



TLCA Newsletter Autumn 2010



TASMANIAN
LANDCARE
ASSOCIATION

Celebrating National Volunteers Week

Community Landcare in Tasmania is built on the commitment and efforts of thousands of volunteers. May 10-16 is National Volunteering Week, and the TLCA wants to thank local Landcarers for the huge contributions they make to the health of their local environment and community.

The TLCA estimates that there are about 300 care groups in Tasmania, and over 2,000 landcarers working on projects that improve native habitat for flora and fauna, coastlines, water and air quality, soils, and sustainable agriculture. Every dollar government invests in Landcare is estimated to return \$4 to \$6 due to the hard work of local volunteers.

TLCA staff wants to thank the tremendous commitment from the TLCA Executive Committee, including President – Lyndley Chopping, Vice President – Dean Vincent, Secretary – Richard Greenhill, and Treasurer – Pene Thornton. Thanks to other great Landcare champions that continue to work tirelessly for the Association, Lola Cowle and Leanne Sherriff. Big cheers to the TLCA General Committee, and to everyone involved in Landcare work across the state! Thank you.



*Lachlan Gatehouse treeplanting
at Blackmans Bay.*
PHOTO: TRACEY GATEHOUSE



State of Volunteering Report

Volunteering Tasmania is undertaking a unique research project – the *State of Volunteering Report: Tasmania 2010*. This will provide a picture of volunteering – who our volunteers are, what they are doing, and the support and leadership that sustains their contribution.

Current and non-current volunteers, and representatives of organisations that involve volunteers are invited to complete an online survey. See <http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/> or contact Volunteering Tasmania for a hard copy, on 6231 5550. Surveys close May 30, 2010 and the launch of the report is planned for the end of October 2010.

Keep an eye on the Volunteering Tasmania website too for news, events, and great training opportunities!

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TLCA Committee

The Executive

Lyndley Chopping – President

Dean Vincent – Vice President

Richard Greenhill – Secretary

Pene Thornton – Treasurer

The General Committee

Gwendolyn Adams, Brian Baxter

Maureen Bennett, Lola Cowle

Wayne Fletcher, Holly Hansen

Adrian James, Matthew Pitt

Anna Renkin, Guy Robertson

Leanne Sherriff

National Landcare Network

Have your say

The National Landcare Network (NLN) was convened in early 2009, to represent the community Landcare movement across Australia. The NLN provides a federation of state and territory community Landcare organisations to advocate for grassroots Landcare. The NLN's charter and other information is available at www.nln.org.au

A five year strategic plan for the NLN will be developed later this year. Help the network recognise strengths, opportunities and challenges ahead by completing the questionnaire, available on the TLCA website (www.taslandcare.org.au). Your comments will be considered during the strategic planning process and will help the NLN set its course for the future.

What do you need from the TLCA

How can we help your group? Get in touch with the TLCA today and let us know how we can support you. Your feedback helps us ensure the TLCA remains relevant and effective for the future. Call us today – 6234 7117.

Tell us your story

Are you interested in documenting your Landcare projects and issues in a digital story format? Digital stories are short, personal, multimedia productions people make themselves. A digital story combines images, audio and text located on a google map and uploaded to the Digital Landcare community at PlaceStories. Digital storytelling is about sharing experiences and local knowledge. Landcare groups in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia have started publishing digital stories to promote and report on their projects.

The TLCA is exploring with community cultural development company Feral Arts the interest in holding PlaceStories digital storytelling workshops in Tasmania in June or July. If you are interested in learning the art of digital storytelling please contact TLCA Executive Officer, Margie Jenkin executive.officer@taslandcare.org.au For more information on digital storytelling visit www.digitallandcare.com

Introducing Margie Jenkin



Margie joined the TLCA in September 2009 as Executive Officer. Though Margie grew up on a sheep and cattle property in South Australia, she's called Tasmania home for many years.

'I came here for ten weeks in January 1991 to complete a work experience placement for a TAFE course I was doing at the time – and didn't ever leave!' Margie explains. 'I initially worked in the northwest, then moved to Launceston – and then to Hobart where I studied Geography and Environmental Studies.'

Before beginning with the TLCA, Margie worked on an environmental weed project controlling boneseed and bridal creeper in southern Tasmania. Prior to that, she spent two years on Maria Island as a Ranger with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Margie also worked as a Ranger in Wellington Park, and as a Track Ranger on the Freycinet Peninsula and in the Western Arthur Ranges.

'I have loved being part of the terrific work of Wildcare groups as both a volunteer and Parks staff member. These experiences ignited my interest to work with the TLCA. For me it's a great fit - working with passionate people to improve the health of the environment and to promote sustainable farming. I feel really privileged to be supported by our members, and particularly the amazingly committed committee and staff team. There's a lot of dirt under fingernails in the TLCA which represents great experience and expertise – and a strong focus on getting things done and making a difference. It's a really rewarding place to work. As an organisation, the TLCA is at an exciting new period of growth and opportunity. It's marvellous to be part of that!'

Margie lives in Fern Tree with her partner Andy in a perpetual do-it-yourself renovation.

The National Landcare Forum

– Celebrating, communicating, invigorating

Twenty years of community landcare was celebrated in Adelaide from 23-25 March 2010. Approximately 650 people from around Australia and overseas attended the forum at Alan Scott Park, Morphettville.

The Landcare movement began in 1989 when National Farmers Federation Chief Executive, the late Rick Farley, joined the Australian Conservation Foundation's Phillip Toyne in a united vision. Traditional adversaries, the two organisations shared a commitment to sustainable production, and improved biodiversity. With a focus on a common vision great achievements followed. The nationwide community movement is estimated to currently involve about 4,500 groups and over 100,000 volunteers.

At the Forum, Federal Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke noted that during the 20 years of Landcare, the questions have changed. 'When the question was biodiversity and productivity, the answer was Landcare. When the question was drought and soil moisture, the answer was Landcare. When the question became salinity, once again, Landcare was the answer to the question.'

Forum participants were asked by Minister Burke to consider what the new questions

are, and how to ensure Landcare remains the right answer. The minister identified three new challenges not anticipated 20 years ago:

1. Global scale food security;
2. Climate change; and
3. The changing nature of how people volunteer.

Landcare, Minister Burke said, should be viewed by its achievements and not as an organisational structure. 'It's a national movement to improve the environment and Australian landscape' he said.

The changing support to the Landcare movement from both sides of politics during the last ten years was acknowledged, but a commitment to Landcare in the future was extended.

Tasmania was well represented at the Forum with participants from across the state. The TLCA, NRM regions and the Australian government sponsored community members to attend the conference. It is hoped members who attended can share their learnings from the event in their local areas.

To read the presentations from the Forum see www.nationallandcareforum.com.au/

National Landcare Framework

A National Landcare Framework is under development to guide Landcare on a national scale for the next 20 years. During 2009, the Australian Government initiated discussions on the framework in each state and territory. Kim Chance, Chair of the recently re-appointed Australian Landcare Council noted that from the nationwide framework consultations, elements vital to Landcare in the future were clarity, flexibility and continuity.

Conversations on the new framework continued at the National Landcare Forum during a round table plenary

session. A recently appointed Reference Group for the Australian Framework for Landcare will guide and help refine its development. The group plans to have a draft framework for consideration by the Landcare community by mid May 2010 and to complete its work by 30 June 2010. The Australian Landcare Council and the new National Landcare Facilitator, Brett de Hayr are responsible for implementing the Framework.

Want to know more?

See www.landcarefacilitator.com.au or contact landcareframework@daff.gov.au

For the diary

Date 10 -16 May 2010
National Volunteers Week

21 & 22 May 2010
Living Soils Forum: Farmers Talking to Farmers. Oatlands RSL & Spring Valley Farm – Two day forum
Reduce input costs, improve soil productivity and increase profitability on your farm with soil scientist Dr. Christine Jones and farmers Colin Seis, Graeme Hand, Ben Falloon and Graeme Isles. For more information contact Barry Hardwick, NRM South Landcare Facilitator on 03 6221 6117 or email bhardwick@nrmsouth.org.au

4 June 2010
The SPRATS group (Sea Spurge Remote Area TeamS) coastal weed management workshop
School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Sandy Bay campus University of Tasmania.
For more information contact Jon Marsden-Smedley, 6226 7674 or jon.marsdensmedley@utas.edu.au

5 June 2010
World Environment Day

6 June
Tread Lightly Festival
Royal Botanic Gardens, Hobart

24 June
National Landcare Awards,
Parliament House, Canberra

15 and 16 July
Tas Farmers and Graziers Association Conference, 'Tasmania as Country's Food Bowl: Fact or Pipedream?'
Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, www.tfga.com.au or 6332 1800

1 Aug 2010
National Tree Day
<http://treeday.planetark.org>

Aug – Dec 2010
Regenerative Agriculture Workshop Series (RegenAG) touring Australian & New Zealand
Four workshops with topics including holistic management, biofertiliser soil, keyline farming and local farms and community. See www.regenag.com for more information and to book tickets.

16 Sept 2010
TLCA's Annual General Meeting,
Longford
Details to be confirmed

20 – 24 Sept 2010
National Coast to Coast Conference, 'Actions for Change',
Adelaide Convention Centre
www.coast2coast.org.au

Tas Landcaring grants launch and Frogmore Creek Vineyard field day



Richmond Primary grade 3s and 4s engrossed in water quality monitoring. PHOTO: LEAH PAGE

Round one of the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants – ‘From the Bush to the Beach’ was launched at TLCA Key Partner Property Frogmore Creek Vineyard on 30 March, 2010.

Funded through the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country initiative, the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants program is a new funding opportunity offered by the TLCA and Wildcare Inc. Up to \$20,000 will be available for landcaring projects that deliver on national targets and provide benefits to local communities and the environment.

Chris Wisbey, local cherry farmer, and ABC radio personality formally announced the first round of the grant program open, while vintage harvest continued on the nearby hillsides.

Before the launch, Frogmore Creek Vineyard owner and operator, Tony Scherer took participants on a walk and talk with Vineyard Manager Jennifer Doyle to introduce

Frogmore Creek Vineyard Manager, Jennifer Doyle, Birds Tasmania, Eric Woehler and Vineyard Pest Controller (guinea fowl). PHOTO: LEAH PAGE



sustainable production initiatives on the property. Lynne Sparrow, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Eric Woehler, Birds Tasmania also highlighted local issues for planning, water quality and habitat preservation considering the nearby Pitt Water Orielton Ramsar listed wetlands.

Meanwhile, school children from Richmond and Risdon Vale Primary Schools took part in water quality monitoring on-site with Ruth Mollison. This is part of an ongoing program – More frogs for Frogmore. The TLCA has been working with Frogmore Creek Vineyard on a separate *Caring for Our Country* project since 2008 which has featured fencing and re-vegetation along the Frogmore Creek Rivulet, water quality monitoring and promoting the TLCA Key Partner Property program.

The TLCA thanks everyone involved in the launch and field day including our host Tony Scherer, Chris Wisbey, Richmond and Risdon Vale Primary Schools, Sally Dakis from the ABC’s Country Hour for broadcasting on-site, and sponsors Snug Butchery, Coal Valley Orchards and Richmond Bakery.

For more information on the Tas Landcaring Grants, contact the TLCA project team, Project Manager, Alan Barton on 62347117 or projectmanager@taslandcare.org.au or Northern Project Officer, Peter Stronach on



Tony Scherer introduces sustainable practices at Frogmore Creek Vineyard during the field day and launch.

PHOTO: LEAH PAGE

0488 404061 or projectofficer@taslandcare.org.au. Additionally, Jodie Epper (former Executive Officer of TLCA) is now working part-time as Wildcare Facilitator. Jodie will provide support to Wildcare groups in developing projects and grant applications. Contact Jodie on 0437 959061 or wildcarefacilitator@gmail.com.

Round one is open until May 11, 2010. There will be two additional rounds with the second starting in mid August 2010 and the third in mid February 2011.

This project is delivered by Tasmanian Landcare Association, through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Tasmanian State Landcare winners to national awards

The National Landcare Awards will be held at Parliament House in Canberra on 24 June, 2010 to reward excellence in the Landcare movement. Best of luck to the Tasmanian Landcare Award winners. For more information visit the landcare website www.landcareonline.com.au

TLCA Strategic Planning



Then the fog lifted, and the sun shone on the strategic planning team.

PHOTO: TERINA ENNISS

Let's be honest – strategic planning can be as dry as the '09-10 summer we've just experienced. (Parts of the state's north had their driest season for at least 20 years, including Launceston receiving only 71 mm and Low Head, just 59 mm!)

But the TLCA's strategic planning was far from dry. Three regional workshops held in February 2010 provided a great forum to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of community Landcare and the TLCA. Opportunities and challenges were also explored, and a TLCA report card compiled (ie what are we doing well, and not-so-well?). Regional feedback was collated for the Ben Lomond strategic planning weekend love-in on 27 and 28 February.

After a slow drive up Jacobs Ladder through thick mountain fog, a keen team from across the state converged at Rover's Lodge. Sally Darke, from KPMG Launceston, skilfully facilitated the weekend, guiding the group through and building on, feedback from the regional workshops, and identifying key result areas (KRAs). Objectives for the KRAs were developed and goals and targets progressed.

Rose Grant from the ABC's Country Hour made the journey through the mist on Sunday morning to interview participants. By late morning, as the final touches were being put on the rough draft of the reviewed plan, the fog lifted!



TLCA Vice President, Dean Vincent and Extra Hands Program Development Officer, Tracey Gatehouse caffeinate. PHOTO: MARGIE JENKIN



TLCA President Lyndley Chopping introduces Sally Darke.

PHOTO: MARGIE JENKIN

Since then the TLCA General Committee has refined the reviewed plan. The current draft is now available on our website, and we welcome your feedback. Is the TLCA heading in the right direction to continue supporting community Landcare in Tasmania? Read the plan and let us know your thoughts www.taslandcare.org.au. Hard copies are also available through our office.

Our thanks to our gold sponsor Tasmanian Alkaloids Pty Ltd, and silver sponsors Rabo Bank and KPMG.



Tas Landcaring Grants

'from the bush to the beach' information roadshow

During mid April, the Tas Landcaring Grants project staff ran three regional workshops to de-mystify the new grant program. Potential applicants, community Landcarers and NRM staff were invited to learn more about fundable projects and the application process. Some participants volunteered project ideas, and discussions lead to valuable information exchange and problem solving.

So, is your project eligible? And does it

address the *Caring for Our Country* priorities? These include:

(i) Participation in natural resource management – building capacity and increasing the number of volunteers involved in NRM, and expanding the network of groups.

(ii) Increasing native habitat – establishing or protecting native habitat including Ramsar wetlands and conducting strategic control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS).

(iii) Increasing coastal community engagement – supporting coastal communities in projects that may include developing tracks and signage to protect cultural heritage and shorebird habitat, fencing and/or weed control projects.

(iv) Improving knowledge and skills of land managers – improving knowledge and skills in NRM.

Contact the TLCA today to discuss details and your project ideas for round two or three.

Oldina Landcare Group

The Oldina Landcare group operates across several NW catchments including Blackfish Creek and Dowling's Creek in the hinterlands behind Wynyard. The group started in 1996 and typically gets together every month for a meeting with a cuppa and cake to discuss local Landcare issues and best practices on solving them. Activities range from ragwort control to fencing out stock

from waterways. The group is currently undertaking a number of revegetation activities to take advantage of the good planting conditions i.e. wet weather, using local provenance seedlings from their local native nursery. The next meeting for the group will be held on 28 June. Contact Robin for more details on 6438 1454.

profile



Christmas bbq enjoying the lasting evening light,

River restoration field day



Learning about river behavior.
PHOTO: HELEN MORGAN

The Tasmanian Landcare Fund Round 10 supported an ongoing River Restoration project, initiated six years ago on the Pipers River. On 23 March, Warwick, Helen and Sam Morgan hosted a field day on their family property (and a TLCA Key Partner Property) to introduce the project. Wood structures installed four years ago to control riverbank erosion following willow removal were in need of further work after last year's high winter flows. Rock, sourced on the property, has been added behind the wood to keep it all in place during high flows. Tea tree has been planted densely behind the structures. Now that the excavator work has been finished further plantings will secure bank stability and provide riparian

habitat. Local native species have been planted where needed and many of these trees are now well established. Fencing, troughs and alternative watering sites have been installed to protect the main stream and tributaries from impacts of livestock and to provide a riparian area for native habitat.

The main messages of the day were that good planning and knowledge of the river is essential. Accessing good advice, then consistent maintenance and follow up weed control is critical for success.

The field day was well attended by members of the Lilydale Landcare group, local landholders, students from Launceston College and representatives from the TLCA, Tamar NRM and Dorset NRM. Alexandra Spink, River Geomorphologist with NRM North gave interesting insights into river behaviour on the floodplain and how management practices have been implemented to work with the river.

For more information, or to become a TLCA Key Partner Property contact the TLCA office on 6234 7117.

TLCA website review

During the months ahead, the TLCA will be reviewing its website. Let us know what you'd like from the website.

- > How can it work better for you and your group?
- > What information would you like to access on the TLCA site?

Contact us today with your ideas
Tel 6234 7117 or email
info@taslandcare.org.au

TLCA's Annual General Meeting

Not long until AGM season. Pencil the TLCA's AGM in your diary – September 16, 2010 at Longford. Details to be confirmed.

Have you thought about nominating yourself, or someone else for the TLCA General or Executive Committee?

It's a great way to be involved in the community Landcare movement in Tasmania.

To nominate you must be a member of a care group that is a current financial member of the TLCA. For more information please contact the TLCA office.

Keeping track of foxes in Tasmania

Do you want to stay up-to-date with the latest physical evidence of fox activity discovered in Tasmania? Register for the Fox Evidence Mailing List to receive the latest fox evidence updates as soon as they are released. Simply send an email to fox.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au with 'Fox Evidence Mailing List' in the subject line to register. You can also register via the website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox

Grants on the Grapevine

TLA Grants

2010 Landcare Assistance Program

(LAP) Grants

TLCA member care groups can receive \$400 if paying for their own insurance, or \$250 if not paying for their own insurance. Download a LAP application form today from www.taslandcare.org.au or contact 6234 7117 for more information.

Tas Landcaring Grants

Round 2 to open in mid August

Tas Landcare Fund Grants

Round 12 funding stream to be announced later in May, and applications open in June. See www.taslandcare.org.au for details.

Junior Landcare Grants

Coles Junior Landcare School

Garden Grants

Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 to create gardens in their school or community.

Yates Environmental Management

Planning Grants

Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 to undertake School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) or to undertake works identified in earlier plans.

Applications close 5pm 14 May, 2010.

Other Grants

NRM South – Naturally Inspired Grants

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for on-ground projects that hit the regional Caring for our Country targets. See www.nrmsouth.org.au for grant application forms and guidelines, contact 6221 6111 or email admin@nrmsouth.org.au.

Applications close 19 May 2010.

FarmReady Reimbursement Grants

If you are a primary producer or indigenous land manager you can get reimbursed for approved training courses (completed prior to 30 May 2012) that improve capacity to adapt to climate change and increase self reliance and preparedness. See www.farmready.gov.au for information and application forms.

News update



TASMANIAN LANDCARE FUND

TLF Round 11 Winners

Congratulations to successful applicants in round 11 of the Tasmanian Landcare Fund (TLF). This was a well subscribed, open round, limited to the northern region. Over \$53,000 has been rolled out in round 11 to progress important Landcare projects on private and public land. Projects that received funding include:

Tasmanian Conservation Trust – Outer Furneaux Islands boxthorn control/maintenance – \$2,909

West Tamar Landcare Group – Restoration of riparian habitat in the Supply River Catchment – \$9,750

Launceston Field Naturalists – Revegetation of the upper portion of Skemps Creek – \$5,349

Greens Beach Landcare Group – Greens Beach Foreshore Restoration, Stage 2 – \$8,318

Perth – Evandale Landcare Association – Riparian rejuvenation of the South Esk River at 'Woodhall' – \$3,360

East Tamar Landcare Group – Pipers River Weeds of National Significance (WONS) control – \$5,500

Philip and Lucy Headlam – Fencing off remnant vegetation at Oakbank – \$6,716

Quenton Higgs – Liffey riparian remediation – \$3,529

Warwick and Helen Morgan – Native revegetation at Glenford Farm – \$895

John Taylor – Improving soil quality, planting of pasture and salt bush, drainage works and fencing at Winton – \$2,632

John and Wendy Gee – Regenerating the red ground bush, Cluan Homestead – \$4,520

Our thanks to all applicants, and to the TLF Project Assessment Committee. The funding stream for round 12 of the TLF will be announced later in May, and applications will be open in June 2010.



Community action planning

During 2010, the TLCA will be assisting care groups in their action planning. These are opportunities to clarify the direction of your group – what you want to do and how you can make it happen.

Groups are also invited to update an existing plan. To register your interest in an action planning session, contact Margie Jenkin, TLCA on 6234 7117 or email executive.officer@taslandcare.org.au

Extra Hands

Want to get more people along for your care group's activities? Register your event with Extra Hands - the casual volunteering program. We'll notify Extra Hands volunteers about the opportunity and you might see some new faces at your next activity. It's free for TLCA member groups so get in touch with Tracey Gatehouse today, Extra Hands Program Development Officer on 6234 5499 or extrahands@taslandcare.org.au

Bulk Insurance

Group insurance costs are one of the largest outlays for many groups. To reduce costs and streamline administration, the TLCA has been working with Auscover on a bulk insurance buy-in. Sixty-two groups have signed up for the standard care group public liability (\$10 million), and volunteer workers insurance, cutting the cost by \$54 per group – and over \$3,300 in total savings. If you're interested in reducing costs and administration for your group's insurance, register your interest with the TLCA for the 2011 bulk buy-in. The more groups involved, the cheaper the price!

NRM Contacts

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Caring for our Country

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Support community Landcare across Tasmania

The TLCA is a non-profit, non-government organisation. Help us continue our important work and donate today. Cheques and money orders can be made payable to 'The Tasmanian Landcare Fund'. Contact our office to make a credit card donation, or donate online www.taslandcare.org.au/tlfdonation

Donations \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Thinking about making a bequest that benefits community landcare into the future?

Contact us today to discuss the Tasmanian Landcare Fund.



TASMANIAN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION



TASMANIAN LANDCARE FUND



extra hands
Volunteer Program