

Tasmanian Landcare Association Annual Report 2010/11



TASMANIAN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION



THE TEAM

Executive Officer: Margie Jenkin

Admin and Finance Officer:

Monika Heisswolf/Brian Board (part-time)

Extra Hands Program Development Officer:

Tracey Gatehouse (part-time)

Devolved Grants Project Manager: Alan Barton

Devolved Grants Project Officer: Peter Stronach

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Matthew Pitt (Derwent Catchment NRM)

Vice President: Dean Vincent (Huonville Landcare)

Treasurer: Pene Thornton (Tranmere – Clarence Plains Land and Coastcare)

Secretary: Lyndley Chopping (Upper Derwent Valley Landcare)

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Anthea Fergusson (Circular Head Landcare)

Guy Robertson (North West Environment Centre)

Maureen Bennett (Greater Rubicon Catchment Management)

Vicki Campbell (Wildcare Inc. Friends of Maria Island, Friends of Bass Strait Islands)

Gwendolyn Adams (Perth Evandale Landcare)

Brian Baxter (East Tamar Landcare)

Adrian James (NRM North)

Leanne Sherriff (Mortimer Bay Coastcare)

Rob Morey (Penna Landcare)

Lola Cowle (Sorell Guides)

Holly Hansen (Huonville Landcare)

The TLCA is a statewide, membership-based organisation with approximately 200 member groups. Our Committee is made of volunteers from these groups, ensuring that our work remains current and relevant to our membership.

TLCA WORKING GROUPS

Tasmanian Landcare Fund Project Assessment

Committee: Gwendolyn Adams (Chair), Don Wing MLC, Don Willing and Greg Pinkard

Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards 2011

Working Group: Vicki Webb (Chair), Anthea Fergusson, Guy Robertson, Alice Ryder, Denise Stronach, Pete Stronach, Margie Jenkin, plus Lola Cowle (Awards Assessment Co-ordinator) and Vicki Campbell (Researcher and Assistant).

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants Steering Committee:

Leanne Sherriff (Chair), Andrew Smith, Sebastian Burgess, Margie Jenkin

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants Technical Assessment

Committee: Leanne Sherriff (Chair), Dean Vincent, Andrew Crane, Don Thompson, Anna Wind, Brian Baxter, Scott Schilig, Aniela Grun, Ashley Rushton, Karen Ziegler and Margie Jenkin.

TLCA MEMBERSHIPS

During 2010-2011, the TLCA had representation on, or was a member of the:

- NRM North Group A Committee;
- NRM South Regional Committee;
- Regional Landcare Facilitator – North, Reference Panel;
- Regional Landcare Facilitator – South, Reference Panel;
- National Landcare Network Executive Committee;
- National Landcare Network;
- Landcare Australia Ltd Advisory Council; and
- Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania.

Thank you to everyone who has represented the interests of community Landcare on these committees.



LOOKING AHEAD – THE TLCA 5 YEAR PLAN

In September 2010, *Looking Ahead – the TLCA 5 Year Plan* was released. The plan is now at work guiding the direction of the organisation. The TLCA's ambitions for the next five years are to:

- Improve communications;
- Increase engagement and participation;
- Strengthen and expand the TLCA membership;
- Become financially sustainable; and
- Maintain a stable, vibrant and effective organisation.

Priority actions include securing core funding and improving financial reporting, developing and delivering a Communications Plan, upgrading the TLCA website, reviewing the membership structure and Extra Hands casual volunteer program and improving information management and storage. All these priorities are now well underway.

Each month the Executive Officer reports against specific targets defined in the plan. A mid-term review for the plan will take place in late 2012 to re-set the compass if required.

VISION

The vision of the TLCA is to be the peak membership body that represents, strengthens, supports and grows Tasmania's community Landcare movement to improve the health of our natural and working landscapes.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the TLCA are to:

- Promote community Landcare;
- Connect people and organisations with an interest in Landcare;
- Support landcarers with administration, information and funding; and to
- Represent community Landcare as an advocacy body.

VALUES

The values of the TLCA are to:

- Recognise and encourage people's connection to the land;
- Recognise the goodwill of volunteers and supporters, and to appreciate their commitment to Landcare;
- Be an enduring, proactive, vision-oriented and relevant organisation;
- Communicate well and promote the Landcare movement;
- Be a trusted and accessible source of information,
- Support and encourage community landcarers;
- Act with integrity, honesty and respect;
- Be an open and inclusive organisation that fosters cooperation;
- Be non-partisan in representing the views of community landcarers; and
- Ensure that the governance of the organisation follows due process and is guided by the views of our membership.

Looking Ahead – the TLCA 5 Year Plan, August 2010 is available on the TLCA website, www.taslandcare.org.au



The 2010-2011 year has been both a challenging and rewarding year for the Tasmanian Landcare Association.

Our biggest challenge was to secure funding from the Tasmanian Government in what were very difficult circumstances and lay the foundations for the financial security of the organisation. After an enormous effort from Margie Jenkin and supporters of Landcare in Tasmania we were successful in securing some of the funding requested. The commitment from Government is now locked in for four years.

This success was due to a number of factors, the main ones being the reputation and recognition that the TLCA enjoys in the community due to the tangible support provided to the many volunteers working to improve the environment.

Another factor is the success of the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants project which is nearing completion with the third round of funding rolled out. TLCA project staff, Alan Barton and Peter Stronach along with the Technical Assessment Committee and Steering Committee (both chaired by TLCA Committee member Leanne Sherriff) have done a great job in ensuring the smooth running of the program.

While the funding from the Tasmanian Government is vitally important in supporting the financial future of the TLCA it represents only a quarter of the annual budget. I believe it is important that organisations like the TLCA are supported by Government as volunteers are vital to the health and well-being of the community. We also need to seek funding from the corporate sector and philanthropic donors.

For us to succeed in our endeavours to achieve financial security we need widespread support. The power of the people should not be underestimated as evidenced by our campaign to receive funding in the last state budget. Landcare has a strong brand which we can use to great effect. The General Committee has, on recommendation from the Executive approved the use of Landcare Tasmania as our business name. The main reason for this is the recognition factor of the Landcare brand not only publicly but amongst the businesses where we need to make in-roads for sponsorship. The Tasmanian Landcare Association name will be retained as the incorporated name.

The National Landcare Network (NLN) continues to gain momentum and is starting to have an impact in its role as an advocate for Landcare volunteers. Thanks must go to Lyndley Chopping and his interstate counterparts for their work establishing the NLN. A Constitution is currently under development and the Network will be incorporated in the year ahead. This will enable the NLN to apply for funds to administer their work and to pursue other sources of funding for the Landcare network to support state bodies.

Goal setting is also underway to look at what options the NLN should pursue to best provide the backup the state and territory peak bodies require to either continue to operate or be established. I believe it is vital that a strong organisation exists to ensure that the energy of the thousands of volunteers is supported and fostered on a national level. It is an enormous resource that shouldn't be taken for granted.



The Extra Hands program has been ticking along. Tracey's role has now been broadened to include Communications for the Association, as we have recognised the importance in telling the Landcare story and ensuring opportunities to participate are well known. Hopefully with Tracey taking on the additional Communications role, it will enable a higher profile to be given to Extra Hands into the future. I believe it is a great program to connect volunteers with opportunities.

While the TLCA office is based in Hobart, our programs are state-wide. It has been great having Pete Stronach based out of Penguin and he has been doing great work with landcarers across the top of the state.

Added to this is the bi-annual Landcare Awards and Conference that will be run at Stanley on October 9 and 10. The Conference and Awards Steering Committee have put together a fantastic program for the weekend. I would encourage everyone to make an effort to attend and support the TLCA. This year we have chosen to keep the organising in house and have not employed additional outside staff. Our small team will be working hard to deliver the event but have great support from the Steering Committee and additional members of the General Committee too.

In March we farewelled Monika Heisswolf, who did a fantastic job in bringing the TLCA finances into order and introducing new procedures to allow us to better manage the accounts. It was sad to see her go, we wish her well in her new job closer to home in Huonville. We were very fortunate to replace Monika with Brian Board. Brian has settled in really well and is continuing on with Monika's great work. He came to us at a difficult time with the financial uncertainty, so it was a relief to us that he was prepared to come on board.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the past year and look forward to another successful year.

Happy landcaring.

Matthew Pitt



This has been an extraordinary year for the TLCA and associated care groups. As the year progressed it became more apparent that without core funding, the TLCA could not continue.

Thanks to an intense lobbying campaign the TLCA secured funding from the State Government of \$70,000 per year for the next 4 years to contribute towards core costs. This is a tremendous achievement, all the more so in a year when the State Government has had to find savings in so many areas. To have secured this funding is a huge credit to our Executive Officer, Margie Jenkin, our President, Matthew Pitt and everyone who wrote to the Minister and Premier in support of the TLCA. We thank Minister Brian Wightman for recognising the value of community landcare, the important work of the TLCA and providing financial support to enable the Association to survive.

The security of some longer term funding for core costs means that the TLCA is no longer at risk of insolvency, provided we keep a close watch on our funds and 'live to our means'. We estimate that core operational costs for the Association are around \$250,000 for the equivalent of just over two full time staff (wages and on-costs), office, vehicle, insurance etc. The Executive Officer will still be working hard to secure additional funding to maintain the existing services and programs through philanthropic, corporate and other funding programs (from both government and non-government sources). The insolvency risk that the TLCA posed to potential investors has been relieved with the new support from the State Government and this is foundational for our future.

Various funded programs are included in this report. Audited papers for the TLCA and for the Tasmanian Landcare Fund are included as an insert. Our thanks to auditor, Michael Muller for his thorough work.

We farewelled Monika earlier in the year, however her legacy remains in the robust financial framework she introduced. Brian continues to build upon our new financial system and, dare I say, adds his own improvements. Thank you both and Freedom Accounting for the support I have received during the year. Even if the reports generated by the Calxa system make uncomfortable reading it is always preferable to have accurate and reliable systems!

I am extremely proud to be associated with an organisation that reflects the commitment, focus and dedication of its member care groups.

Pene Thornton



It's been hectic. The TLCA faced insolvency at a time of acute financial scarcity across Tasmania. Our campaign to have State Government funding re-instated as a contribution towards core costs has been quite a focus during the last financial year.

In October 2010, I prepared a State Government budget submission detailing our core work and funding situation. As we had not received any support for core costs since the Living Environment Program finished in 2008, our request was essentially for 'new money'. Considering the current economic terrain, we were pushing sheep uphill!

The funding challenge has been really valuable in reviewing our work as an organisation. By necessity, it's forced us to look closely at the TLCA's programs, their relevance in supporting community Landcare – and their costs and benefits. Putting the microscope on the Landcare movement in Tasmania, and the TLCA's operations has highlighted the immense in-kind contribution made by volunteers across the state. The huge volunteer effort from our Committee and other supporters to run various TLCA programs and events is staggering, and these include the Tasmanian Landcare Fund, the Tas Landcaring Grants program and the State Landcare Conference and Awards – not to mention the everyday general business of the Association!

To turn up the volume with our campaign, we asked TLCA members and stakeholders to write to the State Government to support the TLCA's budget submission. The response was overwhelming! Many of the letters were also sent to our office and they have accentuated to me, the validity and relevance of the TLCA and the importance of the work we do. I am so very grateful to our supporters. While playing a critical role in getting the political traction needed, you also spurred me on personally. Thank you!

Of course, a big thank you to Minister Wightman and his office for committing to provide \$70,000 to the TLCA annually for the next four years as a contribution towards our core costs. This is a huge relief and will enable us to continue supporting members and attracting other funding through corporate, philanthropic, community and other government funding. We still have a long way to go before achieving the TLCA's objective of being 'financially robust and secure with multiple revenue sources – some long-term and on-going' – but we are on the way!

The new website (from funding received through the Woodend Foundation) is a work in progress. In consultation with our Committee and friends, we have signed off on a design and built the 'back-end' which will improve our administrative efficiencies through an online database. We are really excited about the new site which will celebrate on-ground work, provide opportunities to get involved and member information. While we hoped to have the site already launched, the reality of having a small team and limited resources, is that things take longer to do, but rest assured – it will be worth waiting for! Thank you Tracey for your terrific work managing this major project and Dave Shering from Handbuilt Creative.

From Round 23 of the Tasmanian Community Fund, we received support to better connect our community online through updating and expanding the member resources suite, including how to form a group, insure a group, incorporate a group etc. These tools have been well received by our members and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to keep them current and accessible online (printable copies will still be available).



We have completed the Community Engagement Project, funded through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative. This enabled the TLCA to continue to build capacity in the community through the Extra Hands program, delivering action planning workshops to groups (and updating action planning resources) and connecting landowners with opportunities to progress projects. We continue to work with a small number of Key Partner Properties on private land developing case studies of important on-ground change.

Rounds two and three of the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants (TLG) program have been heavily subscribed with some extremely valuable projects funded (see *report page 12*). Well done to the Steering Committee, Technical Assessment Committee and the program team, Alan, Pete and Jodie. Again, a special thank you to Leanne Sherriff for her outstanding contribution towards the delivery of the program. Thanks to our partner Wildcare, and the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative for funding the program.

Additionally, the TLG helped us raise the profile of our own Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) funding program, the Tasmanian Landcare Fund (TLF) as an alternative funding opportunity. Lessons which we've learned through the TLG have helped further develop governance and assessment processes for the TLF (see *the TLF report page 14*). A full TLF review will occur in 2011-12.

Other work for the year ahead includes the review of our Constitution. This will help us strengthen the foundations of our governance and ensure that our framework and the processes for decision making thoroughly represent the Landcare community.

In the last year, the TLCA has continued its membership on the National Landcare Network (NLN). The NLN provides an advocacy for community Landcare on a national level, and I believe it is important that the TLCA's voice is part of the choir! The support, perspective and information exchange from other state landcare bodies and organisations involved, is also extremely valuable.

As usual, there's been plenty of grant writing in the mix. We have re-applied to continue the Tas Landcaring Grants program through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative, and compiled a joint application with the Understorey Network to support Extra Hands and the Growers Scheme. We've also applied for project support through other government, philanthropic and corporate sources.

While it's all still in front of us, there has been plenty of work done towards the 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Tasmanian Landcare Awards. The event will be held in Stanley on Sunday 9 and Monday 10 October and the conference theme will be 'From the Ground Up'. I'm delighted with the program and grateful for the tremendous effort from the Conference and Awards Steering Committee. It should be a great couple of days celebrating community Landcare, sharing ideas and information, and meeting friends. Hope you can make it.

I thank the TLCA team (Monika – then her replacement Brian, Tracey, Alan and Pete). Thanks to the General Committee and particularly the Executive.

As ever, there is a plethora of projects and challenges ahead, but I feel well supported by the TLCA staff, Committee and our members.

Thank you and happy landcaring!

Margie Jenkin



MEMBER SUPPORT

The TLCA's core work is to support care groups across Tasmania, and particularly our member groups (approximately 200 Landcare, Coastcare, Wildcare, Friends of, etc). Various initiatives, delivered by the TLCA help groups continue their on-ground activities.

LAP FUNDING

Again the TLCA received \$50,000 for the Landcare Assistance Program (LAP) from the State Government. Initiated in 1998, the LAP provides valuable funding for care groups across Tasmania. Without this core support, some groups would not be able to cover the costs of operating and would inevitably dissolve. LAP funds help groups pay for core administration and operating costs such as insurance, incorporation, admin, communication and protective equipment.

Annually, groups can apply for \$400 if they pay for their own insurance, or \$250 if they do not pay for their own insurance. LAP funding from previous years must be acquitted before care groups can apply for further LAP grants. Funds are available from 1 January for the duration of the calendar year, or until expended.

In 2010, \$44,750 was allocated to 131 care groups through the 2010 calendar year with 51 groups receiving \$250; and 80 groups receiving \$400. Additionally 10% was allocated for administration and \$250 was rolled into reserve funding for group support.

Since 1998, the amount allocated for the LAP has not increased, even to CPI. In real terms this means that the buying power of the amount available to groups has reduced. The TLCA understands the difficulties in the current economic climate, and remains extremely grateful to the State Government for the existing support. When the State fiscal situation improves, the TLCA will appeal to the Tasmanian Government to increase the LAP allocation to ensure that groups are not out of pocket for core costs. In the meantime, we will look for initiatives to make LAP funds go further e.g. a pro bono auditors register.

BULK INSURANCE

The TLCA initiated a bulk insurance program in 2010. Groups register with the Association and the TLCA liaises directly with the insurance company to arrange the standard care group policies (public liability to \$10 million and volunteer workers insurance). This reduces the administration and improves buying power, getting a better rate for groups. In 2011, 85 groups registered with the TLCA's bulk insurance program saving each group \$50.48, and a total saving of \$4,290.80. Consequently, care groups have more money left from their LAP funding for other operating costs.

Thanks to Phil Downs at Austcover, and to Monika Heisswolf and Brian Board for managing the initiative.

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The TLCA has continued to offer and deliver action planning workshops for care groups statewide. These sessions provide groups with the tools to identify priorities, set goals and detail actions to achieve these goals in the year ahead. We have updated the planning resources '*Action Planning for Community Landcare*' to provide current and relevant support that is available in printed form and online. Groups are invited to contact the TLCA for more information.

KEY PARTNER PROPERTIES

The TLCA continues to work with Key Partner Property (KPP) landowners who have important natural values on their patch, and a property management plan (or the equivalent). The landowners have a willingness and capacity to involve volunteers in their Landcare activities, and an interest in improving the health of their land. Where possible, the TLCA connects KPP landowners with funding and volunteer networks. Case studies are developed around on-ground change. Recent projects on KPPs include wetland re-vegetation at *Brook Eden*, riparian restoration at *Frogmore Creek* and *Glenford Farm*, and a gorse management initiative at *Patterdale*.



EXTRA HANDS REPORT

The Extra Hands Program has worked with individual volunteers, schools and corporate volunteer groups over the past year to generate hands on support for Landcare activities. A wide range of working bees have been promoted from care groups, property owners and likeminded organisations (e.g. the Understory Network and Tas Land Conservancy). Not surprisingly tree planting continues to be the most popular activity for volunteers, although we have also found willing participants for weeding and a variety of other Landcare pursuits.

TLCA continues to work hard to promote the Landcare movement and the benefits of getting involved. New volunteers were recruited at a variety of events including Falls Festival, Harvest Festival, Rural Living Roundup, Agfest, Treadlightly Envirofest and Sustainable Living Expo.

In addition to the Extra Hands volunteer participation, TLCA has continued to provide a valuable volunteer referral service, match-making prospective volunteers with established care groups and/or projects in their area.

Thanks to a grant from Volunteering Tasmania the Extra Hands Program Officer attended the national volunteering conference late last year to hear the latest on volunteer recruitment and management. TLCA also presented a case study on Extra Hands at the state volunteering conference.

The new website currently being developed for the TLCA will become a vital tool for the Extra Hands program to recruit volunteers online, more effectively promote the movement and importantly make it easy for care groups to register their working bees on the calendar.

With your support we are looking forward to presenting a vibrant, active calendar of Landcare activities that engages the registered volunteers and increases the number of extra hands supporting Landcare across Tasmania.

The Extra Hands program has been supported by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

Tracey Gatehouse, Program Development Officer - Extra Hands

VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCES

Our thanks to Volunteering Tasmania for the scholarship that enabled Tracey Gatehouse to attend the National Volunteering Conference in November in Melbourne. Thanks also for delivering 'Changing Our World', Tasmania's first volunteering conference, and for providing the opportunity for the TLCA to present at the event.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

The TLCA is grateful for the professional services and support provided by: Coalface Productions; Handbuilt Creative; Mr IT; and Tas Domains.

FILL-A-GAP

The TLCA thanks Landcare Australia Ltd and Westpac for support for the Fill-A-Gap program. \$150 was available for individual groups to repair and replenish re-vegetation sites. \$4,500 has helped 30 landcare groups maintain their existing projects – and fill the gaps!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

At the 2010 TLCA AGM a motion was passed to amend the Constitution and introduce individual TLCA membership. (Our membership had only been for care groups.) While the interests of groups remain the core work for the TLCA, we recognise that individual landcarers are keen to support us and also be represented by the organisation. Individual membership (as per group membership) costs \$27.50 (GST inclusive). We look forward to developing new relationships with individual landcarers and supporting them in their work.



REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

At the beginning of 2010, the Australian Government announced that Caring for our Country through the National Landcare Program would fund 56 Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLF) in the 56 regions across the country. The program aims to promote sustainable farm and land management practices. Tasmania has three of these positions which are hosted by the Natural Resource Management regions who are working with individual landowners while also supporting local care groups. The TLCA is grateful for the contribution received from NRM North and NRM South as hosting organisations, to provide support to their RLFs through program promotion and involvement on reference panels.

2011 TASMANIAN LANDCARE CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

While the actual event is still ahead of us (9 and 10 October), substantial time and effort has been invested in the development and preparation of the 2011 State Landcare Conference and Awards. 'From the Ground Up' is the theme for the Conference and the program will feature a range of topics from local food and sustainable farming, to community engagement and on-ground Landcare projects – in Tasmania and beyond. The Awards ceremony will be held at the Stanley Town Hall, and will celebrate the great achievements of community landcare.

Our thanks to all the sponsors and the Conference and Awards Steering Committee for their effort organising these events.

NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK

The TLCA continued its membership on the National Landcare Network, a national advocacy body for community landcare. The Network raises the profile of grassroots landcare and improves communications with the National Landcare Facilitator, Australian Landcare Council and Landcare Australia Ltd. Through the NLN, the TLCA responded to the Draft Action Plan for the Australian Landcare Framework, providing a community Landcare perspective. The quarterly NLN meeting in October was hosted by the TLCA in Hobart. Our thanks to support from Landcare Australia Ltd, Rydges Hotels and Resorts and Mures.

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY REVIEW

After consultation with our members, the TLCA compiled a submission for the review of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative. The process helped us better understand the views of our membership on this national program. Thanks to everyone for their valuable contributions.

AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE COUNCIL

The Australian Landcare Council (ALC), the body that advises the Federal Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on Landcare and natural resource management, met in Launceston in November 2010. The TLCA Executive Officer, Margie Jenkin presented at the ALC meeting highlighting the work of the TLCA and funding challenges. Our thanks to TLCA General Committee member, Leanne Sheriff for co-ordinating a field day in the north of the state to introduce councillors to local Landcare projects.

RAISING AWARENESS

We continue to send the TLCA monthly e-bulletins to our members and stakeholders. As more people are comfortable communicating electronically, the bulletins have grown to provide more content around news, funding, events etc. In consideration of resources, the newsletter (which provides more detail on actual projects and is also sent in hard copy) is now only produced bi-annually. We continue to invite members to suggest specific articles for the newsletter (eg *'An Introduction to GPS'* and *'GST – to register or not to register, that is the question'*, Autumn 2011). We aspire to provide content that is relevant and interesting to our membership.



The TLCA has promoted community Landcare through displays at the Falls Festival, Sustainable Living Expo, Tread Lightly Festival, Harvest Festival, Rural Living Round Up and Agfest. Information has been included in Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association Policy Forum satchels promoting opportunities to get involved in community Landcare.

We look forward to developing a full Communications Plan in 2011-12 to ensure that we communicate strategically and effectively.

Our thanks to My State Ltd for supporting TLCA communications initiatives.

PLACE STORIES

The TLCA coordinated Digital Landcare workshops in the North and South of the state to introduce Landcare volunteers and professional staff to the PlaceStories system for sharing stories online. Feral Arts, who delivered the workshops, have partnered with community Landcare networks in other states across Australia to create online communities and develop the skills to document and report their activities by publishing digital stories. See Tasmanian stories at www.digitallandcare.com The TLCA thanks Feral Arts, NRM North and NRM South for their support.

TASMANIAN LANDCARING GRANTS

The Tasmanian Landcaring Grants (TLG) project proposal was put together in 2009 to address the deficit of small to medium-sized funding opportunities for care groups and landcaring landowners. There has been a lot of water under the bridge since then and the final round (round three) was finalised in April this year. Project proponents from this round have until May 2012 to complete their projects.

Funded through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative, the TLG has been delivered by the TLCA, with dedicated project staff, in partnership with Wildcare Inc. The staff involved in the project are Alan Barton and Peter Stronach (TLCA) and Jodie Epper (Wildcare Inc.), with direction provided by the TLCA's Executive Officer, Margie Jenkin.

The focus of the TLG has been on providing a supported application process for groups and individuals to apply for funding for small scale (<\$20,000) landcaring projects that deliver on national targets and provide benefits to local communities and the environment. Our members have continued to tell us that one of the key things that landcarers need to continue their work is support and assistance. While the TLCA continues to offer a range of support services for groups, the ability to provide a dedicated grants program team has been warmly received, with 152 applications submitted during the three rounds that the program has been running.

In addition to the opportunities for funding through the TLG, our project staff have encouraged applicants to apply for other funding through the NRM regions, Australian Government's Community Action Grants and the TLCA's Tasmanian Landcare Fund. Eight projects that were unsuccessful in the TLG, were subsequently funded from other sources. Additionally, many proposed projects from round 3 of the TLG which did not hit the TLG targets were re-directed to the Tasmanian Landcare Fund.

In total the TLG has funded 44 projects to a value of just over \$496,000 during the life of the program. We have over-delivered on the majority of the targets the Australian Government required us to meet. By all measures the TLG has been a terrific success, and in April this year the TLCA submitted an application to Caring for our Country to continue the program for another 2 years.

The program has received positive media coverage at state, regional and local levels with many opportunities to promote not just the program but the broader work of TLCA and the important role that volunteers play in managing the landscape.

The TLG would not have been possible without the valuable input from members of both the Steering Committee and the Technical Assessment Committee. These committees were established at the beginning of the project to ensure that we delivered what was required for the Australian Government, and that all projects were assessed fairly using a rigorous assessment process. The TLCA would like to acknowledge and thank the members of both committees for their thorough approach, commitment and enthusiasm.





Steering Committee: Leanne Sherriff (TLCA – Chair), Sebastian Burgess, Andrew Smith (Wildcare), Lyndley Chopping (TLCA) and Margie Jenkin (TLCA).

Technical Assessment Committee: Leanne Sherriff (TLCA – Chair), Dean Vincent, Andrew Crane, Don Thompson, Anna Wind, Brian Baxter, Scott Schilg, Aniela Grun, Ashley Rushton, Karen Ziegler and Margie Jenkin (TLCA).

The Program gave the TLCA the opportunity to continue to expand the support available to landcarers. The diversity of projects delivered ranged from traditional weed control and revegetation projects to the construction of an eagle enclosure for re-habilitating injured birds to feral cat control and support for farmers to learn about new land and financial management approaches. Projects have been spread across the state from Kingborough to King Island and Strahan to St Helens.

Thanks to members of both committees, the project staff and our EO Margie. In addition to benefits to the applicants, the TLG has proved an exciting and rewarding program for the TLCA.

Leanne Sherriff – Chair TLG

The TLCA would also like to extend a huge thank you to Leanne Sherriff for her immense contribution in delivering the TLG.

ROUND TWO

- Quamby Bend Landcare Inc. – Rehabilitation of Meander River at Strath-Riverdale Bend. – \$13,340
- Sustainable Strahan – Manuka Creek Biodiversity Enhancement and Interpretation Project. – \$4,473
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy – Long Point Reserve Woodlands Rehabilitation Project (Phase 1 Weed Management Strategy 2010-2015). – \$18,181
- Sister's Beach Environment Team – On going management and revegetation of Sisters Beach waterways and coastal reserve through community education and participation. – \$5,650
- William Green - Lake River Serrated tussock management eradication project. – \$10,000
- North East Bioregional Network Inc. – Restore Skyline Tier – Restoration of native vegetation in an area previously a Pine Plantation. – \$20,000

- Kim and Leanne Marsh – Gorse control of reclaimed pasture and adjacent native vegetation bounded by Black River beach dunes and East Inlet wetlands. – \$6,550
- Jubilee Creek Bushcare Group – Weeding at a branch of Guy Fawkes Rivulet, Cascades. – \$6,800
- Wildcare Inc, Friends of Bass Strait Islands – Cooperative boxthorn control program between community groups to protect shorebird habitat on Roydon Island building on knowledge and experience and disseminating that knowledge. – \$11,890
- East Tamar landcare – Control of Gorse in the Pipers River catchment by combining existing efforts with current and future strategies. – \$18,550
- Brendan Ayers – Property scale protection of threatened species and ecological communities from the threat of gorse. – \$4,260
- Flinders Island NRM Committee – Flinders Island Weed Skills Development. – \$12,100
- Greening Australia – Tasmania – Restoring threatened species native habitat and strategic control of Weeds of National Significance (WoNs) within the Plenty River catchment. – \$14,800
- Glamorgan Spring Bay NRM Committee – “Contributing to the 2011 community efforts in strategic control of serrated tussock in Glamorgan Spring Bay – nationally significant populations of a WoNS weed”. – \$17,432
- Patsy and Frits Harmsen – Protection of Forty Spotted Pardalote habitat on a Land for Wildlife property in Tinderbox through weed control and community engagement. – \$775
- King Island Natural Resource Management Group – Rehabilitation of the lower reaches of Porky Creek. – \$14,339
- Nile Landcare and Catchment Group Inc. – Control of gorse outliers in native habitat and reducing threats to the high conservation value assets of the Nile River Catchment. – \$19,673
- Tasmanian University White Water Rafting Club – The Andrew/Franklin Western Rivers WONS Project – Rafting teams tackling blackberry along wilderness river systems. – \$8,064

Total Round Two – \$190,157



ROUND THREE

- Tasmanian Conservation Trust – Continue the Weed Alert Network – \$9,345.00
- Blackwood Creek Landholders – Blackwood Creek Conservation Activities (3 property owners) – \$14,105.00
- Friends of Maria Island – “Sweeping the Broom”, Stage 4 – continuing the control of Canary Broom on Maria Island – \$8,170.00
- Friends of Bass St Islands (FoBSI) – Continue Co-operative Boxthorn Control Program between community groups to protect shorebird habitat on Roydon Island – \$14,990.00
- Friends of Maatsuyker Island – Maatsuyker Island WONS weed control and monitoring program to protect migratory seabird breeding habitat – \$14,740.00
- North East Bioregional Network – Continue the Restore Skyline Tier project – \$15,000.00
- Oldina Landcare – Engaging the Oldina community in blackberry eradication to increase native habitat for vulnerable and threatened species. – \$6,150.00
- P Jones – Fencing of existing bush from grazing land near Black Fish Creek – \$6,250.00
- S Davison – Eradication of Gorse at Old Grassy Road, King Island – \$7,795.00
- I & J Mitchelson – Fencing and off site water points near Westbury – \$8636.00

Total Round Three – \$105,181.00

The Tasmanian Landcaring Grants program is delivered by the TLCA with partner Wildcare Inc, through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country initiative.

TASMANIAN LANDCARE FUND

In 2010-11, the Tasmanian Landcare Fund (TLF) provided substantial funding for valuable on-ground projects over two rounds. Round 12 was a trial of a new stream around *Landcare Leadership and Training*, with small grants available (up to \$800). The theme for Round 13 was *Biodiversity – Birds, Bees and Bush* (up to \$8,000 available per project).

The TLF application and assessment processes have evolved substantially through lessons learned with the Tas Landcaring Grants program. A review of the TLF will continue in 2011-12 to ensure a robust structure to expand the financial support base, promote funding opportunities, assess projects, administer, report and acquit funding – and celebrate the projects that are completed.

The TLF is stable due to the vision and commitment of the late Mr John Roberts, however the TLCA hopes to significantly grow the Fund by engaging more supporters.

We are grateful to new investors My State Ltd and e-Tree Computershare who have enabled hands-on revegetation and weed control projects to progress. Our thanks to Brook Eden Vineyard for donating a percentage of sales from one of their pinots.

The TLCA also thanks the TLF Project Assessment Committee including Gwendolyn Adams, Greg Pinkard, Don Wing MLC and Don Willing. We also thank Mrs Patricia Roberts for her ongoing interest and support in the Fund, and Deloitte, Trustee for Mr John Roberts.



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PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE TLF ROUND 12

(Landcare Leadership and Training):

- King Island Natural Resource Management Group – Travel assistance for local landcarers to attend training – \$800
- Vicki Campbell – Friends of Deal, Maria, Tasman and Maatsuyker Islands, Friends of Trevallyn and Tasmanian Weed Society. Training in weed control and sharing techniques with care groups – \$590
- Kevin Guy – Feral Arts. Digital Landcare, delivering Tasmanian Landcare PlaceStories training – \$781

Total TLF Round Twelve amount devolved – \$2,171 (ex GST)

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE TLF ROUND 13

(Biodiversity – Birds, Bees and Bush):

- Quenton Higgs – Liffey River Canyon Remediation through the removal of willow and native re-vegetation, Northern Tasmania – \$8,000
- Ken Lawrence – Wildlife corridors at ‘Fermer’ to link *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland, Northern Tasmania – \$7,640
- Rosemary Collins and Neville Willis – Enhancing remnant biodiversity corridor on Glenore Farm, Northern Tasmania – \$7,769
- Kim and Leanne Marsh – Native plant revegetation of an area previously overrun by gorse adjacent to Black River estuary, NW Tasmania – \$7,120
- Russell and Jill Totham – Enhancing Biodiversity at Staverton Farm through enhancing existing wildlife corridors through re-veg and weed control, NW Tasmania – \$1,947
- Phil Jones – Increasing native vegetation and stabilizing slump soil adjoining bush near Wynyard, through fencing, re-veg and rehabilitation, NW Tasmania – \$3,700
- Pipe Clay Coastcare Group – Follow-up control of Serrated Tussock, Paterson’s Curse and African Boxthorn on Calverts Hill and Cremorne Coastal Reserve to ensure long term success in weed control and protection of threatened *E. morrisbyi*, Southern Tasmania – \$8,000

- Jodie Presnell and Geir Rodven – Increasing biodiversity values associated with Pipe Clay Lagoon, Rushy Lagoon and Calverts Hill through wildlife corridor extensions, Southern Tasmania – \$5,260
- Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Committee – Strategic weed control to protect the environmental integrity of Lake Dulverton and the surrounding area, Southern Tasmania – \$4,500

Total TLF Round 13 amount – \$53,936 (ex GST)

TOWARDS THE HANDS – LANDCARE TASMANIA

The development of the Association’s new website has inspired conversations around how the TLCA uses the ‘Caring Hands’ logo synonymous with the Landcare movement. In June 2011 the General Committee approved that the TLCA start trading as Landcare Tasmania and using the ‘Caring Hands’ logo. It was agreed that this highly recognizable brand positions the Association well to attract new volunteers and new investors. Of course the organisation will continue to represent a wide range of care groups including Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, Wildcare and Friends of groups, as well as landcaring landowners – and individual supporters.

A launch of Landcare Tasmania will occur during the 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and subsequently with the launch of the new website.



