

Membership

To renew your membership please fill in the adjacent form and return with your cheque.

TBLC welcomes new members who would like to become involved in the environmental health of Tambo Bluff. It is not necessary to be a 'hands-on' volunteer for your membership contribution to be valuable.

TBLC Philosophy

Conservation and restoration of indigenous vegetation will have long term benefits in terms of human health, quality of life and environmental sustainability.

Aims

- 1) Revegetate public land with indigenous trees and shrubs grown from local seed.
- 2) Provide habitat for native fauna including corridors to neighbouring properties.
- 3) Eradicate or control feral animals and noxious weeds.
- 4) Protect existing native flora and fauna and landscape values.
- 5) Promote the importance of the Tambo Bluff wetlands.
- 6) Encourage indigenous planting on private land.

Membership Application

Declaration: I agree to support the Philosophy and Aims of the TBLC and the VFF Farm Tree & Landcare Assoc. Inc. (17/1/1999)

Name:

Address:

Tambo Bluff Property Address
(if different from above):

phone:

mobile:

email:

Signature:

Need receipt: Yes No

Send to:
Secretary, TBLC
PO Box 354
Metung VIC 3904

Name on cheque:
Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare Inc.
Fee p.a.: \$20 family/property
\$10 pensioner/unemployed

Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare

Membership Renewal & Annual General Meeting Report



communities caring for our coast



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Phone: 03 5156 2008

TBLC AGM President's report, AGM, July 4, 2010

This has been a year spent in preoccupation with damage control and harm minimisation. About 12 months ago the Special Charge Scheme on-ground infrastructure works commenced at Tambo Bluff, following years of discussion, argument, frustration and consultation, not necessarily in that order, on the design and implementation of the works program. That process continues.

We have experienced a roller-coaster ride of high expectations, broken promises, raised hopes and dashed confidence.

We have been accused of striving for "utopian" and unrealistic outcomes, when we have simply called for competent and adequate project management, proper work practice and adherence to legally-binding permit conditions and stated Council and State Government policy objectives.

We have witnessed gross and unnecessary pollution of the Bluff Lagoon through negligence; excessive and unnecessary vegetation removal; the loss of at least one highly significant old tree; also a listed rare species and sub-standard storm-water installations that appear more likely to exacerbate existing erosion problems than cure them.

On top of these environmental concerns we are all having to deal with the day-to-day issues of access over broken roads, the ever-present heavy machinery and not least, the personal financial burdens that have been placed on us to pay for the Scheme.

And the rabbits haven't gone away. On the contrary they appear to have been spurred on by all the excavating which is either stimulating their competitive juices or just worrying the crap out of them.

Despite the uncertainties and disappointments, I believe we are now achieving some success in reducing if not eliminating unnecessary vegetation removal and in getting a more considered approach to the ground works.

For example, following on from our last Landcare meeting, the project manager now contacts me prior to any proposed tree removal or pruning and East Gippsland Water contractors are under specific instructions to avoid trees. The marked trees have also been noted and none will be touched. Incidentally, the

grader driver who continued to use the foreshore at Bluff Lagoon as a turn-around has been removed from his job.

The Bunya St. Landcare plantation will be under-bored with minimal loss of vegetation and Jacaranda gully will not be used as a shortcut for heavy machinery between the works depot and Stage 5 (Peter Rd.).

The Shire's Director of Development (Chris Waites) has also reiterated that some of the storm water drainage outfalls will be replaced and improved.

The question of compensation for the loss of the Coast grey box in Grevillea Ave. and re-assessment of the offsets when all the vegetation removal has been completed remain live issues.

Also unresolved is continuation of the footpath on Broadlands Rd. beyond Kookaburra Ave.

Another issue that needs to be revived since our initial meeting with Council representatives on the topic is street-tree planting. Apart from Council's declared native vegetation theme for Tambo Bluff, I think that adjacent landowners will have the primary influence on street-tree planting.

Council should be encouraged to lead the way by planting roadsides adjacent to the reserves but as individuals we can also make that choice and try to encourage other landowners to adopt or plant a roadside tree, shrubs or native grasses and rushes.

We were disappointed that the central gully remediation has been delayed, but I am confident that this will be done within the time-frame of the project (whatever that is, likely end 2011). There is further pipe-laying and excavation to be done in this area so we have yet to see the final shape of the landscape. The gully should provide an opportunity for us to work in conjunction with the Shire and contractor in achieving an improved environment through weed removal and judicious planting to increase habitat, shade and biodiversity. It may take years to overcome the problems caused by siltation, regain significant shade and habitat and return water quality to pre-works status, but it is achievable and will be worthwhile.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts and persistence throughout the year which has not been in vain.

We are all optimists, otherwise we wouldn't be here today, so keep those ideas, questions, complaints and letters flowing and keep planning and working for a better day because it will eventually arrive.

Cheerio until next time! Jonathan.

Committee 2010-2011

President: Jonathan Smith 5156 2302
Vice-President, Secretary: Maurice Burns 5156 2008
Treasurer: Barry Healy 5156 2387

General Committee: Joan Kinnon, Annie Marshall, Jenny Meddings