

Threatened Plants Tasmania Newsletter June 2012



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From the President

Viv Muller June 2012

This mid-winter newsletter being my first as President, I'd like to pay tribute to the huge job that Phil Collier has done as the founding president of Threatened Plants Tasmania. He's been the driving force behind establishing many of our projects and collaborations, as well as the web site, and I hope TPT can continue to develop those project and connections as well as establishing new ones. Fortunately Phil is staying on as Vice-president, and will continue to provide us with great expertise and guidance.

We have embarked on a new collaboration already, the details of which are still being finalised. As part of the next field trip program which our enthusiastic committee has put together (details towards the end of this Newsletter), we want to develop a collaborative project between NRM South, DPIPWE Threatened Species Unit and TPT, which we hope will contribute baseline information about several threatened species, and lead to improvements in their habitat condition. Volunteer help will be essential, as always, in this venture, so do check your diaries with our program in mind!

I want to particularly thank those of you who responded to our call for volunteers to do the Chem Cert course. We had Australian government funding for only four volunteers to do the course, so unfortunately some of you did miss out this time.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter though, with our reports on Surrey Hills, the Vale of Belvoir, the Central Highlands, and the *Velleia paradoxa* site in Glenorchy. And of course yet another date for your diaries, our August 18 general meeting and plant identification session with Greg Jordan at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hobart.

See you out there sometime!

Next meeting of TPT

Saturday August 18: Plant identification with Dr Greg Jordan

9.30 am – 12 noon at the Riverview Room at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

We are very fortunate that Dr Greg Jordan, Senior Lecturer at the University of Tasmania and an author of the online Key to Tasmanian Vascular Plants, will lead us through examples of plant identification using his online key. All welcome. Bring your own lap top and hand lens.

You can find the Dicot Key at <http://www.utas.edu.au/dicotkey/dicotkey/key.htm>

Program for the morning

9.30 am – 10 am: Morning tea

10 am – 11.30 am: Plant identification with Greg Jordan

11.30 am – 12 noon: General Meeting

TPT in the field

Orchid study at Surrey Hills on 26 January

TPT volunteers monitored *Prasophyllum* plants at Westwing Plain, Surrey Hills, a Gunns Ltd property, for a fourth year in succession. In 2012, six of the previously tagged plants of *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* were seen to have produced a leaf, including two that also flowered.

Table 1 Emergence events for previously tagged plants, i.e. tagged at least one year earlier

Year	Previously tagged plants	Emerged leaf	Flowering
2010	23	7 (30.4%)	6 (26.1%)
2011	43	10 (23.3%)	6 (14.0%)
2012	63	6 (9.5%)	2 (3.2%)

Table 1 summarises the findings of the past four years. It shows the proportion (shown as a percentage) of previously tagged plants with an emerged leaf and flowering in each year. The data reveals a sustained decline in the rate of emergence and flowering over the years of monitoring. Additionally in 2012, a total of 14 new flowering plants of *P. crebriflorum* were located and tagged within the area covered by the transect. It is heartening and somewhat surprising that new flowering plants can be discovered each year. In response to the decline in flowering of previously tagged plants, Robert Onfray at Gunns has plans to burn Westwing Plain in 2012.



Figure 1 Monitoring *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* at Westwing Plain, Surrey Hills Photo: Peter Tonelli

Later, thirteen TPT volunteers and Gunns staff established a new, long-term 20m x 100m quadrat at Hatfield Plain to study the response of *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* to a burn the previous spring. They counted 27 *P. crebriflorum* flowering plants in the area. It will be interesting to revisit this quadrat in future years to monitor changes in the number of flower spikes produced by these plants.

While at the Surrey Hills estate, we assisted Gunns with a survey for other threatened species that had been previously recorded there. Some records seemed dubious, like the yellow rushlily, *Tricoryne elatior*, which we didn't relocate. Others were easy to re-locate, like mountain purplepea, *Hovea montana*, and chamomile sunray, *Rhodanthe anthemoides*. We need to go back and look again for the showy willowherb (should be easy to spot with a name like that!); we found plenty of bog willowherb at the same site and thought this had been misidentified. Checking back at the herbarium, this was not the case.

Plant monitoring at the Vale of Belvoir January 19, 20 and 21

The Vale of Belvoir was looking as pretty as ever when TPT and Tasmanian Land Conservancy volunteers gathered there, under Denna Kingdom's guidance, in late January to continue the monitoring program for the Grassland paper daisy, *Leucochrysum albicans*.



Figure 2 Prolific flowers of Orange everlasting *Xerochrysum subundulatum* at the Vale of Belvoir Photo: Robin Garnett

We used quadrats along fixed transect lines to record the numbers of plants of *Leucochrysum albicans* and the area they covered. This is a long-term study to see whether this species is increasing or decreasing in number and vigour over successive years.

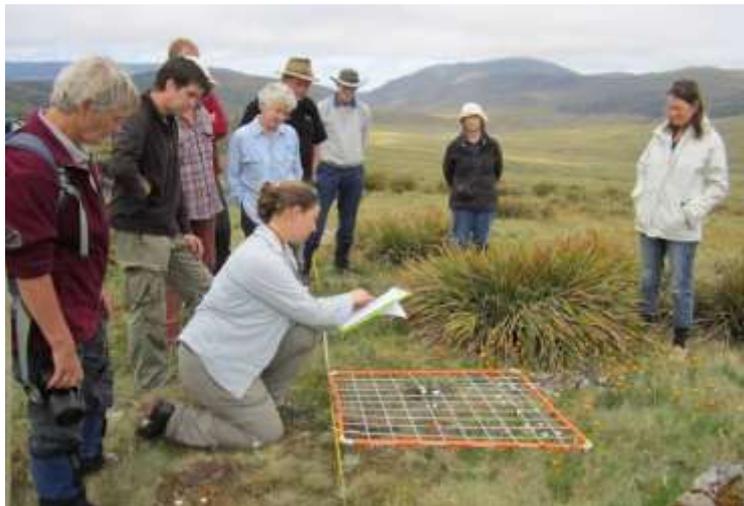


Figure 3 Denna Kingdom (TLC) demonstrating the quadrat monitoring method to volunteers Photo: Robin Garnett

While we were at the Vale we set up transect lines and plotted the positions of a large number of flowering *Prasophyllums*. We took careful measurements of their flowers and consulted a number of orchid experts. The consensus is that the plants are all *Prasophyllum alpinum* rather than the endangered *Prasophyllum tadgellianum* that is also recorded from the area, possibly in error.



Figure 4 (Left to right) Vicki and Phil measuring the position of a plant of *Prasophyllum alpinum*; Danielle and Viv recording an orchid's vital statistics

Miena Cider Gums at St Patrick's Plains on February 18 and April 14

Several TPT volunteers, led by Geoff Curry, travelled to the Central Highlands on two separate occasions where they worked with DPIPWE's Mick Ilowski & NRM South's Steven Joyce to reengineer the cages around young plants of the endangered Miena Cider Gum, *Eucalyptus gunnii subsp. divaricata* at three sites. The cages were erected in 2008–2009 to protect the Miena Cider Gum seedlings from browsing but many of the plants had outgrown their cages. On the whole, the plantings are doing pretty well, although some plants have died. The cages were doubled in height to allow for further growth and to protect them from large animal browsers. Metal tags were also added to allow for future identification. It was also obvious that animals (probably possums) had been sitting on the tops of the cages and browsing the leaves through the cage. Some plants were left without cages, as plants needed to be thinned out, but it will be interesting to check the effect of browsing on these unprotected specimens in future, particularly as some natural seedlings were also observed, albeit inside a well-fenced area.



Figure 5 Extra height was given to the cages surrounding young Miena Cider Gums, *Eucalyptus gunnii subsp. divaricata* to allow for further growth and to protect them from browsing. Photo: Viv Muller

Weeding at Amy Street on May 13

Chris Obst led a small TPT group on a weeding expedition to the Amy Street reserve, West Moonah, which is a major site for the endangered *Velleia paradoxa* (Spur Velleia). We managed to remove the remaining large boneseed plants and followed a recommended procedure (see pictures) for an ivy which was in the process of strangling a significant tree, and was also providing a source of seed resulting in many ivy seedlings over the rest of the site. We observed some *Velleia paradoxa* plants (not in flower), which did not seem to have been damaged by the extensive slashing program on the site. We have recently heard that the Glenorchy Council will fund a contractor to do some weed work on the site in spring, mainly for blackberry control. Unfortunately, dumping of garden rubbish on the site, and the proximity of some weed infestations on private land will necessitate the need for regular follow-up weeding.



Figure 6: Anthony, Chris and Viv attack the ivy to cut off its life support system. Photos by Chris Obst and Anthony Davidson

2012/2013 Committee

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Program for 2012/ 2013 Field Trips

Threatened Plants Tasmania has an active field trip program over each Spring and Summer to survey and monitor threatened and endangered species. Details of each trip will be sent out about 2 weeks in advance, and will also be posted on www.wildcaretas.org.au and www.tpt.org.au.

The trips are led by expert botanists and any data gathered contributes to improved management and recovery of the species.

This important work can't be done without the help of volunteers and if you are interested in joining us, visit www.wildcaretas.org.au and find out how to join, or email president@tpt.org.au.

Remember, all you need is an interest in learning more about threatened plants; experience or qualifications are not necessary.

Date	Action	Site	Species
29-Sep	Survey	Scamander East Coast	<i>Zieria veronicea</i> (pink zieria) <i>Glycine tabacina</i> (native soybean)
25-26 Oct	Surveys of burnt areas	Midlands	Various
27-28 Oct	Surveys of areas burnt in 2011	Arthur Pieman West Coast	Various orchids; <i>Phylloglossum drummondii</i> (pygmy club moss), <i>Euphrasias</i> (eyebrights)
3-4 Nov	Surveys of areas burnt in 2011 & 2012	Coles Bay, Friendly Beaches	Orchids: <i>Thelymitra malvina</i> , <i>Thelymitra atronitida</i> , <i>Xerochrysum palustre</i> (swamp everlasting) <i>Haloragis myriocarpa</i>
14-Nov	Survey & set up monitoring	Queens Domain Hobart	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> (stinking pennywort)
17-Nov	General surveys	Bridport CA	<i>Pultenaea sericea</i> (chaffy bushpea) Orchids: <i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> , <i>Prasophyllum apoxychilum</i>
18-Nov	General surveys	Kate Reed CA Launceston	<i>Arthropodium strictum</i> (chocolate lily) <i>Caesia calliantha</i> (blue grasslily) <i>Aphelia</i> spp (fanworts)
2-Dec	Count and weed	Amy Street Glenorchy	<i>Velleia paradoxa</i> (spur velleia)
9-Dec	General weeding, woody shrub transects	Pontville	<i>Hibbertia basaltica</i> , (basalt guineaflower) <i>Pultenaea prostrata</i> (silky bushpea)
13-Jan	Surveys	Mt Wellington	Orchid: <i>Prasophyllum amoenum</i>
25–28 Jan	Re-score transects, quadrats	Surrey Hills, Vale of Belvoir	Orchid: <i>Prasophyllum crebriflorum</i> , <i>Stackhousia pulvinaris</i> (grassland candles) <i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> (grasslands paperdaisy)
3-Feb	Weeding; Habitat mapping	South Hobart	Orchid: <i>Corunastylis nudiscapa</i> ; Butterfly habitat: Chaostola skipper

Program for 2012/ 2013 Field Trips (continued)

As well as the field trip program, Threatened Plants Tasmania also has an active program of surveying and monitoring native orchids each Spring and Summer. These trips require a “panel” of interested people who can be called upon at short notice to monitor the orchids once flowering and fruiting dates are known. People on the panel are not obliged to respond to each call.

Approximate Dates	Action	Site	Species
Late Sept, Oct, Nov	Rescore transects	Milford, Hobart airport	<i>Caladenia saggicola</i> and <i>Prasophyllum milfordense</i>
late Oct, mid Nov, early Dec	Rescore transects	Henry Somerset CA, Latrobe	<i>Caladenia caudata</i> and <i>Caladenia tonellii</i>
early Nov, late Nov, early Dec	Map extent, rescore plots/transects	Campbell Town Golf Course	<i>Caladenia anthracina</i> , <i>Prasophyllum incorrectum</i> and <i>Prasophyllum olidum</i>
Spring, Summer	Survey	Hobart and South East	<i>Thelymitra atronitida</i> , <i>Thelymitra malvina</i> , <i>Corunastylis nudiscapa</i> , <i>Corunastylis morrisii</i> etc

TPT website: www.tpt.org.au

You can find project reports, past newsletters, information about threatened species and resources at the TPT website: www.tpt.org.au



THREATENED PLANTS TASMANIA

Home | More about TPT | TPT in action | Field Trips and Meetings | Join us | Registered Volunteer | Resources and Links | Contact us

Threatened Plants Tasmania

Member login

Welcome from the President of Threatened Plants Tasmania

Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) is an organisation for volunteers who want to help with the conservation and recovery of Tasmania's threatened plant species. We work in close cooperation with senior botanists from the Threatened Species Unit of the Tasmanian government.

Tasmania has over 500 plant species listed as threatened and only limited resources to look after them. TPT members undertake field trips to survey, monitor and manage threatened plants throughout Tasmania.

We are a subgroup of [Wildcare Inc](#). We strongly encourage TPT volunteers to become members of Wildcare Inc.

You can use our website to find out more about the organisation through [newsletters](#) and descriptions of [projects](#). You can also see some of the plant [species](#) that we find on our field trips.

Our program of [field trips](#) is on this website. If you are keen to take part, you can register as a [TPT volunteer](#) and express your interest in joining a [field trip](#).

Quick Links

- Join TPT now
- 2011-12 field trips
- Latest newsletter
- Join Wildcare
- Next Meeting

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