

The Valley & East Coast Voice

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Margeurite McWatters & Isabel Witton.



*The Hon Tania Rattray-Wagner,
Julie Llewellyn, & Amanda Lohrey.*



*Sue Manning, Heather Keith,
& Amanda Lohrey.*



*Otis & Rose McDermott, Eo Greensticks
& Beris Hansberry.*

North East Tasmania Land Trust launch

The local launch of the North East Tasmania Land Trust (NETLT) was held at the Purple Possum on the 29th August. About thirty people attended for a cosy afternoon tea of tea and scones, provided by the good services of Elaine.

Minister David Llewellyn represented the State Government and Tania Rattray-Wagner the Upper House while David Clement and Reon Johns represented the Break O' Day Council.

The president of the Trust, Dr Andrew Lohrey told the gathering that the NETLT has been set up over the past three years by an active group of local people concerned about the environment. The Land Trust has a tax deductible status and will operate in partnership with the much larger Tasmanian Land Conservancy, raising funds to buy private land that had high conservation values. Once purchased, conservation covenants would be placed on the land to preserve them.

He said "the Federal Government supports this kind of project at a rate of two \$ for every dollar raised locally. This is a good source of funding for the north east which has tended to miss out in the past."

The Land Trust is also concerned with extending the natural values provide by corridors of land. These corridors help the viability of a number of species. Maps of the proposed St Marys Protected Landscape were on display. These maps indicated the land corridors that could be established around the St Marys ranges, which are a source of incredibly rich biodiversity. Part of the management of these corridors relates to fire, which can bring extreme devastation to many species, including humans.

Dr Lohrey said that "the environment is our life support system. Without it we die. Keeping a healthy environment is therefore helping to keep ourselves healthy. While no one wants to pull the plug on a life support system, there are many influences that are pulling the plug on the life support system of the environment."

"Hopefully the Land Trust can help increase public awareness of the importance of the environment and of the intimate health related connections we humans have with it," he said.

Right:

*The Hon
David Llewellyn MHA,
NETLT President
Dr Andrew Lohrey
& Mrs Julie Llewellyn.*



Photos this page courtesy Peter Troode.

Please note: Deadline for articles to be included in the next Valley Voice is 5 pm Tuesday September 22, 2009.
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