



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 2019

Welcome to the 28th edition of the Running Postman. In this issue we have a fascinating article about the formation of fossils, something that really is a rare occurrence when you consider the conditions required for successful fossilisation. Read why hollows in trees are so important to protect and retain for hollow-dependent species such as masked owls or swift parrots. In fact, there are forty-two Tasmanian vertebrates which rely on hollows and numerous invertebrates that also rely on cracks or splits in or under bark.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) report on their field day earlier this year visiting a property at Forth to see the success of a

weed eradication and revegetation project undertaken on private land, an ambitious and impressive effort by the landowners concerned.

We also highlight Tasmania's burrowing crayfish species in this edition. There are 15 known species of burrowing crayfish of the genus *Engaëus* with five of these species listed as threatened, largely due to their very restricted distribution. They create burrows in the ground, some to a depth of around 2-3 m with an extensive system of tunnels. Often the only way to know they are present is from the presence of their 'chimneys' at the surface - something to look out for when you are out and about!

We also have some information in this issue about the change in delivery of the Land for Wildlife scheme from DPIPW to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. who will become the sole manager of the LFW scheme. If you are a Land for Wildlife member you will have received a letter in October describing the change and, importantly, seeking your written permission for your contact details to be provided to the TLC.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition.

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



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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@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

The Running Postman is printed on Maine Recycled Silk paper, made from 60% post consumer waste fibre and 40% FSC® certified virgin fibre. Maine recycled is also CarbonNeutral®.

*On the cover: Frozen pond in Karst depression, Vale of Belvoir
Photo: Rolan Eberhard.
Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPIPW.*

Management of LFW into the future



Land for Wildlife (LFW) is recognised Nationally as well as in Tasmania as a hugely successful voluntary nature conservation scheme for owners of private land. A key influence for memberships is people seeing the LFW sign and finding out what it is all about. Word of mouth has also been an important means for encouraging membership.

During my time as the Tasmanian LFW Coordinator I have felt it an utmost privilege and pleasure to have met so many members and walked with them on their land. The scheme up to 31st January had achieved an active membership of 1026 properties covering an area close to 60,000 ha and I have been involved in registering most of these properties. This does not reflect the total number of property visits though as many properties have changed ownership, some multiple times in my 16 years, with virtually all being visited to meet with the new owners.

The key aspect of LFW's success has been the face to face contact with landowners, meeting them on their land, and this has definitely been a highlight for me in my time as Coordinator. What has been special for me when walking with landowners has been showing them new things that they had not noticed or realised, such as native orchids, plant names, interesting facts about certain species or seeing

how the bush was recovering after bushfire. Having someone tell them what plant species are present is something greatly appreciated by many, often inspiring them to purchase plant books so that they may learn and look up any new species they may come across.

LFW is such a positive scheme and it has generated enormous good will from the members who have made such a valuable and commendable contribution to the protection of wildlife species and habitat. By virtue of display of their LFW sign they are recognised for this and they also increase awareness of nature conservation to those who see the sign and find out what it means.

I am part-owner of land that is LFW and have a conservation covenant and so also feel proud to be able to actively contribute to the protection of natural values and in doing so add my support to the sentiments of the scheme that I have shared with so many LFW members.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) can offer a greater reach of the scheme using volunteer assessors with more opportunities for greater community awareness raising of nature conservation and natural values through field days or workshops. Whilst it will be a challenge for me to no longer be managing LFW, something I have been very passionate about and

proud to have kept going and growing, I have full confidence it will continue with the same ethos and spirit within the care of the TLC and importantly it will continue to grow into the future. The TLC will also continue a twice-yearly newsletter for LFW members, something provided to members since 1998.

From 1st February 2020 TLC will be the sole manager of the LFW scheme. I have written to all existing members to let them know about the change and I encourage you to contact me or the TLC if you have any questions. I will continue to work with the Private Land Conservation Program and who knows, you may see me back out there volunteering my support for LFW with the TLC.

Iona Mitchell, State Land for Wildlife Coordinator



Photos (L to R):
Iona undertaking a property assessment - disappearing over the hill!!!
Native bird orchid (Chiloglottis sp). Photo: Celeste Evans.



Fabulous **Fossils**

Fossils are amazing for many reasons, including the fact that they are our primary means of knowing the history of life on Earth. Charles Darwin was fascinated by fossils. He puzzled over marine shells preserved on mountain summits in the Andes. He also pondered the mineralized remains of plants and animals which showed varying degrees of similarity and difference compared to modern ones. When *Beagle* stopped at Hobart in 1836, Darwin undertook 'pleasant little excursions', collecting marine fossils at Lower Sandy Bay and noting leaf impressions in a limestone quarry on Burnett St. Darwin's case for the origin of species through natural selection would have been far less convincing without fossils.

Fossilisation is a chancy business. For example, consider how unlikely it is that any living organism will be preserved as a fossil. Most would-be fossils rapidly decompose or are consumed by other organisms.

An organism with hard parts, such as wood, bone or shell, stands a better chance than a soft-bodied organism, provided the body part is buried in suitable sediment, such as soft, anaerobic silt on the base of a lake, estuary or sea. Aquatic organisms are much more likely to be preserved than land-dwelling ones for this reason. Wait a few million years and if the sediment has consolidated into rock, and the rock has not been distorted beyond recognition by pressure and heat in the Earth's crust, or uplifted and eroded away to nothing, then maybe a fossil will have been created.

On top of this stack of improbabilities, for us to know of this fossil requires its exposure at the surface of the Earth. This moment of exposure will be infinitesimally brief, perhaps a few decades or centuries – less than a blink of an eyelid in geological time. Most fossils never see the light of

day and even if they do are later buried by younger sediment or destroyed by erosion. Every fossil found is a small miracle.

How then that museums are full of fossils, nature types generally have a couple on the shelf, and amazing fossils are traded every day on the internet? This is because of the mathematics of time: only a minute percentage of organisms become fossils, but this adds up to quite a few after 3.5 billion years of life on earth.

Tasmania is well-endowed with fossils. As elsewhere, our fossils are conditioned by our geological history. We are rich in marine fossils, because parts of Tasmania are marine rocks laid down at a time of fecundity by hard-bodied marine organisms. The fossils include stromatolites, which are layered structures produced by the build-up of minerals on micro-organism colonies. Stromatolites are some of the earliest evidence



for life on Earth. Despite their lumpy appearance, stromatolites are consummate survivors. Countless other species have existed and then gone extinct with no fossil record. In contrast, stromatolites have been around for at least 3.5 billion years, have not gone extinct and left an excellent fossil record. A colony of living stromatolites was recently discovered in a remote valley in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The same area contains stromatolite fossils dating to the dawn of life on Earth. Hats off to the stromatolites!

At the other end of the geological timescale – our own age of mammals – Tasmania has an equally important fossil record. *Wynyardia bassiana* was a possum-like marsupial which lived about 20 million years ago. Its skeleton was discovered in a piece of rock at the foot of Fossil Bluff near Wynyard around 1860. For many years it was *the earliest recognized evidence for*

marsupials on the Australian continent!

The rock containing the *Wynyardia* fossil is a shallow marine deposit, rich in shell fossils. *Wynyardia* lived on land, so we infer that the body was washed into a lagoon or shallow sea, sank to the bottom and was quickly buried in silt, before it could be pulled apart by crabs or scavenged by sharks. Millions of years later, now thoroughly fossilized, *Wynyardia* was picked up by a sharp-eyed but anonymous passer-by, who gave it to the museum.

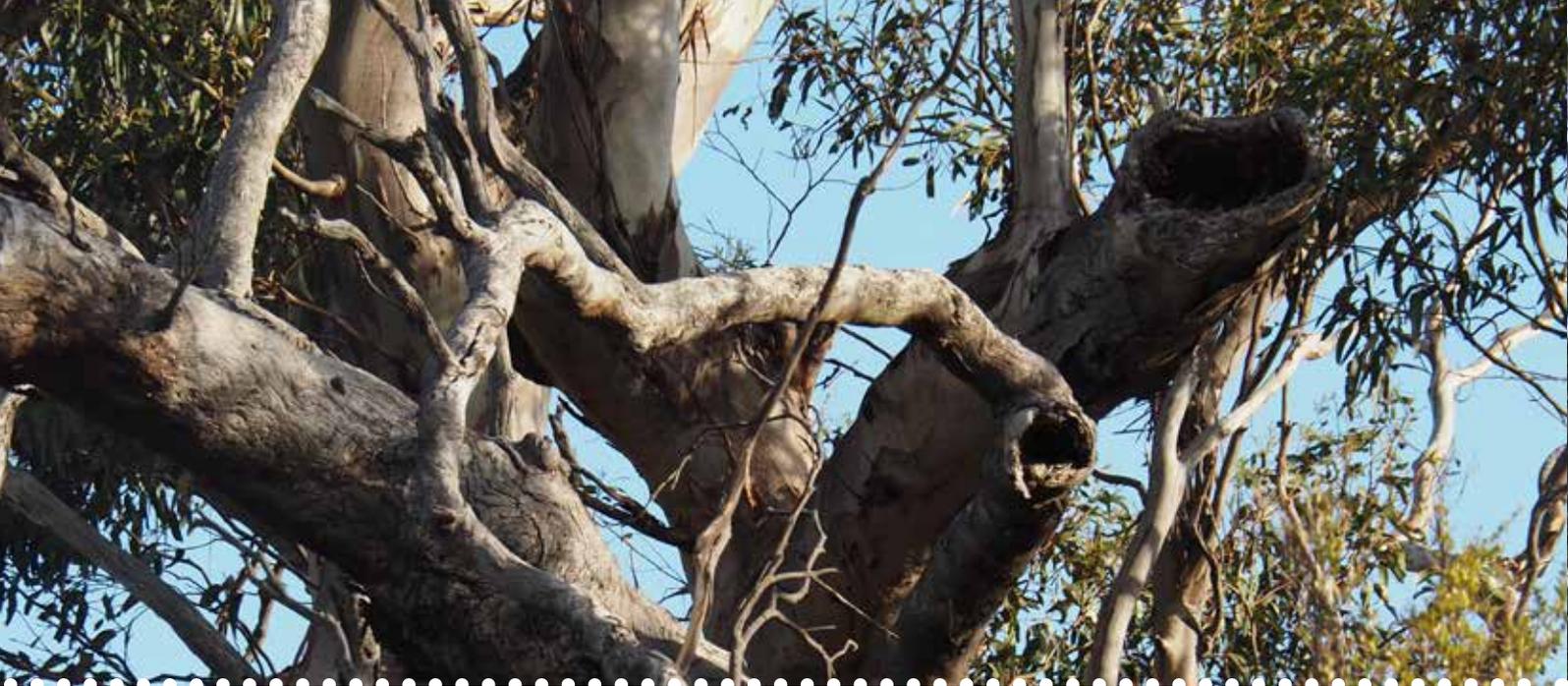
Another extraordinary Tasmanian fossil marsupial was described to science as *Nototherium tasmanicum*. The species description by Herbert Scott of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, is based on a fossil discovered in a drainage ditch near Smithton in 1910. The fossil, a near-complete skeleton, was a massive animal, with a skull big enough to suit a rhinoceros. In fact, Scott and his colleague Clive

Lord of the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, envisioned *Nototherium* as a shaggy marsupial rhinoceros, nose-horns and all. More recent publications subsume *N. tasmanicum* within the species *Zygomaturus trilobus*, known also from fossils on mainland Australia, and leave out the rhinocerine parallels.

On a final note, younger folk may have noticed that dinosaurs are not yet mentioned. Sadly, there are no known dinosaur fossils in Tasmania. Dinosaurs were the dominant terrestrial vertebrates for tens of millions of years, and we have no reason to doubt their presence in Tasmania. However, the particulars of Tasmania's geological history imply that fossil-bearing sediments of appropriate age (Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods) were virtually all destroyed by erosion.

Rolan Eberhard

Photos (L to R): Zygomaturus trilobus skull, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart. Bivalve mollusk fossil, approximately 20 million years old. Miocene marine shell fossils in pebbly sandstone. Ordovician age marine fossils, possibly coral. Photos: Rolan Eberhard.



Hello **Hollows!**

As part of 2019 Threatened Species Day activities at Tramway Hill Reserve in Margate, Kingborough Council launched a new brochure “Tree Hollows – a home to suit every need” detailing the importance of tree hollows in the landscape. Forty-two Tasmanian vertebrates and a vastly greater number of invertebrates rely on hollows for survival.

Sadly hollow-bearing trees are under threat and good hollows are now rare in the landscape. Tree hollows take a long time to form, usually more than 150 years. Many species that use tree hollows have now been listed as threatened.

The Kingborough brochure has been based with permission on the booklet “Tree Hollows in Tasmania – A Guide” published by the Forest Practices Authority. It details how you can manage your property in a way that retains trees that contain hollows, whilst also considering safety concerns. It showcases some innovative ways that this is being done around the state and gives landholders some ideas that could work on their own properties.

Hollows take a long time to form and are the result of a range of processes that can include; physical damage (such as wind thrown branches), fire, and the activity of fungi and invertebrates (e.g. termites and beetles). In Australia, some species of animals (e.g. cockatoos) can help enlarge hollows, but no species builds hollows from scratch. Instead, hollows are produced by initial damage followed by environmental processes. Young and healthy trees can quickly heal after damage. As trees age they become slower at healing, allowing hollow-formation to progress. Termites and beetles can bore into the wood and hollow out extensive areas. Wounds provide entry points for fungal spores that can lead to active decay, which eventually rots out the tree.

Animals usually prefer hollows with an entrance just slightly larger than their body size. Deeper hollows are more likely to be used. The main exception to this is when the entire trunk is hollow, although even these hollows can be used by bats. A wide variety of hollow shapes can potentially be used by an

animal, if the hollow is of the right size and in the right place. Hollow shapes that can be used include, but are not restricted to: large jagged openings in the dead tops of trees, small round hollows in the trunk, the broken off end of branches, big jagged tears and small cracks. Hollows can be found anywhere from the base of the tree to the small branches near the tree top. Branches need to be large enough to contain a hollow big enough to house an animal. While some animals prefer a certain height above the ground, hollows at any height may be used.

One of the best ways of telling if a hollow is a good one is if it has previously been or is currently being used by animals. Evidence of current or previous use includes, but is not limited to: rubbing or chewing marks around the hollow entrance, splash marks or droppings at or near the hollow entrance, extensive scratch marks leading up to the hollow, visible nesting material inside the hollow, or an animal observed inside or entering the hollow!



Within a particular area or forest type, the larger a tree is around the base, the older it is likely to be and the more likely it is that the tree will have a hollow. As hollow formation often follows the falling of dead branches, the more dead branches and the bigger the dead branches you see in the canopy of a tree, the more likely the tree is to have a hollow. Dead wood in the canopy of a tree generally means that the tree has experienced some stress. Stressed trees do not heal as readily as healthy trees and therefore hollow formation is more likely.

Older trees should be retained in an area whenever possible. Instead of targeting older hollow-bearing trees for firewood collection, target younger trees (always ensuring enough recruitment trees are retained). Think twice before removing paddock trees. Hollow-bearing trees can also require protection, as they can be structurally less sound than trees without hollows, making them more prone to wind throw. The chances of wind throw can be reduced by retaining other trees around the hollow-bearing trees, or planting

additional trees and shrubs around hollow-bearing trees.

Although fire can help enlarge hollows created by other processes, it can also destroy them, both as a result of wild fires but also from controlled or planned burns. When the base of an old tree is exposed to fire, that fire can easily be carried up to the hollow-bearing regions of the tree by the fibrous bark or the lower internal cavity acting as a chimney. This can be avoided by clearing fuel away from a buffer zone around the base of the tree.

Nest boxes can be used to provide artificial tree hollows, especially in areas where other habitat requirements are in abundance but old hollow-bearing trees are lacking. The size and design of the box will influence which species may be able to use it. There are however potential issues with nest boxes including: rapid deterioration outdoors, lack of insulation, potential need for regular cleaning and potential to be used by introduced or pest species.

Because tree hollows take such a long time to form, it is important to

think about how hollow availability will change in our landscape over time. Recruitment trees are trees which may not provide a hollow now, but which will probably do so in the future if retained. Good recruitment habitat trees are those from the age cohort younger than the hollow-bearing trees, but that are of reasonable size and have the capacity to survive, grow and develop hollows over time.

For more information check out the Kingborough Council Brochure, available online at:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/2019/09/tree-hollows/>

Or the Tree Hollow Guide published by the Forest Practices Authority, available online at:

https://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/fpa_services/planning_assistance/advisory_planning_tools/tree_hollows_booklet

Oliver Strutt

Photos (L to R):

Hollows at ends of broken branches. Photo Oliver Strutt.

Large hollow, potential for a masked owl. Photo Iona Mitchell.

Hollows in the trunk of a Eucalyptus pulchella. Photo Iona Mitchell.



Revegetation and Weed Management

CLT March 2019 field day

Our gathering in the Forth community hall was welcomed by convenor, Gail Dennett. Hosts for the field visit were Rob McKay and Brenda Jolliffe, but initially Gail and John Dennett outlined challenges to Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) that have led to the new governance model – CLT Trust – which has a registered name and bank account and nine initial trustees. We are indebted to John who, with Gail, has spent many hours on the process.

Rob and Brenda undertook the 'Forth River Restoration Project' on their newly acquired property and Rob described the challenges of their weed eradication and revegetation project, possibly a piece of cake after Rob's challenging years as a doctor in Papua New Guinea, but still not for the fainthearted.

Now, five years and 9,514 plants later, Rob and Brenda can enjoy a weed control and habitat promotion program that has reached a much less daunting stage. They have stopped planting for now, weeding is becoming easier and they can contemplate new activities such as reducing local roadkill, establishing nest boxes for swift parrots, and working towards covenant status.

The couple are indebted to the planning and hard work of Matt Rose and his sidekick Gavin O'Callaghan from Matt's business, 'Natural State', and Herb and Sally Staubmann who provided all the seedlings plus valuable advice and support via their 'Habitat Plants' nursery at Liffey.

Matt and Gavin responded to Rob's initial appeal regarding infestations of broom and this developed into an all-embracing five-year plan of documenting the natural values, assessing the property's condition to establish a baseline, defining the management objectives and staging weeding and revegetation works across six defined areas to factor in budget, time and energy.

Herb Staubmann used excellent slides and statistics to accompany his talk about seedlings for revegetation. He emphasised the value of timelines in the process; as well as provenance in situations where it is necessary to maintain genetic integrity, although he did warn that climate change predictive provenance sourcing is becoming more significant.

Herb also discussed integrated pest management, a topic everyone would have been very happy to continue with except we ran out of time!

After lunch we went on a great walk on Rob and Brenda's lovely property through different terrains, beside one of their three stream systems, on a steep path through wet forest and tall tree ferns, up onto the previously clear-felled section where Matt described some of the revegetation processes, and back to the home paddocks for afternoon tea in a very civilised picnic area amongst their friendly llama herd.

Thanks are due to many contributors on the day. Funding was limited so we were grateful that catering was provided by Gail Dennett and Julia Bentley, with other members lending a hand on the day. Gail deserves special thanks as coordinator and we also thank our partners at the NRM's and TLC. The contributions from Rob McKay, Matt Rose and Herb Staubmann were technically impressive and engrossing, and our hosts Rob and Brenda were generous to a fault. Thank you to all.

Kay Harman

The CLT web page link can be found at <http://www.clt.asn.au/#/>



Crayfish in the backyard – it does happen!

These are not big crayfish, like the freshwater lobster, but small burrowing crayfish that are rarely seen, the only real evidence of their presence is known from their characteristic 'chimneys' made from mud balls placed at the entrance of their burrows. Their chimneys can be quite small to up to 20-40 cm tall! Though some species only have holes in the ground.

In Tasmania there are approximately 34 native species in five genera which include the largest freshwater crayfish in the world, the Giant Freshwater Lobster (*Astacopsis gouldi*) to the small burrowing crayfish of the *Engaeus*, *Omrbrastacoides* and *Spinastacoides* genera. The genus *Geocharax* has only one species *G. tasmanicus* which occurs in the north west of Tasmania and Victoria. There are 15 known species of burrowing crayfish of the genus *Engaeus* (pronounced En-GAY-Us), 13 of which only occur in Tasmania and two species that also occur in Victoria. Five of these species are listed as threatened (under the TSPA* & EPBCA#) largely due to their very limited distribution in areas of northern Tasmania and Flinders Island. These are

- Scottsdale burrowing crayfish (*E. spinicaudatus*) Endangered
- Furneaux burrowing crayfish (*E. martiginer*) – vulnerable/ Endangered
- Central North burrowing crayfish (*E. granulatus*) – Endangered

- Mt. Arthur burrowing crayfish (*E. orramakunna*) – Vulnerable
- Burnie burrowing crayfish (*E. yabbimunna*) – Vulnerable

These species have very restricted distributions with little, to no, overlap. Details and a map showing their distribution can be found on the DPIPWE web site <https://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/Documents/Burrowing-Crayfish-brochure.pdf>.

Burrowing crayfish live their entire life within a burrow, which consists of a system of tunnels. They are often found alongside watercourses or wet areas, but can live in drier areas where the tunnels of their burrows extend down to the underground water table to depths of 2-3 m. Thus, they live half in and half out of the water.

In many areas, heavy or prolonged rainfall may result in flooding of burrowing crayfish burrows. While they do not like to be underwater for too long if the burrows remain flooded, these conditions have proved to be beneficial for young burrowing crayfish to disperse to other areas where they build their own burrows. Often at times where there is water overlying the soil surface these unusual, small crayfish can be seen moving across the ground at night or during overcast conditions.

Burrowing crayfish are small, growing to a maximum length of 10 cm. Since they are no longer free-swimming, they have reduced

tails in comparison to their narrow body. They have adapted to living in narrow tunnels with large claws that open vertically (for *Engaeus*) or horizontally (for *Omrbrastacoides*, *Spinastacoides* and *Geocharax*). Mostly they eat decaying organic matter in the soil but will eat worms or grubs if they come across them in their burrows.

There is still much to learn about these cryptic species, as they are very hard to study without disturbing them because they live underground. Human activities that impact on the survival of the burrowing crayfish include:

- Loss of habitat due to clearing for urban, agriculture or forestry development.
- Clearance of streamside vegetation and compaction of soil along stream banks.
- Changes to water flow or drainage of wetland/boggy areas.
- Pollution of waterways from rural, urban or roadside drains.

Iona Mitchell

TSPA* - Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (State)

EPBCA# - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal)



Photos (L to R): Burrowing crayfish chimney, Melaleuca. Photo: Iona Mitchell. Central North burrowing crayfish (*E. granulatus*) busy tunnel digging. Photo: DPIPWE. Central North burrowing crayfish. Photo: Forest Practice Authority



When PC is not PC!

The need for good hygiene practices in the bush becomes quite apparent when considering the ease and risk of spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, generally known as root-rot fungus, one of the world's worst invasive plant pathogens which can kill susceptible plants, or seriously compromise them.

Phytophthora (often abbreviated to PC) is a water mould with a cunning life cycle that can enable it to remain dormant during unfavourable conditions as thick-walled chlamydospores capable of surviving extended periods when conditions for germination are unsuitable, such as low temperatures or dryness. Under favourable conditions these chlamydospores germinate producing sporangia from which mobile zoospores are released which can move through water within or on top of the soil to seek out roots of plants in which to inhabit.

The zoospores attach themselves to the active growing tip of roots whereby the outer layer of the root is penetrated, and threads of filamentous mycelium spread within the roots disrupting cellular function. The mycelium produces a chemical which effectively destroys the roots. Death to susceptible plants is largely from the inability of the roots to absorb water and

nutrients from the soil. Generally, this becomes apparent as the foliage yellows and the plant dies.

There is no treatment for PC and the best management advice is to avoid spreading the spores. The spread of spores occurs through movement of soil from an infected site to a non-infected site via soil on footwear, vehicles, field equipment, machinery or water and it is recommended to washdown contaminated vehicles, machinery or gear while still within the infected site before moving to a non-infected area.

There are several plant species which are highly susceptible to PC such as grass trees and banksias and it is often a good indication of PC being present if these species are dead or dying and conversely an indication that PC is absent if they are healthy looking. However, it should be noted that if other susceptible species are also showing signs of PC then this still provides reasonable surety that PC is responsible. If susceptible species do not show signs of infection (discolouration of foliage, or dead), then the death of the plant could be attributed to other causes, such as drought, frost or extended periods of elevated temperatures. Information on PC susceptible plants and how to assess if you have PC can be found

in the Forest Practices Authority 2019, 'Management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in production forest' Flora Technical Note No. 8 (www.fpa.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/110223/Flora_technical_note_8_Phytophthora.pdf) – don't be put off by the words 'production forest' in the title of this note sheet, there is good relevant information and good advice about sourcing gravel from PC free quarries.

If you have areas of PC on your land, it is recommended to avoid movement through those areas, and redirect walking or vehicular tracks to prevent spreading PC to other parts of your property. If you have visited a site known, or suspected to have PC, remove soil and wash down footwear or any item that may have come in contact with infected soil. This is important to do before entering areas free of PC – you may have come across boot wash down stations on tracks within our National Parks. Guidelines for washdown and minimising the risk of spread can be found in the NRM South publication 'Keeping it clean' (www.nrmsouth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/keeping_it_clean.pdf).

The best advice is to avoid risking the spread of PC.

Iona Mitchell

Photos (L to R): Living and dead grass trees. Grass tree showing characteristic yellowing indicative of PC infection. Photos: Iona Mitchell



Volunteering **Critical Information** on your Natural Values

At the time of writing the 2019/2020 fire season is looking to be quite a severe one. A changing climate is bringing bushfire seasons earlier, they are lasting longer, and containing more extreme weather phenomena.

And yet for many, it is only when we fear they might be lost to bushfire that we start to really think about those things we value of our natural environment. Others though, such as private reserve owners, are thinking about them much more often. It may be because they know they are particularly at **risk** by fire, or because the **threat** of fire is strong where they live.

As custodians of natural values, you, like us in the Bushfire Risk Unit, perhaps think deeply about how to conserve them in the face of the threat of fire. In doing so you have probably recognised that managing bushfire threat to natural values is not that straightforward. It is for this reason that a property scale fire management plan is often drafted.

There are a number of resources available to help landowners develop a property scale plan, this includes the very detailed guides and templates developed specifically for private landholders by the State Fire Management Council.

A plan may identify areas of sensitive vegetation and critical fauna habitat, define existing control and access points, identify where emergency control lines may, or should not to be constructed, or where best to access water; among many other things.

But once we have this information recorded what do we do with it? How is this information communicated to emergency services in the case of a bushfire?

Once a bushfire is an established 'incident' and an Incident Management Team (IMT) is in place, Fire Behaviour Analysts (FBAn) make detailed predictions of the rate and directions of fire spread. Predictions are based on complex interactions of weather; vegetation, geography, and fire behaviour and are done repeatedly for hours and even days ahead.

Dedicated Planning Officers are looking in detail at these predictions and at the critical values occurring ahead of the fire's predicted spread, as well as making contact with landowners to seek information such as is found in a property scale management plan. All of which is used to inform response actions.

However, when a fire is in its very early stages the first on the scene may not have access to this kind of support. The first on the scene is

most often going to be your local fire brigade, so it makes sense to provide them with a copy of your plan once it is prepared, and even invite them out to walk through it so that if a fire emergency arises they already have this information to hand.

But of course by far the most effective way to convey the values of your ecological communities is to be a part of the ecology of your own community. In addition to conveying the values on your property you will benefit from learning methods for managing your own fuels as well as the use of firefighting and personal protective equipment. Consider joining your local fire brigade. Your Natural Values need you!

State Fire Management Council (SFMC) guides and templates:

<http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/publications-resources>

Joining your local brigade:

<http://www.fire.tas.gov.au>Show?pagelD=colhowToVolunteer>.

*Stu King
(Fuel Reduction Program,
TFS Bushfire Risk Unit)*

*Photos (L to R): A cool burn reducing fuel load on the ground. TFS Fire Behaviour Analyst planning and predicting fire behaviour during a burn. Controlled fuel reduction burn, note fire breaks.
Photos: Tasmania Fire Service (TFS).*



Conservation Landholders Tasmania: next event

Landholders with conservation covenants, and/or 'Land for Wildlife' properties are welcome to participate in the following event:

Saturday 2 May 2020, Ross Town Hall - In conjunction with Reconciliation Tasmania, the next CLT forum theme is "Land Management for Conservation: dispelling myths and misconceptions".

The forum will be opened with a 'Welcome to Country' followed by accounts of family histories with particular emphasis on the impact of indigenous land management on the landscape. There will be a panel question and answer session after lunch with a traditional farewell.

For 'early bird' registration or to join the CLT email contact list, email Gail Dennett gaildennett@gmail.com. When the program is finalised, invitations will be sent out to those on the list a month before the event so they can book online with Eventbrite.

Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS)

The TPS is the single statewide planning scheme which will replace the 30 planning schemes currently operating in Tasmania. This will mean that there will be consistent statewide planning rules that apply to the 23 generic zones which will indicate what land use and development is appropriate for each zone e.g. residential, agriculture, environmental. Each Council will develop their own Local Provisions Schedules using planning provisions they consider adequately express their local community's land use expectations. We encourage you to contact your local council to see if any proposed changes in zoning may have implications for your land. For more information look up the TPS web site <https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/scheme>.

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at December 2019

Number of covenants	887	109,362 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	1025*	58,934 hectares*
Gardens for Wildlife members	654	2,968 hectares

** Since 1 Feb 2019 the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. have been doing all new Land for Wildlife property assessments.*

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@dipwe.tas.gov.au

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

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Land For Wildlife

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