

Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group

Our aims are protection and restoration of the Ludlow Tuart forest and the Ludlow Settlement. Our membership to date is 472.

It is with great optimism that I present this 2019 President's report.

2019 has been an exceptional year of achievements.

A major achievement was the planting of 18,000 Tuart tree seedlings into a prepared and fenced section of the Lochart block. This exceptional achievement was made possible with community support. A team of several hundred enthusiastic volunteers from all over the state made this possible. I would like to thank all these people, especially the school children who participated in the planting.

Our second great achievement for the year is we are now in the final stages of signing the Ludlow Settlement lease agreement, which includes a section of forest surrounding the settlement. This settlement, established in 1830, has long been abandoned and will now take its rightful place to help demonstrate to the world the history of the area and the importance of the forest into the future.

Another important achievement is the installation of a Caretaker at the Ludlow Settlement, this has reduced vandalism to a minimum and Mark also patrols the planting area on a daily basis. Mark has become a passionate member of our group.

I would now like to thank the committee for the dedication and personal skills they bring to this project and the manner in which they have given of their time.

Des Donnelly - Vice Chair - Des is a retired Forester and once manager of the Ludlow Forest department for several years during the 1970's. Des has given the group his skill set, his passion, his determination, his vision and his journalistic skills; along with hard work, without which we would not be where we are today. Des with the full support of the committee oversees the planting project. A huge thank you to Des from everybody.

Lyn McMahon - Treasurer. Lyn with her passion for the environment is partly responsible for the setting up of this group. It was her 'can do' attitude to my initial lobbying that helped set this group in motion. Lyn has kept the finances of this group in perfect order. Thank you Lyn.

Tonina Pinneri - Secretary. Tonina undertook this position with some trepidation. Tonina has achieved the impossible with her infectious personality and has become a very valuable member of our committee. Along with her secretarial commitments Tonina contributes to all our projects. Thank you Tonina.

Holger Topp - Committee Member. Holger has a very difficult job. Holger keeps the entire project inside the perimeters of the tax department, the insurance industry, all government

departments, the heritage commission and lease agreements. He achieves all this with great skill and still organises a Wednesday working party on-site. A huge thank you to Holger.

Kerri Rankin - Committee Member. Kerri brings to our group professional expertise that has been responsible for successful grants. This is a difficult and time-consuming exercise. Please continue your success, it makes our program possible. Thank you Kerri.

Carole Walpole - Committee Member. Carole administers our Facebook page with such skill, that we have not had any unwanted comments. I am sure that the success of the Facebook page has been a huge factor in our current membership numbers. Carol we are all indebted to you. Thank you.

Bill Biggins - Committee Member. Bill has set up and managed our webpage. We have constant congratulations from Government departments and the corporate world about our website. An organisation such as ours relies on the professionalism of the web-page. Well done Bill and thank you.

Lesley Culleton - Committee Member. Lesley - thank you for your unwavering support, cooking for the prisoners, arranging friends to protect our planting camp, organising furniture and always being available on sub-committees. You are so very helpful. Thank you.

Pat Worrell - Committee Member. Thank you Pat for setting up the school invitations and presentation, which has had such far reaching results. The school children who became involved in the planting as a result of your work gives us hope for our future projects. I look forward to your input on the landscaping committee. Thank you Pat.

Kathy Rutgers - Assistant Secretary. Kathy has accepted the very difficult position of addressing our email traffic and responding accordingly. Kathy also helps with the maintaining of records. These tasks are always undertaken enthusiastically. Thank you Kathy.

Ian Walpole - Committee Member. Ian, apart from your recent achievement of completing the Bibbulmun Track, I would like to thank you for your continuing passion for our project and your dedication to the pursuit of finance, your grant application successes - makes progress possible for us. Your attention to the rabbit problem in the Lochart block has been a great success. Continuing thanks.

Nick Hornibrook - Committee Member. Nick has played a huge part in the protection of the environment over the years, not just with our group. Nick has in-depth knowledge of the entire Tuart Forest area that is invaluable to our group. Nick also has very practical skills that are appreciated by the Wednesday working group. Thank you Nick.

Janet Wells - Subcommittee Member. Janet has made invaluable contributions and has created a photographic record of the entire Ludlow settlement. Janet played a major part in the organising of the planting program roster, which was a complicated process. Thank you Janet.

Peter Rutgers - has actively been involved in every project we have undertaken. His skill and ability to do any job is a very positive example to everybody. A huge thank you from all.

Janine Lamond - Subcommittee. Janine has made herself available to support our group, has been very helpful to me in establishing a filing system and assisting with secretarial tasks. I am very grateful to Janine for her support. Thank you Janine.

Charmaine Duri - Subcommittee. Charmaine has a great depth of knowledge of corporate and government organisations and has been available to help with the setting up of a membership record. Charmaine has also assisted in the administration of the planting project. Charmaine continues to be available for subcommittees. Thank you Charmaine.

John Monaghan - John reliably collected and delivered every seedling planted in the Lochart block, which was no mean feat to have them arrive exactly on time. Thank you very much John.

Peter Taylor - Peter continues support both our Treasurer and our Facebook page. Thank you Peter.

The success of this project can be attributed to our committee and to the support and help received from the following people:

DBCA - Bob Hagan

DBCA - Wayne Elliott

Bunbury Day Release Prisoners (section 95). These teams have installed protective fencing around the Lochart Block planting area. They have also installed protective fencing around the settlement and they have been responsible for planting seedlings and follow-up fertilising applications. This group has been of great assistance. To show our appreciation we have a roster of generous people providing morning tea, (smoko), to this group. My thanks to this morning tea group.

I am very grateful to members who facilitated this connection.

To achieve these outcomes we have received grants from:

WA Landcare Commonwealth Grant- \$50,000 -November 2018

NRM State Government Grant - \$108,000 – April 2019

City of Busselton - \$7000.00 – January 2019

City of Busselton - \$19000.00 – September 2019

Shire of Capel - \$3,247.00 – February 2019

Westpine - supply of timber

A special thank you to Pat and Ian Sharpe for timber donated to repair the verandahs and doors of the original office.

We have other generous grants that are listed on our webpage.

I would also like to thank:

The energetic volunteers who turn up in rain or shine on the first Sunday of each month to progress the clean up and restoration of our project. The results speak for themselves.

Work Program 2020

Continue the planting into 180 hectares of the Lochart Block. We have 50,000 seedlings germinating at Boyanup Botanical Nursery for 2020 planting.

Continue with all aspect of the Ludlow Settlement Restoration

Continue to lobby for Aboriginal rangers to care for country.

Continue with prison day release work parties.

Finalise Ludlow Settlement lease negotiations.

Continue promotion of our organisation.

Lobby the corporate industries for funding & support.

Continue grant applications.

Encourage further community involvement.

Further develop our political connections.

Build on our media success.

Education programs & continuing communication with all 58 schools, between Bunbury & Vasse.

Evelyn Taylor

President

22nd September 2019