

TEA News

Landmark Private Timber Reserve Appeal



Photo: Dry forest at Reedy Marsh A. Woodward ©

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Important

• Membership renewal

Your membership may be overdue. If you're not sure please contact our membership officer, Sue Walker on 6369 5356

• Ethical Investment

2005 revaluation could double the price of units in Environment House Trust

• Meander Valley Council election

Don't forget to vote.

You can help with the public interest appeal against PTR 1698.

Please send a donation to:-

Reedy Marsh Forest Conservation Group
780 Larcombes Rd., Reedy Marsh 7304
or

The Environment Association Inc
PO Box 261, Deloraine. 7304
or

If you'd like to help in any other way please contact:

Andrew Ricketts ph 6368 1343
or email rmfcg@aapt.net.au

Reedy Marsh residents and friends oppose a giant logging proposal in the public interest.

A Private Timber Reserve is a Tasmanian government planning mechanism administered under the Forest Practices Act 1985 that sets aside land exclusively for forestry forever. The declaration of land as a PTR removes it from the influence of local government. This means that neighbours of land that becomes a PTR have no rights of objection or appeal against forestry developments on that land.

Residents of Reedy Marsh, together with some other concerned citizens, including 4 groups — TEA, Reedy Marsh Forest Conservation Group, The Wilderness Society and Australian Wildlife Protection Council — are making an appeal against the declaration of PTR 1698 over a tract of land that is 1,100 hectares. With its approx. 20 kilometres of road frontage, the land concerned comprises roughly 40% of the private land of Reedy Marsh. The land is habitat for many Threatened Species.

People are understandably concerned about the impacts of logging on their lives and the loss of their right to have any say about such operations close to their homes.

Of all rural areas in the Meander Valley Reedy Marsh has the largest number of low-density residential zones with about 65 households. Some of these people live on land that in the past was subdivided off the land that has now been declared a PTR.

A petition with almost 200 signatures and letters of objection from residents of Reedy Marsh and their supporters [about 40 people] to the Meander Valley Council resulted in the council agreeing to lodge an objection on behalf of the community, that is, in the public interest.

Councilor Bob Loone volunteered to be the council representative in the appeal and is working closely with the community to bring all the issues of concern to the notice of the Forest Practices Tribunal.

The state of play at present is that a directions hearing has been called during which the timeframe for the appeal will be set down. Gunns Ltd has been behind the scenes with the declaration of this huge PTR but has finally come out of the woodwork seeking to participate in the hearing.

We anticipate the appeal hearing will be early in the New Year and hope to keep you up to date with TEA News. However we may post updates on our website so please go there from time to time. www.deloraine.tco.asn.au

Many expert witnesses will need to be called to establish the case for the public interest.

Meander Valley Council refused to fund the appeal even though it is, in fact, the appellant. Council has asked people to sign a letter to indemnify it against any costs that may be awarded if the appeal is lost and some people have gone out on a limb to do this.

To date people have been generous in helping with the expenses involved in communications but there is very little in the way of funds to cover the expenses of expert witnesses. Many generous people have offered to provide their expertise free of charge but there will be witnesses who will raise a fee and interstate visitors who will need travel expenses covered.

As you can imagine the other side will have unlimited financial support and RMFCG and TEA will rely on the generosity of supporters.

Please don't be confused.

In the May 2005 issue of TEA News, the Reedy Marsh Forest Conservation Group Bulletin covered Private Timber Reserve application 1597. This was approved and then withdrawn because the application was altered in the time between when it was advertised and submitted and when it was assessed by the Forest Practices Board [now FP Authority]. PTR 1597 was 1,300 hectares. In 1698 the area is reduced to 1,100 to remove land that is already zoned low-density residential [where PTRs are not permitted.]

ENVIRONMENT HOUSE UPDATE



This year Environment House has had a new coat of paint to its external, west-facing wall. As well there have been several urgent repairs carried out to improve the useability of the house, including replacing the old toilet with a dual flush/low water use model.

Thanks to the volunteers who did renovation work.

Thanks also to the Meander Valley Council for a grant of \$860 through its Community Grants scheme for a Redring Powerstream instant hot-water service.

The unit is installed but unfortunately it is not yet providing hot water as the house needs some new

wiring to bring it from the 19th century to the 21st! Hopefully this will be done in the near future.

Room 2 is still leased by our tenant Mary Jane Vaughan, Homeopath.

We now have a second room ready for rental and hope to have it occupied by early in the New Year. The funds raised by renting one room help keep The Environment Association afloat by covering rates and insurance. Rental from a second room will assist in our campaigns and outreach.

Environment House Trust

The Environment Association is grateful to all those caring people who purchased a unit in Environment House Trust. Without Environment House it would be very difficult for TEA to continue its important work—so thanks to all you unit holders too.

The trustees Ross Ulman, Annie Willock and Christine Field have met regularly this year to advance the business of EHT. Close liaison between TEA and EHT ensures that the house continues to meet the needs of the association and that the association manages the house in a manner that suits the trustees.

During 2006 we hope to produce a plan for the redevelopment of the house to provide more space, solar heating, a catering standard kitchen, solar electricity [grid interactive] and composting toilets. What a show place for environmental care it will be!

We hope this process will start with the next EHT AGM with an exciting guest speaker. We'll let you know.

Lastly EHT is seeking more trustees. If you think you might be interested please phone Ross Ulman [see phone no below]. The work is not onerous but more trustees will bring greater energy to the project

Meeting Room for Hire

The meeting room is available for hire on a half day or full day basis.

You don't have to have a meeting! It's a good space for craft activities, discussion groups, lectures etc. with room for 20 to 25 people.

Charges are \$40 per full day and \$20 per half day (with concessions for non-funded groups).

The Environment Association provides Public Liability insurance at no extra cost.

To book the room please contact:
Annemaree Woodward on 6368 1343

Buy now and save!

Units in Environment House Trust are still available at the original price of \$500. The value of the units is tied to the Valuer General's valuation. With revaluation of the property this year, it is likely that the value of units will double in 2006.

Now is a good time to invest before the price goes up.

To purchase your unit/s please contact Ross Ulman [Trustee] PO Box 75 Deloraine 7304 Ph 6363 1230.

Meander Valley Council Election

by Andrew Ricketts

Don't forget to vote

If you live in the Meander Valley you will receive your local government electoral papers very soon.

Although TEA is not aligned politically we feel it is timely to suggest to everyone who cares about the environment to make sure you vote in this important election.

Recently the Meander Valley mayor admitted that he is a member of Timber Communities Australia. Despite this obvious bias towards forestry he continues to participate in discussions and voting on forestry development matters. Furthermore he is particularly outspoken in support of forestry.

There are other members of the current council who also openly support forestry and several candidates who likewise offer to bring that bias to the council if elected!

I write to encourage all you caring, environmentally aware people to vote when you receive your ballot papers. This article discusses the candidates to provide you with some information that may help to improve your choice.

The current block of pro-forestry candidates on Council makes it is very difficult to get up reasonable policies and decisions to adequately consider the environment. Community conservation organisations are excluded from Council committees and Council policies continue to worsen. Several of the current Councillors have a staunch anti-environment bias. A more balanced representation on Council could bring a much better municipality.

You'll be asked to vote for a Mayor, a Deputy Mayor and 6 Councillors.

For Mayor - There are two candidates, Bob Richardson and Mark Shelton [incumbent]. Cr Bob Richardson supports the public interest appeal against PTR 1698 [see pg 1] and also has assisted people having problems with impacts of forestry on their lives. Bob runs Westbury Post Office. He's active on council and brings good management skills as well as fairness to Council. He would make a good mayor.

For Deputy Mayor - Cr Bob Loone and Cr Ray Johnston. The current Deputy Mayor, Cr Johnston usually votes with the other pro-forestry block of Shelton, Dornauf and Frost as a matter of course.

Cr Bob Loone volunteered to be the Council advocate for the PTR 1698 appeal [see pg 1]. Without Bob Loone on Council there would be no public interest appeal against this PTR. Besides this he is concerned about the environment. He is active on council and would make a good deputy mayor who take an interest in all aspects of the community.

For Council - There are fourteen candidates and you must vote for at least six.

I group them as follows:

1. People who are fair, open minded and /or concerned or Green - Bob Loone, Bob Richardson, Lester Jones, Kevin Knowles (an endorsed Green candidate)
2. People who may make acceptable councillors but whose views are not well known - Joy Beltner, Joyce Tobias, Peter Fleming
3. People that I definitely do not recommend because they are either pro forestry, pro Meander dam, or probably have little or no concern for the environment, or have a vested interest in getting elected and probably have a bias - Gavin Linger, Carl Porter, Michael Kelly, Mr Dunk, Ray Johnston, Pat Frost, Mr Flowers

As a general comment there is a lack of women on Council and unfortunately the two currently sitting on it are a part of the pro-forestry block.

Mr Porter wants to remove most of his land from Council planning control to prohibit public input into his planned forestry operations. Mr Linger has attempted to get a PTR on Karst in the past and Mr Kelly is a logging contractor. They are all standing under The Future Directions Group and appear well funded. (I wonder by whom???)

I hope this summary assists and motivates you to vote in this Council election to achieve a more enlightened Council to work for the whole community and care for our future and the environment.

The Environment Association says thanks

During 2005 we've held three events. First was the Meander Valley Council's Australia Day celebration at the Westbury football ground. It took staunch volunteers to staff the information stalls at this event as it was held in a big corrugated iron shed and the temperature inside must have been at least 45°C. Thankfully the council made cold drinks available for free and everyone drank deep.

On World Environment Day we invited people to attend at Environment House for a Potted History of The Environment As-

sociation to celebrate TEA's 15th birthday. Our main event was a talk from Kevin Bough of Biodynamics Tasmania followed by an all (most) organic afternoon tea, prepared by our volunteers. A group of students from Deloraine High School joined in a competition to produce posters to advertise the WED event.

Most recently we had a trivia night with lots of lovely donated prizes and good fun was had by all. The winning team is still gloating, by the way.

On behalf of TEA I'd like to thank everyone who helped make these events happen. Whether you donated a prize, painted a poster, washed the dishes, prepared trivia, gave a talk, worked on a campaign or staffed a stall, your contribution is valued.

We could do so much more but it all depends on volunteer effort. If you think you could be a TEA volunteer please attend the AGM on 28 October [see last page]. If you just can't get there, please contact us to say how you can help.

If undelivered please return to:

THE ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION INC
Caring for Home

PO Box 261
Deloraine Tas 7304
email: tea_inc@tasmail.com
www.deloraine.tco.asn.au

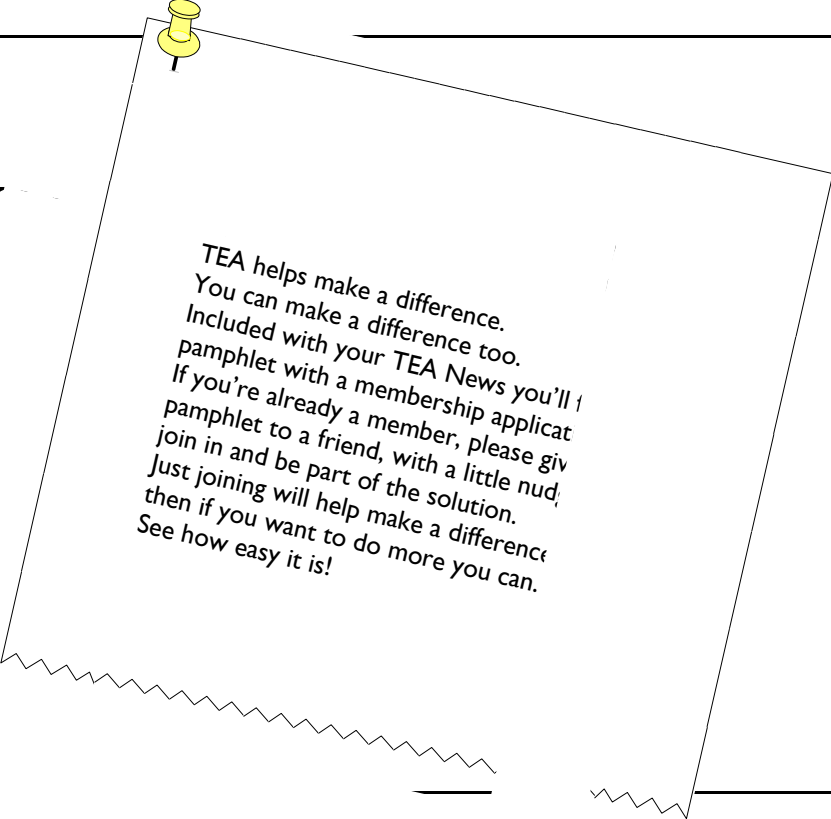
Contributions welcome
Contact the editor:
Phone: 03 6368 1343
Fax: 03 6368 1343
email: yanga@aapt.net.au

IMPORTANT Annual General Meeting Notice

TEA News

The planet isn't getting any bigger

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper



TEA helps make a difference.
You can make a difference too.
Included with your TEA News you'll find a
pamphlet with a membership application form.
If you're already a member, please give the
pamphlet to a friend, with a little nudging,
join in and be part of the solution.
Just joining will help make a difference,
then if you want to do more you can.
See how easy it is!

Notice to members

Annual General Meeting of The Environment Association Inc

7 p.m. Friday October 28, 2005

Environment House 91 Emu Bay Rd., Deloraine.

Please give some consideration to joining the Management Team for the coming year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership or you wish to join please arrive at 6.30 p.m..

The meeting will take about 1 hour 15 minutes and will be followed by an informal discussion about how to expand TEA make it more effective.

We'll finish up with a pot-luck supper at about 9 p.m.. Please bring a plate of food to share. Hot drinks will be available.

The AGM is a good time for members to catch up with the work the association has done over the last year. Please come. New members are welcome.