perspective, I guess for both me and the community”.

The exciting feeling that community-based conservation engenders was clearly contagious. Since the discovery day, the TLC has been gratefully inundated with messages of confidence from supporters, new signups for volunteering and generous donations from attendees.

**Phill Roach
Community Engagement Coordinator**

EXPLORE

Invitations to our events are sent by email only, to keep our mailing costs low. If you would like to receive information about our events, please contact info@tasland.org.au to make sure that you don’t miss out!



Revolving Fund property for sale. Photo: Matt Newton

Margaret Atkinson. Photo provided by family

TEN YEARS OF REVOLVING FUNDS

Revolving funds have enabled the protection of over 5000 hectares of naturally significant land in perpetuity in Tasmania. The objective of the funds is to on-sell the properties to landholders who manage them for nature, with the option of living on the land beside the covenanted landscape.

It's been a huge team effort by landowners, philanthropists, scientists, volunteers and partners. There are three revolving funds operating in Tasmania; the FCF (Forest Conservation Fund) Revolving Fund, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) Revolving Fund and the King Island Revolving Fund.

These funds would not have been possible without the support of the Australian Government, the Tasmanian Government, the King Island Natural Resource Management Group Inc. and the unwavering commitment and dedication of the staff of DPIPWE, for facilitating permanent protection of the land through registration of conservation covenants.

A celebration of this significant milestone was held on the first TLC Revolving Fund property, Rubicon, on 24th February, organised by landowners Phil Collier and Robin Garnett who are co-convenors of the fabulous community group; Conservation Landholders Tasmania. The story of Rubicon is a wonderful one and purchase would not have been possible without

the support and passion of two people in particular, Dr Wendy Potts and Cathy Clayton, who provided donations and loans to the TLC way back in 2004, to stop the property from being cleared. Now in the safe hands of Phil and Robin, the property has its own iconic status in history as the birth place of revolving funds in Tasmania.

For fellow landowners John Thompson and Annette Vojinov, a Revolving Fund property ticks all the criteria: "the clincher for us was that it would be sold with a conservation covenant on the forest and a nature conservation plan that fully aligned with our botanical and conservation aspirations."

Support for landowners purchasing Revolving Fund properties is provided by the Monitoring and Stewardship team from DPIPWE in a joint project with the TLC. The Revolving Fund is continuing to grow, and there are many little gems on the books. Thank you to all who have been part of this remarkable journey and, most importantly, thank you to all the Revolving Fund landowners who are now the custodians and caretakers of their own special patch of nature in Tasmania.

**Leigh Walters & Janine Waldron
Revolving Fund Team**

EXPLORE

Check out our properties for sale at **tasland.org.au/properties-for-sale**

HONOURING MARGARET ATKINSON

Long-time conservationist Margaret Atkinson died suddenly in September 2016 at the age of 81.

Many TLC supporters will have known Margaret from her involvement with and dedication to Tasmanian environmental causes, from her arrest at the Franklin Dam protests to her administrative work for the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and Bush Heritage Australia. Margaret was an active member of the Brown Mountain Trust, a group of individuals who purchased a strategic area of forest beside Mt Field National Park, to save it from logging. The Trust eventually donated the land to the TLC and it is now a TLC reserve.

After WWOOFing (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) her way around Australia, Margaret retired to NSW, where she was a volunteer for WIRES (wildlife rescue) and the parks service (removing weeds). She also helped to run community gardens and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. Our sympathies go to her three sons and their families.



EXPLORE DAISY DELL

Rainforest glade, Daisy Dell. Photo: Chris Crerar

Not until I stood on the land that is Daisy Dell did I fully appreciate the significance of its natural values, and the commitment of the landholders to protect this special place. At my initial meeting with Peter Sims and John Wilson in mid 2016, I was made instantly aware of the strong connection of the local community to this landscape and their passion and dedication to have it protected.

Peter and John have nurtured, grown and protected Iris Farm Nature Reserve which adjoins the Daisy Dell parcel of land that the TLC is now raising funds to purchase. As I sat on the veranda of Ike's Hut at Iris Farm Nature Reserve flicking through Peter and John's scrapbook, brimming with inspiring details of their tireless work, achievements, special events and historical moments at Daisy Dell, it became apparent that they were presenting the TLC with a unique and special opportunity.

Six months later, on a drizzly summer's morning in the highlands, I was standing in the middle of Daisy Dell alongside John and the TLC's Jane Hutchinson, introducing 80 TLC supporters to the property and project as part of the Daisy Dell Discovery Day. In such a short space of time since the initial discussion on Ike's Hut veranda on that drizzly morning at Daisy Dell we all witnessed the consolidation of a concept conceived through the joining of forces between committed neighbours and the TLC, to help make this vision of conservation a reality.

We continue to be inspired and are forever grateful for the support of so many who are working towards the fruition of this project, and we hope, in the near future to add yet another page to that special scrapbook with a positive addition to the history of Daisy Dell. So far we have raised \$150,000 with another \$110,000 to go before reaching our target, and hopefully announcing it as our next reserve.

The Discovery Day gave supporters the opportunity to explore this remarkable place, and to meet Peter and John. The day boasted a plenitude of 'wows' as we explored ancient rainforest and heard stories of the intricate cultural, geological and ecological history which makes this area so unique. We were delighted when the TLC supporter Lynden Leppard described his experience at Daisy Dell, "I see the land differently now and maybe even understand some stuff a bit better".

Involving people in all that we do at the TLC is fundamental to achieving our vision for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation. The Daisy Dell project and its Discovery Day, exemplify our commitment to work with community and to partner with others to protect Tasmania's unique places for future generations.

James Hattam
Philanthropy & Engagement Manager

GIVE

Join the community of supporters today at tasland.org.au/daisy-dell

Lunch at Ike's Hut, Iris Farm Nature Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden

A LASTING LEGACY

The Daisy Dell project has been strengthened and made all the more special by the sharing of boundaries with the Iris Farm Nature Reserve and a property owned and managed for conservation by the TLC supporter, Gary Clark.

When visiting Tasmania in the early '90s, Gary and his late wife Suzanne instantly fell in love with the land. "Seeing the 'For Sale' sign, stopping, climbing over the gate, we walked down to Bull Creek ... Suzanne was instantly smitten", Gary recalls.

We are always incredibly honoured when someone expresses their intention to leave a gift to the TLC in their will, and Gary has done just that. As Suzanne's lasting legacy, it is Gary's intention to leave their property to the TLC ensuring that Suzanne's memory, and a further 200+ hectares of significant natural values at Daisy Dell, will be protected forever.

Collaborating with deeply committed supporters like Gary, we are able to ensure that the land that is currently under his care will, after his lifetime, continue to be safeguarded. We are so grateful to Suzanne and Gary, and to everyone who has left a gift to the TLC or who are considering doing so - a truly lasting legacy.

For more information about how to become part of our bequest program, or to let us know you have already included us in your will, please contact Sophie on 0419389390 or smarshall@tasland.org.au.

Sophie Marshall
Bequest & Supporter Relations



Vista from Daisy Hill, Vale of Belvoir Reserve. Photo: Heath Holden



Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*). Photo: Peter Vaughan

EXPLORE

There are many ways to connect with nature, and share the joys it offers. If you are not able to visit one of our reserves, our gallery of nature images on Instagram might inspire you. Join our community of supporters on Facebook and Twitter and share your favourite bushwalking story, or be blown away by drone footage from our reserves, providing a bird's eye view of the landscape on YouTube. Choose your own adventure!

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ACT

Our recent summer activities were hugely successful, thanks to the help of our volunteers. And it's not just the sun-filled nature reserves that inspire this diverse group of individuals; our volunteers find their unique way to contribute to our work in all seasons and settings. What does your volunteer journey with the TLC look like?

Find out at tasland.org.au/volunteering

GIVE

We are striving to become a global leader in nature conservation in Tasmania. We need a community of committed supporters at our side to achieve this ambitious and critical conservation goal. Donate to the TLC and become a part of our vision to protect threatened landscapes in Tasmania.

Visit tasland.org.au/how-to-give-to-the-tlc

PLEASE JOIN THE GROWING COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS HELPING TO PROTECT DAISY DELL AT

[TASLAND.ORG.AU/DAISY-DELL](https://tasland.org.au/DAISY-DELL)

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