

Tasmanian Landcare Association Annual Report 2009/10



TASMANIAN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION

Tasmanian Landcare Association

THE TEAM

Executive Officer: Margie Jenkin
Admin and Finance Officer: Monika Heisswolf
Extra Hands Program Development Officer:
 Tracey Gatehouse
Devolved Grants Project Manager: Alan Barton
Devolved Grants Project Officer: Peter Stronach

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Lyndley Chopping, Upper Derwent Valley Landcare
Vice President: Dean Vincent, Huonville Landcare Group
Secretary: Richard Greenhill, Huonville Landcare Group
Treasurer: Pene Thornton, Tranmere, Clarence Plains Land and Coastcare

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Gwendolyn Adams: Perth Evandale Landcare
Brian Baxter: East Tamar Landcare
Maureen Bennett: Greater Rubicon Catchment Management
Lola Cowle: Penna Landcare
Wayne Fletcher: White Beach Landcare
Holly Hansen: Huon Valley Council
Adrian James: NRM North
Matthew Pitt: Upper Derwent Valley Landcare
Anna Renkin: Cradle Coast NRM
Guy Robertson: North West Environment Centre
Leanne Sheriff: Mortimer Bay Coastcare

The Tasmanian Landcare Association (TLCA) is a statewide, membership-based organisation with approximately 200 member groups. Our Committee is made up of volunteers / representatives 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 2009 Working Group: Lola Cowle, Leanne Sherriff and Dean Vincent

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants Steering Committee: Leanne Sherriff (Chair), Andrew Smith, Sebastian Burgess and Margie Jenkin

TLCA MEMBERSHIPS

During 2009-2010, the TLCA had representation on the:

- NRM North Group A Committee;
- NRM South Regional Committee;
- State NRM Council;
- Regional Landcare Facilitator – North, Reference Panel;
- National Landcare Network Executive Committee;
- National Landcare Forum Steering Committee; and
- Landcare Australia Ltd Advisory Council.

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

TLCA Strategic Plan Reviewed

In early 2010 the TLCA Strategic Plan was reviewed. Three regional workshops were held and feedback collated for a strategic planning weekend at Ben Lomond, facilitated by Sally Darke, KPMG Launceston. After reviews, comments and further reviews, the draft was endorsed by the Committee. The Plan will be a working document to guide the organisation for the next 5 years. The TLCA's ambitions for the next five years are to:

1. Improve communications;
2. Increase engagement and participation through relationships;
3. Strengthen and expand membership;
4. Become financially sustainable; and
5. Maintain a stable, vibrant and effective organisation.

Priority actions include developing and delivering a Communication Plan, reviewing membership structure and the Extra Hands casual volunteer program, upgrading the TLCA website, improving information management, securing core funding and improving financial reporting.

Our thanks to strategic planning gold sponsor Tasmanian Alkaloids Pty Ltd, and silver sponsors Rabo Bank and KPMG – and to everyone who provided ideas and feedback.

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 Tasmanian Landcare Association Five Year Plan, September 2010 is available on the TLCA website, www.taslandcare.org.au



What a busy year, again, but also a year of many achievements.

Margie Jenkin, as our new Executive Officer (EO), stepped right into that important role commencing with last year's Annual General Meeting at Ross, followed by the Conference with Lola Cowle, Leanne Sheriff and Dean Vincent delivering a great and sunny Conference and stunning State Landcare Awards event at 'Kelvedon', Swansea in November last year.

This fitted very well as a forerunner to our Statewide workshops reviewing our TLCA Strategic Plan held during early 2010. We went to great heights in February (Rovers Lodge at Ben Lomond in fact) for a facilitated weekend furthering the TLCA strategic outlook. As the fog cleared on Sunday afternoon so did our Plan become clearer too.

The TLCA is pleased to be active within the National Landcare Network (NLN) along with peak Landcare bodies from the other States. The NLN has delivered solid results from discussions with ministers and departmental heads in Canberra; provided input into the current Caring for Our Country (CFOC) Business Plan, initiated the need for a National Landcare Framework (found at www.landcarefacilitator.com.au) and sat on the Steering Committee for the successful National Landcare Forum.

President's Report

Held in Adelaide in March, the Forum was attended by approximately 600 landcarers. In his address Minister Burke noted that Landcare is an answer to the questions of food security and environmental sustainability into the future. Very heartening to hear this confirmation of the importance of the Landcare ethos.

Executive Officer Margie Jenkin and I attended an Australian Government Community Cabinet Meeting in Hobart in October, and had an individual and worthwhile meeting with Minister Burke, where we stressed the value of volunteer Landcare activities in our community.

Meanwhile the TLCA has been working hard to deliver the Caring for our Country Devolved Grant Program, Tasmanian Landcaring Grants (TLG) in partnership with Wildcare Inc. The launch took place in March at Frogmore Creek Vineyard at Richmond, which is also a TLCA Key Partner Property. The TLG launch incorporated a vineyard tour highlighting organic methods and composting techniques; plus being an Extra Hands project site we had Richmond and Risdon Vale Primary schools monitoring local water quality, followed by a barbeque. It was a highly informative function for all of the 90 people attending. Round One of the program, 'From the Bush to the Beach', was oversubscribed and Round Two will close at the end of September, 2010. This opportunity is obviously being appreciated by the many care groups and land owners statewide. Project Manager Alan Barton and Project Officer Peter Stronach are doing a great job rolling out the program. I would like to also thank the members of the Technical Assessment Committee and the Steering Committee for their valuable expertise and time.

The Australian Landcare Council has been reinstated with Kim Chance (WA) as Chairman, and Brett de Hayr, is the newly appointed National Landcare Facilitator. He was in Tasmania for meetings in early March, and TLCA General Committee member Gwendolyn Adams hosted a working lunch for him to meet various organisations and groups. There are three Regional Landcare Facilitators in Tasmania, based within the regional NRM bodies, and I urge all landcarers to fully utilise them as they are a valuable resource.



Landcare Australia Limited (LAL) has a new Chair, Heather Campbell. With her corporate and rural background, we look forward to working with Heather, and already have a productive relationship. I thank TLCA General Committee member Maureen Bennett for her representation of Tasmania on the LAL Advisory Committee.

The National Landcare Awards were held in Canberra. Tasmania won two National Landcare Awards. We congratulate Holly Hansen and the Huon Valley Council for winning the Local Government Landcare Partnerships Award, and Mel Kelly and the Little Swanport Catchment Management Implementation Plan Committee, for winning the Toshiba Community Group Award. Well done!

The Tasmanian Landcare Fund made a large contribution of just over \$60,000 to Landcare projects in northern Tasmania during Round 10 (Spring 2009) and Round 11(Autumn 2010). Thanks to Gwendolyn Adams, Don Wing MLC, Greg Pinkard and Don Willing for their valuable assistance as the Project Assessment Committee. Our continuing gratitude to Mrs Roberts and the Trustees for enabling these terrific opportunities for the local community to progress Landcare projects.

TLCA staff and Committee members have assisted the NRM Regions assessments for devolved grants programs and board selections, and we have had several meetings in the last twelve months to improve and build on our relationships.

The General Committee met four times during the year. At the March meeting in Wynyard we were warmly welcomed by local Landcare groups and were shown several sites of completed and ongoing works.

The hard working Executive Committee have met regularly (each month except when there's a General Committee meeting) plus extra meetings as required. I most sincerely thank Vice President Dean Vincent for his wisdom, Treasurer Pene Thornton for her extra help, Secretary Richard Greenhill for his comprehensive minutes, and our enthusiastic EO Margie. Their sterling efforts have kept the whole show on the right path as we forged ahead during the year.

Thanks especially to Lola Cowle as Landcare Awards Co-ordinator and to Leanne Sheriff for chairing the TLG committees – and to both of them for convening the State Landcare Conference.

In the office Tracey Gatehouse as Extra Hands Development Officer (2 days/week) and Monika Heisswolf (3 days/week) as Finance and Administration Officer have been terrific, working extremely hard during the year.

A special note of appreciation for EO Margie Jenkin for her big contribution far over and above what has been expected of her. A magnificent effort. Thank you Margie.

Next year will bring as much or more success and satisfaction because Landcare is such a worthwhile and rewarding community movement. Income raising has been identified as one of this year's priorities. We will continue to promote the value of community Landcare and to do our best to support important Landcare projects, through lobbying, advocacy and information networks, as well as providing opportunities for grants programs wherever we can.

The Tasmanian Landcare Association is a real asset to our community.

Thanks to all members of Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare and Friends of Groups – well done and keep up the great work.

Lyndley Chopping



As a community movement, Landcare is a great investment – for every dollar invested in community Landcare, approximately \$6 (or more) is returned.

The TLCA estimates that there are about 300 care groups in Tasmania and over 2,000 landcarers improving our natural and working environments. The TLCA supports these groups and helps them continue their valuable work.

As a non-profit organisation the TLCA achieves enormous amounts on an extremely lean budget. Community Landcare in the state is built on the vision and commitment of local volunteers. The governance of the TLCA is bestowed upon Landcare leaders from care groups statewide who donate their time and expertise. Many of our programs rely on the generous contributions of volunteers. With the equivalent of just over 3.5 full time staff, our small TLCA team is focused and enormously productive.

Treasurer's Report

The TLCA is extraordinarily cost effective – however we currently receive no core funding. In previous years, funding for office, administration, wages and on-costs was available through the State Government's Living Environment Program, however this finished in 2008. Consequently, the main income source in the 2009-2010 financial year has been through TLCA memberships and the 10% administration fee charged by the TLCA for managing funds received including Tasmanian Landcare Fund donations, Caring for Our Country and other project funding.

The Strategic Planning process has helped the TLCA focus its financial aspirations, and financial sustainability is a vital ambition. The organisation's objective is to be financially robust and secure with multiple revenue sources – some long-term and on-going. There are specific goals underneath this objective including improved financial reporting. This is already well underway and is a huge credit to Monika's focus and dedication! Thank you Monika and Freedom Accounting for their support. Reporting will continue to be improved in the next year with the new Calxa budgeting and reporting system.

We also plan to develop the financial literacy of the TLCA General Committee to ensure high levels of understanding and scrutiny when assessing the Association's figures. Our ongoing intention is also to grow the Tasmanian Landcare Fund, and we hope that the year ahead will provide the resources to accomplish this.

Margie Jenkin, our Executive Officer will continue to seek external project funding, while also maintaining dialogue with the Federal and State Governments regarding the value of Landcare and need for ongoing funding support.

Pene Thornton

Executive Officers Report

It has been a huge twelve months!
Where do I start!

We were both fortunate and unfortunate to have a completely new staff team at the TLCA at the end of 2009. While there was a loss of corporate knowledge, there was also an opportunity to review the way we operate as an organisation, and to question the management of existing programs.

...And the TLCA Strategic Plan was due for review! The three regional workshops we delivered provided a good opportunity for our team to meet the membership and reflect on the core work of the TLCA. A subsequent planning 'love-in' on Ben Lomond brought ideas together and helped build the foundations for a new five year plan. Now endorsed, 'Looking Ahead' sets the course for the future, and will be a well-referenced, working document to help guide our priorities and decisions.

The financial systems have been completely overhauled to provide improved record keeping and reporting. Thank you Monika for an enormous effort making this happen, and to Pene for her support along the way! A new IT system was installed to address security vulnerabilities and provide a robust operating platform. The review of our information management and database system is underway. We are looking forward to better efficiencies and functionality in the new open source, on-line web/data storage system in the year ahead.

This time next year, I look forward to reporting on the new and very much improved website which is currently under development. Our intention is to provide a clear, user-friendly, attractive site – rich with current information and stories on community Landcare projects and achievements. We hope the site will provide a great portal to exchange information and share ideas. Online membership and Extra Hands registration will also be available.



It has also been a big year for the Extra Hands casual volunteer program (refer to the Extra Hands Report). The value of the program remains evident – linking people with volunteering opportunities is extremely important to build connections and increase participation. The event registration process was recognised as a speed hump for enrolment, and administration will soon be streamlined to make this great concept more efficient and accessible. Thank you Tracey for your tremendous work on the Extra Hands program and the website.

Supporting our member care groups remains the fundamental purpose of the TLCA. Funding through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative has enabled the TLCA to continue to build capacity in the community through the Extra Hands program, deliver action planning workshops to groups and connect landowners with opportunities to progress projects. The Key Partner Property Program is young however offers great promise in delivering targeted support for Landcare activities on private land.

The development of the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants (TLG) program has been a huge achievement for the TLCA. The governance and processes for the program have provided solid foundations for a thorough and well-conceived program. The success of Round One reflects the hard work of the Steering Committee, Technical Assessment Committee and the program team, Alan, Pete and Jodie. Huge thanks to Leanne Sherriff for her expertise, energy and intellect in developing the concept and supporting the delivery of the program. Well done everyone, and we look forward to rounds two and three. Thanks to the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative for this opportunity to support groups and landowners in progressing their projects.

Although the Caring for Our Country project funding has provided a huge financial boost to the organisation, this money is allocated to deliver the TLG. With the end of the State Government's Living Environment Program in 2008, the TLCA has no core funding. Consequently, substantial time and effort has been spent promoting the value of Landcare to politicians and requesting that core funding be re-instated. Additionally, funding applications have been written for Federal, State and philanthropic programs.

This report highlights TLCA activities and achievements during 2009-2010 – none of which would be possible without the huge effort from care groups across the state. Congratulations for improving your local patch, and for nourishing your local community.

I thank previous TLCA staff for their innovative ideas and hard work – and I thank the new TLCA team (Monika, Tracey, Alan and Pete) for their patience, lateral thinking and (always welcome) humour. Thanks to the General Committee and particularly the Executive, who have astounded me with their generosity and commitment. They bring individual experience and enthusiasm – but the whole becomes far greater than the sum of the parts! To the Committee members that will not re-nominate, thanks so much for your involvement, and particularly to Richard Greenhill who is stepping down from the role of Secretary. Your thorough approach and good company will be missed. Also a special thank you to President Lyndley Chopping. Lyndley, thank you for your extraordinary commitment and endless support. Nothing is ever too much trouble!

Looking ahead, we anticipate a full and fruitful year, while growing programs, projects and friendships! Happy landcaring!

Margie Jenkin

The year in review

GROUP 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 was able to secure \$50,000 for the Landcare Assistance Program (LAP) from the State Government. Ninety percent of this is rolled out by the TLCA to groups to assist in payment for administration, insurance, incorporation costs, auditing etc. The LAP funding provides vital support to groups, without which many would cease to operate. Groups that pay for their own insurance are entitled to \$400, and groups that do not pay for their insurance are entitled to \$250.

While the TLCA thanks the State Government for providing this funding, we are aware that there is a shortfall for many groups. The LAP amount received has not increased in the twelve years since it began, despite the increase in operation costs for groups, nor has it been indexed to CPI. We hope to offer increased funding through the LAP grants in 2011 with the support of our current State Government.

BULK INSURANCE

To reduce insurance costs and streamline administration, the TLCA developed 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. This initiative has been a great success and will continue in 2011. With more groups involved, we hope that the price will reduce even further.

Thanks to Phil Downs at Austcover for his support.

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, clarify realistic goals and detail actions to achieve these goals in the year ahead. Groups are invited to contact the TLCA for more information.

KEY PARTNER PROPERTY PROGRAM

The previously named Key Partner Farm program was re-named the Key Partner Property (KPP) program. This change enables the program to continue to engage farmers, while also building the capacity to reach other landowners. KPPs have some high natural values and a property management plan, or equivalent. Owners have a willingness and capacity to involve volunteers in their Landcare activities, and an interest in improving the health of their land. The TLCA connects landowners with funding and volunteer networks through the Extra Hands casual volunteer program. The TLCA welcomes eleven new Key Partner Properties in 2009-2010. We look forward to developing the program and connecting more landowners with opportunities in the year ahead.

Action Planning Workshops and the Key Partner Property Program are currently delivered by the TLCA, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.



EXTRA HANDS REPORT

In 2009/2010 the Extra Hands casual volunteer program successfully increased community engagement and participation in Landcare activities.

After all what would the Landcare movement be without volunteers? And Extra Hands is specifically designed to increase the number of casual volunteers supporting our Landcare groups and Landcare hosts.

Over the past year the program has positively engaged school groups, corporate groups and individual volunteers linking them to interesting Landcare projects.

Extra Hands volunteers have participated in a wide range of Landcare activities including tree planting, weeding, seed collecting, oyster smashing (to eradicate feral oysters) and water quality monitoring, with more than 30 events involving more than 100 volunteers.

The program continues to attract new volunteers and events through general promotion and targeted volunteer recruitment activities. The TLCA promoted the program at a wide range of community events including the Sustainable Living Expo, Treadlightly Envirofest, Agfest, Falls Festival and the Harvest Festival.

2009/2010 saw a significant review of the Extra Hands program and associated administrative procedures. As a result a new website is currently underway and a simpler registration process will be implemented in the coming year, making it as easy as possible for hosts to register their event to attract volunteers. So register your Landcare events today or encourage people you know to become an Extra Hands volunteer.

A big thank you to the following people and organisations for making Extra Hands possible for 2009/10:

- Extra Hands hosts (Landcare groups, Extra Hands groups, landholders and organisations including Councils) for providing Extra Hands volunteers with a positive and rewarding Landcare experience;
- All of our hardworking Extra Hands volunteers;
- Kingborough Council for their ongoing support, in particular Bridget Jupe for always providing a fantastic Landcare experience for volunteers;
- Hydro Tasmania for supporting the Extra Hands program, in particular Nicole Sherriff for being a Landcare champion;
- NRM North for their crucial support in establishing Extra Hands. The TLCA looks forward to working with the three NRM regions in the coming year to further promote and strengthen the program; and
- The Extra Hands Development Steering Committee (dissolved at the end of 2009) including Lola Cowle (Chair), Andrew Smith, Lee Drummond and Ruth Mollison.

The Extra Hands program is currently delivered by the TLCA, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

WOODEND FOUNDATION

In September 2009 the TLCA received funding through the Trust Company Ltd, Woodend Foundation to continue supporting community Landcare groups. This funding has been used to update the Extra Hands program by reviewing and refining registration processes and data collection, to better connect volunteers with opportunities.

Our thanks to the Trust Company Ltd and Woodend Foundation.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



From left: Little Swanport's Maria Weeding, Melanie Kelly, Helen Scott, Jack Thompson and Helen Geard

Mayor Robert Armstrong, Holly Hansen of the Huon Valley Council and Desley Kippax, State Individual Landcarer Award winner.

2009 Tasmanian Landcare Award Winners

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award: Desley Kippax

Westpac Landcare Education Award: Deloraine High School

Australian Government Coastcare Award: Birds Tasmania

Australian Government Landcare NRM Region Award: NRM North

Toshiba Landcare Community Group Award: Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan Implementation Committee

People's Choice Award: Tamar NRM

Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award: Greening Australia, the Indigenous Land Corporation and Weetapooona

Landcare Australia Local Government Partnership Award: Huon Valley Council

Landcare Australia Young Landcare Leader Award: Mel Gent

Landcare Australia Urban Landcare Award: Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group

Landcare Australia Primary Producer Award: Brian Baxter

Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award: Maria Weeding

Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award: Matthew Pitt

2009 STATE LANDCARE AWARDS

The Awards, held at Kelvedon, south of Swansea in early November, celebrated the incredible achievements of Landcare in Tasmania and rewarded volunteers for their efforts protecting our precious places. It was a balmy evening and stunning location, overlooking vineyards, farmland, bushland and the scenic east coast. For every winner announced, there are hundreds of others making incredible contributions, accomplished through vision, determination, co-ordination and hard work.

The TLCA delivered the awards on behalf of the Tasmanian State Government and would like to thank all sponsors, Kelvedon owners Julian and Jill Cotton, and the Awards Organising Committee, particularly Leanne Sherriff and Lola Cowle.

Two additional categories were subsequently introduced by the Australian Government, Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award and Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award. A State nomination and assessment process was completed.

2010 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

The National Landcare Awards were held in Canberra at the end of June 2010. Congratulations to all Tasmanian category winners and particularly to the two national winners.

Toshiba Landcare Community Group Award: Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan Implementation Committee. With a dedicated group of members and a great passion for the future of the catchment the group is supporting positive initiatives and developing vital local projects that have far reaching benefits.

Landcare Australia Local Government Partnership Award: Huon Valley Council. The Huon Valley Council provides financial assistance, tools, administration and technical support to local care groups, while developing broader communication initiatives, with on-going support and knowledge.



2009 STATE LANDCARE CONFERENCE – 'LANDCARE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE'

The 2009 Tasmanian Landcare Association Conference – Landcare in a Changing Climate, was held in Swansea on 8 and 9 November. Field trips travelled north and south respectively and highlighted innovative practices in salinity and soil carbon management, aquaculture, walnut production, fish care and conservation on private land.

The conference the following day featured Professor Ian Lowe, Brendan McMahon, Bureau of Meteorology and Biz Nicolson, Bonneys Plains. Concurrent sessions were held during the afternoon at various venues around Swansea. Participants and presenters shared examples of local climate change adaptation, and community commitment, persistence and passion.

Our thanks to the Conference Organising Committee, Dean Vincent and Lyndley Chopping and particularly Leanne Sherriff and Lola Cowle. Thank also to TLCA staff including Conference and Awards Co-ordinator Christina Urso-Cale. Thanks also to Mel Kelly and other Glamorgan Spring Bay Council staff who assisted with organisation and to all event sponsors.

THE NATIONAL LANDCARE FORUM

Twenty years of community Landcare was celebrated in Adelaide from 23-25 March, 2010. Approximately 650 people from around Australia and overseas attended the National Landcare Forum, themed 'Celebrating, Communicating and Invigorating'. In Minister Tony Burke's address he identified three new challenges not anticipated 20 years ago:

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

Tasmania was well represented at the Forum with the TLCA, NRM regions and the Australian government sponsoring community members to attend.

NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK

The TLCA continues to represent the interests of community Landcare on a national level as a representative of the National Landcare Network. As a national advocate, the Network has raised the profile of Landcare in political circles and through involvement in the Steering Committee for the National Landcare Forum. The NLN is currently developing their strategic plan to focus and prioritise objectives for the years ahead.

RAISING AWARENESS

The TLCA has continued producing quarterly newsletters (hard copy and electronic) and monthly e-bulletins (electronic only). These are distributed to our membership, NRM professionals and other stakeholders to promote and support community Landcare.

The TLCA has promoted Landcare through displays at the Falls Festival, Sustainable Living Expo, Tread Lightly Festival, Harvest Festival and Agfest.

We have begun a review and overhaul of our website to improve information access for our members. The TLCA is also working with Feral Arts and NRM North to deliver a trial workshop for landcarers to develop the skills to use Digital Landcare, a national online network to promote Landcare stories.

FROGMORE CREEK PROJECT

The 2008 Caring for Our Country project at Frogmore Creek Vineyard continued in 2009-2010 engaging people to learn about and protect Frogmore Rivulet, a tributary of the Pitt Water-Orielton Ramsar listed wetlands. Fencing was completed on the Orielton tributary, and creekside plantings were undertaken with Hydro Tasmania staff, local landcarers and Extra Hands volunteers. An ongoing water monitoring program involved Richmond and Risdon Vale Primary Schools.

A field day walk and talk with owner and operator, Tony Scherer and Vineyard Manager Jennifer Doyle introduced 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. Following the walk and talk the Tasmanian Landcaring Grants were launched.

To promote the TLCA Key Partner Property Program and Extra Hands, a flier was developed highlighting the Frogmore Creek Project as a case study for co-operative community Landcare.

Thanks to Tony Scherer, Jennifer Doyle and Frogmore staff, Richmond and Risdon Vale Primary Schools, Lynne Sparrow, Eric Woehler, Chris Wisbey, Sally Dakis and ABC Radio for broadcasting 'The Country Hour' on site for the field day, and supporters Ruth Mollison, Pulchella Nursery, Snug Butchery, Coal Valley Orchards and Richmond Bakery.

The Frogmore Creek Project is delivered by the TLCA, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

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 (this was before the Community Action Grants were available.) Funded through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country (CFOC) initiative, the TLG is delivered by the TLCA, in partnership with Wildcare Inc. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for landcaring projects that deliver on national targets and provide benefits to local communities and the environment over two years.

Project Manager, Alan Barton joined the TLCA on the program in October 2009, and Project Officer, Peter Stronach in January 2010. A Steering Committee and skills-based, statewide Technical Assessment Committee were established, and these groups assisted project staff in the development of assessment criteria and procedures, and a project procedures manual.

Round One of the TLG, 'From the Bush to the Beach', was launched at TLCA Key Partner Property Frogmore Creek Vineyard on 30 March, 2010. Fifty five applications were received, requesting approximately \$750,000. Just under \$200,000 was allocated to 16 projects across the state addressing the national CFOC priorities and delivering broad community and biodiversity benefits. With a strong commitment to supporting the community, the TLG team has worked with local networks to connect unsuccessful applicants with other funding sources – or advice on how to improve applications for future rounds.

Round Two will be assessed and announced during November, 2010, and Round Three will open mid February, 2011.

The Program has given the TLCA the opportunity to expand the support available to care groups and landowners – and to help build a co-operative and supported approach to project design and development within local areas.

Projects funded in the TLG Round One:

- Alastair Ross – Construction of an aviary for the care and rehabilitation of injured Wedge-tailed and White-bellied Sea eagles in North West Tasmania – \$4,134.48
- Circular Head Landcare Group – An assault on National Priority infestations of Seeding willow (*Salix cinerea*) situated in Circular Head – \$18,200
- Mt Roland Rivercare – Don, Dasher and Minnow Rivers – Strategic Riparian Improvements – providing 3.2 ha of fenced and revegetated riparian lands – \$19,955.65
- Kingborough Landcare – Kingborough Seeding Willows (*Salix cinerea*) Eradication Project – Stage 1 – \$15,456
- Derwent Catchment NRM Committee – Grazing and Stock Management Study tour: Breaking down barriers and building confidence to improve land and property management – \$4,050
- Tamar NRM – Phase 2 of Feral Cat Management in the Weymouth/Bellingham area – providing support to the community – \$12,833.70
- King Island NRM – Community engagement on King Island focusing on the protection of shorebirds and raising awareness of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) and other coastal weeds – \$10,302
- Riverside Avenue Community Group – Removal of WONS and other environmental weeds to continue the Riverside Avenue rehabilitation – \$5,800
- Basil R Clark and Sons – Gorse (*Ulex Europaeus*) removal to protect Lowland Grasslands of Tasmania and other threatened flora – \$2,200
- Killora/Dennes Point Coastcare Groups – Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) eradication on Bligh Point and Killora Bay, Bruny Island to continue protecting coastal woodland that is prime 40-spotted pardalote habitat – \$7,495
- Friends of Maria – Continuing the control of Canary Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) on Maria Island to maintain healthy and resilient native habitat for wildlife (including threatened species) while engaging local community – \$18,096
- Penna Landcare – Establishing an *ex-situ* subpopulation in the Pontos Hills of *Hardenbergia violacea* with plants from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) Seedbank Program – \$2,810
- Pipe Clay Coastcare – Follow up action to control spread of WONS, especially Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) in the Cremorne area with special focus on Calvert's Hill and protection of the threatened *E. Morrisbyi* – \$20,000
- West Coast Weeds and Fire Management Group – Strategically controlling gorse on the World Heritage Area boundary and delivering weed management workshops to local community – \$18,200
- Friends of Conningham Reserve – Engagement of local community in the protection of habitat in Conningham Natural Recreation Area by controlling threatening processes – \$14,267
- Allen and Robyn Berthelsen – Protecting the Welcome River in the Montagu Catchment through fencing and regeneration of local native vegetation to enhance threatened species habitat – \$13,600

Total TLG Round One amount devolved – \$184,387

Our thanks to:

- Program partner Wildcare Inc.;
- Previous TLCA EO Emma Belfield and Leanne Sherriff for their work on the project proposal;
- The Steering Committee, Technical Assessment Committee and TLCA Executive Committee;
- TLG Project Team, Alan Barton (TLCA Project Manager), Pete Stronach (TLCA Project Officer) and Jodie Epper (Wildcare Facilitator); and
- Community Landcare and NRM networks for their energy and interest in the program.

The Tasmanian Landcaring Grants program is delivered by the TLCA, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.



TASMANIAN LANDCARE FUND

The Tasmanian Landcare Fund (TLF) has continued to provide substantial funding for valuable on-ground projects in Northern Tasmania during 2009 -10. The fund is stable due to the vision and commitment of the late Mr John Roberts, however the TLCA hopes to significantly grow the Fund in the year ahead, by engaging more donors. We welcome new supporters, MyState Limited who have pledged that for every customer who receives their accounts electronically, \$1 will be donated to the TLF.

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.

Projects funded in the TLF Round Ten (Investing in Key Partner Properties in the North):

- Warwick and Helen Morgan – riparian habitat restoration and community engagement through a field day at Glenford Farm, Pipers River – \$3,040
- Brad and Ros Clark – creek and wetland protection through fencing and weed control at Meander – \$7,100

Total TLF Round Ten amount devolved – \$10,140

Projects funded in the TLF Round Eleven (Open Funding Stream in the North):

- Quenton Higgs – Liffey River riparian remediation including blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), cracked willow (*Salix fragilis*) and gorse removal – \$3,529
- Warwick and Helen Morgan – engaging local community and continuing riparian habitat restoration at Glenford Farm, Pipers River – \$985

- Tasmanian Conservation Trust – continuing primary control and follow up maintenance of African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) on the Outer Furneaux Islands – \$2,909
- Philip and Lucy Headlam – Fencing off remnant *Eucalyptus amygdalina* coastal forest and woodland to protect threatened species – \$6,715
- West Tamar Landcare Group – Restoration of riparian habitat in the Supply River catchment – \$9,550
- Launceston Field Naturalists – Revegetation of the upper portion of Skemps Creek, St Patricks catchment – \$5,349
- Greens Beach Landcare – Greens Beach foreshore restoration to protect the dune system through fencing, weed control, re-vegetation and signage – \$8,318
- Perth, Evandale Landcare Association – Riparian rejuvenation and re-vegetation of the South Esk River at 'Woodhall' – \$3,360
- John Taylor – Improve soil quality through planting of pasture and salt bush at Winton, near Campbelltown – \$2,606
- East Tamar Landcare – control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) including willow (*Salix fragilis*), boneseed and blackberry on Pipers River – \$5,500
- John and Wendy Gee – Regeneration of the red ground bush at Cluan Homestead involving fencing native habitat, gorse removal and re-vegetation – \$4,475

Total TLF Round 11 amount \$53,296



