



**Ludlow Tuart Forest  
Restoration Group**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-24



Aerial photograph of the Ludlow Settlement MAP1496\_frame7125 (11 November 1941)



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I'm delighted to present the President's report for 2024, summarizing our collective achievements.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated members for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your commitment is the backbone of our volunteer group, and it's your hard work that makes our accomplishments possible. Our membership has now reached 700. During the year we have had approximately 119 volunteers contribute at Ludlow, the forest and the running of the organisation. Thanks to this dedicated group of people who lend a helping hand to realise our dream.

This year we planted 2,000 seedlings, some within our lease area and the remainder in the Tuart Forest. Less planting was done this year as the long dry hot summer left the soil in poor condition for planting seedlings. Once again it was a real pleasure to have school kids involved in the planting. To have the younger generation excited about planting trees bodes well for the future.


The annual Ludlow Art Prize (LAP) was an immense success, showcasing our commitment to the arts. Thanks to all our sponsors, with your generous help we were able provide a wonderful community art experience in the rustic Ludlow setting. For 2024 the LAP was run as a stand-alone event over a period of a week. The Ludlow Café (now with a coffee machine) and District Office were both open as support for the LAP. Thanks to the huge effort put in by the sub-committee the LAP is now on the art map.

The glass house and the shade house continue to be used and developed. A significant achievement this year was the construction of a shed to house the gardening equipment. We were extremely fortunate to have this shed donated and really appreciate the generosity of the community. Slowly but surely, we are learning how to propagate, nurture and grow native plants endemic to the Ludlow Tuart Forest area. Planting continues around the settlement and is pivotal in creating a pleasant ambience.

The Ludlow Walk Trail is being well patronised. Further development of information signs is progressing and will be completed in the coming year.

Since the official opening of the District Office in October 2022, the office has been opened on Wednesdays and Sundays. Volunteers have set up a roster so there is always a welcome face to greet visitors. The building has also now become the focal point when we have formal visitors to site. It is where we start the tours and showcase what we can do with limited funds. Additionally, this year we have started holding our committee meetings in the District Office.

The Landscaping group have been very busy planting in and around the settlement. The area around the District Office is looking great and provides a welcoming entrance for our many visitors. Immediately north of the glasshouse, planting in and around the trees is beautifying the area. Keeping the weeds under control is a big task at different times of the year and just maintaining the areas already planted is a huge undertaking. There has been



much positive feedback at how nice and neat the settlement is looking these days and a large part of that goes to the work put in by the Landscaping group.

Buildings works this year included the ongoing refurbishment of house 1901 (“White House”). External painting and electrical are the two outstanding tasks. Work has also started on the neighbouring house 650 (“Teachers House”). The house has been straightened up and re-stumped ready for restoration work. Further progress is dependent on funding and material supply. On going improvements were carried out on building 654 (“The Stables”) and re-construction of a kitchen in the store was completed. Restoration was carried out primarily by volunteers along with speciality trades as required. It is a tribute to the work crew that judicious use of second-hand materials has kept costs to a minimum. The true value in this work was demonstrated in the many visitors who enjoyed the hospitality in the Ludlow Café (store building) during the LAP. Other benefits include improved facilities for hosting visiting groups and our hard-working volunteers have a better place for morning tea and lunch.

The LTFRG has significantly improved our WiFi speed at the settlement which has made EFTPOS machines usable, computer usage much more efficient and allowed us to introduce video link up to the committee meetings. An additional benefit has been our ability to host government representative meetings at the District Office with modern day technology capability.

Work is continuing on the Blitz truck. One of our members has taken the truck under his wing and is working tirelessly to get it up and running.

This year we have had two school groups come to Ludlow as a part of their curriculum. It is so good to see the enthusiasm about the environment from our younger generation and gives me heart for the future.

As we approach 2025, our main challenge lies in effectively sourcing and utilizing funding to continue our growth and impact. It will require careful planning and collaboration among our members. Key to this is the continued excellent support from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate my gratitude to all our members. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering support are the driving force behind our achievements. I'm fortunate to lead a diverse and passionate committee.

Thank you once again for your dedication to our community volunteer group.

Sincerely,

Holger Topp  
President, Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group

# OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

## OUR OBJECTIVE

Our objective is to provide community support for the essential restoration, protection and ongoing maintenance of the iconic Ludlow tuart forest and the historic Ludlow Settlement for the benefit of future generations, biodiversity, tourism, education, and research.

## OUR VALUES

- To encourage community involvement and ownership.
- To respect past indigenous care for country and encourage future participation.
- To develop assets to provide for tourism, recreation, education, and employment.

# OUR SETTLEMENT MASTER PLAN



# OUR PEOPLE

## WHO WE ARE

We are a group of concerned individuals who understand the recent history of the Ludlow tuart forest and what it will take to bring it back

### **President**

Holger Topp

### **Vice President**

Kathy Rutgers

### **Treasurer**

Tonina Pinneri

### **Secretary**

Vacant

### **Committee members**

Evelyn Taylor  
Des Donnelly  
Jules Hogan  
Holger Topp  
Nick Hornibrook  
Pat Worrell  
Yolanda Cool  
Debbie Spalding  
Di Claffey  
Diana Fisher  
Bill Biggins

**Members** 700

### **Ludlow caretakers**

Mark Kemp  
Ursula Cassidy  
Kevin Cassidy  
Phillip Sloan

### **Past committee members**

Lyn McMahon  
Kerri Rankin  
Peta Taylor  
Carole Walpole  
Ian Walpole  
Janet Wells  
Lesley Culleton  
Simon Hotchin  
Jenny Hake



## **Volunteer Recognition**

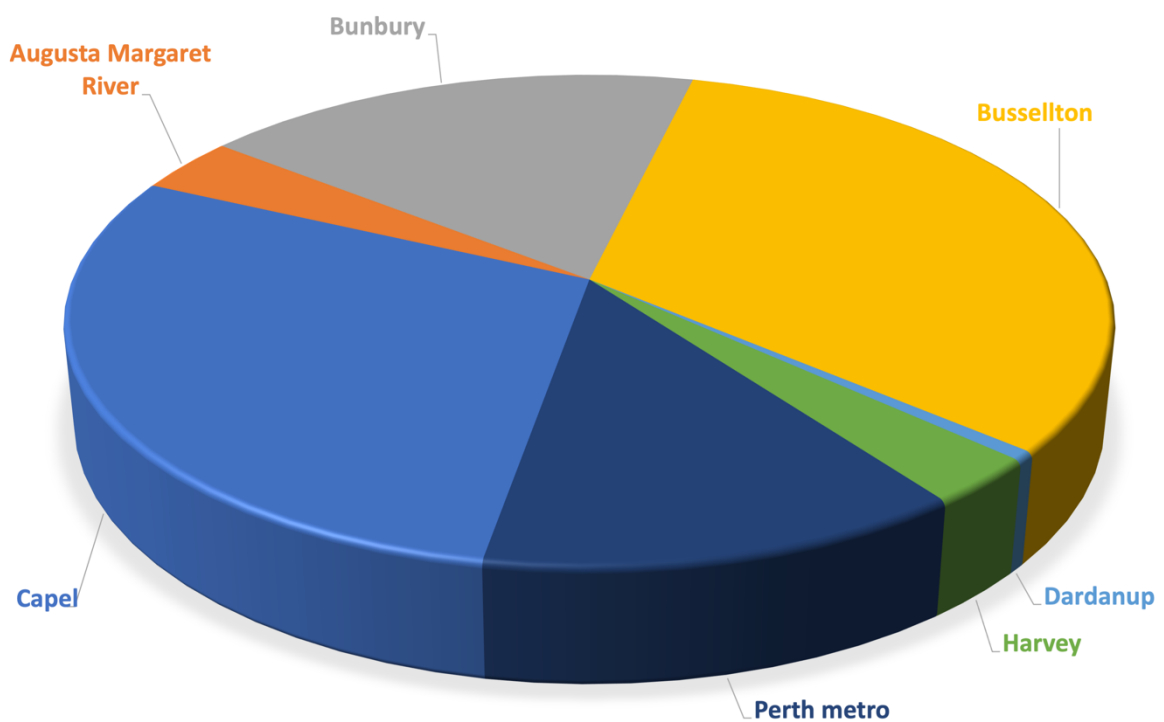
The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Parks and Wildlife Service recognise and reward the contribution made by our volunteers. Inducted volunteers can receive park passes and discounts on Parks and Wildlife publications and subscriptions like LANDSCOPE magazine.

48 of our members are participating in this scheme. If you would like to join, contact us for a short registration and induction process.

# OUR KEY STATISTICS

- ◆ 125,000 tuart seedlings planted since our inception in 2018
- ◆ 2,000 understory plants
- ◆ 700 members
- ◆ 119 volunteers
- ◆ 27,257 volunteer hours
- ◆ 2 Medical Treatment Injuries (MTI`s)

## Membership Distribution





# OUR FOREST PLANTING

This year was one of mixed fortunes due to the prolonged spell of drying conditions.

We made the decision early not to plant unless we could water plants through their 1<sup>st</sup> year.

We managed to provide enough tuart plants and various other native species to host the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar school and the John Calvin Christian College students for the 2024 planting season within the lease area.

Plants from previous planting years are progressing well and came through the drought with minimal losses.

Insect attack is an ongoing issue and will need careful monitoring and action as required.

# OUR FINANCIAL REPORT

See the Financial Report for Year ended 30 June 2024 is available on [our website Financial Report 30 June 2024 - Rev C.pdf](#)



# MAJOR EVENT

## 2024 LUDLOW ART PRIZE

The purpose of the Ludlow Art Prize is to bring people together to shine a light on the listed, critically endangered Tuart Forest located at Ludlow, Western Australia, while fostering creativity and supporting artists in their artistic endeavours.

The opening night on Friday 26 September attracted more than 200 invites guests, who viewed the 103 Australian Landscape Paintings and 35 sculptures and congratulated the winners.

Congratulations to the Chair, Di Claffey, the art prize committee and all the volunteers who made the 10-day event a success.



### Australian Landscape Painting

First Prize \$5,000

**Mel Lamanna**  
SENTINALS

### Highly Commended

**Felicia Lowe**  
DRIVE THROUGH

**Renaë Rowe**  
LUDLOW FOREST

**Jacinta Taylot-Foster**  
NATURES SUPERMARKET

**Elizabeth Reed**  
GRACETOWN BANKSIA DREAMING

### People's Choice Award \$1,000

Barbara Maumill  
DAYBREAK

**Sculpture**

First Prize \$5,000

**Kim Brown**

BABA YAGA`s HOUSE



**Highly Commended**

**Tony Davis**  
HUSH

**Merle Davis**

BEACHED, BLEACHED and  
LEACHED

**Daniel Fisher**  
OPEN CONTACT

**Rod Barnes**  
TRIPPLE GRASS TREE

**People's Choice Award \$1,000**

**Rod Barnes**  
TRIPPLE GRASS TREE



# OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

The following organisations and individuals have made significant contributions to our group. These contributions include grants, in-kind and monetary donations, discounts etc. We also acknowledge the significant contribution of many members who have joined us for busy bees and other projects.

## *In alphabetical order*

Bendigo Bank  
Boyanup Botanical Nursery  
Brian Fisher Fabrications  
Bunbury Community Radio 103.7  
Bunbury Regional Prison  
Bunbury Farmers Market  
Bunnings Busselton  
Busselton Agricultural Supplies  
Busselton Dunsborough Times  
Bunbury Engraving  
Busselton Jetty  
Busselton Lions  
Busselton Museum  
Busselton Woodturners  
Capel Bins  
Capel Butchers  
Capelberry Cafe  
Capel Hardware  
Capel IGA  
Capel Witchcraft Quilting Supplies  
City of Busselton  
Coastal Earth Moving  
Colroys Country Kitchen  
Contract Fencing  
Crown Resorts  
Daryll Roberts  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
Down to Earth Restumping  
Dunsborough Rewinds  
Eagle Bay Brewing Company  
Eden Gardiner  
Federal Government  
Forest Adventures  
Forest Products Commission  
Geographe Community Landcare Nursery  
GP Forestry  
GWJ Installations  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Howletts Tree Service  
Jigsaw Printing  
John Cross  
John Forrest  
Kellivale Estate  
Leschenault Biosecurity Group Inc.  
Leschenault Community Nursery  
Lotterywest  
Main Roads  
Malatesta Nursery  
Nichols Machinery  
Mainspray  
Orana Cinemas  
Palmer  
Parks and Wildlife Service  
Paul Young (Bricklaying)  
Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park  
Peppermint Grove Art Group  
Rambla on the Swan  
Retravision  
Rotary Club of Busselton Geographe Bay  
Sabrina Hahn  
Shelter Brewing Company  
Sunflowers Animal Farm  
South West Personnel  
Southwest Times  
Shire of Capel  
State Emergency Service (Busselton)  
State Government of Western Australia  
Timber Insight Pty Ltd  
The Esplanade Hotel  
The Goose  
The Grove Distillery  
The Western Australian Ballet  
Totally Sound  
Trade Hire (Busselton)  
True Blue Turf  
West Coast Timbers  
Veteran and Classic Car Club  
Wattyl Paint Centre (Busselton)

# FURTHER READING

Visit our website and read about some recent historical research by our Bruce Taylor.

[The Old Head Teachers Quarters \(Building 680\)](#)

[Tuart Buffer Beam story](#)



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