

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR TASMANIA'S LOWLAND WOODLANDS

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1. Treasure your woodlands.
2. Value and respect the management knowledge of the woodland landholders.
3. Conservation needs to become a viable business enterprise in agricultural landscapes.
4. Healthy woodlands require appropriate disturbance regimes and landscape-scale management diversity.
5. Manage for woodlands of the future - regeneration of the dominant trees during each generation of ownership is essential.
6. Woodland conservation will be achieved through working in partnership with landholders.

Introduction

Tasmania's temperate woodlands extend from the lowlands of eastern Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands to the Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) woodlands of the high country (Duncan and Brown 1985; Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1988; Kirkpatrick and Gilfedder 2000). Much of my working life has been in the Tasmanian Midlands where the vegetation forms a continuum from the lowland temperate grasslands through woodlands to open forests, responding variously to elevation, rainfall and soil types (see map on next page). The woodlands are largely in private ownership, with the exception of coastal woodlands. Woodland types range from grassy understorey through to heathy woodland on less fertile soils (Gilfedder *et al.* 2003), have high levels of species richness, and are a stronghold of globally and regionally rare and threatened species (Kirkpatrick and Gilfedder 1995; Gilfedder *et al.* 2003), and were habitat to the now extinct Tasmanian Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae diemenensis*) and Thylacine (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*). Tasmanian woodlands are severely depleted in extent, and the remaining woodlands are small, fragmented and in poor condition (Kirkpatrick and Gilfedder 1995; Gilfedder and Kirkpatrick 1998a).

My early research at the University of Tasmania focused on the conservation biology of threatened woodland and grassland plant species (e.g. Gilfedder and Kirkpatrick 1994, 1995,