



# TASMANIAN | Land | CONSERVANCY



## 2009 - 2010 TLC year in review

Photo: Bill Waitfield and Es Hayward

Sub-adult Wedge-tailed eagle

### Issue 26 Spring 2010

- TLC year in review
- Saving woodland birds
- Ginny Jackson
- Board profile - Liz Sharples
- Supporter news

### Board Members

- Mr Peter Bosworth (President)
- Dr Geoff Couser (Vice President)
- Ms Liz Sharples (Treasurer)
- Dr Karina Potter (Secretary)
- Dr Wendy Potts
- Mr John Ramsay
- Mr Roderic O' Connor
- Mrs Susan Gough
- Mr Sam McCullough
- Ms Lyn Maddock
- Mr Stuart Barry

### Contact Us

Nathan Males (Chief Executive Officer)

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394

www.tasland.org.au info@tasland.org.au

ABN 887 43 606 934

As we look forward to the TLC's ten-year anniversary, we are excited by the prospects for conservation during the coming 12 months.

With the help of our supporters, private landholders, volunteers and partners in the State and Commonwealth governments we can all be proud of our achievements. In our nine years of operation we have established over 20,000 ha of protected areas at 175 sites across Tasmania.

Our 2009 - 2010 annual report is now available on the TLC website and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our major achievements.

### TLC Permanent Reserves

We have continued to raise funds from our supporters to secure the long-term conservation of the Vale of Belvoir, our eighth private reserve, and I am very pleased to announce we are now close to achieving our target for the permanent preservation of this outstanding area of beauty and ecological significance within a stone's throw of Cradle Mountain.

Over the past 12 months, many management activities have been undertaken on our permanent reserves, each working towards goals for specific conservation targets. Tables 1, 2, and 3 (overleaf) summarise our major results.

I would like to thank the volunteers and board members who so generously contribute their time in assisting with newsletter mail-outs, supporter reserve trips, expert knowledge and most significantly the formulation of a 2050 vision and mission for the TLC.

We estimate that an additional 700 hours of off-reserve volunteer support has been received in 2009-2010, helping the TLC to keep our operating costs down considerably.

Cumulative area protected

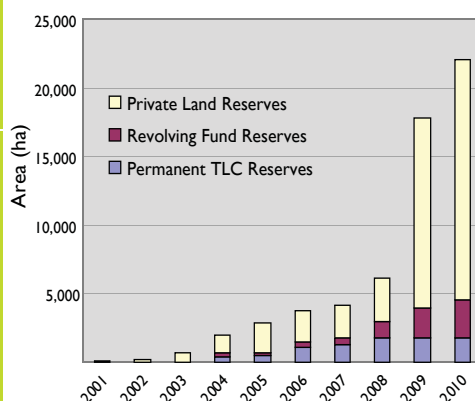




Photo: Wolfgang Glowacki

Snow gums at the Vale of Belvoir



Photo: Matt Newton

Volunteers performing a plant survey at the Vale of Belvoir

## 2009-2010 TLC year in review (cont.)

Table 1: Reserve data

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of reserves                                       | 8     |
| Area of reserves (ha)                                    | 1,765 |
| Number of threatened species protected                   | 44    |
| Area of threatened vegetation communities protected (ha) | 508   |

Table 2: Management plans

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Reserves with interim management plans prepared        | 8 |
| Reserves with comprehensive management plans finalised | 4 |
| Comprehensive management plans nearing completion      | 3 |

Table 3: Reserve volunteer data

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Number of reserve-based volunteer activities | 12        |
| Number of participating volunteers           | 106       |
| Number of volunteer days                     | 364.5     |
| Value of volunteer work at \$30/hr           | \$ 87,480 |

### Revolving Fund Properties

In October 2007 the TLC and the Commonwealth of Australia entered into a deed of agreement to establish and manage a Revolving Fund. We also receive additional funding from the King Island NRM and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

Between October 2007 and July 2010 the TLC assessed 308 properties for suitability to purchase through the Fund. One hundred and fifteen properties have been identified as warranting further investigation and 62 properties have been subject to an on-ground assessment.

Over the life of the TLC Revolving Fund, we have bought 23 properties, of which we have sold five and a further eight are currently under contract. Once properties are covenanted and sold, the funds return to the Revolving Fund to allow further purchases of properties with significant conservation value. This approach to conserving biodiversity uses every precious dollar over and over again.

### Private Land Reserves

We have five strategic programs delivering substantial results for conservation management across Tasmania.

- Our Focal Landscapes partnership with the State Government is funded by the National Reserve System Program and jointly we have developed a prioritisation system that identifies special areas in Tasmania where unique natural values occur together. The identification of these focal landscapes represents the first stage of an ongoing approach to refining conservation efforts on private land in Tasmania.
- The Protected Areas on Private Land (PAPL) strategic partnership between the TLC, the Commonwealth Government and the State Government's Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) has resulted in the permanent protection of an additional 767 ha over nine sites during the 2009-2010 financial year.
- The Tasmanian midlands is 98% privately owned and most of its conservation assets exist on working farms. Together with Bush Heritage Australia

and the State Government's PLCP program, the TLC continues to develop and implement workable conservation initiatives for this biologically important farming area of Tasmania.

- Our award-winning partnership with Roaring 40s in the Eagle Nest Protection Program resulted in the protection of: an additional five Wedge-tailed eagle nests; four White-bellied sea eagle nests; and 235 ha of eagle nesting habitat.
- TLC commenced the Woodland Birds Habitat Protection Program with Birds Australia, Trust for Nature (Vic) and the NSW Nature Conservation Trust (see page 3 for more details).

### TLC Foundation and Bequests

The most effective way to maintain the integrity of our TLC permanent reserves which protect the magnificent wildlife and plants that depend upon healthy ecosystems, is to create a capital fund providing a long-term income stream solely for their conservation.

Accordingly in 2010 the TLC Foundation was established for this purpose. Funds for the Foundation will come from bequests, named funds established for another person or in memorial, and gifts made specifically to the Foundation. A sub-committee of the TLC Board has been established to oversee the Foundation funds and to ensure that contributions made to the Foundation are used for the purposes for which they were intended.



Vale of Belvoir

Photo: Andy Townsend



Jo Denne with her favourite Forty-spotted pardalote photo

Photo: Matt Newton

## Saving woodland birds—it's about people

The inaugural Foundation committee members are: Susan Gough (chair), Peter Bosworth, Roderic O'Connor, Sam McCullough and Stuart Barry.

I am very pleased to announce that the Foundation Fund has now accumulated over \$1,000,000, comprised of 12 named funds. I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the wonderful supporters and their families and friends who have contributed so far.

As a community-based environmental organisation we have accomplished much since 2001. We are exceptionally well placed to take significant steps towards our 2050 vision of:

*Tasmania as a global leader in conservation and sustainability:*

- for communities taking active responsibility for the environment;
- for a world class and well managed reserve system; and
- for sustainable use of our resources.

Thank you to all TLC supporters.

Nathan Males - CEO

Table 4: National threat ranking of Tasmanian woodland-dependant birds

(source - Birds Australia)

|    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Swift parrot            |
| 4  | Forty-spotted pardalote |
| 22 | Flame robin             |
| 23 | Scarlet robin           |
| 28 | Spotted quail-thrush    |
| 32 | Painted button-quail    |
| 33 | Dusky woodswallow       |

Tasmania's grassy woodlands are among the most threatened of Australia's ecosystems and since European settlement have been targeted for development. Over the past three decades, and probably influenced by climate change, they have experienced severe drought leading to widespread decline in health.

Never before has this deterioration been more evident than during the recent survey of one of Tasmania's most threatened woodland birds — the Forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*).

This tiny bird is intrinsically linked to White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), which of all the eucalypts is the most sensitive to drought. Many pardalote colonies along the east coast of Tasmania, such as Maria and Bruny Islands, have lost their large old White gums with lush spreading canopies. They are dominated by dead trees and show scant evidence of regeneration. This deterioration in habitat mirrors the decline in the 40-spotted pardalote population with the survey finding:

- 60% population decline over 17 years;
- 85% of pardalote colonies declining;
- colonies <10 ha facing extinction;
- drought leading to white gum dieback as the primary factor; and
- disturbance, fragmentation and change in bird fauna as secondary factors.

Saving threatened woodland birds is a huge task which relies not on the species themselves but on the commitment and skill of people. One example of commitment is the story of the Denne

family, where in 1991 the family's desire to protect a favoured piece of bush led to the largest pardalote colony on Bruny Island being protected. In 1995, when the Dennes Hill Nature Reserve was proclaimed, it was the first time the State government and private landholders had joined together to protect habitat for a nationally endangered species. Years later the significance of this legacy is even more apparent. As the Forty-spotted pardalote continues to decline across its range due to drought and dieback other threats like subdivision and clearing have been averted. To build on the Denne's lead, the Bruny Island community is now covenanting their White gums and planting more where needed.

In 2009 the TLC joined with organisations from Victoria and NSW to identify and protect nationally declining woodland birds on private land. Forty-two woodland bird species were ranked in order of most threatened, including the Tasmanian birds in Table 4.

The TLC now has five Tasmanian properties being progressed for covenants covering over 300 ha. Two properties are near Little Swanport, protecting Swift parrot habitat, and three Bruny Island properties containing known nest sites and breeding colonies of Swift parrot and Forty-spotted pardalote.

The cooperation and commitment of these new landholders to protect their land is another legacy that will play a major role in saving woodland bird species.

Dr Sally Bryant - TLC Wildlife Ecologist



Photo Peter Dowling

In memory of Ginny Jackson



Photo: Matt Newton

Liz Sharples



Photo: MATT NEWTON

Rainforest - Vale of Belvoir

## Ginny Jackson

We were saddened by the news from Janice Bird and Peter Dowling that Peter's partner Ginny Jackson lost her battle with cancer recently. Ginny is remembered here by Janice and Peter.

An enthusiastic supporter of the TLC and lifelong friend of the Tasmanian bush, Ginny (Virginia) Jackson has died from cancer at the age of 58.

The daughter of respected UTas Professor of Botany, the late Bill Jackson, Ginny had an abiding love for Tasmania's natural beauty and was ever eager to explore the mountains and gullies, creeks and beaches of her home state. Over the years, she spent thousands of happy hours camping and bushwalking with family and friends.

Her affinity with the natural world was reflected in her poetry, painting and printmaking, to which she turned with increasing passion in recent years. Her art featured in several local solo and group exhibitions and a collection of her poems, *The Still Deceived*, was published by Ginninderra Press in July 2010.

An avid reader, Ginny spent 25 years teaching matriculation English in Hobart, inspiring a love of literature in many of her students. Other passions were her family (partner Peter and children Will, Brigid and Evan), gardening, cookery – and hunting out curiosities and bargains in op shops. She chose to be buried with an heirloom antique spoon in one hand and her secateurs in the other. The zest

## Board profile

Liz Sharples is a Tasmanian by birth and choice. Her early years were spent living at Tranmere while it was still accessed by a dirt road and she now lives in the bush on another dirt road at Oyster Cove.

She has travelled and lived in many parts of the world. Following a stint in the public service, she spent 20 years working in the hospitality industry. Along the way, she gathered tertiary qualifications in Hospitality Management, Arts, Fine Arts and Accounting. She now runs her own accounting practice while researching a doctorate in water resources accounting.

Childhood camping holidays sparked a love of unspoiled nature. Over years of visiting places where the built environment predominates, she has become a strong believer in encouraging access to wild nature as part of a healthy lifestyle. She is a registered wildlife carer with an interest in maintaining bushland habitat for native wildlife while protecting and encouraging productive land usages developed by the human population.


'I choose to be a supporter and board member of the TLC because of its innovative programs' she enthuses.

### Ginny Jackson cont.

with which she pursued each of her interests was infectious, encouraging her children and friends in their own creative endeavours.

Ginny's vivacious presence is sadly missed by all who loved her.

## Supporter news

Keep up with what we are doing in more detail using these quick and easy methods: the TLC is on now Facebook and we also have a blog: [www.tasland.org.au/blog](http://www.tasland.org.au/blog). 

The latest blog post covers a planned field day where enthusiastic volunteers are sought to assist us complete cattle-proof fences around sensitive wetlands at our Vale of Belvoir Reserve, near Cradle Mountain, Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 October. Only 15 places are available. Contact us on (03) 6225 1399 or [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au).

## Photography Exhibition

In December, the TLC and The Wilderness Gallery at Cradle Mountain will present an exhibition of stunning images featuring the magnificent Vale of Belvoir. The work is from some of Tasmania's finest photographers.

The exhibition will be opened at The Wilderness Gallery, Cradle Mountain on Friday 3rd December 2010 and will be on display for the summer months.

A special preview of the exhibition will be held in Hobart on Wednesday 24th of November 2010 from 6pm.

We do hope you will be able to join us for one or both of these events. Please let us know if you are interested in attending by contacting our Hobart office on (03) 6225 1399 or [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au).

We are grateful to the following organisations for their support in recent months





## Revolving Fund Properties for Sale

By choosing to purchase property through the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's Revolving Fund, you make an exciting positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. The TLC has selected every property primarily for its high ecological value, but each property offers an existing home or an attractive home site. The TLC uses the proceeds of sales to purchase and protect further important properties. Together, we build a network of areas cherished by owners for their natural values.

For more information please visit [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au) and follow the [Property for sale](#) and [Property maps](#) links.

### Mount Arthur, Underwood

Only 26 km northeast of Launceston lies the Mt Arthur 220 ha mountain forest property. Extensive areas of endangered Tall white gum forest give a feeling of seclusion and is ideal for people seeking to live in the natural environment, yet close to amenities. Pipers Brook and other wineries are close by and Lilydale lies to the north.

Two major creeks and several minor ones run year-round through the property and provide habitat for the vulnerable Mt Arthur burrowing crayfish. Wedge-tailed eagles nest on the eastern boundary in the adjoining state forest.

Whites Mill Road bisects the property and there are potential house sites close to the road. A well-made gravel road suitable for use by 2WD vehicles runs across the property and provides access to other potential sites with views to the north.

The property is offered for sale as a single property or the TLC would consider dividing into a number of smaller parcels each of approximately 40 to 50 ha with its own conservation covenant and house site.

*Offers around \$500,000*

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 016



### Prossers Forest, Nunamara

Imagine living in your own tranquil 245 ha diverse eucalypt forest only 20 kms east of Launceston. This wonderful property, containing extensive Black gum endangered forest, offers a choice of home sites.

There is an extensive network of watercourses including a permanent creek and the area benefits from average annual rainfall between 570 to 940 mm. The property provides habitat for a population of Mount Arthur burrowing crayfish, a species listed as vulnerable in Commonwealth and Tasmanian legislation.

Prossers Road runs along the northern boundary and bisects it for a distance. There are a number of well-made gravel roads suitable for use by 2WD vehicles. Mains power is also available near the edge of the property.

The property is offered for sale as one or the TLC would consider dividing into a number of smaller properties, each approximately 40 to 50 ha with its own conservation covenant and house site.

*Offers around \$550,000*

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 015



## Pegarah Forest, King Island

This beautiful property contains some of the best remaining Blue gum forest on King Island. The block has direct frontage to Pegarah Road and offers a range of potential house sites in a private bush setting. It is less than five minutes drive from the beach at Naracoopa and 25 minutes from King Island airport. It provides good habitat for a range of threatened flora and fauna including the endangered Masked owl.

Offers around \$130,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 014



## Bullock Hills, Hollow Tree

Covering 300 ha, the Bullock Hills property has two titles, one with an existing two bedroom house. The larger title (220.6 ha) offers an attractive house site with a northerly aspect. An hour drive from Hobart, the reserve protects populations of two threatened forest communities and offers attractive rural and bushland views. A pair of endangered Wedge-tailed eagles are commonly seen soaring above the property.

\$260,000 each, or \$500,000 for both

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 004



## Epping Forest, Cleveland

A rare 608 ha property of forest and grassland in Tasmania's biodiversity hotspot, the northern Midlands. 40 kms south of Launceston, this secluded property has a large storage and shearing shed, several dams, fences and a network of tracks. Home to the endangered Tasmanian devil and Tasmanian bettong, the purchaser will be making a major contribution towards conserving biodiversity in a region of national significance.

Expressions of interest

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 001



## Risdon Peppermint, Brighton

Spectacular views of the Derwent river, Mt Dromedary and surrounding forested ridges, the 31 ha Risdon Peppermint property is only 20 minutes drive from Hobart. The property offers several good house sites that could accommodate a range of recreational, boutique agricultural or pastoral pursuits. Significant conservation values include foraging habitat for several threatened fauna species, including the endangered Swift parrot.

Offers around \$360,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 002



## Mikes Hill, Lachlan

Mikes Hill is 155 ha of forest and cleared land in the Derwent Valley, 5 km west of New Norfolk and 45 minutes drive from Hobart. This lovely property protects populations of two vulnerable forest communities, Silver peppermint and Tasmanian blue gum, and is prime habitat for several threatened species of fauna including the endangered Wedge-tailed eagle.

Offers around \$220,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 006



protecting land for biodiversity

[www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au)

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy is a registered environmental organisation. We raise funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites, endangered species habitats, and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land.



The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. ABN: 88743 606 934

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005 Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394 [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)



These properties were purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy through a Revolving Fund, which is used to buy land with significant conservation values to protect forever through the use of a conservation covenant. The TLC's Revolving Fund is funded from a number of sources. The primary source is the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund. Other funding sources include the King Island Natural Resource Management Group and DPIPWE. Money raised from the sale of Revolving Fund properties is directed into the purchase of other Revolving Fund properties in Tasmania, extending the value from every dollar within the Fund.