



TRUST FOR NATURE

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TRUST FOR NATURE CELEBRATES WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

Australia's leading private land conservation organisation Trust for Nature has launched a new vision to celebrate World Biodiversity Day on May 22.

Trust for Nature aims to protect Victoria's one million hectares of uncleared bush on private land by the year 2020.

In its 30-plus year history, Trust for Nature has already protected 75,000 hectares of bush through Conservation Covenants, land purchase and management.

Now with Trust for Nature's new vision in place, the organisation aims to add to that achievement so future generations can enjoy some of Australia's most unique environments.

Trust for Nature Executive Director Mike Gooley said World Biodiversity Day 2007 focused on the impact of climate change on biodiversity.

"This year the United Nations' Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity acknowledges the impact of climate change on biodiversity," he said.

"The Secretariat has clearly stated that climate change has already forced flora and fauna to adapt due to changing or shifting habitat.

"In Victoria this means we will see species move across the state seeking new habitat as their old habitat disappears or significantly changes."

Mr Gooley said this made private land conservation extremely important in the quest to reconnect Australia's fragmented vegetation.

"By protecting bush left on private land we can provide buffer zones to national and state parks," he said.

"We can also create biolinks and wildlife corridors to provide increased and better habitat for threatened species."

Mr Gooley said Trust for Nature intended to continue to work closely with the community, state and federal governments, conservation agencies and other stakeholders to fulfil its vision of protecting one million hectares of bush by 2020.

The United Nations established the International Day for Biological Diversity or World Biodiversity Day in 1993 to celebrate the Convention on Biological Diversity.

About Trust for Nature:

Trust for Nature has protected more than 75,000 hectares of bush across Victoria. Established under the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act (1972)*, Trust for Nature is the only Victorian organisation to protect bushland with land management agreements that last forever.

As an independent, not-for-profit organisation Trust for Nature has grown to:

- Permanently protect 785 private properties, 33,000 hectares, through land management agreements, known as conservation covenants, with landholders.
- Provide ongoing land management support to participating landholders through our stewardship program.

- Purchase and conserve more than 111 properties including the historic sites Churchill Island, William Ricketts Sanctuary and the Anglesea Heathland.
- Develop a revolving fund to buy at risk properties which we re-sell with conservation covenants.
- Provide conservation organisations across Australia with advice on conservation covenants, as the country's leader in the field.

In the past 35 years Trust for Nature's unique role has helped protect iconic Australian species such as the red-tailed black cockatoo, the helmeted honey-eater and the tiger quoll. Trust for Nature has also given 63 donated or purchased properties back to Australians for use as public reserves and parks. That's 4779 hectares.

Trust for Nature actively manages 50 properties including Victoria's largest freehold private property – Ned's Corner near Mildura.

Trust for Nature is also expanding into innovative conservation by creating positive solutions to Australia's water crisis and climate change.

For more information on this release or Trust for Nature please call Trust for Nature Communications Co-ordinator Miranda Schooneveldt on 9670 9933 or 0407 044 821 email her at mirandas@tfn.org.au.