

**RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE DONORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE
TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to acknowledge the donors and supporters who make the work of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy possible.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy ('TLC') is a special organisation dedicated to the conservation of "areas of high natural value using the best available science applied with adaptability and cultural awareness amid increasing social and environmental change."¹

Starting with \$50 in the bank and a few committed volunteers, the TLC is now one of Tasmania's largest private landholders. It partners with other like-minded people who joined the Land for Wildlife program to help identify, protect, and manage their properties.

In 2011, then Governor Peter Underwood welcomed members and supporters to Government House for a reception to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Conservancy. At that time, the Conservancy had established more than 20,000 hectares of protected land. Your last annual report² indicates that more than 107,000 hectares of land are protected by your TLC activity – a substantial increase in just 13 years.

Recherche Bay is an area of particular significance, which was recognised by the establishment of a reserve in 2006. It is home to the delicate flowering and

¹ https://tasland.org.au/wp-content/uploads/TLC_AnnualReport_2024.pdf accessed 15 Jan 25

² https://tasland.org.au/wp-content/uploads/TLC_AnnualReport_2024.pdf accessed 15 Jan 25

critically endangered swamp eyebright plant which has only a single population of 50 individuals remaining worldwide². The property also provides habitat for several threatened bird species.³

Recherche Bay also has national and historical significance as the site of French scientific expeditions in 1792 and 1793. Those expeditions included the first scientific experiment in Australia. French expedition hydrographer, Rossel, used an inclinometer to measure the magnetic field in the area. Combined with his previous work, these observations covered a range from 45 degrees north to 43 degrees south. He thus made a breakthrough in understanding Earth's magnetic field by establishing that the magnetic forces measured were greater near the poles than at the equator.⁴ The expedition also undertook botanical surveys, and naturalists made some of the earliest and most detailed accounts of local Aboriginal people.

Many of you were reminded of a special link between this Government House and Recherche Bay during your tour. Our French Garden is a replica of what was for a long time considered the 'Lost Garden' of Recherche Bay. That garden, along with the rest of the area, was on private land that had been scheduled for logging. We acknowledge the work of dedicated environmentalists that resulted in the area's permanent reserve status.

In November last year, the TLC announced that the Recherche Bay Reserve had been extended by the acquisition of the adjoining property known as Quiet Cove. That was the last remaining private title on the peninsula, and it provides a corridor for the transit of animals between Recherche Bay and Southern Conservation areas.⁵

May I acknowledge the successes of your TLC people who contribute to and support the work being done in ecological management to maintain the reserves under care. Activities are funded by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Foundation, established in 2009 to secure long-term resourcing.

³ <https://tasland.org.au/reserve/recherche-bay-reserve/accessed21/01/25>.

⁴ Courtillot, Vincent & Le Mouel, Jean-Louis. (2007). The study of Earth's magnetism (1269–1950): A foundation by Peregrinus and subsequent development of geomagnetism and paleomagnetism. That work supported the thesis of a geomagnetic dipole generated deep in the planetary core. Reviews of Geophysics - REV GEOPHYS. 45. 10.1029/2006RG000198.

⁵ <https://tasland.org.au/blog/announcing-quiet-cove/> accessed 14 Jan 25

Thank you to all who have donated and sponsored the TLC, particularly this latest acquisition to enhance the reserve at Recherche Bay. Your philanthropic support underpins the TLC's work to preserve our unique plants and wildlife.

So now, please enjoy your reception.

Thank you.