

Protected Areas on Private Land



Staff Profile



Janine Berechree joined the TFGA in late October 2005, replacing Leigh Walters as Conservation Agreements Officer for the Protected Areas on Private Land Program (PAPL).

Since joining TFGA, Janine has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to apply her skills and knowledge in a field based role.

In addition to having a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tasmania, majoring in Botany and Zoology, Janine also has previous experience with the PAPL project.

Prior to joining TFGA, Janine was employed by DPIWE in an administrative role with PAPL. This experience provided her with a good understanding of the processes involved with land conservation.

Janine's formal qualifications, work experience and passion for working outdoors has allowed for a relatively smooth transition into the role of Conservation Agreements Officer.

Janine has enjoyed the opportunity to move back to the north of the state and work with farmers, as she grew up on a beef farm at Rocky Cape.

Janine looks forward to working with farmers in 2006, in assisting them with their native vegetation queries.

Project Officer: Janine Berechree (current)
Leigh Walters (to September 2005)

The Protected Areas on Private Land Program is a Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation on Private Land.

Project Background

TFGA has been working in a partnership with the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy for the past 5 years implementing the Protected Areas on Private Land (PAPL) program. The program aims remain unchanged with a focus on working with landholders to secure conservation agreements over areas with high natural values particularly wetlands, heathlands and grasslands.

Project Focus

The key issues have remained similar for the term of the PAPL program with integration of farming and nature conservation an important area that needs further work. If the priorities appear to be the same as they have been for the last few years, your right. Some grasslands and wetlands in Tasmania have declined in area by around 90 and 50 per cent respectively and therefore remain an urgent priority for conservation.

Over the last year the TFGA based PAPL Project Officers have continued to work towards securing conservation agreements suitable for landowners and the State Government. The Project Officers are pleased at being able to continue to support landowners that wish to see the bush they love be protected in perpetuity.

Key Project Outcomes

The biggest highlight of the year was the signing of the 100th PAPL Conservation Covenant in June 2005. The total area of land now managed for conservation through PAPL is over 4000ha, quite an achievement for all of the people involved in the program.

During the past year our PAPL Officers visited around 50 properties and assisted landowners to secure under perpetual conservation agreement approximately 500ha of priority vegetation communities. A further 17 landowners are continuing negotiations with the PAPL program covering an area of around 600ha.

Change in Project Officers

2005 saw a 'changing of the guard' with Leigh Walters swapping roles to work exclusively on threatened non-forest vegetation as a Native Vegetation Field Officer with TFGA. Leigh was replaced by Janine Berechree and more information on Janine is provided in the staff profile on this page.

Leigh has been with the PAPL program since its inception and should be congratulated for his hard work and many successes.

When asked about his time in the role Leigh acknowledges that it was a team effort and extends his appreciation to Janine Berechree, Joanna Edwards and Jim Mulcahy for the support they provided.

Leigh went on to say "I hope that Janine has the same positive experience that I have had working with landowners.

"To all those who have helped make the PAPL program a success thank you, it has been a fantastic experience."

Leigh's new role is also one of assisting landholders, this time in finding new and innovative ways to balance production and conservation issues on native grasslands. Leigh hopes to visit as many farmers as possible during the next twelve months and communicate with members on this issue.

“The 100th PAPL conservation covenant was signed in 2005, proving the success of voluntary conservation programs.”