



# The **Running**Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

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*Building partnerships with landowners for the sustainable management  
and conservation of natural values across the landscape.*



# Manager's **message** – December 2018

Welcome to the 26th edition of the Running Postman. This year marks important milestones for nature conservation on private land in Tasmania as it is the 20th anniversary of the commencement of conservation covenant programs and the Land for Wildlife scheme, and the 10th anniversary of the Gardens for Wildlife scheme. These programs and the landowners who are part of them have made a valuable and significant contribution to the protection of wildlife species and habitats in this State. An achievement to be very proud of!

In this issue we highlight the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program which is looking for suitable properties for releasing rehabilitated wildlife or orphaned

wildlife which has been raised to become independent. Details of what they are looking for are given in their article – I encourage you to contact them if you would like to help. Also on the subject of wildlife, is a thought provoking article from Landcare about the undesirable and fatal consequences on our wildlife, particularly birds of prey that eat rats and mice, as a consequence of the war on rodents. Alternative methods to those using strong poison baits are being encouraged.

We also look at a couple of topical land management challenges in this issue including highlighting Italian and Arum lilies which are proving to be an invasive species in parts of bushland in Tasmania. They are difficult to control, but there are a few tricks to use to eradicate them, patient persistence being one of them!

Conservation Landholders Tasmania recently hosted a forum focused on 'Selling conservation properties: preserving the legacy we have created' and some of the key insights from this forum are included in this issue. Hopefully this is useful to those of you thinking of selling your covenanted property, but also to those wishing to purchase a covenant.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition. Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for the coming New Year.

*Helen Crawford,  
Program Manager,  
Private Land  
Conservation Program*



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*On the cover: Roger and JulieAnne walking through ironbarks (Eucalyptus sieberi) in their covenant. Photo: Anna Povey. Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPIPW.*

# Selling Conservation Properties:

preserving the legacy we have created



Buying a conservation property, especially when it has a conservation covenant, involves a commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural values of that property for current and future generations. As long as you own the property you can ensure that this happens. But when your health or other circumstances force you to sell or transfer ownership, you lose that control. It is therefore important to adopt a marketing strategy that will attract the right buyer, someone who will also fall in love with your property and preserve your legacy. Conservation Landholders Tasmania hosted a forum at Campbell Town on Thursday 17 May 2018 to address this issue.

The take home message from the forum was that by planning ahead and adopting the right marketing strategy, you can readily find buyers who are equally committed to preserving the natural values of your property. There is a surprisingly high turnover of covenanted properties both in Victoria and Tasmania, and any difficulty with selling is usually related to other features such as remote location, condition of the house or a poorly maintained property.

The following are highlights from the keynote presentations.

**Victoria Marles**, CEO of Trust for Nature in Victoria, spoke about their research to understand the

interests and values of people seeking to own conservation properties. Prospective buyers were likely to be conservation-minded and members of conservation organisations. They tended to be older couples (55-64), homeowners currently living in major cities, unlikely to be technologically proficient, and with a middle level income. From their experience with revolving fund properties, buyers take time comparing properties but move quickly when they identify the 'right' property. They are committed to conservation and willing to consider the management obligations associated with the property, but are also concerned about road access, house or house site, existing infrastructure, location and local amenities.

**Joshua Perry**, a Certified Practising Valuer with Tasmanian valuation and consultancy firm Saunders & Pitt, spoke about the challenge of valuing a conservation property, how a valuation is prepared and the importance of market research that compares your conservation property with a range of like properties that have recently sold. He recommended that conservation landholders should be familiar with State and Council planning provisions as they apply to covenanted properties.

**Helen Crawford**, Manager of the Private Land Conservation Program

in Tasmania, reported that there are currently 863 conservation covenants in Tasmania, covering about 109,000 ha, created under a series of Government-funded programs since 1998. Since 2001 there have been about 500 sales or transfers of these covenanted properties. The statistics dispel the myth that covenanted properties do not sell. The highest rate of sale is for properties less than 20 ha. Overall, there have been few breaches of covenants with no need for prosecution. Covenant variations are undertaken only in limited circumstances such as correcting mapping errors or where there is a demonstrable benefit to the natural values.

**Anna Povey and Andrew Cameron** are Conservation Program Officers working for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. Anna indicated that Program Officers were happy to talk with real estate agents and prospective buyers on behalf of landholders wishing to sell. After the sale they will endeavour to meet the new owners to ensure that the transition goes well and to offer ongoing support.

For a full report see the CLT website [www.clt.asn.au](http://www.clt.asn.au).

*Gail Dennett  
and John Thompson*



## Milestones

### for private land conservation in Tasmania

This year, 2018, is a special year for private land conservation in Tasmania and the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP). It marks the 20th anniversary of conservation covenants and Land for Wildlife and is the 10th anniversary of the Gardens for Wildlife scheme.

Nature conservation on private land has achieved significant protection of wildlife species (both flora and fauna), habitats and special geoconservation features outside of National Parks or Reserves and has made a valuable contribution to broader biodiversity conservation. Since European settlement, approximately 23% of the original native vegetation has been lost in Tasmania. The greatest losses have occurred on productive soils which were cleared for agriculture and human habitation and lowest losses on infertile soil and steep terrain. The Midlands region of Tasmania is testament to the extensive clearing that occurred in the past and much of the remnant vegetation is regarded as a biodiversity hotspot nationally for a number of rare and threatened flora and fauna species.

#### **Conservation covenanting programs in Tasmania**

One of the key drivers for large scale conservation programs on

private land in Tasmania was the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) between the Australian and Tasmanian governments on 8th November 1997. As part of the RFA the Australian Government committed funds to establish a covenanting program to protect conservation values on private land to support the establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system. The Program was called the Private Forest Reserve Program (PFRP).

Slightly before the PFRP was up and running in 1998, another voluntary covenanting program became the first to operate in Tasmania - the Protected Areas on Private Land Program (PAPL). Unlike the PFRP which focused on the protection of priority forest types and forest dependent threatened species identified through the RFA process, the PAPL Program did not target specific vegetation types or species for protection. Both programs were supported by Australian Government funding, with the PFRP also funded to provide incentive payments to landowners for entering into covenants.

Australian Government funding was later provided to establish the Non-forest Vegetation Program (2003 -2010) to target important

areas of native grasslands and wetlands of high conservation value; the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot Project (2007 – 2010) to protect threatened species, their habitats and high conservation vegetation communities; and the Forest Conservation Fund (2007-2009) to protect old-growth and under-reserved forest types.

Currently as of October 2018 there are 880 conservation covenants covering around 110,000 ha of private land. All conservation covenants in Tasmania are registered under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA) including the earlier covenants set up under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970*, which preceded the NCA. All covenants established under these acts contribute to the Australian National Reserve System which is Australia's network of protected areas. The information on protected areas is published in the Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database which allows Australia to report on its international obligations including the Convention of Biological Diversity.

The conservation covenant estate includes significant natural values, which often are not represented in the public reserve system of National Parks and other Reserves. Over 26,000 ha of threatened



vegetation communities are found in covenants on private land, with more than 600 covenants having threatened communities. Many covenants also support threatened and priority species, for example ninety covenants have either a wedge-tailed or white-bellied sea eagle nest with 27 having multiple eagle nests.

Conservation covenants provide a mechanism to protect natural values in perpetuity and contribute to national and international biodiversity conservation, which is a significant achievement.

### Land for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife (LFW) is a voluntary, non-binding nature conservation scheme. It had its origins in Victoria being started by members of the Bird Observers Club of Australia in 1981 who were protecting natural areas of bushland on their properties as “land for wildlife”. A scoping project was undertaken in 1993-1995 by the Parks and Wildlife Service to assess the suitability of a LFW scheme in Tasmania, how it would operate and to garner interest in participation.

LFW started in Tasmania in 1998 at the same time as the PFRP largely to provide landowners with an alternative if they were hesitant to enter into a conservation covenant. Standards were

recommended and developed by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) in 1996 to establish a national template for the implementation and coordination of the LFW scheme.

National protocols maintain a consistent approach to the standards and delivery of LFW through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) “Arrangement to Co-ordinate Land for Wildlife schemes”. This Arrangement was developed by the State of Victoria to protect the LFW logo through copyright and trademark provisions. Each state or territory which operates LFW has signed a MOU with the State of Victoria.

LFW is firmly established and recognized nationally as a strong brand. The strength and success of the scheme nationally is in its simplicity and personal contact with landowners who wish to register their land so that their efforts in protecting wildlife species and habitats are recognized and acknowledged.

There are currently (Oct 2018) over 1000 members covering 58,595 ha with 162 LFWers also having conservation covenants – an impressive commitment to protecting wildlife species and habitat.

### Gardens for Wildlife

The Gardens for Wildlife (GFW) scheme was established in 2008 largely following increased requests from people wanting to register as LFW, but their properties were too small at less than 2 ha. It was clear that there was a significant gap and place for a nature conservation scheme for ‘smaller’ landowners and urban/sub-urban inhabitants to increase awareness and promote participation in natural diversity conservation and to get people thinking beyond their back yards. The GFW scheme not only encourages wildlife-friendly gardens but also environment-friendly sustainable practices.

The scheme continues to grow, largely by word of mouth or people seeing the sign. There are currently 626 members covering 2,935 ha. The GFW scheme has also been adopted by the Barung Landcare Association Inc. (Qld) and the Euroa Arboretum (Vic).

From covenants, LFW and to GFW, all participants are making a valuable contribution to protecting our natural biodiversity, wildlife species and habitats. You are greatly thanked for doing this.

*Iona Mitchell  
and Helen Crawford*

# Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation



Many Tasmanians feel a strong affinity to our native animals, and want to assist injured and orphaned wildlife (I&OW). The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment supports public involvement in the conservation and management of Tasmania's wildlife, and recognises the important role of the community in wildlife rehabilitation. The growing human population, especially outside suburban areas, has resulted in increased human-wildlife interactions that can have negative impacts on native animals. In Tasmania, I&OW are commonly the result of vehicle collisions, and dog or cat attacks.

## Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program

The Department works in conjunction with rescue groups, wildlife parks and zoos, veterinarians and members of the community who assist in the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife through the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program.

The Program provides advice and support to the network of registered wildlife rehabilitators across the state. The public support the Program through many roles, including providing full-time rehabilitation or emergency care of wildlife, providing release sites, and providing transport of wildlife and pouch making.

## Review of the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program

A review of the Department's Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program is currently underway. The Department is working with stakeholders to identify opportunities to improve current arrangements. The Department has developed a *Wildlife Rehabilitation Policy and Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation*, and these documents will be released for public consultation during 2018-19.

## The Aim of Wildlife Rehabilitation

The aim of wildlife rehabilitation is to provide temporary care for wildlife to restore the health of an animal, or allow it to reach independence in order to continue its life in the wild.

The secondary aim is to maintain the integrity of the existing ecosystem at the point of release, by preventing detrimental impacts caused by the release of a rehabilitated animal.

## What Do I Do If I Find a Sick, Injured or Orphaned Animal?

Contact the **Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program on 6165 4305** (business hours)

or **Bonorong Wildlife Rescue 0447 264 625** (all hours).

Please note: *Bonorong Wildlife Rescue is a privately run, volunteer-based rescue service operating Tasmania-wide.*

## These four steps will increase the chances of successful release back into the wild:

1. Keep the animal warm, dark and quiet;
2. Do not feed it anything, as often this can do more harm than good;
3. Keep handling to a minimum; and
4. Keep away from people and domestic animals.

Wildlife undergoing rehabilitation have specialised needs that are different from domestic pets. Nutrition, housing and husbandry must be appropriate to the species and developmental stage to adequately prepare them for life in the wild.

To give the animal the best possible chance of being released it is best cared for by an experienced wildlife rehabilitator who has the experience, skills, capacity and appropriate facilities to rehabilitate it for release back into the wild.

If you would like to become a volunteer wildlife rehabilitator, please contact the Department to enquire about training opportunities.



## What Can You Do To Help?

It can be difficult to find suitable properties to release wildlife. The Program is always looking for more people who can assist by allowing I&OW to be released on their land.

A suitable property is one that:

- Provides suitable habitat and resources for the species
- Has an existing, but not over-crowded population of the same species
- Is a safe distance from busy roads
- Is a safe distance from properties that may control wildlife
- Has a water source
- Has no planned land clearing activities on surrounding properties
- Is not in a suburban area
- Has availability of suitable food
- Ideally has a cat management/reduction plan in place.

It is important not to release the same species year after year on the same property, as this can lead to aggression, competition for resources, and force animals to travel further to find a suitable territory.

The landowner should discuss the arrangements for release with the wildlife rehabilitator prior to the animal arriving. Ideally the

animal should be weaned, and on a natural diet. However, if you have the capacity to undertake 1 or 2 bottle feeds per day (for marsupial joeys) we recommend undertaking training beforehand.

## Assisted (Soft) and Non-Assisted (Hard) Release Techniques

Wildlife should be released as close as possible to their point of origin.

There are two methods of release: assisted and non-assisted release. During assisted release the animal acclimatises for a short time in an enclosure. It is then allowed to come and go for food, water and shelter. A non-assisted release involves releasing straight into the wild at the appropriate time of day or season, and may involve monitoring the area post-release for a few days.

There is limited evidence to determine which method is suited to which situation. Generally, assisted release is used for wildlife that have been in long-term care and altricial young (hatched or born in an immature state, and requiring parental care). Whereas non-assisted release is used for those that have had short term care and precocial young (active and able to move freely at birth or hatching, and requiring relatively little parental care).

The aim of wildlife rehabilitation is to integrate animals back

into the wild. For this reason the Department does not recommend taming wildlife, or long term supplemental feeding, as this can lead to dangerous or nuisance animals for you and your neighbours. Feeding wildlife may make them reliant on humans (who won't always be there), and can also lead to health problems.

An alternative is to plant lots of native trees and shrubs on your property and in your garden that can provide food and shelter for native animals.

If you think your property is suitable for releasing rehabilitated wildlife, or you would like more information about getting involved in the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program, please contact the Department to discuss.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Phone: **03 6165 4305**

Email: [wildlife.reception@dipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.reception@dipwe.tas.gov.au)

Website: <https://dipwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/caring-for-wildlife/injured-and-orphaned-wildlife>

*Kellie Lovell,  
Project Officer,  
Policy and Conservation  
Advice Branch*

*Photos (L to R): An orphaned Australian Wood Duck, successfully released back into the wild. Photo: Kellie Lovell (DPIPWE), Staff of the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program. From left: Robyn Sewell, Kellie Lovell, Gemma Clark, Naomi McGrath-Kerr, and Charlotte Atkin. Photo: DPIPWE. An orphaned bare-nosed wombat. Photo: Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary. An orphaned Brushtail Possum that was successfully released into the wild. Photo: Kellie Lovell (DPIPWE).*

# Rodenticides and the high risk to wildlife

At particular times of the year, we wage war on rodents across the state's landscape in both urban and rural settings, often through the use of poison. The extensive impact these poisons are having on our wildlife is now becoming apparent. The threat is very real and some poisons are much worse than others.

To better inform the community, wildlife specialist Nick Mooney has presented at information sessions with care groups around the state. His review paper was published in *Tasmanian Bird Report Volume 38, July 2017 (BirdLife Tasmania)* highlighting the significant impact these poisons pose to our wildlife (link available at end of article).

Birds of prey, such as the endangered Masked Owl (pictured), are particularly vulnerable to rodenticides as are other predators and scavengers like quolls and devils which eat dead and dying rodents and so are poisoned themselves. But there are ways to minimise our impact.

Controlling introduced rats and mice is a necessity for many of us, whether on farms, in the bush or in town. However there are several things you can do to limit the impact on our wildlife. For most people using a combination of the methods described below will give the best results.

## Use manual traps

The old style mice and rat traps, live cage traps and the newer types like electric traps, still have a role to play in controlling rodent populations. Such mechanical or electric deaths are safe for scavengers or predators because there are no poisons to pass on.

## Use lower impact poisons

Most rodenticides (poisons designed to kill rats and mice) are based on anticoagulant chemicals that kill by promoting uncontrolled internal bleeding. Older types of anticoagulants, called First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs), require rodents to take multiple doses and therefore kill more slowly but have less effect on animals that eat poisoned rodents.

More recently developed Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are used much more widely, mainly because of the convenience of their "single dose" effect. They kill rats and mice more quickly but more residual poison is ingested by raptors or other scavengers/predators and so can **significantly** affect local populations.

When using rodenticides a choice to use FGARs may well make the difference for your local wildlife.

*"But how do I know which is which?"*

Fortunately, most SGARs are clearly labelled "single dose action" and you can check the label for the active ingredients.

**FGARs - Warfarin,  
Coumateryl** ✓

**SGARs - Brodifacoum,  
Bromadiolone** ✗

**Remember:** No poison is completely safe, so use poison as a last resort and only use what is necessary.

## Better prepare your facilities

How you physically prepare your



property can make a difference to whether rats and mice will come in looking for food. Properly sealing houses and buildings so as to restrict entry is particularly effective, though can be difficult to achieve.

Restricting the availability of food is also important, for example using rat and mice-proof compost heaps and using chicken feeders designed to release food in quantities needed only to feed your chickens.

## Education

Remember others may not even know the impact. From shopping centres to your neighbours, if you are trying to protect habitat you need to get others on board, so don't forget to ask and look at the alternatives.

For more information and to support our Rodenticide Community Awareness Program

<https://www.landcaretas.org.au/projects>.

*Peter Stronach  
and Rod Knight,  
Landcare Tasmania*



# Italian and Arum Lilies – yet more garden escapees

**WARNING:** *Arum italicum* and *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, commonly known as Italian and Arum Lilies, respectively, are coming to a forest or riparian zone near you. These *Araceae* relatives thrive in the open and under a canopy and nothing eats them. Arum lily has been highly invasive in Western Australia where it is a declared weed. They are both potentially as invasive in Tasmania but are as yet undeclared. They appear to defy normal control methods but can be stopped once you know their bag of tricks. You just need to understand their lifecycles.

This article describes *Arum italicum* but its recommended herbicide treatment applies equally to *Zantedeschia aethiopica*.

*Arum italicum* is an herbaceous perennial, native to the humid forests and hedgerows of Western Europe. It starts growing in autumn when the stem tuber develops new leaves and a new stem tuber. The new tuber grows from the old one which is progressively absorbed. Daughter tubers also emerge from the new tuber and most of these progressively detach during winter and spring. Growth finishes in early summer marked by total absorption of the old tuber and shedding of leaves.

In late spring the larger tubers produce one or two greenish-

white flowers which ripen over summer to produce fleshy orange to red berries. These are eaten and dispersed by birds thereby completing the sexual reproductive cycle.

Vegetative reproduction involves the creation of multiple independent daughter tubers that germinate during the next or future seasons as conditions for germination become favourable. Over time clumps of *Arum italicum* build up a dense band of dormant tubers 5 to 15 cm below the surface. Tubers remain dormant in the soil for six years plus.

The first step in containing *Arum italicum* is to prevent further dispersal by removing the flowers each year before they ripen and disposing of them carefully. Finding all the outliers can be challenging as birds can deposit seeds anywhere within a 100 m radius. Eye and skin protection are essential when handling any parts of *Arum italicum*.

The second step is to treat the plants with herbicide. This is best applied in late winter/early spring before the daughter tubers have detached. Systematic trials in Gunns Plains (by the author) have shown that label strength Group B herbicide metsulfuron methyl (e.g. Brushoff, Associate) with organosilicone penetrant (e.g. Pulse) achieves a 100% kill of emerged

plants. Label strength glyphosate with organosilicone penetrant is equally effective but is non-selective. Group I herbicides are generally less effective.

Eradication can only be achieved by patience and persistence. It is estimated that mature infestations will take up to 10 years of annual follow-up, particularly under a canopy. Eradication has been achieved in 5 years in some sunnier locations.

The initial treatment will kill all the large plants and any other smaller emerged plants. The following two years there will be a flush of growth from the next largest tubers, but from Year 4 leaves will be progressively smaller and fewer as remaining tubers emerge in turn from dormancy.

Non-chemical methods are either ineffective or impractical. Mowing or slashing is hazardous due to the strong irritant properties of the leaves and relatively ineffective due to the plant's vegetative reproduction and extended tuber dormancy. Digging up all the tubers is virtually impossible due to the daughter tubers' camouflage, and is impractical in a forest and for large infestations.

*John Thompson*

(Email: [thompsonjohn@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonjohn@gmail.com))

*Photos (L to R):*

*Arum italicum* infestation in moist area. Photo: John Thompson.

Flowering outlier under Blackwood canopy. Photo: John Thompson.

*Zantedeschia aethiopica* flowers. Photo: Iona Mitchell. Mature plant in

August with detaching daughter tubers. Photo: John Thompson.

Ripe *Arum italicum* fruit. Photo: DPI/PWE.



## Eucalyptus defoliators

Several hundred species of native insects in Tasmania feed upon living and dead eucalypts, making gum trees a keystone species in the natural environment. Complex communities of species such as these generally have lots of feedback loops involving competition, predators, diseases and parasites which make it difficult for any one species to become too abundant. However, on some occasions a few species may break free of these constraints and achieve unusually high populations before returning to normal numbers a year or two later.

One of the concerns of landowners is the recent appearance of widespread eucalypt leaf damage, mainly caused by insect larvae. Stringybark trees (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) and the forest communities dominated by this species are sometimes more prone to this damage.

The leaf damage shown is typical of the gum leaf skeletonizer (*Uraba lugens*), a native moth of the Nolidae family. The hairy caterpillars feed by eroding the leaf surface and, rather than defoliate the trees the dead leaves remain attached, giving the forest a scorched appearance. On closer examination, the dying leaves often retain just a network of veins and are eventually shed.

Outbreaks occur when: a) conditions for eucalypt growth

are good and the healthy leaves become more appetizing to the caterpillars, b) caterpillars grow more quickly on a nutritious food source and more survive, c) the natural predators and parasites of the caterpillars cannot reduce their numbers sufficiently, and d) more caterpillars are therefore left to graze on the foliage leading to a scorched appearance from a distance.

When conditions return to normal the trees usually recover, although saplings may not. Large trees are fairly resilient to infrequent outbreaks of pests, having survived many such cycles in the past. The main concern is when severe leaf damage coincides with other times of stress, e.g. drought or another pest outbreak.

A less frequent caterpillar pest is the painted cup moth (*Doratifera oxleyi*) in which the two sexes look extremely different to each other. Females lay batches of about 40 eggs and young larvae disperse over the tree. The colourful soft bodied caterpillars are green and black with a skirt of fleshy reddish spikes. They feed on the foliage and may leave characteristic channels cut into the leaf, larger larvae eat the entire leaf. When fully grown they pupate inside a stout hardened, egg-shaped cocoon. Black peppermint *Eucalyptus amygdalina* is a favoured host, but other gums are eaten also.

### Other Defoliators:

Gum Tree Weevil (*Gonipterus scutellatus* complex): Once thought to be a single species gum tree weevil is now a catch-all name for a group of related weevils with similar biology, often difficult to identify to species.

The larvae of this weevil are yellow or black in colour and lack the obvious white hairs and prolegs found on the skeletonizer caterpillars. Both adult and larva stages of the weevil can damage eucalypt leaves – especially as their feeding time period coincides with new leaf growth. Serious damage can result in local defoliation in the spring and early summer.

Eucalyptus leaf beetles called paropsids, are a group of more than 20 related species, several of which can be localized pests. One in particular, *Paropsisterna bimaculata*, is a serious pest of eucalypt plantations and regrowth. Their larvae are usually green or yellowish but some are multicoloured. Adult beetles as well as the larvae feed on the leaf margin, leaving a scalloped appearance to the leaves. Beetles of this species hibernate in the winter and emerge on warm days in spring to lay eggs.

Peter McQuillan

Photos (L to R): Leaf damage and gum leaf skeletonizer caterpillars.

(*Uraba lugens*). Photo: Anna Povey.

Gum Tree Weevil (*Gonipterus scutellatus* complex). Photo: Anna Povey.

Leaf damage. Photo: Janet Smith.

# Fire Operations in Tasmania's Parks and Reserves



## Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 – New Penalties Apply

The 2015/16 bushfire season elicited a response and commitment that was unprecedented in Tasmania's history. The response involved a wide range of emergency management personnel from within Tasmania, other Australian jurisdictions and overseas. This event was unique, in part, because of the number of fires occurring in remote and inaccessible parts of Tasmania including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). This was not the usual operational environment for a large number of personnel appointed to manage or undertake fire suppression operations during this time.

An information sheet titled "Protecting natural and cultural values during fire operations" was developed as a handout for these personnel, especially those travelling from interstate or overseas, and to assist Incident Management Teams with the development of Incident Action Plans and management of fires particularly in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

Post the 2015/16 bushfire season, work was undertaken by the Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Section to evolve the information sheet into a document that aims to provide important information to personnel responding to fire on reserved land. In particular, the approvals necessary prior to undertaking

certain fire suppression operations and, minimising environmental impacts while ensuring fire fighter safety. The document is not a manual but instead provides sources of information that can be interrogated further if required to support risk assessment decisions and the implementation of appropriate strategies.

The document directly addresses or correlates with seven of the 2015/16 bushfire season recommendations stemming from the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Operational Review 2016, Inter-agency Internal Review of Operations 2015/16 and the TWWHA Bushfire and Climate Change Project.

A comprehensive review of the document has been undertaken prior to the 2018/19 bushfire season to ensure information has been updated to reflect legislation and corresponding Parks and Wildlife Service policies and the outcomes of local, national and international bushfire related projects, trends and research. This year the Private Land Conservation Program also contributed to the development of the document.

*Adele Wright,  
Parks and Wildlife Service,  
Fire Management Officer  
(Policy)*

In August 2018, the Government passed a Bill to amend the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. The primary objective of the amendments was to significantly increase the penalties for those who deliberately kill threatened species in Tasmania.

The amendments increase the penalties to a fine of up to \$102,527 and/or a maximum custodial sentence of up to 12 months imprisonment.

The new penalties under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* reflect a clear message that the unlawful taking of Tasmania's threatened fauna and flora will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly by authorities.

Anyone with information surrounding the unlawful taking of threatened species is encouraged to contact DPIPW Wildlife Management on **03 6165 4305**. All information is treated in the strictest of confidence.

*Luke Diddams,  
Policy and Conservation  
Advice Branch*



## Future events

### Conservation Landholders Tasmania: next events

**Saturday 9 March 2019**

#### **Revegetation and Weed Management**

Conservation landholders, Rob and Brenda, have undertaken significant revegetation and weed management of a mixed sclerophyll forest at Forth, in the north-west of the state, near Devonport. Learn how their property has been transformed with help from Matt (Natural State), Herb and Sally (Habitat Plants) and Shaks (Forth Valley Bush Nursery).

**Wednesday 15 May 2019**

#### **Biosecurity**

Conservation Landholders Tasmania Forum on the topic of Biosecurity, at the Ross Town Hall.

To join the CLT email contact list you can either send an email to [conservationlandtas@gmail.com](mailto:conservationlandtas@gmail.com) or click 'Join Us' on the CLT web site [www.clt.asn.au](http://www.clt.asn.au).

### Update your contact details

Let us know your email address and updated contact details. Contact the PLCP on **03 6165 4409** or email [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

### Private Land Conservation Program participants as at December 2018

Number of covenants	880	109,763 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	1002	58,611 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	626	2,935 hectares

*Please note that some landowners are registered with more than one program and there is some overlap in the figures presented.*

### Post or email

Just a reminder that if you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Running Postman* by email please contact the PLCP on **6165 4409** or [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

Natural and Cultural Heritage  
Private Land Conservation Program  
200 Collins Street Hobart  
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001  
[www.dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/plcp](http://www.dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/plcp)

## Selling property?

If you have a conservation covenant over your property and are thinking of selling, you should keep in mind that anyone involved in the sale process (e.g. agents, lawyers) need to be informed of the covenant and its implications.

Prospective buyers and new owners must also be informed of the covenant on the property title so that they can factor this into their decisions. Stewardship Officers are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

When the ownership of a property transfers, the PLCP receives an automated notification from the Land Titles Office. This notification provides the new owners name(s), but unfortunately not the contact details for the new owner. It is very important that we make contact with the new owner(s) and we therefore ask that these contact details are provided for the new owners by the agents, lawyers or landowners undertaking private sales.

We also ask LFW owners who are selling to notify us so that we can make contact with the new owners and see if they would like to keep the property in the program and become members.

### Contacts

#### Stewardship

Anna Povey (North) **0498 800 611**  
Oliver Strutt (South) **0407 352 479**

#### Land For Wildlife

Iona Mitchell **6165 4409**