



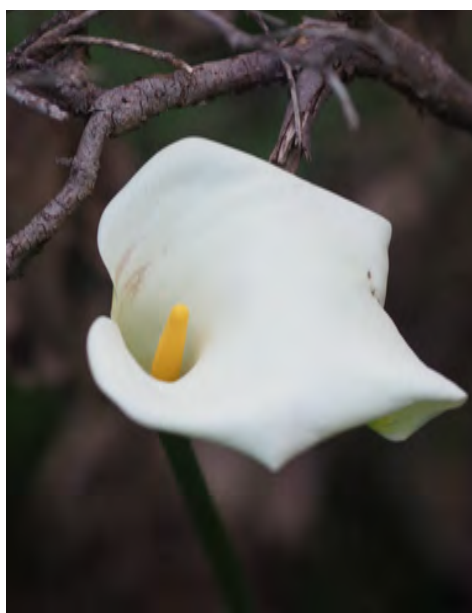
Tony Lane

"I like to act locally and the Arum Lily Blitz in particular gave me a way to take action in an achievable way."

For more than three decades, the Lane family has been demonstrating what can be achieved when persistent and passionate people come together with a common goal.

And in Tony Lane's family, the passion for conservation runs strong. Fifteen members of the Lane family live on a 160-hectare property near Margaret River. Among them is geologist, activist and former Shire Councillor Peter Lane; Fair Harvest founder and permaculture leader Jodie Lane; and Tony Lane – a teacher and musician with a passion for localised conservation.

When the family bought the property in 1987, it was degraded from years of farming, but the Lanes soon changed that. Tony concedes the family didn't start with a clear goal of regeneration, but it eventually evolved to become a priority.



"First we fenced off about 100 acres (40 hectares) of remnant bushland at the middle of the property and then we started planting trees," Tony said. "We've probably planted about 150 acres (60 hectares) of trees for a mix of purposes. Some are for habitat, others are to improve the soil quality and some are for timber."

With livestock no longer dominating the property, the bushland began to bounce back. But it wasn't long before another issue reared its head: weeds.

Tony said two of the most problematic weeds were the Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia Longifolia*) and arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*).

"The acacia is problematic because it's so big, but we've had major issues with arum lilies as well," he said. "The problem is they're not so visible so you don't realise they're taking hold. And the property is so big that there are certain patches we don't see very often."

"There was one patch thick with lilies for about two or three acres. Then through that, I opened my eyes to all the other small patches around the property."



Tony's father Peter has made several attempts to tackle arum lilies over the years, but a turning point came when Tony joined Nature Conservation's Arum Lily Blitz—a State Government-funded eradication effort providing resources, equipment and support across all land tenures.

"I got onto the Blitz in particular because there was one patch thick with lilies for about two or three acres," Tony said. "Then through that, I opened my eyes to all the other small patches around the property."

Taking a methodical approach, Tony mapped the property and marked down areas that were infested and where he had sprayed. Tony is confident that this approach sustained over several years will have a long-lasting impact.

The Blitz exemplifies Tony's approach to conservation, which centres on localised, organised and sustained action. While he is passionate about acting on behalf of the environment, he understands that individuals can't shoulder the burden alone.

"Climate change is such a big issue, but I can't slow that down by myself, so I wanted to do something local," he said. "I like to act locally and the Blitz in particular gave me a way to take action in an achievable way. And you're working alongside people with a common goal, and I think that's exciting."

