

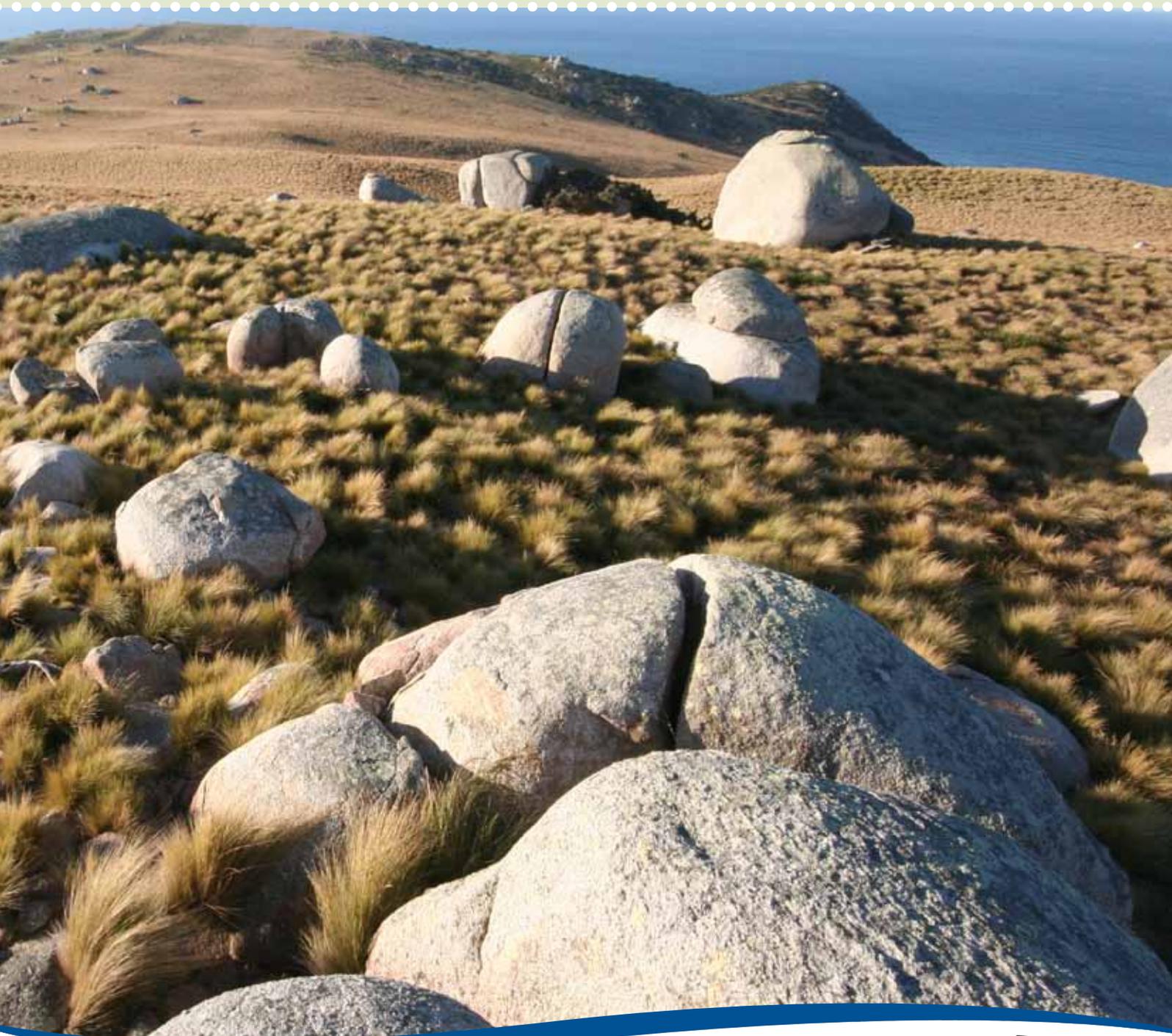


The **Running** Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

June 2012
Issue 13
ISSN 1835-6141

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



Manager's Message

Welcome to the Winter edition of Running Postman. In this issue our focus is on management of threats to biodiversity in our island state. Nature conservation, as I am sure dear reader, you would be painfully aware, requires commitment beyond a single deed or decision to protect. Often this is the start of a journey of management and understanding which is both challenging and fulfilling.

Conservation in a fragmented landscape or in the midst of competing land uses brings hazards not often rendered on the wilderness areas or large public reserves. It is often the smaller private reserves that are more exposed to exotic flora and fauna

invasion and from fire and disease.

A number of articles this month address threats from pests, but all have a common theme – the need for collective effort across the community to minimise the impacts of existing and emerging problems. Whether that is manifested in the creation of the new Invasive Species Branch within DPIPW, community preparedness for bushfire, or simple awareness of toxoplasmosis or serrated tussock, all relate to the need for management to protect, conserve and understand natural values and areas.

I am really pleased to see interest in the formation of a conservation landholders group in the state and

I acknowledge Gail Hart, Robin Garnett, Phil Collier and John Thompson for their work to make this happen. I wish the group well as they gain support and membership. It is great to see that this group has identified a need to share and develop information on the management of private reserves.

This edition also links us to the oft forgotten world of geoconservation, an issue so intrinsic to natural areas, but so easily taken for granted.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition, we welcome your feedback and ideas for future stories.

Peter Voller, Manager Land Conservation Branch



In this Issue

Manager's Message	2
Response to the questionnaire about forming a Conservation Landholders Group	3
Geoconservation – a fundamental to nature conservation	4
New Branch to tackle invasive species	5
Toxoplasmosis in wildlife	6
How to co-habit with our local threatened species	7
Biosecurity and Your Conservation Reserve	8
Treadlightly EnviroFest – Live life with a small footprint.	9
Serrated tussock control program – a shot in the arm for affected landholders	10
Keeping Logs	11
Have your say on planned burning in rural areas	11
Have you ever seen your reserve online?	12
Selling Property?	12

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: Granite tors, Inner Sister Island, Furneaux Group.
Photo by Rolan Eberhard.
Design and layout: ILS Design Unit, DPIPW.

Response to the questionnaire about forming a Conservation Landholders Group



A 15-item questionnaire was distributed to 489 landowners of covenanted properties in Tasmania via an insert in the Running Postman. Sixty-five landowners responded to the questionnaire (13%) and of those who provided a postal address, 33% were located in the southern region of Tasmania, 30% in the north-west and 28% in the north. Five respondents (9%) provided an interstate address. Just over half of the respondents (33) have their properties registered with 'Land for Wildlife'. The special conservation features included flora (53) and fauna (36) and some geological features (2).

There was general agreement about the benefits of owning land for conservation. Most indicated that they were preserving a part of Tasmania for future generations with comments such as "to give my children and grandchildren a stake in the natural beauty of Tasmania and its preservation"; "to preserve natural bush forever" and "to preserve it from destruction". For others, it was the opportunity to do something 'hands-on' to repair previous wrongs, offset personal green gas emissions and make a personal statement about the value and importance of native vegetation. One respondent noted the opportunity to "show that it is

possible and desirable to integrate ones living with nature".

Control of weeds was the greatest single issue they faced. Danger from wildfires, control of feral animals, maintaining high natural values, rehabilitation of degraded areas and a lack of time, knowledge and skills were also identified as commonly shared issues. Interstate respondents raised concern about trespassers littering and dumping rubbish, shooting and hunting, collecting fire wood or causing damage with motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles.

Fifty-four respondents (83%) believed that a new group to specifically support conservation land managers would be valuable. Forty-nine respondents (75%) said that they would like to belong to the group. Of these, opportunities to share knowledge; to meet with like-minded people; and to learn, were cited as the potential benefits. Three respondents noted lack of time to commit to the group and two indicated that their properties were for sale. There were warnings to avoid duplication and support for a special sub-group associated with a relevant existing body.

The most popular potential activities were field days, links with relevant groups, training, newsletters

and a website. One respondent noted that meeting attendance would be difficult for interstate landowners. It was suggested that a contribution to the Running Postman could substitute for a regular newsletter. It was also suggested that a meeting of, or conference for landowners could 'piggy-back' on the bi-annual Landcare Tasmania conference.

An interim steering committee has formed to organise a field day in collaboration with the Meander Municipality. Future plans include the possibility of further field days in the south and the north west of the State and a workshop in conjunction with the next Landcare Tasmania conference. There will be a regular update of activities in the biannual edition of the Running Postman. Those landowners who responded to the questionnaire and provided an email address will be notified of coming events. If you did not have the opportunity to respond to the questionnaire but would like to be notified of future activities please send an email to all@rubicon.org.au. We would also welcome further suggestions for group activities.

Gail Hart, Robin Garnett and John Thompson

Photo: (L to R) Robin Garnett, John Thompson and Gail Hart. Photo by Phil Collier.

Geoconservation

– a fundamental to nature conservation



Geoconservation is concerned with protecting and managing geodiversity – rocks, landforms and soils – the basic building blocks of our landscapes and the foundation for ecosystems. Without geodiversity, biodiversity (including us humans) would have nowhere to go!

Both the living (animals and plants) and the non-living (soils, mountains, rivers etc) parts of our environment are essential for nature conservation and for conservation to be effective it must address both geodiversity and biodiversity needs together. Geodiversity also has intrinsic value and has important conservation values of its own; independent of any role it plays to sustain living things.

Despite the relative small size of Tasmania, it contains an enormous range of geodiversity – the geological, geomorphological and soil diversity that make up a landscape. Every one of the 12 major periods of earth history from the Precambrian to the Holocene spanning some 4,600 million years are represented in the present Tasmanian landscape. Landforms in Tasmania are very diverse, from rugged mountain ranges, spectacular glacial features, periglacial landforms, largely pristine river catchments, extensive limestone and dolomite karstlands, inland dunefields to a range of coastal features. Soil types also vary across the state and are controlled by the bedrock and a range of soil forming processes.

In short, Tasmania is amazingly geodiverse (which is partly why it is so biodiverse)!

It has been argued that there is no need for geoconservation because earth features are generally robust, but this is commonly not the case. Important geological exposures such as delicate fossil or rare mineral sites are easily destroyed by inappropriate excavations or uncontrolled collecting. Ongoing land forming processes, for example in cave (karst) and river (fluvial) systems, can easily be degraded by inappropriate disturbances in their water catchment areas. Old vegetated sand dunes can be 'blown out' following disturbance of their thin stabilising soil cover by vegetation clearing, vehicle use or fires. Geoconservation often deals with relict or 'fossil' features which are not still forming, so that any degradation is permanent and unsustainable. There is a very good reason for active geoconservation management of such features, arguably greater than bioconservation where things can potentially be 're-grown'.

Geoconservation aims to preserve the natural diversity of our non-living environment (our geodiversity). This means protecting significant examples of:

- bedrock features
- landforms
- soil features and processes

- as well as maintaining natural rates and magnitudes of change in those features and processes.

To help manage geoconservation features the Department has developed a database that lists significant sites. The Tasmanian Geoconservation Database (TGD) is accessible to the public through the Natural Values Atlas and contains over a thousand sites across the state. It is used as a planning tool in land management and in assessing development proposals at various scales. It has recently undergone a major restructure resulting in enhanced features.

If the natural values of bedrock, landform and soil systems are to be retained as part of the broader nature conservation estate, it is essential that land management procedures pay specific attention to the sensitivities which many aspects of geodiversity display.

*Michael Comfort,
Geodiversity Conservation
and Management Section,
DPIPWE*

More information on geodiversity and geoconservation can be found on the DPIPWE site at:

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/LJEM-74K8C5?open>

or on the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database at:

<https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au>

New Branch to tackle **invasive species**



The focus on invasive species in Tasmania received a significant boost recently with the announcement that an integrated Invasive Species Branch (ISB) will be formed within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). The ISB will combine the existing Weeds Management, Fox Eradication and Wild Animal Management staff into one team to tackle the threats and impacts posed by invasive animals and weeds.

The scale of the work in this area provides a huge challenge. Community concern about specific species and the need to protect high conservation value areas is high. Research in the past few years has estimated the respective cost of invasive animals and weeds to the Tasmanian agricultural sector at about \$800 million per annum. Whilst the cost of biodiversity impacts and losses is much more difficult to quantify, it's clear that Tasmania has much to lose and this change is aimed at ensuring that the capacity to address the impacts and threats of existing and emerging invasive species is enhanced.

The commitment to the Fox Eradication Program (FEP) and existing Weeds Management Program remain unchanged in the move to create the ISB. The early results from the FEP's state wide strategy is encouraging with the amount of new evidence decreasing and no evidence of

foxes behind the two 'control fronts' now moving across Tasmania. The FEP recently received positive attention with a University of Canberra researcher outlining the innovation and advancements in DNA analysis being used by the FEP at an international vertebrate pest conference in California and the partnership with the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre about to enter a new five year phase that is expected to continue to deliver improvements in detection and control methods.

DPIPWE's Serrated Tussock Program has also had a boost with a Coordinator recently starting with DPIPWE to commence the 2012-13 program of work. Weed management will remain a priority for the ISB and it is intended to introduce an integrated approach to invasive species over time. This will include the development of positions to work across both weeds and invasive animals and build the capacity to respond to new incursions and weed outbreaks rapidly.

The creation of the ISB will see the commencement of the *Cat Management Act 2009* with new laws relating to the control and breeding of cats to commence on 1 July 2012. The Act has a strong emphasis on encouraging responsible pet ownership through microchipping and desexing of domestic cats and enables control of feral cats on private land and

nominated 'prohibited areas' such as national parks, state forests and land under conservation covenants. Work has started to better understand and then address the ways feral cats impact on biodiversity and the farming sector as well as identify priority areas for invasive animal programs in high conservation value areas.

Underlying all of this work is the critical need for the community to be involved and work with the government. Tackling invasive species is a shared responsibility - the Department can't be everywhere at once and, as the impacts of invasive species will affect everyone, the community needs to be actively involved in monitoring, control and eradication efforts to make this a success.

Visit the new Tasmanian Invasive Species Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/TasmanianInvasiveSpecies> or subscribe to the ISB's quarterly 'Eradicate' Bulletin via the website to stay up to date on the work being done in this area by the Department.

*Craig Elliot, Manager
Invasive Species Branch*

Toxoplasmosis in wildlife



How to co-habit with our local **threatened species**



Stray and feral cats do not only pose a significant threat by physically maiming or killing wildlife but also through the spread of the disease toxoplasmosis caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*.

Toxoplasma gondii is a protozoan parasite which is widely prevalent in humans and animals worldwide (Dubey *et al.*, 1998) and has a wide range of warm-blooded intermediate hosts. However members of the cat family (Felidae) are the only known definitive host (Hill *et al.*, 2005). There is only one species of *Toxoplasma*, *T. gondii*. This parasite has a complicated life cycle and is host-specific and transmitted via a faecal-oral route, or through consumption of infected meat (raw or under-cooked), or by transplacental transfer from mother to foetus (Hill *et al.*, 2005). There are three infectious stages of *T. gondii* linked in the complex cycle: the tachyzoites (in groups or clones), the bradyzoites (in tissue cysts), and the sporozoites (in oocysts) (Dubey *et al.*, 1998).

The majority of natural infections are acquired by ingestion of tissue cysts in infected meat or oocysts in food or water contaminated with cat faeces (Hill *et al.*, 2005). The parasite can rapidly multiply within 24 hrs of infection and be spread throughout the body and distant organs via the lymphatic and blood system (Hill *et al.*, 2005).

Toxoplasmosis has been identified

as a serious disease of Australian marsupials with reports of animals dying suddenly without any clinical signs or with neurological signs, loss of vision, diarrhoea, and respiratory distress (Obendorf, *et al.*, 1996; Hill *et al.*, 2005). Many species of Australian marsupials are highly susceptible to toxoplasmosis largely since Australia's terrestrial fauna have evolved in the absence of felids – the impact of this disease is an important consideration for rare and endangered marsupial species (Obendorf *et al.*, 1996).

Domestic animals can also be infected by *T. gondii* with foetal death and abortions occurring in sheep and goats as a consequence of toxoplasmosis, most likely due to ingestion of oocysts. Acutely fatal toxoplasmosis has been diagnosed in common wombat, Tasmanian pademelon, bennett's wallaby and eastern barred bandicoots (Obendorf *et al.*, 1996). Wallabies, particularly pademelons, and bandicoots are very susceptible to dying from toxoplasmosis (pers. comm. Bruce Jackson, DPI/PWE Veterinarian).

Cats have the potential to excrete millions of oocysts from ingestion of a few bradyzoites or tissue cysts which may be present in prey species, such as an infected mouse. Sporulated oocysts have the potential to survive for long periods, even in harsh conditions, and can survive months to years in moist soil (Hill *et al.*, 2005). The

infection rate of cats depends on the amount of oocysts in the environment, the more oocysts the more likely prey species will become infected and hence re-infect cats. In Tasmania, late autumn and winter appears to be the time when toxoplasmosis infections are most likely to be apparent. General symptoms observed may include motor dysfunction (e.g. staggering), apparent blindness, and unusual behaviour (e.g. nocturnal marsupials out during daylight). Stray and feral cats pose not only a risk to wildlife by hunting and killing, but also the spread of potentially fatal diseases.

One of the aims of the *Cat Management Act 2009*, to be enacted July 1 2012, is to reduce the impact of cats on the environment which hopefully in time will reduce the incidences of toxoplasmosis in farmed or native animals.

Iona Mitchell

References

- Dubey, J. P., Lindsay, D. S. and Speer, C. A. (1998). Structures of *Toxoplasma gondii* Tachyzoites, Bradyzoites, and Sporozoites and Biology and Development of Tissue Cysts. *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*, Vol. 11 (2): 267 – 299.
- Hill, D. E., Chirukandoth, S. and Dubey, J. P. (2005). Biology and epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* in man and animals. *Animal Health Research Reviews*, Vol. 6 (1): 41 – 61.
- Obendorf, D. L., Statham, P. and Driessen, M. (1996). Detection of agglutinating antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* in sera from free-ranging Eastern Barred Bandicoots (*Perameles gunnii*). *Journal of Wildlife Disease*, Vol. 32(4): 623 – 626.

As many Running Postman readers know - perhaps through searching on the Natural Values Atlas website for known records, or an on-ground survey of their own property - even suburban areas can host a wide range of threatened species.

For those of us considering activities which could change the environment of a property - from building a house to raising stock - it's really helpful to have a good understanding of our local threatened species' needs, well in advance of developing detailed plans. Even where positive efforts to conserve or rehabilitate a species are concerned, it's important to be aware of the needs of all threatened species in the area, to make sure that actions to help one species don't cause problems to others.

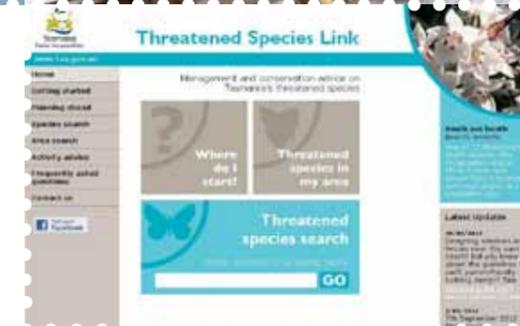
To discover potential clashes only once plans are up for approval can be frustrating and expensive. However, if we already know what to avoid, even before the first back-of-the-envelope ideas start hatching, it's usually possible to achieve our essential aims without negative impacts.

To provide the information we need, the Threatened Species Section is developing a new website called the Threatened Species Link, to be launched later this year. Its specific aim is to provide accurate, consistent, up-to-date advice on the protection and management of

Tasmania's threatened species, in a way that is easy to find, access and understand as early as possible in the planning process.

The essential content of the website is a series of species profiles, each providing simple conservation and management advice for individual threatened species ranging from eagles to orchids. These include important planning details, such as the appropriate time of year to survey for whether the species is present in an area. As well as some general pointers on what to avoid, the profiles include specific advice relating to common activities that could affect the species, such as cutting trees or using chemicals. There is also a simple Area Search tool, which searches the Natural Values Atlas database for all species recorded within 5 km of a specified property. This can give an indication of the species potentially present on the property itself, if there is suitable habitat there.

Another essential feature of the Threatened Species Link is that it acts as a genuine 'link' - not only to the Natural Values Atlas records, but to a range of other information relevant to the threatened species protection and the planning process. For example, to help the user identify specific legal requirements, there is a 'Planning Ahead' section linking to the various regulators at different levels of government. There are



also advice pages, including useful links, covering general conservation points to consider for common types of activities, from burning to earthworks. Each species profile also links to any other information available on the species, such as Listing Statements and Recovery Plans which provide a much more detailed account of the biology and conservation of a species.

The website should produce something new and interesting for most users, because we can keep it up to date with the latest information on each species and their needs. So - keep an eye out in the coming months for the launch of www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au - and if you'd like to know more about it in the mean time, contact the Threatened Species Section on ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@dpi/pwe.tas.gov.au

Clare Hawkins, DPI/PWE
Senior Zoologist,
Threatened Species
Section

Photo: The green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*) was once commonly seen across Tasmania, but has undergone a dramatic decline over the past 30 years, largely disappearing from southern areas.
Photo by Clare Hawkins.
Image: Threatened Species Link home page.

Biosecurity and Your Conservation Reserve



In the wake of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the UK and EU, in which over 10 million sheep and cattle were killed, the Executive Director of the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service described quarantine as like 'house insurance' (Meryl Stanton, Address to the Rural Press Club of Victoria 26/4/2001). There is no such thing as 'zero risk', but we can put in place measures to significantly reduce the risks of the entry, establishment and spread of pests, weeds and plant and animal pathogens (collectively called pests).

Most of us will have had personal experience with biosecurity measures, be it the trusty beagle dog checking our luggage for fruit and vegetables at the airport to managing outbreaks of diseases in livestock on working farms. Pests can cause significant damage in the environment, to our economy and impact greatly on the community. Who would have thought that the celebrated St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin would have been cancelled by a livestock disease - foot-and-mouth?

Tasmania's Import Risk Analysis (IRA) framework lists a number of significant exotic pests present in the State (DPIPWE 2010). Many of these pose threats to native plants, wildlife and healthy functioning

ecosystems - these are the natural values that are present in your conservation areas. The pests include a variety of high threat weed species, pathogens such as the Amphibian chytridiomycosis (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) and *Toxoplasmosis*, that cause death in frogs and macropods (particularly wallabies) respectively, and pest feral animals including rabbits, starlings and bumble bees.

The Tasmanian IRA also highlights climate change as a threat, with potential warming and altered rainfall patterns opening additional natural pathways for the spread of pests, once established in the State. This could increase the likelihood of pests spreading southwards and establishing at higher altitudes, and alter the current range of animal diseases in Tasmania.

One of the key things I learnt when working for Biosecurity Australia was that biosecurity risk is all about the 'pathway'. That is, the likelihood of entry, establishment and spread of a pest. This is a concept that can be applied to any scale.

Consider for example, your own conservation area. Do you have pathways of entry for pests and are they likely to establish and spread in the native vegetation, flora and fauna in your area? The pathway

could be as simple as a vehicle or walking track, or the movement of water, stock, or native animals. So, what level of 'house insurance' do you need to consider in managing your conservation areas?

To answer this question, firstly gain an understanding of the natural values in your conservation areas, and the pests known to occur in your area that may threaten those values. Then put in place measures where necessary to reduce the threat to values in your conservation area. The types of measures will vary according to the pest, and the nature of your reserve area.

Your own biosecurity program could be as simple as not driving or walking through areas of weeds, such as gorse or Spanish heath, prior to entering or when inside your reserve area, to help prevent spread of seeds and plant material. If you have the root rot fungus *Phytophthora* present, which causes death to certain groups of native plants, completely quarantining the affected area will greatly aid in preventing further spread, as this disease is easily carried in soil on boots or in vehicle tyres. Inspection and cleaning of vehicles and walking boots is particularly important in helping prevent the spread of a range of pests.



Treadlightly EnviroFest – Live life with a small footprint

The tag line of the Treadlightly Envirofest sums up succinctly what the festival is all about – how we can learn to live sustainably by our every day actions at home, work, at school or in the community. The festival started in June 2008 to celebrate World Environment Day and as an opportunity to promote and encourage sustainable activities and practices through displays and hands on activities. It has since become an annual event attracting more than 17,000 people in the first four years. In previous years it has been held on the first Sunday of June. However, the last two years the weather on the day of the festival has been cold, wet and very windy, but still people rugged up and came along. This year it was held on Sunday 22nd April with the hope of more favourable and warmer weather attracting more people.

Yes, the weather was perfect and held out until late afternoon with more than 4,000 people attending. It's a great festival covering all aspects of sustainable living through displays, talks and hands on activities. Aspects of the festival include alternative energy sources, home-grown organic produce, sustainable gardens, plant sales, recycling, delicious food grown

locally (or sustainably) and lots of interactive and fun activities for kids. The Private Land Conservation Program has had a display each year to provide advice and information as well as promote Gardens for Wildlife, Land for Wildlife and conservation covenants. It's a nice opportunity to meet up again with landowners or talk to people keen and interested in nature conservation on their land or wanting to know more about private land conservation options – largely because they have seen the signs, such as the familiar green diamond 'Land for Wildlife' sign.

It's a great family festival and one worthy of finding the time to go to next year if you can. It is held in the beautiful setting of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. There is lots you can learn.

Iona Mitchell



Gardens for Wildlife is now on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gardens-for-Wildlife-Tasmania/307059832668427>.



Serrated tussock control program – a shot in the arm for affected landholders

Serrated tussock is a declared weed under the *Weed Management Act 1999* and a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). Happily, a new offensive against this weed we all love to hate is now underway.

The Weed Management Section at DPIPW has secured funds through the Caring for Our Country program to further state-wide serrated tussock management.

Serrated tussock management has been an ongoing issue for many landholders since it was first noticed in Tasmania in 1965. DPIPW's project aims to provide support in controlling this nasty WoNS through a range of educational and on-ground works initiatives. It will run until mid 2013 and build upon previous projects that have focussed on tussock, going back to assist landholders who have previously worked to control this weed, as well as picking up new infestations in key locations.

We don't aim to completely eradicate serrated tussock state-wide. But with careful management, tussock can be contained, and in some areas, locally eradicated.

We're going to work in with other, ongoing projects to get the best bang for buck on tussock control. We also aim to work with landholders who are already actively controlling tussock on their land.

Over the next few months, we'll be opening some training sessions for weed control contractors, to make sure that their skills are up to scratch for tussock ID and control, as well as a range of field days for interested landholders in tussock affected areas. We'll also be distributing \$140,000 for on-ground weed control, to be undertaken by suitably trained contractors, or by the landholders themselves, and helping landholders develop property weed management plans to allow them to target their tussock effectively.

I'm setting up a mailing list to keep people informed as to interesting developments in tussock land – let me know if you'd like to be put on the list. Regardless of where you live, please continue to keep your eyes peeled for this pernicious pest plant.

*Nicole Gill,
Statewide Coordinator –
Serrated Tussock project*

Does tussock threaten your covenant? You may be eligible for support.

We have some funding for targeting serrated tussock infestations that threaten areas with significant conservation values. If you think your property may fall within this category, please contact me on 6233 3654 and we will assess your eligibility.

How can I tell if I have tussock?

Serrated tussock looks rather like a native grass, frequently allowing it to go undetected. Some key identifying features include:

- Tussocky grass to 60cm tall
- Thin, tightly rolled hairless leaves with very fine serrations, which roll like a needle between the fingers – native grasses tend to feel like they have flat edges.
- White swollen leaf bases, never pink or purple – they look a little like baby leeks
- Purple tinge to the flower heads, later turning golden as the seeds ripen
- Weeping flower heads that break off at maturity

If you think you may have serrated tussock on your property, please contact me for advice.

Fun tussock facts! Sort of...

- One hectare of serrated tussock can produce two tonnes of seeds annually – that's about 500 million seeds!
- If left untreated, a serrated tussock infestation can completely exclude all other species within 12 years.
- Being unpalatable to stock, it can reduce pasture productivity by up to 95%.



Keeping Logs

Although not always possible, many Private Reserves allow for the collection of firewood at specified volumes in specified locations and from specified sources. So what's with all the specification?

The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* first recognised firewood harvesting as a 'key threatening process' in 2001. Here in Tasmania, rates are so great that the issue was assigned as a key indicator of biodiversity loss in the 2003 State of Environment reporting. It's a difficult one to evaluate and in the 2009 report it is consolidated into the indicator 'vegetation condition'. But its stand alone inclusion at 2003 attests to the significance of the issue.

At that time it was considered that 33 bird, 15 reptile and 22 mammal species were likely to be threatened due to the loss of logs or foraging habitat. At 2009 nothing suggested this trend has slowed.

However, Private Reserves support people also. In some cases the impact of well managed firewood collection can be more than offset by the custodial actions of a land steward.

Prescriptions generally ask that wood be sourced from more than one source meaning:

- While we might specify a particular forest type or broad

area obviously we don't want to continually hit the one spot

- Nor do we want to keep taking only dead wood off the ground
- By taking wood from different age classes (sizes, or ages) of standing trees we ensure that we continue to have representatives of each age class

In using the *combination* of these approaches we can best insure that habitat is retained for both ground and aerial living and foraging species, so that adequate habitat is secure for future residents of your reserve and that the regenerative capacity of the forest community is retained.

Oh, and take care when bringing vehicles into the reserve; compacted ground, disturbed by fuel wood harvesting is most prone to weed invasion. Keeping an eye on the area for a while after is a good pre-emptive strategy.

Unsure if your wood collection area is still in a sustainable condition? You can have it re-assessed by Lyn (Hobart 6233 3117) or Stu (Launceston 6336 5427).

Stu King

I The term 'threatening process' is defined under legislation as any process which, if continued, would pose a threat to the natural survival of any species of native flora or fauna



Have your say on planned burning in rural areas

Macquarie Franklin are running a survey to better understand landholder attitudes to planned burning of native vegetation. Project Coordinator, Leanne Sherriff says the survey is intended to gain a better understanding of how bushfire risk is perceived in rural areas.

The survey is part of the planned burning pilot project funded by NRM North and supported by Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. 'We are keen to identify gaps in knowledge and resources and develop practical tools and information to assist landholders undertake planned burning of native bush' says Leanne. 'We are running a survey to gauge landholder opinions and would value input from private land managers across the state.'

If you wish to participate, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/plannedburnsurvey> to complete the survey electronically or contact Leanne Sherriff 0429 329 349 or lsherriff@macfrank.com.au for a hardcopy of the survey. The survey closes on Monday 18 June.

There are prizes donated by TFS for completed surveys – so have your say and maybe pick up something from the fireys!

Peter Voller

Have you seen your reserve **online?**



Selling Property?

What is it?

- LISTmap is an internet-based map viewer for the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST). It enables users to view and create maps from over 250 spatial datasets stored in the LIST <http://www.thelist.tas.gov.au>

Where does it come from?

- The LIST is a whole of government service that delivers integrated land information online.
- LISTmap enables online delivery of spatial information including a wide range of administrative, topographic, environmental and socioeconomic data. This includes information on natural resources, roads and community facilities, cadastre (property boundaries), aerial imagery and survey control points.

Where is it?

<http://www.thelist.tas.gov.au>

What does it do?

- It can create maps and interrogate features within the datasets to find out information about the features.
- It can see conservation covenants, surrounding land parcels and tenure, aerial imagery, print maps, send links by email, view in Google Earth

What's happening in the future?

- A new web interface for the LIST – for improved access to a wider range of spatial information as a part of the Spatial Information Foundations Project.

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/CPAN-8SJ5YF?open>

Paul Fazackerley

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 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.

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at June 1, 2012

Number of covenants	678
- hectares	80,407
Land for Wildlife members	818
- hectares	55,405
Gardens for Wildlife members	447
- hectares	2,515

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 6233 6427 or iona.mitchell@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

PLCP Contacts

Stewardship

North: Stu King 6336 5427

South: Lyn Pullen 6233 3117

Land For Wildlife

Iona Mitchell 6233 6427

