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SAVE OUR TREES



DELICATE BATTLE TO PRESERVE THE WORLD'S ONLY REMAINING TUART FOREST
REPORT PAGE 13

Members of the Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group Des Donnelly, Bill Biggins, Evelyn Taylor and Di Claffey.
 Picture: Craig Duncan

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, CLANCY'S PAGES 6 & 7

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Members of the Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group Des Donnelly, Bill Biggins, Evelyn Taylor and Di Claffey. Picture: Craig Duncan

Dedicated to preserving a rare treasure

CRAIG DUNCAN

Once upon a time WA's coastline would have been a forest of towering tuarts, running from north of Perth to the southern tip of Busselton.

Tuart trees towered over 110,000ha of Australia, but today only 3000ha remain, in a rare single pocket just north of Busselton which volunteers are working tirelessly to recover.

The Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group has spent the past six years working to protect and enhance the only remaining natural, tall tuart forest in the world.

But their battle is proving to be an uphill challenge, with tuart trees only growing after being scorched by flames. And in a time of climate crisis, an out of control fire poses the risk of destroying the last remaining strand of a vital ecosystem.

Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group member Des Donnelly is one of the most knowledgeable heads about the local tuart trees, having previously run the

“If you aren't someone who has been involved with tuart forests, you won't know what a healthy tuart forest should look like.”

Evelyn Taylor

tuart mill which the group now use as their headquarters. The mill closed in 1974.

“When we have smoke and fire, the seed pods will open and the seed falls to the ground,” he said.

“But unless that ground has been cleared by fire into an ash bed, the seeds will be sitting up on top and don't actually contact the soil.”

Each year the LTFRG plants tuart saplings in the hope to expand the forest, but with the present fire risk too high, the group has chosen to shift attention to indigenous plants to grow in their shade and complement the forest.

LTFRG member Evelyn Taylor said with the history involved in the area, the members of the group know what a healthy forest should look like, and are working each day to make the tuart

forest a sound ecosystem. “If you aren't someone who has been involved with tuart forests, you won't know what a healthy tuart forest should look like,” she said.

“We just have to try and educate everyone, which is a huge task. But we need the community to stand by this forest.”

Through school talks, eco-walks and art gallery showings, members of the LTFRG are hoping to expand their group membership to reflect the seriousness the forest deserves, Ms Taylor said.

Chair of the Ludlow Art Prize committee Di Claffey said it was this that made her join the LTFRG.

“If people could see what it is meant to look like, and compare it to what it is today, they could get quite a shock,” she said.



Busselton Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Local Businesses Shine in State Awards



In a night filled with jubilation and pride, the Busselton Chamber of Commerce honours the remarkable achievements of our local businesses. These outstanding entrepreneurs, previously crowned winners in the 2023 BCCI & DYCCI Business Awards, have now risen to become finalists in the 2024 WA Regional Business Excellence Awards hosted by the RCCIWA.

The BCCI extends our warmest congratulations to each finalist. Their journey from local champions to regional state contenders exemplifies the resilience, innovation, and dedication that define our community's business landscape.

The finalists were Cape Abilities, Conveyancing Southwest, Marita Joy Fine Jewellery, Oban Group, Margaret River Roasting Co, Common Grounds Trails, Lifestorm, New Home Builders Brokers, and Cape to Cape Explorer Tours.

Their success reflects not only their individual achievements but also the collective strength of our local business community.

Looking ahead, we anticipate with excitement the forthcoming 2024 Business Excellence Awards. This is an opportunity for all businesses in our community to showcase their achievements and contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of our region.

For more information on the 2024 Business Excellence Awards and how to participate, please visit our website at busseltonchamber.com.au/business-excellence-awards-2024/. Let us come together to celebrate the success of our local businesses and champion their ongoing endeavours.

(Photo Credit Rebecca Parkhouse Photography)

Thanks

Victoria Yuen

CEO Busselton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ceo@busseltonchamber.com.au



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