

# Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit

A guide  
to managing  
and  
conserving  
the bushland  
on your  
property



Natural Heritage Trust  
*Helping Communities Helping Australia*



Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit



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# Introduction



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# Welcome to the Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit

## Why manage native bush?

Reversing the loss of native bush is one of the most important environmental challenges facing Tasmania. Much of the native vegetation that existed before European settlement has disappeared. Clearing for agriculture and grazing; the introduction of new plants, pests, diseases and predators; and urban expansion have dramatically changed the landscape. The patches of native bush that remain on private agricultural land are often referred to as remnant vegetation or remnant bush. Remnant bush is extremely valuable and is the focus of the Bushcare program and the **Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit**.

The benefits of native bush are being increasingly recognised. Retaining native vegetation protects the land from erosion, degradation and salinity; provides shade and shelter for livestock; helps protect wetlands, catchments and water quality; and maintains the natural diversity of plants and animals.

## Bushcare

Bushcare is the most significant natural vegetation program ever carried out in Australia. It is funded by the Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust. A growing number of landowners and community groups are actively protecting and managing areas of native vegetation following the launch of Bushcare in Tasmania.

Bushcare helps landowners integrate the management of remnant bush into their farm management practices. The program is implemented through a combination of direct grants, fencing subsidies, rate relief, management agreements and technical support. Some of the activities that landowners can become involved in are tree planting, plant surveys, fencing, improved grazing management and weed control.

## Toolkit

The **Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit** has been developed to enable you to assess the native bush on your property and develop strategies to manage it into the future. It is made up of nine kits:

- **Kit 1 Bush on Your Farm**
- **Kit 2 Managing Your Bush**
- **Kit 3 Weeds in Your Bush**
- **Kit 4 Revegetating Your Farm**
- **Kit 5 Threatened Plant Species in Your Bush**
- **Kit 6 Riparian Bush**
- **Kit 7 Grassy Bush**
- **Kit 8 Eucalypt Bush**
- **Kit 9 Other Bush Types.**



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Knowledge about managing native bush is continually evolving as new information comes to light. Your feedback on the **Toolkit** is most welcome. Please address your comments to the Bushcare Coordinator at the address given below.

## Threatened Fauna Handbook

The Threatened Species Unit of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment has prepared a book to help people identify and protect the threatened animal species in their area. The book, *Tasmania's Threatened Fauna Handbook: What, Where and How to Protect Tasmania's Threatened Animals*, is available from Parks' centres and bookshops around Tasmania. The book would be useful for farmers who want to manage their native bush and at the same time conserve many of Tasmania's most significant native animals.

## Bushcare Network

A network of Bushcare officers is in place to help landowners and community groups manage remnant native bush. Regionally-based extension officers are on hand to provide advice on bush management and to help develop projects that will conserve or rehabilitate remnant native bush. They are backed up by a technical team that provides specialist advice. Bushcare Support, run by Greening Australia (Tas), supports groups that have been successful in receiving funding by providing training in a range of activities such as fencing, weed control, direct seeding and planting of native species.

## Bushcare Webpage

Much of the information contained in this **Toolkit** can also be found on the Bushcare Webpage ([www.bushcare.tas.gov.au](http://www.bushcare.tas.gov.au)) in addition to links with other information sites.

## Your role

The **Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit** gives general recommendations for managing native bush. However, you are the person who knows the native bush on your property and you already have considerable experience of managing that bush. Be guided by that knowledge and experience when using the **Toolkit**. Modify the recommendations given to suit your bush and your farm. We wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Any member of the Bushcare Network can be contacted via:

### Bushcare Coordinator

GPO Box 44A  
Hobart Tasmania 7001  
Ph: (03) 6233 6345  
Fax: (03) 6224 0884  
Email: [bushcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au)

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The **Toolkit** is the product of a collaborative effort between many individuals and organisations. The senior authors of the **Toolkit** are Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, a senior lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania, and Louise Gilfedder, a botanist at the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE). Several of the kits have been co-written by experts in their field. Many farmers and landowners have provided valuable advice and help in the development and writing of the **Toolkit** and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

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