



tasmanian  
conservation trust inc

# Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement 2020-2021

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## TCT Board 2020-2021

Tim Morris	34 Stephen St, New Norfolk 7140
Anne Layton-Bennett	514 Los Angelos Road, Swan Bay 7252
Trish Baily	741 Nubeena Back Road, Koonya 7189
Robyn McNicol	3246 South Arm Road, South Arm 7022
Scott Morgan	9 Quayle St, Sandy Bay 7005
Sharon Moore	9 Quayle St, Sandy Bay 7005
Phil Stigant	21 Williams St, West Hobart 7000
James Sugden	17 Akuna Street, Montagu Bay 7018
Hrisanthi Dokos (resigned June 2021)	98 Carlton Beach Rd, Dodges Ferry 7173

## TCT Staff 2020-2021

Peter McGlone	Chief Executive Officer	2.5 days/wk
Oliver Cassidy	Office Manager	2-3 days/wk
Jon Bryan	Marine Campaigner	1.5 days/wk
Jack Redpath	Fundraising and Community Engagement Coordinator	Casual
Leigh Craven	Office Support Officer (July to Dec 2020 )	Casual
Lizy Spanau	Office Support Officer (June to Sept 2021 ongoing)	Casual

## TCT and Kingborough Council Partnership

Kaylene Allan	Kingborough Cat Management Officer	4 days/wk
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Annual Report and Financial Statement 2020-2021 of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc  
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# Chair's Report – Tim Morris

It gives me great pleasure in reporting that the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has had a good year.

Board meetings have been well attended, we have met the goals that we set, including with budgeting, modernising the human resources system, upgrading the accounting and drafting a Strategic Plan for consideration.

The Board now receives comprehensive, quarterly financial reports from the Treasurer and in May, approved a Budget for 2021/22. It is our intention to have balanced, or surplus, budgets over the medium term.

The Trust holds adequate reserves for an organisation of its size.

Thanks to Simon Cavendish, who volunteered to review and make a good start on modernising our human resources documentation. The Board gave in-principle approval and the CEO has been able to implement key elements; work with this will be ongoing.

We have drafted a Strategic Plan which will be available at the AGM for members consideration. Once the Strategic Plan is adopted it will provide the Trust with clear direction for the next few years.

It is important to keep the governance and administration in good shape so that the TCT can continue to assist others and run campaigns to protect Tasmania's best values, which seem to constantly be under threat on many fronts at once.

Like last year, we are proposing some minor amendments to the Constitution to streamline process and modernise some components.

I wish the new Board success in 2021/22 knowing that there has been quite a bit of work identified to be done if we are to make the Trust a bigger and stronger organisation. If this can be done then Tasmania will be much the better for it.

# CEO's Report – Peter McGlone

I would like to thank all TCT staff, Board members, volunteers, members, supporters and partners for their magnificent contributions to TCT's work during the last year. In particular I would like to thank the core office-based staff Oliver Cassidy and Jack Redpath for helping to turn the TCT's fortunes around over the last few years. On a personal note, as CEO, I would not have been able to do my job without the commitment, energy, skill and loyalty of Jack and Oliver.

The TCT Board has been stable, effective and supportive of staff during the last twelve months. All individual Board members have made valuable contributions in addition to attending Board meetings and I thank them all for giving their time during the last year. I particularly thank the Chair Tim Morris who has provided a calm and stabilising influence on the Board, has been a valued source of advice for myself and along with other Board members led the move last year to update the TCT's Constitution. I thank the Treasurer Scott Morgan who has worked closely with staff and the Board to prepare our budgets and report to the Board on our financial position (greatly decreasing the work load for staff). I also thank Robyn McNicol who has served as our Secretary for many years and has in particular ensured all meeting records are maintained.

The changes made to the TCT's Constitution last year that clarified the relationship between the TCT Board and CEO has made immeasurable improvements, including reducing the time other staff have had to dedicate to preparing reports and attending Board meetings. Proposed amendments have the potential to further improve how our organisation operates.

The Staff and Board made a start on the proposed five-year TCT strategy but it has not been finalised as hoped due to a number of competing demands. I believe that getting in place a Human Resources system, making further changes to the Constitution and bedding down our fundraising processes will make the finalisation of the strategy much smoother.

## Planning

### Major projects implementation

The controversial Major Projects legislation was passed by the parliament last August. As we had predicted the state government has not been keen to use the legislation and has only flagged the use of it for one project so far, the proposed new Bridgewater Bridge, which will not cause too much consternation in the community. Our work the previous year, flagging the dangers of the legislation, may have made the government more nervous about using it to assess and approve more controversial developments.

### Land Use Planning and Approvals Act changes

The key planning advocacy work over the last year has been working with partner groups, in particular Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania, to oppose some of the government's proposed amendments to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act in regard to how the Statewide Planning Scheme is created and implemented. TCT and PMAT put a great deal of effort into lobbying the state government, pressuring opposition parties during the state election and briefing the legislative council prior to the legislation being debated. Our efforts floundered as the Labor Party, who had given clear commitments during the state election to support us on key issues, voted in favour of the government's legislation without even attempting amendments.

Although none of our key concerns were addressed by the government, the new legislation is likely to make the statewide scheme more complicated to create and implement for councils, developers and the community. It seems that there will be no great advantage for proponents of developments but perhaps the statewide scheme may come into effect a little more quickly.

### **Proposed changes to the Planning Appeals Tribunal**

The TCT, PMAT and other organisations are greatly concerned regarding the proposed changes to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. In particular we totally oppose proposed changes that will make it more costly for the community to undertake appeals, which will provide well funded developers with an unfair advantage. The proposed changes are yet to be tabled in parliament. Stopping these changes will be a key focus of our advocacy during the rest of this year.

### **TCT support for the community on planning**

Compared to the previous year it seems that the TCT has spent a little less time in assisting the local community in responding to development proposals and participating in planning appeals and more time working on responding to planning legislation and undertaking its own actions in response to major development proposals.

During the year we have assisted local community groups on the following:

- South Arm and Arm End: assisted the local community throughout the year in relation to three connected developments, the Arm End golf course, a water pipeline that is proposed to take treated effluent to the golf course and most recently a treatment plant to improve the quality of the water. Also assisted the Re-imagine the End group to develop an alternative vision for the Arm End Reserve.
- Seven Mile Beach: helped a local resident to respond to their neighbour who had proposed a house in an area that is prone to flooding and storm surge.
- Stormlea Road, Stormlea: Made a representation and assisted the community in regard to a proposal for a major tourism development at the start of the walking track to Cape Raoul.
- Ida Bay: MONA art installation: Made a representation and assisted the community in regard to a proposal by MONA for an art installation, visitor centre and walking track in the Ida Bay State Reserve.
- Kingborough Council: Made a representation to the council opposing the proposal to revoke the council's tree protection policy.
- Robbins Island: Throughout the year we assisted the Circular Head Coastal Awareness Network in its campaign to stop the Robbins Island wind farms.

### **kunanyi / Mt Wellington cable car**

The TCT has joined a number of other conservation and community organisations, in particular Residents Opposed to the Cable Car, in campaigning to stop the proposed Mt Wellington cable car. The issue dominated our work during the months of June and July and continues.

The TCT assisted more than 2500 people to make representations to Hobart City Council opposing the cable car (with more than 80% from Hobart municipality), including hosting an online submission template and organising to letterbox 8500 households in the greener suburbs of Hobart. This was a very labour intensive process that helped attract more than

one thousand new people to make submissions, via paper submission guide, who otherwise would not have made a representation. The proponent has appealed the HCC's decision to the Planning Appeals Tribunal. The TCT has joined the appeal and will seek to provide additional expert evidence in relation to impacts on biodiversity.

### **Anson's Bay land clearing Supreme Court case**

In 2015 the TCT initiated a Supreme Court case seeking to overturn approval for the clearing and conversion to pasture of 1800 hectares of forest on private land near Ansons Bay. While it seemed that the lawyers representing the Crown had agreed with the TCT that the permit was not valid the case was put on hold in 2017 at the request of the landowner while they sought advice regarding Australian Government assessment. The landholder has recently applied to rejoin the case and has indicated their interest in reactivating the court case. This will require an intensive effort over the next few months to raise funds to support the Environmental Defenders Office who are representing us.

### **Rosny Hill**

Last year the Rosny Hill Friends Network appealed the decision of the Clarence City Council to approve the massive tourism development proposed for the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area. The TCT joined the appeal to provide support as well as helping to raise funds for the RHFN's appeal costs. Unfortunately the tribunal upheld the council's decision. At substantial costs, the TCT has obtained legal advice regarding the legal requirements in relation to the proposed development's compliance with reserve management legislation and our rights to seek legal review of any of these decisions.

### **Aquaculture**

It has been a real struggle during the year for the TCT to maintain involvement in aquaculture and other marine issues as a result of staff having reduced paid time and myself being required to give more time to other non-campaign issues including human resources, supporting the Board on a range of issues, newsletter production and memberships.

### **Waste Management**

This year has seen the state government embrace positive waste management policies and initiative, like we have never seen before in Tasmania. We had great pleasure writing a submission supporting the Government's proposed legislation to create a landfill levy and waste management fund. The government has delayed the introduction of the levy by one year to allow more consultation with councils but we anticipate the levy will be in place by around the end of 2022. The levy has the potential to revolutionise waste management in Tasmania. The levy will drive both a reduction in waste going to landfill by increasing the cost of disposal and provide substantial ongoing funding via the levy to increase efforts by industry and others to reduce, reuse and recycle waste products.

The TCT also supports the government's policy to introduce a container refund scheme as an exciting initiative that could see millions more containers being recycled rather than sent to landfill or becoming litter. We were however disappointed by the draft legislation as it failed to provide commitments regarding setting recycling targets, made the reuse (as opposed to recycling) of eligible containers an offence punishable with a substantial fine and failed to propose objectives related to providing collection points on an equitable basis across the state.

At the state election and in the last state budget the Liberal's committed millions of dollars to really important waste projects including for a new organic waste composting facility at Railton, a collaborative program with Tyre Cycle to trial use of used vehicle tyres in road surfaces and phasing out of certain single-use plastic containers.

### **Human Resources**

Early in 2021 the TCT had the help of a volunteer to draft a Human Resources policy manual. I have reworked many of the policies to fit with the TCT's special requirements and circumstances. We have hired a Human Resources consultant (recommended by a Board member) to assist us to ensure that all staff position descriptions are compliant and to provide more detail on critical policies including performance review and improvement.

Putting into practice new human resources processes is an added challenge with staff who have been working for a number of years without any formal processes. We have been taking our time to ensure that staff are well aware of the proposed changes before they become mandatory and to ensure the system doesn't become too unwieldy for a small organisation. We should have a complete system in place by the end of 2021.

During the year the TCT has been mediating a dispute with employee Jon Bryan. While the process has been very prolonged we expect to have a resolution in the form of a Deed of Settlement very soon.

### **Office move**

After more than twelve years at our previous office the TCT moved its office in February-March this year, taking a room at 130 Davey Street in Hobart, a building owned by the Wilderness Society. A big thank you to the office-based staff, a number of Board members and volunteers who helped with the move - packing, loading and unloading tonnes of files and furniture. The new office has proven to be a much more comfortable space to work in over winter and I am sure our state of mind and productivity have improved. It is also pleasing to share the building with other organisations, in particular the Wilderness Society and Grass Roots Action Network Tasmania.

While the new office is a significant cost saving we still have to pay for storage for tonnes of files in about 900 ring binders. This is decades of information that is generally not used on a day to day basis. We are investigating funding to support a person to assist us with sorting out the files we need to retain and to digitise them where it is possible.

### **TCT newsletter**

We are continuing to deliver on our commitment to members to provide two newsletters per year. I wish to thank our designer Kelly Eijdenberg and printer Monotone who have been with us for many years and provide an exceptional service. I also thank Sharon Moore (who is also on the TCT Board) for taking up the text editing this year and has been very effective and prompt. It is also encouraging that a number of Board members have provided articles or have facilitated articles from others. This has helped take the burden off staff to provide all articles.

The TCT newsletter is sent only to financial members who are a small and declining fraction of all the total number of TCT supporters. It costs a considerable amount to produce plus there is still a large amount of my time, dedicated to preparing articles, soliciting articles from others,

dealing with the editor, designer and printer and organising the mail out. The future of the newsletter is perhaps an issue to be considered after the AGM in connection with a broader discussion about the future of our membership.

### **State Government committees**

Last year I reported that the state government had been incrementally reducing the opportunities for community and conservation organisations to provide constructive input to development and implementation of government policies and legislation via formal committees. Over the last year we have been on no formal state government committees other than the fisheries advisory committees that Jon Bryan sits on (see below). Sharon Moore represents the TCT on the Kingborough Offsets Fund Committee.

### **Major submissions**

- Rural Water Use Strategy – Position Paper
- Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill 2020
- Input to the development of a Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan
- Draft Rural Water Use Strategy
- Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Bill 2021
- Draft Container Refund Scheme Bill 2021
- Proposed Amendments to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
- Draft Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Bill 2020
- State election 2021 - Suggestions regarding planning policies (Labor, Greens and selected independents)

### **Jon Bryan – TCT Marine Spokesperson**

Jon Bryan works 1.5 days per week for the TCT. He is the TCT representative on all Tasmanian government fisheries advisory committees:

- Crustacean Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Scalefish Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Scallop Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Abalone Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee

Jon Bryan is also a Board member of Tasmania's peak marine recreational fishing organisation Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing.

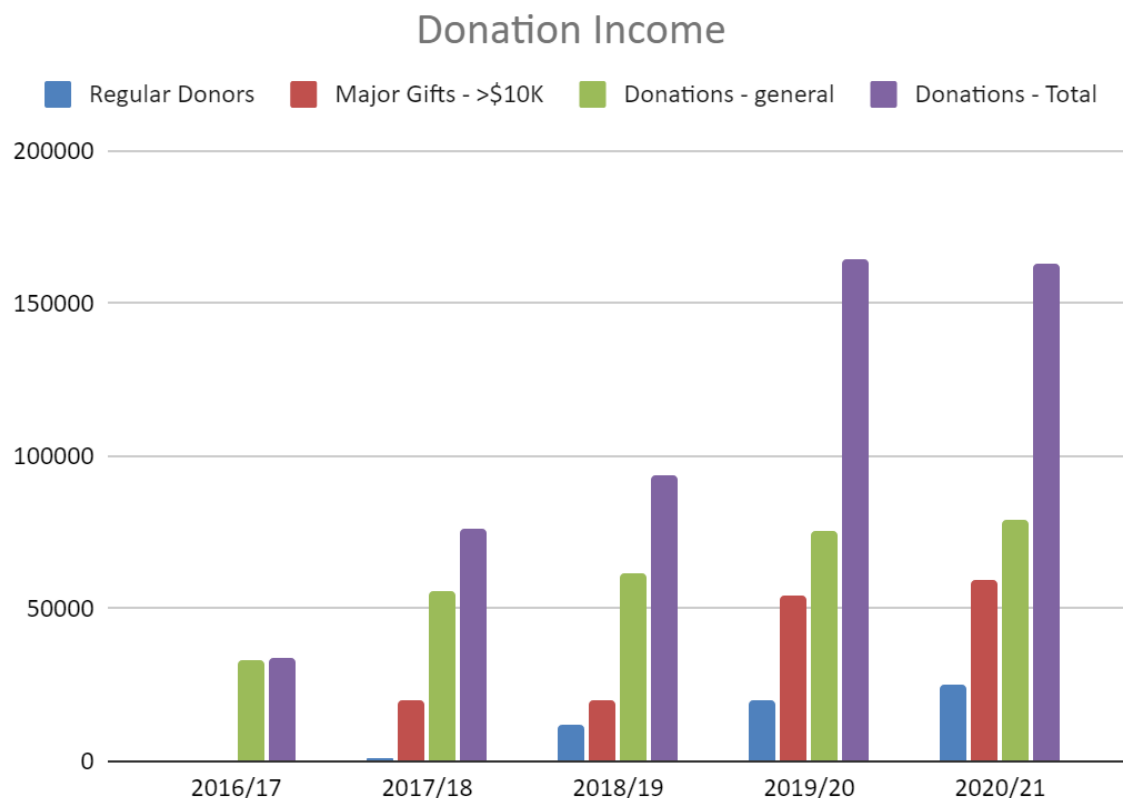


# Fundraising and Community Engagement Coordinator – Jack Redpath

The financial year 2020-21 has been another excellent year at the Tasmanian Conservation Trust. Our governance changes have created a positive working environment, our supporter base and donation income continues to grow and our connections to grassroots community groups have been strengthened.

## Fundraising

TCT has been reliant on supporter donations to meet our core expenses for the last five years. This represents a paradigm shift for the TCT and a challenge that we have successfully met in the last two years. Thanks to our members, board, volunteers, supporters and donors. Without your support the TCT would not be able to do its work.



(Excludes bequests, grants, Job Keeper, memberships, other non-donation income, please see the financial statement for a full account of income and expenses)

Donation income has increased from \$33,000 in 2016-17; to \$76,000 in 2017-18; to \$94,000 in 2018-19; to \$164,000 in 2019-20; and \$163,219 in 2020-21. Our long term members are giving more generously and our total number of supporters and donors continues to increase. Each source of donations continues to increase: regular gifts (at least once per month), major gifts (\$10,000 plus) and general donations. Our approach to fundraising has become more

tailored to our individual donors over the years. The result is an increase in the number of overall donors and a higher average donation amount.

### **Other Income**

This financial year was unusual in that we received a substantial income from the government's Job Keeper grants (not included above as it is not donation income). Obtaining the grant was a significant source of income generated by the Fundraiser, supported by all staff. The application process involved complex interpretation of government criteria and careful assessment of TCT's eligibility. The grant allowed TCT to defray some of its expenses during the financial year. This income is not included in the chart above as it is not a recurring income, nor is it related to donations or supporters. It is available in the financial statement.

### **Community Engagement**

Community partnerships and campaigns remain one of the core focuses of the TCT. Over the last few years TCT has contributed to campaigns including Rosny Hill, Cambria Green, the Mount Wellington Cable Car, the Fragrance Towers, the UPC Robbins Island Windfarm, industrial fish farms and many other large and small projects.

High profile and controversial developments continue to provide key opportunities for engagement and education with the general public. The TCT's work as a conduit for representations to councils remains the primary source of our growth in supporter numbers. As a result of our work in the community more people are becoming supporters of the TCT and by extension are potential supporters for our other shared campaigns. The following organisations deserve special praise for their work and achievements:

- East Coast Alliance – (opposed to Cambria Green)
- Residents Opposed to the Cable Car
- Rosny Hill Friends Network
- Hobart not Highrise
- Launceston Heritage not Highrise
- North East Bioregional Network
- Tasmanian National Parks Association
- Circular Head Coastal Awareness Network
- Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection and all its member groups
- Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania and all its member groups

All organisations we work with are resilient and self-supporting, a major prerequisite for TCT's involvement in these community campaigns. Without these groups Tasmania would be worse off. Thanks to you if you support these groups. TCT will continue our work to strengthen our joint goals.

### **Community Engagement Highlight**

The most notable community partnership of the year 2020/21 is the fight against the Mt Wellington Cable Car. TCT is working with several other groups including: the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Residents Opposed to the Cable Car (ROCC), Bird Life Tasmania and the South Hobart Progress Association. Our main contribution during the public comment period was publishing a simple representation guide on our website, running a social media

campaign and working with volunteers to letter box 8,500 households in the Hobart area. As a result we assisted over 2,500 people to make representations against the development.

The Hobart City Council received over 16,500 representations during the public comment period. Over 71% of representors (11,700 people) opposed the cable car development application. The Hobart City Council voted to refuse the cable car development application on 27 July 2020. This is a big win for everyone who loves the wild and natural beauty of kunanyi / Mt Wellington. Thank you to those who were involved! TCT has subsequently joined the appeal (on the council's side) and is fundraising in order to contribute to costs of the appeal.

### **Growth and reform**

TCT continues its governance reforms including significant improvements to the workplace policies and effective delegation of duties. The result is significant improvement in workplace culture and productivity. These improvements will continue to enhance the TCT's effectiveness and increase our fundraising, marketing and community engagement capacity as a result.

### **Why make a bequest to the TCT?**

A bequest in your will to the Tasmanian Conservation Trust will help us to continue to protect Tasmania's natural areas and species into the future. Previous bequests have been invaluable to our work, including being vital for our court challenge to the Tamar Valley pulp mill permit. With governments cutting funding of conservation groups, the TCT will be increasingly dependent on financial support from our members to continue our work. Phone the TCT office on (03) 6234 3552 for further information.

# Officer Manager – Oliver Cassidy

The 2020-2021 year has seen a number of changes for the TCT behind the scenes.

## **New Office**

After more than 12 years at our Liverpool Street address we have relocated to 130 Davey Street, Hobart, sharing the building with the likes of Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania, and Grass Roots Action Network Tasmania. The building is a hive of energy with a wide range of campaigns being waged in a variety of ways. Our new office has much more natural light, better heating and is on the ground floor making it much more accessible.

We've sacrificed a great deal of storage space in the move, but are endeavouring to sort through, digitise and dispose of much of the historical documentation we've held on to over the years.

## **New Machines**

Assisting in the digitisation project, as well as every other aspect of our work, are some brand new computers! We were fortunate enough to receive \$7000 in the Stronger Communities Grant round 6 to put towards the purchase of new machines. The office technology we've used historically has been donated or otherwise largely second hand, and proved to not be up to the task in the age of zoom meetings and the occasional need to work from home. We are in the process of setting up these new machines with the help of volunteer, Blake Laurent.

## **New Software**

We have finally made the complicated transition away from MYOB accounting software to Xero, which, once we've settled in completely will simplify the receipting, reporting and auditing processes significantly. It will allow us to continue to work effectively should we need to return to working-from-home conditions as the whole system is cloud based. We are also in the process of setting up Infoodle - a customer relationship management tool (database) especially designed for working with charities like ours and to integrate with Xero. And finally, we have enrolled in Microsoft 365 for charities, meaning we finally have access to new versions of Word, Excel and other microsoft office programs for the charities rate of \$0 per year.

## **New Staff**

In the first half of last financial year I personally had to take a few bouts of leave, one of which was to shoot the Franklin River documentary I have been working on for years, which will be coming out next year. To hold the fort we were lucky enough to hire Leigh Craven, who brought with him years of experience working in a similar role in the Wilderness Society among others. We would have been extremely hard pressed to get through 2020 and 2021 without his thoughtful, kind and thorough assistance, so thank you, Leigh.

In the last few months we have also hired Dr Elisavet (Lizy) Spanou, whom we have titled our 'data wizard'. They are organising our database as part of getting us up and running with Infoodle. Dr Spanou has recently graduated with a PhD in economics during which they researched the monetary valuation of coastal and marine ecosystem-services (meaning the benefits to humans provided by the environment to support our survival and wellbeing).

# Kingborough Cat Management Officer – Kaylene Allan

The Kingborough Cat Management Officer is a partnership of the TCT and Kingborough Council. Kaylene Allan is employed by the TCT but works from the offices of the Kingborough Council. Kaylene works a total of 4 days per week, splitting the role into 2 days per week on the Kingborough Cat Management Program and 2 days per week coordinating the Bruny Island Cat Management Program (with funding from the Australian Government).

## Kingborough Cat Management Program

### Stray Cat Management

Council is working with local communities, the Ten Lives Cat Centre and Southern Tasmanian Cat Rescue to manage stray cats. Overall 46 cats were received by the Ten Lives Cat Centre from Kingborough last financial year.

Council is continuing to monitor and trap feral cats around Blackman's Bay Beach which is an important area for wildlife, including Little Penguins, Swift Parrots and bandicoots. Since the start of the program in 2019 over 23 stray and feral cats have been trapped on private properties and along the beachfront and two domestic cats were taken to the Ten Lives Centre. Three domestic cats have also been desexed through the new Thylacine lutruwita veterinarian in Mornington.

Earlier this year there were several reported sightings of stray cats in the Allen's Rivulet and Browns Road area. Council engaged the Southern Tasmanian Cat Rescue to trap and rehome cats in these areas. Seven cats were trapped at Allen's Rivulet and five cats in Browns Road Kingston.

Two stray cats were also removed from the depot in April.



Stray cat trapped at Blackmans Bay

### Cat Prohibited Areas (CPA)

In May Councillors supported a motion to commence the process to formally declare Alguna, Coffee Creek and Huntingfield Reserves as Cat Prohibited Areas in accordance with

Section 19 of the *Cat Management Act 2009*. This decision follows on from Council's success in managing Boronia Beach Reserve and Blackmans Bay Beach as Cat Prohibited Areas over several years.

Within the Kingborough municipality Algona, Coffee Creek and Huntingfield Reserves are part of a network of important wildlife habitat and recreation areas that include Peter Murrell Reserves (PMR). These Council Reserves offer PMR important vegetation buffers, wildlife corridors and creek protection. PMR is home to many conservation-significant species that are particularly vulnerable to cats.

The declaration of these Cat Prohibited Areas was prepared to contribute to the protection of wildlife in these reserves that are under increasing pressure from urban development and to send an important community message about the need for responsible pet cat ownership.

The proposed declaration was advertised and community feedback was sought through a public consultation process. Five written submissions were received and all submissions were supportive of the declaration. No negative feedback was received by written submission or on Facebook. A report was presented to Council and the new CPAs were formally declared.

#### **Huntingfield Housing Development**

Since 2017 Council Environmental Services staff have been liaising with Communities Tasmania about the Huntingfield housing development and the need to protect the fauna values within adjacent reserves (including PMR) from the impacts of additional domestic cats in the area. Discussions to date have been very productive and staff are currently working towards regulatory options, that would complement the *Cat Management Act 2009*. Such options will assist to manage domestic cats associated with the development.

#### **Public Enquiries on Cat Management**

Across the municipality 120 cat-related requests were actioned from June 2020 to July 2021.

<b>Cat management enquiries from June 2019 – June 2020</b>	
34%	Nuisances caused by cats
22%	Presence of stray and feral cats
17%	From organisations or individuals wanting information on Council's cat management programs or local and state regulations on keeping cats
11%	Lost and found cats
5%	Large numbers of cats present on individual properties
4%	Registering a cat under the Bruny Island Cat By-law
2%	Cat in prohibited areas
2.5%	Inhumane treatment of cats
1%	Non-registered breeder of cats

#### **Customer Service Staff**

In conjunction with TassieCat a Q & A guide was prepared to assist Customer Service staff to respond to common enquiries and complaints from the public about cats. Information

sessions were also held with all Council Customer Service staff to update them on the recent changes to the Cat Management Act 2009. The sessions had positive engagement and feedback from staff.

### **Bruny Island Cat Management Program**

#### **Bruny Island Cat Facility**

The Facility is located behind the Post Office at Alonnah and is run by Kingborough Council, Bruny Farming and Ten Lives Cat Centre (TLCC). It provides a place for the community to bring stray cats or cats that need a new home. Over the past 12 months fourteen stray cats have been taken to the Facility. The majority of these cats were re-homed through the Ten Lives Cat Centre and one domestic cat was returned to its owner.



Partners at Cat Facility launch on Bruny

#### **Domestic Cats – compliance with the Bruny Island Cat By-law**

Currently 43 households that live on or regularly visit Bruny are known to own a total of 63 cats. All these households were contacted last financial year to support registration and most were visited at least once. Of these households 86% have registered their cats with Council and of these 70% are fully compliant with the By-law (60% of known households with cats).

Six households received practical assistance – enclosures, netting and enrichment which also included work by the Men's Shed. Free desexing of six cats was undertaken by the Ten Lives Cat Centre.

#### **Stray cats**

With assistance of one household, last financial year 23 stray cats were trapped on a property located near the Neck. This large number of cats are the result of past feeding of stray cats in the area. Recent camera monitoring has found that multiple trap shy cats are still at large in the area which will require extended periods of trapping. It is likely that other methods will be required to secure them.

Eleven community members borrowed traps from the program and assisted with trapping stray cats on their property. Most were on South Bruny.

Between July 2020 and June 2021 20 residents and visitors reported sightings of stray and feral cats. Most of these sightings were on South Bruny at Simpsons Bay and Alonnah, some at Adventure Bay and Lunawanna and a few were sighted further afield, including at Cloudy Bay and along Lennon Road (North Bruny).

Since March 2021 the Bruny Environment Network has been working with residents of Apollo Bay, Dennes Point, and Barnes Bay to monitor for the presence of stray cats. These are areas where cats have been detected in the past. To date no cats have been identified on camera which is great news.

### **Important research**

The University of Tasmania has undertaken recent research to examine the impact of cat-borne diseases on livestock, both in the Midlands and on Bruny Island.

Toxoplasmosis and sarcocystosis are diseases caused by the parasites *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) and *Sarcocystis spp.* that are spread uniquely by cats. Toxoplasmosis and sarcocystosis can be spread to livestock if they feed on pasture, hay or grain, or drink water contaminated with infected cat faeces.

The research found that the prevalence of both these diseases was much lower on the Bruny properties compared with the Midland properties. For the Midland properties, the prevalence of *T. gondii* and *Sarcocystis spp.* among the tested sheep and meat samples was 31.7% and 17.7% respectively. For the Bruny properties the prevalence of *T. gondii* was 4.5% and no cases of *Sarcocystis spp.* were detected. However, abattoir data to detect *Sarcocystis spp.* was only available for one property, Murrayfield on North Bruny, where cat densities are much lower than further south.

While more research is required, it appears that farm management practices are key to managing the spread of these diseases. For example, the research identified the importance of maintaining paddock hygiene through maintaining cover of offal pits; diligently cleaning dead livestock off paddocks; thorough disposal of sheep trimmings; and limiting access of cats to shearing sheds.



**Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.**  
**Profit and Loss Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income—core activities			
Donations		163,219	173,544
COVID-19 and JobKeeper supplements		99,271	10,000
Interest		1,601	5,784
Memberships		3,869	4,027
Other income		119	371
Bequests		0	0
<b>Total income—core activities</b>		<u>268,078</u>	<u>193,727</u>
Expenses—core activities			
Employment		184,469	136,539
Transfer to projects		24,550	27,535
Rent and occupancy costs		17,178	14,280
Communications		22,745	12,705
Superannuation		15,489	12,612
Other expenses		28,242	5,293
Insurance		2,599	2,518
Newsletter		3,414	2,511
Bank charges		1,704	2,210
Accounting		1,577	1,106
Bad debts		0	1,101
Audit		800	890
<b>Total expenses—core activities</b>		<u>302,766</u>	<u>219,298</u>
<b>Operating result—core activities</b>		<u>-34,688</u>	<u>-25,572</u>
Income—projects			
Project income		73,098	52,048
TCT project support		9,550	27,535
<b>Total income—projects</b>		<u>82,648</u>	<u>79,583</u>
Expenses—Projects			
Project activities		7,663	40,022
Wages		35,703	32,535
Superannuation		3,392	3,041
<b>Total expenses—projects</b>		<u>46,758</u>	<u>75,598</u>
<b>Operating result—projects</b>		<u>35,890</u>	<u>3,984</u>
<b>Operating result—all activities</b>		<u>1,202</u>	<u>-21,587</u>

*The profit and loss statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.*

**Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.**  
**Balance sheet**  
**As at 30 June 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		173,099	140,443
Trade debtors		55,728	3,393
Office equipment		61,608	61,608
less Accumulated depreciation		-61,608	-61,608
Investment account		201,586	200,000
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>430,413</u>	<u>343,837</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade creditors		51,354	16,675
Leave entitlements		57,264	53,257
Superannuation payable		9,309	0
Project liabilities		69,983	34,093
Provision for legal costs		10,000	10,000
Prepaid subscriptions		3,102	1,614
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>201,013</u>	<u>115,639</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>229,400</u>	<u>228,198</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		-59,602	-38,015
Operating result for year		1,202	-21,587
Dreaper and Luckman reserves		287,800	287,800
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>229,400</u>	<u>228,198</u>

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Opening equity		228,198	249,785
Current year result		1,202	-21,587
Closing equity		<u>229,400</u>	<u>228,198</u>

*The balance sheet and statement of changes in equity are to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.*

# **Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.**

## **Notes to the financial report**

### **For the year ended 30 June 2021**

#### **Note 1 – Statement of significant accounting policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the needs of members and stakeholders. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The financial report may not be suitable for any other purpose.

The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

#### **a. Changes to the presentation of the profit and loss statement**

The presentation of the profit and loss statement has changed to explicitly show the core activities separately from the project activities.

#### **b. Revenue and other income**

Interest revenue is brought to account when credited to the Associations benefit. Donation revenue is recognised when the Association receives the gift.

#### **c. Projects**

The Association supports various projects. These are either internal projects undertaken directly by the Association, or external projects undertaken by groups with interests directly aligned with the Association. On occasion, the Council decides to donate a portion of gifts made to the Association to support these projects. These amounts are included in the profit and loss statements as 'transfers to projects'. An administrative fee is charged to projects to cover the costs of providing administrative support.

#### **d. GST and income tax**

The association is registered on the Australian Business Register (ABN 63 091 237 520). The association is registered for GST, and the amounts recorded in the financial report exclude any GST paid that is recoverable from the ATO. No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### **e. Fixed assets**

Fixed assets are carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation. Fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the asset to the association commencing from the time the asset was held ready for use. The Association's only fixed assets is office furniture, which has been fully depreciated.

#### **f. Cash receipts**

The Association received cash payments for donations and fundraising events held during the year. The income reported in the financial report for these events is based on the cash deposited into the Associations bank account.

#### **g. Rounding**

Unless otherwise stated, all amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### **h. Independent Auditor**

The amounts paid to the auditor are disclosed in the profit and loss statement. For the 2021 financial year the remuneration paid to the auditor was \$800 (excluding GST).

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS  
OF TASMANIAN CONSERVATION TRUST INC  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**Report on the financial report**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, the profit and loss statement for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial report.

**The responsibility of the Council for the financial report**

The Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Council's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial report so that they are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor's responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagement and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the association's Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members. I disclaim an assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

**Qualification**

It is not practicable to extend my audit examination of income beyond verification of the amounts recorded by the association. My audit relating to these transactions is therefore limited to the amounts recorded in the books of account.

I have not verified the existence of plant & equipment which has been recorded in the audited financial statements at the Council's valuation.

**Qualified audit opinion**

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of the above qualifications, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report, the financial position of Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc at 30 June 2021 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kennett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Kennett CA

10 September 2021