



# 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

## The Running Postman

Our newsletter is named after a small twining plant that is widespread in Tasmanian dry forests (*Kennedia prostrata*).

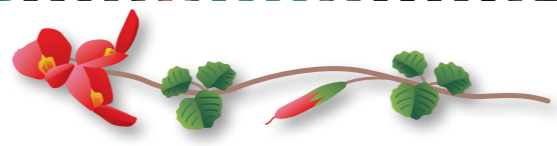
The *Running Postman* is published three times per year, and circulated to all the participants in the various Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) initiatives, as well as other interested groups and individuals.

The PLCP conservation covenant partners, Land for Wildlife members, and signatories to Vegetation Management Agreements now extends to over 1000 people. These people range from graziers and farmers with extensive operations in the Midlands, through to people with two hectare bush blocks on the fringes of Hobart, with just about everything in between.

More information regarding the PLCP (and an electronic version of *The Running Postman*) can be found on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment website:

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp)

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### Private Land Conservation Program participants as at March 1 2010

Number of covenants	539
- hectares	60,197
Land for Wildlife members	750
- hectares	49,253
Gardens for Wildlife members	305

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

*The Running Postman is printed on Monza Satin recycled paper, derived from sustainable forests, elemental chlorine free pulp and certified environmental systems.*

*On the cover: Damsel fly. Photo by David Rayner  
Above: The Running Postman (Kennedia prostrata) Photo by Dr Greg Jordan, UTAS.  
Design and layout: ILS Design Unit, DPIPWE.*

In my role of Manager of the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP), I occasionally have the pleasure of travelling to the Nation's Capital to attend meetings with colleagues from the Commonwealth who run programs that provide much of our program funding.

A recent trip provided something of a departure from the usual routine, as I was lucky enough to attend a two day conference entitled *Shaping Resilience: Policy Development for Uncertain Futures*. The thought provoking seminars and workshops focussed on the inter-related nature of environment, economy and societies, with a range of national and international speakers delving into such diverse areas as healthcare, emergency response and biosecurity.

As stated on the *Australia 21* website ([www.australia21.org.au/index.htm](http://www.australia21.org.au/index.htm)):

*... resilience is the capacity of complex systems to respond to external shocks*

*and insults without losing their essential functions and identity. This capacity is not a fixed entity, and resilience can be lost or enhanced in various ways, including changes in the composition of the system.*

My motivation for attending was to spend time examining the connection between environment, society and economy, and be better equipped to develop the program into the future.

Recent research shows that integrating ecosystem services into natural resource management policies is critical to delivering sustainable land use. The thinking is that by focusing on ecosystem services, we may be able to encourage integrated consideration of the full suite of benefits provided by ecosystems.

An ongoing challenge for the PLCP is finding ways of giving financial viability to the commitment of landowners who are willing to enter long-term or perpetual agreements. Our capacity to do

this has improved over the years, but we have not yet reached the point where financial benefits always outweigh the actual costs of these decisions. Demonstrating the connections between conservation management of natural resources and healthy resilient communities and economies is potentially the way to make significant leaps in this direction – if the timing is right . . .

Several articles in this edition of *The Running Postman* highlight some of the progress in this area that the program has made in recent times, in particular through the Non-forest Vegetation Project. New approaches have been developed, and a range of potentially exciting possibilities is opening for both landowners and the program itself.

*John Harkin*

## 500th Covenant

Without wanting to take the wind from one of the feature stories in this edition, I must take this opportunity to raise a figurative glass in celebration of reaching a significant milestone for conservation in Tasmania.

Early in February, Tasmania's 500th perpetual voluntary reserve was

created on a property not far from Richmond.

The 500 reserves are a testament to a decade of effort on the part of dozens of people in government and non-government organisations to harness the enthusiasm and commitment of so many landowners around the state.

There's too many to mention – and you know who you are. We thank you.

We also thank the Australian Government for their ongoing funding of a variety of programs that have enabled us to reach this outcome.



## Tasmania's 500th voluntary perpetual covenant at 'Frogmore'

At about 11.00am on 2nd February 2010 a rather significant conservation milestone was achieved. The Private Land Conservation Program received the great news that the 500th voluntary perpetual covenant in Tasmania had just been registered on the title of the Frogmore property. The registering of 500 covenants reflects more than a decade of hard work and commitment by many landowners as well as the employees of numerous government and non-government organisations.

Hats off to everyone who has been a part of the programs to date and who has helped to reach this milestone.

Frogmore Estate is a 430 hectare property located at Penna, about 30 minutes drive east of Hobart. The property has operated Frogmore Creek Vineyard since 1996. The newly registered covenant covers 100 hectares of dry grassy forest and native grassland with a beautiful outlook to Pitt Water and beyond.

Frogmore is not new to the conservation game. Co-owner

at Frogmore, Tony Scherer, has assisted conservation sections of the Department and other conservation organisations for more than 10 years to protect and manage various natural values on the property. These include involvement in the north-facing slopes project with Landcare, and a wetlands project focussing on frog and bird habitat in partnership with DPIPW, World Wildlife Fund and Richmond school.

One particularly special natural value occurs within the Frogmore protected area, and nowhere else in the wild in Tasmania. That value is the endangered purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*); a straggling shrub, which in Tasmania is only known to survive on the Frogmore property (although descendents grown from seed collected on the property occur in gardens around Hobart).

The few remaining dozen plants of this species cling fairly desperately to shallow crevices amongst outcropping sandstone rocks or are sometimes afforded the protection of a fallen sheoak branch. To assist the population, staff from DPIPW's

Threatened Species Section have constructed protective cages over nearly all remaining plants of the purple coral-pea and conduct monitoring each year. Amazingly, the species has survived the last few years' drought and plants were flourishing when last observed in late 2009. The newly established protected area takes in all of the purple coral-pea population.

Frogmore is an example of a good farming practice going hand in hand with good conservation outcomes. The owners are working to create a biologically diverse environment for the vines and nature's creatures. By utilising safe farming methods, the waterways will be a safe place for frogs, fish and birds. Since the first vines were planted and the dams established, three species of frogs have made the vineyard their home. The vineyard is also home to a number of native hens.

An event to mark the registration of the 500th covenant will be held in mid-2010 at Frogmore Estate.

*Oberon Carter*

Photos (L to R):  
The endangered purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*).  
Frogmore. Photos by Oberon Carter



2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations (UN) – A celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The UN has called the world to take action this year to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.

What exactly is biodiversity? It's almost one of those throw away words that seems to mean many things. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines biodiversity as; "... the variety of animals, plants, their habitats and their genes ..." and notes "Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth. It underpins the functioning of ecosystems from which we derive essential products and services (known as ecosystem goods and services) such as oxygen, food, fresh water and medicines." ([www.iucn.org/what/tpas/biodiversity/about/](http://www.iucn.org/what/tpas/biodiversity/about/))

The UN has set the following objectives for this Year of Biodiversity:

- Raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and promote understanding of the economic value of biodiversity;
- Enhance public knowledge of the threats to biodiversity and means to conserve it;
- Encourage organisations (and through them individuals) to take direct or indirect biodiversity conservation activities;
- Celebrate the world's achievements in protecting biodiversity; and
- To report on the possible failures for not protecting biodiversity.

A global campaign is being run by the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, which was developed after the Rio de Janeiro

Earth Summit in 1992, to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Almost 200 countries signed up to the Convention, promising to achieve significant reductions in the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by this year. Japan will host a Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya later this year, where each country will report on the progress they made towards their biodiversity protection targets and to make plans for the future.

Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organised to make progress on the major objectives and slow the loss of biological diversity.

## The role of Tasmania's private protected areas in biodiversity protection

Private reserves, Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife properties as well as National Parks and World Heritage Areas all play an important part in protecting Tasmania's unique biodiversity. But it is the people who own and manage these areas who really make a difference by protecting Tasmania's unique landscapes with unique plants and animals.

One of the goals for the PLCP is to increase the connectivity of Tasmania's protected areas, so perhaps one of the things we can all do to ensure the International Year of Biodiversity serves a real and tangible purpose, is to look around us and to identify people who might also be interested in protecting the biodiversity at their place. Pass on *The Running Postman*

to a neighbour and let's see if we can grow the number of people in your area who value and protect Tasmania's biodiversity.

*Dean Vincent*

For further information on the Year of Biodiversity, see: [www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/](http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/)

Photo: Dusky Robin by Martin Finzel.  
This was one of the photos entered into the 2009 The Running Postman photo competition.





## Beyond the tussocks: reflections on the Non-forest Vegetation Project

The Non-forest Vegetation Project (NFVP) was established in 2003 to support the protection of rare, vulnerable and endangered non-forest vegetation communities from clearance and conversion on all land tenures. The project aimed to achieve this through voluntary landowner conservation covenants and vegetation management agreements, including financial and other incentives and through additional protection measures on Crown land.

The NFVP was recently concluded with some of the notable achievements being the 20,476 hectares protected in collaboration with major landowners, including 6,035 hectares of priority non-forest vegetation. This was achieved using more than \$3 million of Australian Government funding, provided as financial incentives to landowners through the project. Additionally, approximately \$2.7 million of incentive funding from other programs (including the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot Tender, Biodiversity Hotspot Program, and Private Forest Reserves Program) contributed to reach the total hectares under agreement.

Some of Tasmania's largest and most significant lowland (and highland) grassland sites are now covered by long-term conservation management

agreements. Twenty-four perpetual covenants, two fixed-term covenants and numerous vegetation management agreements have been finalised. In addition to the incentive payments, over \$300,000 was directed to fencing and weed control works.

The conservation agreements put in place by the NFVP assist to protect numerous listed threatened species and listed ecological communities. Notable communities protected include Lowland *Themeda triandra* grassland (approximately 1,800 hectares protected), Lowland *Poa labillardierei* grassland (about 1,400 hectares protected) and various wetlands (over 440 hectares protected). Some endangered species that occur in reserves established through the NFVP include the purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), grassland candles (*Stackhousia gunnii*), midlands buttercup (*Ranunculus prasinus*), and a range of threatened orchids and herb species. PLCP staff will work with landowners and DPIPW's Threatened Species Section to ensure the ongoing appropriate management of these species and their habitats.

Another successful outcome of the NFVP was the high level of positive engagement with large industrial landowners. Numerous

large commercial farm businesses as well as Gunns Limited in the northwest of the state made unprecedented commitments to ongoing conservation of globally endangered ecosystems. Establishing long-term relationships with landowners, including industry, is the key to ensuring successful on-ground conservation management across the landscape.

In the last decade, many resource based industries have come to see conservation as a viable business option that can integrate with their production focus.

Much of the project's effort was focussed on the northern Midlands of Tasmania, as this area is least represented in the National Reserve System in Tasmania. The lowland grasslands, wetlands and grassy woodlands of the Tasmanian midlands are icons of the Tasmanian landscape. Unfortunately, the proliferation of agriculture, urbanisation and recent intensification of many areas to cropping, has altered irreversibly many of these historic landscapes and much of the biodiversity they contain.

However, there are still some large tracts of lowland grassy country, and the NFVP has helped landowners to ensure their ongoing protection. The addition of private reserves to this variegated landscape gives more

certainty that landscape connections of native habitat will be retained. Hopefully, in the long-term, there will be sufficient areas of habitat and connections between remnants to enable movement and persistence of native flora and fauna well into the future.

Early in the project during stakeholder consultation, some families with priority vegetation (large areas of native grasslands in excellent condition with key populations of threatened species) indicated that the financial incentives for voluntary conservation agreements available at the time (i.e. perpetual covenants) were not commensurate with the earning potential of the land, and that new approaches were required. Where the properties are large and have not changed hands outside of the family for several generations, the landowners typically have a strong stewardship ethic, but little motivation to covenant under existing mechanisms. They place a high value on the autonomy that comes with an unencumbered title and generally have no intention of selling their land.

Also, in many instances, areas of good condition non-forest vegetation that were of interest to the project were also utilised by landowners for commercial purposes (usually sheep or cattle grazing). In agreeing to enter into a conservation agreement through the NFVP, landowners were mindful of the potential financial implications of changing a grazing regime on areas of native vegetation used for commercial purposes. Some landowners did not want to be locked into a narrow set grazing regime or stocking density.

In response to these concerns, the project developed some innovative approaches to conservation agreements. Performance-based or outcomes-based approaches to management of the natural values were developed and applied to some conservation agreements. These approaches gave landowners added flexibility in their grazing management, and also provided clear understanding of the natural values that were to be conserved.

Elements of the outcomes-based approach often involved:

- Identification and agreement of measures of success by both parties;
- Determination of characteristics of good and deteriorated vegetation and the desired trend in condition;
- Photo-monitoring to detect changes in condition of natural values;
- Recommendations for conservation- based grazing; and,
- Support for ongoing communication between the landowner and the Department.

This long-term success or adequacy of this style of conservation agreement (compared to prescriptive fixed stocking-rate style agreements) may not be evident for some years. However, it arose out of the recognition that the landowners are better positioned and equipped as experts to make a judgement on these issues. Outcomes-based agreements may be best suited to large commercial grazing properties.

In response to the concern over covenants encumbering land titles, the project and landowners developed a new type of agreement

called an 'Evergreen Agreement', which is of fixed-term, but which rolls over annually, subject to meeting a number of key performance indicators. This thereby gives both parties at least five years notice if they wish to end the agreement, except where funding is unavailable. Agreements like these may be utilised in the future but only in limited and specific cases (e.g. very large properties with many highly significant natural values).

These innovative approaches that focus on sustainable land-management and which have increased flexibility and/or include performance-based approaches, helped to engage with a broader range of landowner types and bring more area under formal conservation management than would have otherwise occurred. We hope that through the project, conservation goals will be achieved on each of the participating properties, and that across the landscape, the combined impact of the individual reserves will provide benefits beyond the property boundaries, and beyond our lifetimes.

*Oberon Carter*

*Acknowledgements:*  
The NFVP was funded through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust program. Louise Giffedder coordinated the project from its inception until 2008, after which Oberon Carter coordinated the project to its completion. Many other staff from the PLCP, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the TFGA contributed greatly to various agreements. Their contributions and the commitment of participating landowners will leave an enduring mark on the landscape.

*Photos (L to R):  
Chamomile sunray (Rhodanthe anthemoides).  
Photo by Oberon Carter.  
Native grassland. Photo by Janet Smith.*



*How should we go about maintaining and building on this tremendous foundation?*



*GFW promotes and encourages environment-friendly and sustainable practices in a garden setting.*



## Connectivity conservation – joining the dots . . .

The creation of 500 perpetual voluntary reserves on private land in Tasmania is an achievement worth celebrating, no question. It's also worth noting that we are fast approaching 1% of Tasmania's land mass under private reservation – another thought provoking milestone.

Beyond the statistics, these achievements represent a higher level of certainty that the various natural systems in these reserves will exist into the future. The plants, animals and ecological processes that occur in these reserves are more likely to be protected from destruction or degradation because of more sympathetic management of those areas.

Programs such as the Forest Conservation Fund and the Private Forest Reserves Program demonstrate how particular areas can be identified and protected effectively through covenants, given adequate funding and careful implementation.

A reasonable question at this point is what's next for the Tasmanian private reserves system?

Over the last decade there has been an increasing amount of scientific literature concerning 'connectivity

conservation'. Connectivity conservation thinking proposes that questions of evolutionary processes and gene flows be considered during reserve selection and management planning. In planning a robust private reserve system, this implies that to get the best long-term conservation outcome, we need to ensure that genetic material of populations of all organisms can survive and move through the landscape over appropriate timescales. To apply this thinking to specific circumstances or locations means considering options for conservation both inside and outside of reserved areas. Each private reserve plays a role in maintaining ecological processes that operate at much larger scales than the individual property. The role of a given reserve within a broader landscape (and its interaction with it) must also be considered.

This thinking is a bit of a break from past approaches that were site or property-focussed and really only considered how best to secure and manage individual reserves (rarity based approaches). We have a few concrete examples of where the PLCP has been part of such an approach (see previous story), and we have been using this sort of

thinking to design the next phase of our PAPL program, which we continue to operate in partnership with the Australian Government, Tasmanian NRM Regions and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. The next year should see some further development in this area, and may also link to initiatives that involve restoration and rehabilitation of degraded land.

The most interesting current example of how the PLCP is applying connectivity conservation thinking is through our Prioritising Conservation on Private Land Project. This project is using our existing data and information about the location of natural values and other land-uses (including reserves), and creating maps that give an indication of where in Tasmania we can most effectively work with landowners to conserve areas that contain a range of defined attributes in a well connected landscape.

Again, the coming year should produce some promising results in this area, off the back of some detailed planning for the last year or so. I look forward to sharing this with you in future editions.

*John Harkin*

## Learning by **action**

It is widely recognised that there is a need to achieve broad community engagement in support of nature conservation and sustainable land use practices on private land, but there have been few schemes directed at urban landowners, particularly those with limited space.

Enhancing biodiversity in urban environments can have a positive impact on the quality of life of urban dwellers. The majority of Australians live in urban environments, so most people develop care for our native wildlife, concern for conservation of remnant vegetation and interest in restoring degraded habitats in the suburbs and outskirts of cities. This often serves to increase environmental awareness and understanding of the need to conserve natural biodiversity more generally, and will help to develop support for nature conservation actions at local and regional scales.

The Gardens for Wildlife (GFW) scheme was initially developed because of a growing interest in the number of such people who wanted to join the Land for Wildlife (LFW) scheme, but whose properties were smaller than the minimum size accepted into that scheme. There had also been a number of requests

from urban landowners wishing to participate in some form of conservation scheme on their own property.

In response to this interest and commitment, the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) developed a new initiative which almost any interested landowner could participate in.

GFW promotes and encourages environment-friendly and sustainable practices in a garden setting. It's also a great opportunity to introduce children to concepts of biodiversity conservation and how their actions can make a difference.

Since the launch of GFW in 2008, a number of community groups and schools have registered.

GFW aligns well with the aims of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) which is a partnership between the Australian Government and the States. The AuSSI program started in Tasmania in 2007 as a pilot that has now successfully been embraced by a number of schools. Currently there are 79 schools implementing the program with a further 20 soon to sign up. Aspects of the AuSSI program include conserving

biodiversity, environmental responsibility and sustainable living through active learning and action. AuSSI encourages involvement of schools' local community through parents and local residents to increase awareness and to promote change.

GFW held a display at the Goulburn St Primary School Community Harvest Festival recently. The Harvest Festival was a celebration to promote to the wider community around the school a sense of connection between the school and the local community. Food stalls included salads made partly with produce grown by the school community. The school has a productive food garden and is working towards planting natives to create a water-wise garden and also to encourage birds and insects to provide natural pollination and pest control.

It is great to see that school children from an early age are learning about environmental responsibility and sustainable living through hands-on activity and classroom teaching.

*Iona Mitchell*



"I enjoy the opportunity to walk with landowners and to share knowledge with them and to learn more about wildlife and habitats."



"Feel like you'll never be able to just relax in the beauty of your surrounds? It's the botanist's curse."

## Cassie Strain – Land for Wildlife member and volunteer assessor



Since mid-2003, the Tasmanian Land for Wildlife (LFW) scheme has been supported by a number of trained volunteer assessors. The strong support shown by these volunteers is due largely to their belief in what the scheme aims to recognise and encourage, that is, voluntary nature conservation on private land.

One of our wonderful LFW volunteers is Cassie Strain. Cassie became a volunteer assessor in 2004 and continues to support the scheme whenever her busy schedule permits. "I think it is a great scheme and I like the fact that it aids the development of a network of like-minded landowners who feel strongly about protecting wildlife species and habitat" she said. Her interest in becoming a volunteer stemmed from her love of botany and a desire to contribute to the protection of native bushland.

When asked what she most enjoyed about being a LFW volunteer she said "I enjoy the opportunity to walk with landowners and to share knowledge with them and to learn more about wildlife and habitats."

Her passion was clearly evident

when I joined her on a walk through her 60 hectare bush block south of Hobart. She "wanted a place big enough to get lost in" reflecting on childhood memories of the property she grew up on. When she first looked at the property she identified a few patches of pretty heath (*Epacris virgata*), a threatened species, and immediately decided she wanted to protect this population. She has since discovered additional large patches of pretty heath elsewhere on the property.

Cassie has since registered her property as LFW. "I wanted to have the LFW sign to encourage neighbours" she said. She also placed a conservation covenant on the property through the Private Forest Reserves Program to ensure the protection of the natural values in perpetuity. Her land adjoins another large LFW property and there are other LFW properties nearby, which all contribute to a much larger area (approx 127 ha) of remnant vegetation and wildlife habitat in the SnugTiers under protection.

Her property is dense bush with a diversity of understorey species, another factor which attracted her to the land. The underlying geology of sandstone, dolerite and mudstone influences the different vegetation communities with seven Eucalypt species found. Blue gums, black gums and white peppermints all provide valuable habitat for the threatened Swift Parrot.

Whilst the vegetation is healthy and in good condition, there is one weed species, Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*), which concerns Cassie. "There are lots of wallabies on the property which may be the source of spread" she said. Cassie undertakes active weed management with a careful removal plan, which includes hand-pulling and cut-and-paint methods. This assists with eradicating the weeds without damaging the native plants.

It's lovely to see Cassie's enthusiasm in hands-on conservation, both as a landowner and as a volunteer assessor. This is what the LFW scheme is all about.

Iona Mitchell

## The botanist's curse

Ever been walking your patch with a mainland guest who has suddenly exclaimed "what is that beautiful yellow flower?" Ignorance, you think, is bliss. The mess of gorse that torments you each day has just touched the very heart of your guest.

Feel like you'll never be able to just relax in the beauty of your surrounds? It's the botanist's curse.

I still recall vividly an image in a National Geographic many years ago of a stunning waterfall in Hawaii. On the next page it had each of the numerous plants identified by their outline. All were highly invasive weed species. The scene was a biological catastrophe in all its wondrous beauty.

Of course maintenance of biological diversity (biodiversity) is the key to a healthy reserve. Keeping your ecosystems in sound functioning order limits the potential for threatening processes to impact upon a reserve. The various components and connections in complex ecosystems are just that; complex. Documenting the basic actions required to protect these values is relatively simple compared to describing the components and their interrelationships.

To assist owner managers of private reserves, the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP)

provides what is essentially a user guide. The Nature Conservation Plan (NCP), sometimes called an Operations Plan is a bit like a reserve Owner's Manual. The individual prescriptions can read as dryly as any user guide, which betrays the often fascinating science behind them.

I was reminded of this recently when the PLCP, together with staff of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy undertook a review of the literature which forms the foundations of the management prescriptions.

It might be of interest to work through an example. Most NCPs specify that fallen trees, where they do not impede a maintenance or access route, should be left rather than salvaged for fuel wood or to 'tidy up'. Of course such a response minimises the disturbance and so limits the openings for opportunists such as the many weed species that favour disturbed ground. Yet beyond that, such actions can support the overall health of an entire farm.

Ground and bark foraging birds play a vital role in maintaining insect populations and Australian studies have demonstrated significant increases in their numbers directly relate to the proportion of fallen logs on farms. Such 'ecosystem services' have of late become more

common components of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems for the whole of farm.

Dieback is also influenced by the breakdown of ecosystem functions that might be brought about through the modification of component parts, such as fallen logs. Dieback is often a result of a range of stress factors each benefiting from the occurrence of another. Drought stressed trees are less likely to survive the attack of a booming insect population where unchecked by foraging birds.

Pardon the pun but that's just scratching the surface. Behind each of the management prescriptions in an NCP is a wealth of facts, figures, theories and speculations. It's the botanists curse to never be able to sit back and enjoy the simple beauty of nature. Okay, so there are a few perks too.

If you are unsure of the value of any of the prescriptions in place for your reserve, don't dismiss it right away. Get hold of a Monitoring or Stewardship Officer and have them bend your ear for a while. We also have a range of supporting information available to you.

Stuart King

# Introducing the new Biodiversity Module Toolkit

The Private Land Conservation Program website was recently updated to include the newly developed Property Management Planning Biodiversity Module Toolkit. The toolkit provides a useful range of resources to assist landowners to manage biodiversity on their properties, irrespective of whether they have a conservation covenant.

The toolkit was developed in partnership with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) as one of the components of the Tasmanian Property Management Planning Framework (TPMPF).

The TPMPF overarches the development and delivery of property planning activities across Tasmania and is recognised by the TFGA, the Tasmanian State Government and Tasmania's Natural Resource Management Regional Committees. The TPMPF's purpose is to ensure coordination and consistency between the various property planning activities and policies in Tasmania. The TFGA is coordinating the TPMPF, so for more information about the framework please visit the TFGA's website: [www.tfga.com.au](http://www.tfga.com.au)

The toolkit provides access to a useful range of links and resources that relate to the management of biodiversity assets. The toolkit covers broad topics of interest such as land management, natural values information, and legislation and general resources, which is further broken down into a wide range of relevant and interesting subjects.

The toolkit is particularly useful for those landowners developing or updating property management plans and may also be of interest to other landowners who would like information on various biodiversity management issues.

For more information on the new Biodiversity Module Toolkit, or for additional material on the content included in some of the articles in this issue of *The Running Postman*, visit:

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp](http://www.dpipwe.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.

A covenant may appeal to particular purchasers and should be promoted as a valuable aspect of the property. The PLCP Stewardship Officers (Stu King and Lyn Pullen) are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

We often find that buyers of Land for Wildlife (LFW) properties are keen to enter the program so that they can get involved in more active conservation management. We therefore 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.

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