

**FOR YOU, FOR YOUR FAMILY,
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS,
FOR THE WORLD**

...Forever



**TRUST FOR
NATURE**
Habitat forever

Conserving Victoria's natural gifts of land,
water, native plants and wildlife since 1972.

Almost 1,000 native species of plants and animals have been found at Neds Corner Station, a 30,000 hectare former sheep station west of Mildura that is owned by Trust for Nature. It is the largest private conservation property in Victoria. Our hope is for Neds to inspire and reinforce the importance of conservation, not only within Victoria but throughout the world.





CEO *Victoria Marles*

Vic took up her position as CEO of Trust for Nature in 2009, recognising the value of the organisation’s work in protecting the state of Victoria’s vulnerable biodiversity.

As the owner of a property near Wedderburn with a conservation covenant, she understands the power of individuals to make a positive contribution to protecting our natural environment.

“As a person who calls this place home, I am a custodian of biodiversity and the health of our land. I am merely looking after the land, and only for the time being.”

“Having a conservation covenant on my property was a very concrete thing I could do; and it means it’s protected forever. I know that my piece of biodiversity is one of many, contributing to the larger picture of a healthy environment,” said Vic.

Vic’s covenanted property is 40 minutes north west of Bendigo in the Goldfields region. “It’s a dry landscape, but when the wattles are all in flower it’s spectacular,” she said.

Her previous roles include the inaugural Legal Services Commissioner, Chief Executive of the Legal Services Board, Deputy Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and 10 years as the Deputy Director of the Communications Law Centre.

Vic also loves bike riding, cycling trails through the city and the bush. She has completed the Otago bike trail found on the South Island of New Zealand.

“One of the best parts of my job at Trust for Nature is having the opportunity to see the amazing work our covenantors and reserve committees do to restore and take care of the land, and to show our generous donors how much of a difference they’re making to conserve Victoria’s unique species and natural places,” she said.

“Trust for Nature’s powers to protect private land through conservation covenants are incredibly important. We’re able to work with landowners to protect their properties now and into the future. Trust for Nature plays a key role in conserving our state’s native species and habitat on private land.”



Who we are

Trust for Nature was established in 1972 with the primary purpose of protecting and restoring nature on private properties. Today, Trust for Nature — in cooperation with private landowners and partners across Victoria — continues to work towards protecting native plants and wildlife for today, tomorrow and forever.

Our collaborative approach makes us one of Victoria's most effective conservation organisations. Our success comes from working hand in hand with many partners including individual land owners, financial donors, governments, local communities, volunteers, and other organisations that share our commitment to Victoria's environment.

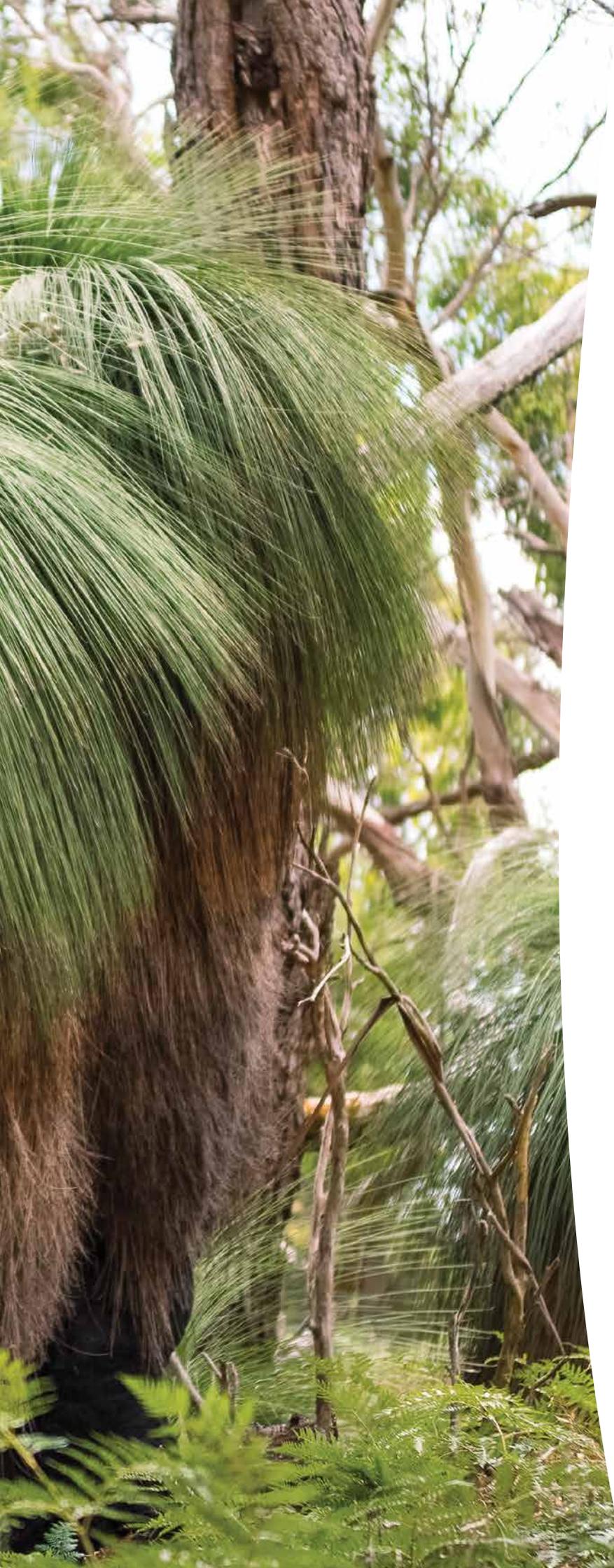


**“We are only stewards
or custodians and our
involvement is only a
chapter in a long story.”**

Trust for Nature covenantor.



We do everything in our power to protect exceptional landscapes, such as this one in the Dandenong Ranges. Wurundjeri Elder, Bill Nicholson and Green Army team member.



Why we care and why it matters

The wonder of nature, and everything nature has to offer, has been given to us as a gift. The reality is that nature supports our human existence in all aspects from food production and water quality, to health and wellbeing.

Each one of us is responsible for taking care and looking after the natural wonders of Victoria — from rainforests to deserts, coasts to mountains.

In the face of climate change and continued vegetation loss, Trust for Nature's role is increasingly important in preserving Victoria's remaining native habitat. This is critical in a state where two-thirds of the land is privately owned, the highest proportion anywhere in Australia.

Only by joining hands in partnership will we be able to maintain and protect these wonders forever. It is your help that will enable us to protect Victoria's habitat forever.



What we do

Over time, Trust for Nature has developed several effective ways to achieve real and lasting conservation results across Victoria.

Conservation Covenants - permanent protection

Trust for Nature works in partnership with voluntary private landowners to permanently protect their land through Conservation Covenants. These agreements, attached to the Title of the land, ensure the native plants and wildlife upon it have the opportunity to flourish with protection forever. Even if a property is later sold, the covenant remains attached to the title of the property. Conservation Covenants are backed by Victorian Government legislation through the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972*.

Stewardship support program

After a Conservation Covenant has been agreed, our regional teams are available to provide support to landowners. They can offer advice, land management skills and information on matters like species identification and government incentives.

Real Estate Revolving Fund

This fund has one purpose only: to purchase environmentally significant land. Once sold to a matched conservation minded new owner, Trust for Nature attach a Conservation Covenant to Title. Each property bought and sold through the Revolving Fund enables the purchase and protection of more land.

We also do other key activities to contribute to the above including advising government and partners and participating in offsets where appropriate.

Land for reserves

Trust for Nature owns more than 40 reserves throughout Victoria, including the iconic Neds Corner Station, a 30,000 hectare former sheep station in the Mallee, west of Mildura. In addition, thousands of hectares of conservation land brokered by Trust for Nature has been transferred to the Crown. This includes beautiful places like Greens Bush on the Mornington Peninsula, the Anglesea Heathlands and the Edithvale Wetlands.

Practical action

Our team works on partnership projects including wildlife monitoring, provision of nest boxes, fencing, weed control, revegetation, ecological surveys and assessments, ecological burning, invasive species assessments, pest plant and feral animal control and working with private landowners on their covenanted properties to restore healthy habitat.

Our focus and aim

Right across Victoria Trust for Nature has been working with partners on projects to protect and conserve threatened ecosystems, plants and wildlife.

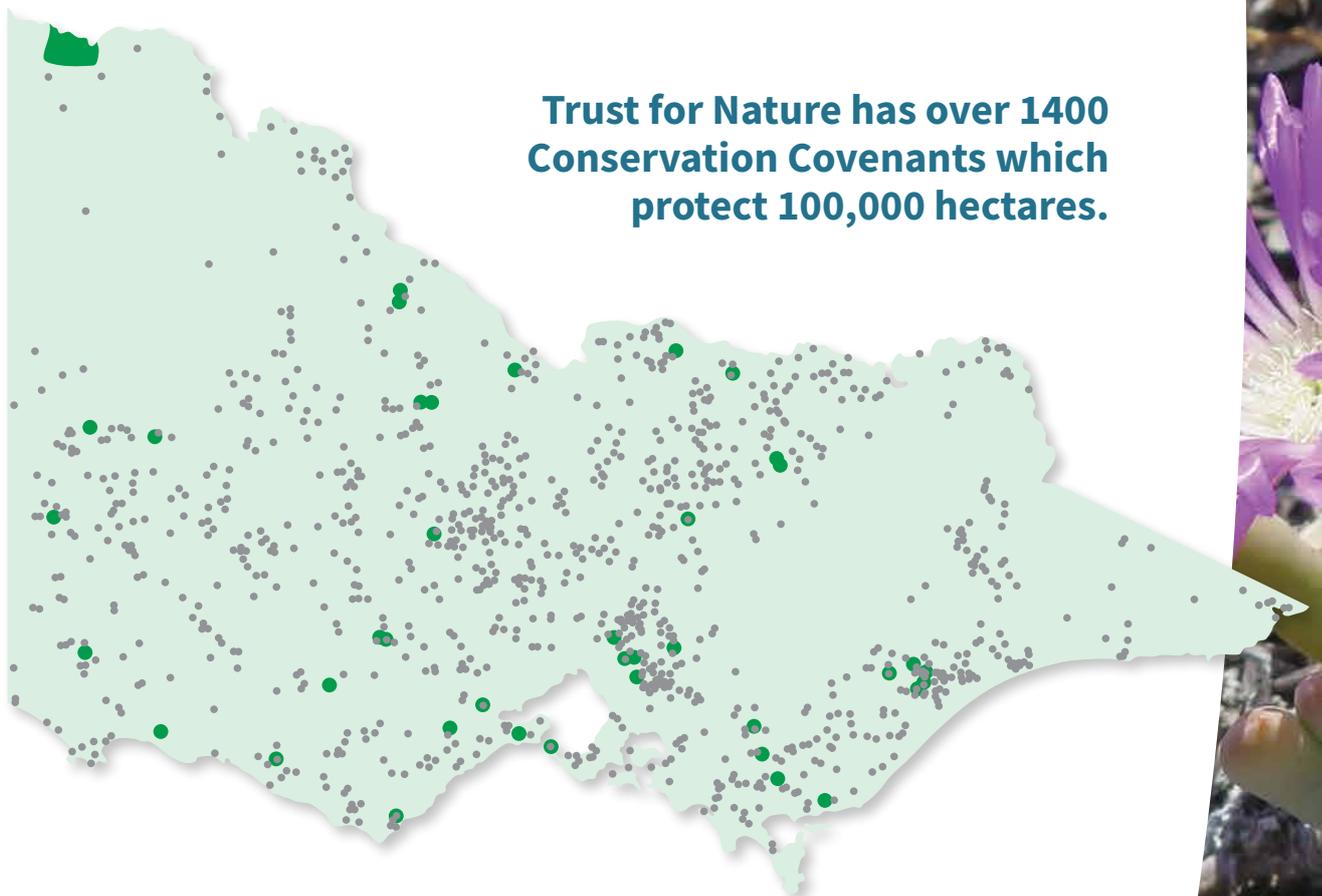
Our focus is to work in partnership with private landowners on their land to not only conserve the natural assets forever, but to work together in partnership to manage the land and help identify and protect threatened species special to Victoria.

We aim to restore and protect in perpetuity our natural heritage on private land of high conservation value.

Why is conservation on private land important?

Our native plants and wildlife not only provide us with clean water and resources, but they are important in themselves.

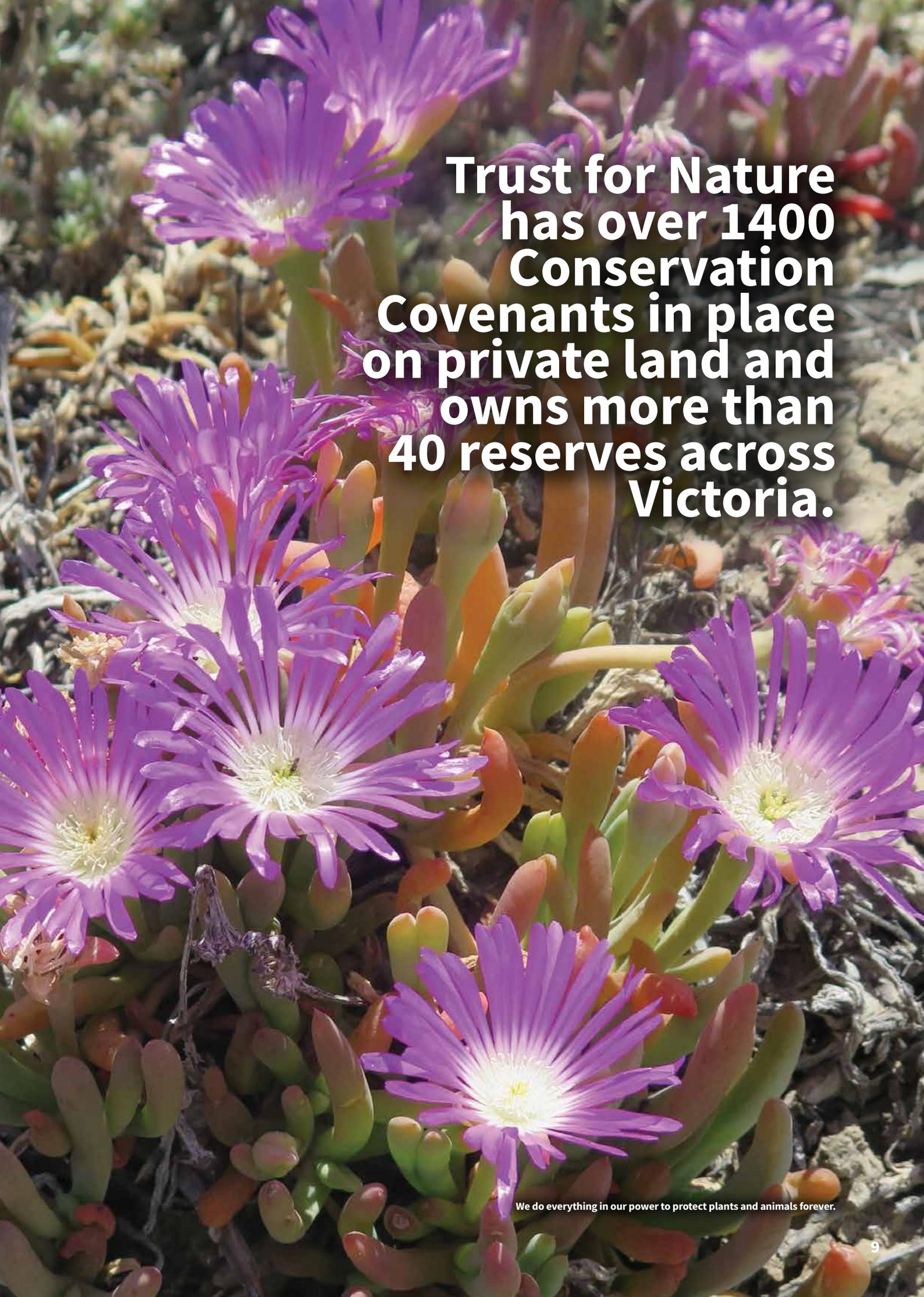
Many of these native plants and wildlife are under threat. Two-thirds of Victoria is privately owned which means that private land protects many threatened habitats such as woodlands, wetlands and grasslands. We conserve these important habitats for Victoria by working with private landowners using practical land management tools. We have 10 regions within Victoria, which all have natural vegetation areas and beautiful and rare wildlife.



Trust for Nature has over 1400 Conservation Covenants which protect 100,000 hectares.

- Over 1400 Conservation Covenants
- Trust for Nature properties/reserves





**Trust for Nature
has over 1400
Conservation
Covenants in place
on private land and
owns more than
40 reserves across
Victoria.**

We do everything in our power to protect plants and animals forever.

Protecting rehabilitated land forever

After years working as an anaesthetist in Norway, Dr Barbara Baird felt it was time for a change.

In 1982 she spotted a sad 'for sale' sign hanging from its corner on a property in the Meredith State Forest. An optimistic rehabilitator in the operating theatre and paddock, Barbara said the property was grossly mismanaged but she could see its potential. She had it covenanted and has nurtured many plants and animals to recovery. Barbara is also a valuable donor to Trust for Nature.

The property was in a bad way. Surrounded by state forest, it was used by people as a place to shoot and cut firewood. There was no grass, there were rabbits everywhere, a lot of erosion and almost every tree had been cut down.

Barbara said she had "given an arm and a leg to the human race as a doctor", it was time to give back to the environment. She set about its transformation by intercepting trespassers, planting trees, protecting wildlife and putting Land for Wildlife signs up.

Making sure her years of hard work wouldn't be wasted she had it covenanted by Trust for Nature in 1991.

"When I found out about Trust for Nature, it was desperately what I wanted to protect it."

She said hanging the Trust for Nature sign on the gate showed the land was for nature and needed to be respected. While initially viewed as an outsider, she said locals are now really pleased about what she's doing.

"I absolutely love being out here with all the critters that live here. I hope I can stay fit enough to keep protecting it. I love the echidnas that breed here. I love all the wallabies, koalas and birds."

Trust for Nature is also one of her favourite causes to support and she said it's an affordable option for her given the organisation's tax deductible status. "I would prefer my money goes to where I want it to go and not where the government wants it to go," Barbara said.



“It was fabulous to have the possibility to protect the land in perpetuity and to know that the next person who buys it doesn’t chop down trees and kill animals. The option to put a covenant on it was so exciting for me, it was absolutely ideal and a great relief.”



Barbara resting against her ‘thinking tree’.



Learning on the job. Exchanging knowledge and skills provides a balanced approach to land management. Member of the Wurunderji works crew together with PPWP CMA - Rhys Collins.



Working with Traditional Owners

Shared knowledge

Traditional Owner knowledge and support helps Trust for Nature look after reserves and covenanted properties in Victoria.

We work with Traditional Owner organisations which arrange their own teams to carry out weed control and general land management on private properties that have conservation covenants. This gives Traditional Owners the opportunity to work on their own country and teach landholders and Trust for Nature about cultural aspects of the property — providing the ultimate in best land management practices.

This helps facilitate a closer working relationship between Trust for Nature land managers and Traditional Owners.

In the education area, Trust for Nature has worked with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri groups on a two-way learning program delivered in partnership with the Port Phillip Westernport CMA in conservation and land management through Holmesglen. This innovative program gives students experience on Trust for Nature covenanted properties. Collectively they shape the course and their accreditation leads to more work in the industry.

“Under traditional laws, if you live or are connected to a place — or under today’s terminology, call it your home — you have a responsibility to care for it and care for one another. We know now that there are more non-Indigenous people living on Indigenous lands, so we want to carry on that responsibility to everyone that lives on this land and calls it home to at least try and understand it.

“Those that have the capacity and resources to get out there and do something about the health of the country should, because I really believe this relates to the health of the community as well.”

Bill Nicholson Junior, Traditional Owner.

What we do

Trust for Nature works throughout Victoria delivering conservation outcomes to each region and works with private landowners to protect their land forever. Conservation priorities change regularly due to urgency and funding availability.



Our *Statewide Conservation Plan* identifies habitats and species on private land that need protection. They include:



Mallee Important habitats on private land include native grasslands, chenopod shrublands, plains woodlands, floodplain woodlands, old-growth Mallee woodlands and wetlands.

Priority fauna include: Broad-shelled Turtle, De Vis Banded Snake, Giles Planigale, Regent Parrot and Redthroat.

Priority flora include: Leafless Bluebush, Narrow-leaf Emu-bush and Kneed Swainson-pea.

Photo: Regent Parrot, courtesy Chris Tzaros.



Wimmera Important habitats on private land include, Buloke woodlands, herb-rich woodlands, floodplain woodlands, wetlands and Mallee.

Priority fauna include: Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Brolga, Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun-moth.

Priority flora include: Turnip Copperburr, Swamp She-oak, Forked Spyridium, Jumping-jack Wattle and Wimmera Spider-orchid.

Photo: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, courtesy Bob McPherson.



North Central Key habitats on private land include native grasslands, wetlands, plains woodlands, herb-rich woodlands, waterways, floodplain woodlands and box-ironbark forests.

Priority fauna include: Plains-wanderer, Hooded Scaly-foot, Swift Parrot, Diamond Firetail and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Priority flora include: Mclvor Spider-orchid, Chariot Wheels, Kamarooka Mallee and Red Swainson-pea.

Photo: Brush-tailed Phascogale



Glenelg Hopkins Key habitats on private land include plains woodlands, native grasslands, herb-rich woodlands, wetlands and waterways.

Priority fauna include: Golden Sun-moth, Dwarf Galaxias, Australasian Bittern, Brolga, and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Priority flora include: Limestone Spider-orchid, Melblom's Spider-orchid Gora Leek-orchid and Swamp Everlasting.

Photo: Southern Brown Bandicoot, courtesy Alex Smart



Corangamite Key habitats on private land include plains woodlands, native grasslands, wetlands, waterways, riparian scrubs, and heathlands.

Priority fauna include: Orange-bellied Parrot, Corangamite Water Skink, Rufous Bristlebird, and migratory shorebirds.

Priority flora include: Matted Flax-lily, Clover Glycine, Spiny Rice-flower Small Milkwort, Leafy Greenhood and Velvet Daisy-bush.

Photo: Clover Glycine, courtesy Adam Merrick



Goulburn Broken Key habitats on private land include plains woodlands, herb-rich woodlands, floodplain woodlands, Box-ironbark forests, waterways and wetlands.

Priority fauna include: Australian Painted Snipe, Bush Stone-curlew, Superb Parrot, Grey-crowned Babbler and Squirrel Glider.

Priority flora include: Silky Swainson-pea, Ridged Water-milfoil, Euroa Guinea-flower, Lima Stringybark and Yellow-tongue Daisy.

Photo: Ironbark forest



Port Phillip & Westernport Key habitats on private land include herb-rich woodlands, native grasslands, floodplain woodlands, waterways, wetlands, coastal scrubs and riparian scrubs.

Priority fauna include: Migratory shorebirds, Blue-billed Duck, Helmeted Honeyeater, Growling Grass-frog and Swamp Skink.

Priority flora include: French Island Spider-orchid, Leafy Greenhood, White Star-bush and Buxton Gum.

Photo: Growling Grass-frog



North East Key habitats on private land include box-ironbark forests, herb-rich woodlands, plains woodlands, floodplain woodlands and wetlands.

Priority fauna include: Brolga, Barking Owl, Regent Honeyeater, Squirrel Glider, and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Priority flora include: Yellow Hyacinth-orchid, Purple Diuris, Yarran, Warby Range Swamp Gum, and Narrow Goodenia.

Photo: Regent Honeyeater



West Gippsland Key habitats on private land include, plains woodlands, herb-rich woodlands, rainforests, riparian scrubs, wetlands and coastal scrubs.

Priority fauna include: Giant Gippsland Earthworm, Strzelecki Burrowing Cray, Australian Grayling, Australasian Bittern and Growling Grass-frog

Priority flora include: Filmy Maidenhair, Gaping Leek-orchid, Dwarf Kerrawang, Swamp Everlasting and Strzelecki Gum.

Photo: Swamp Everlasting, courtesy Russell Best



East Gippsland Key habitats on private land include plains woodlands, herb-rich woodlands, floodplain woodlands, rainforests and wetlands.

Priority fauna include: Australasian Bittern, Lewin's Rail, Lace Monitor, Powerful Owl and Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Priority flora include: Bushy Hedgehog Grass, Purple Diuris, Dwarf Kerrawang and Limestone Blue Wattle.

Photo: Lace monitor, courtesy Sean Phillipson

Volunteer Committee's of Management behind Trust for Natures reserves

Many of the Trust for Nature reserves are maintained through the generosity, hard work and invaluable local knowledge of volunteer Committees of Management, who meet regularly for on-ground works and community events.

Trust for Nature has more than 40 reserves, 12 of them are maintained by agreement through the generosity, hard work and invaluable local knowledge of volunteer Committees of Management and friends groups who meet regularly to do on-ground works and hold community events.

The volunteers are critical to the management of 36,000 hectares of valuable habitat protected in Trust for Nature reserves. Between them, the committees have nearly 100 volunteers. Their knowledge about the local landscape is a huge asset and their links to local communities is fantastic. They welcome visitors to reserves whenever possible.



Ecologist Lincoln Kern guiding visitors around the wonders of Wanderslore, a property in the Upper Yarra Ranges gifted to Trust for Nature as a reserve for wildlife and native plants.



Climate change

Trust for Nature is keenly aware of the impacts climate change is having on Victoria's environment. We need to tackle these impacts as much as we can.

Hotter, drier seasons, along with associated reductions in rainfall and more frequent extreme weather events are increasing the daily pressures on ecosystems and native wildlife.

These changes impact animals and plants by reducing the availability of food, habitat and water, which in turn may lead to reduced breeding success, increased mortality, shifts in distribution and altered migratory patterns.

Climate change is also triggering fundamental evolutionary changes in species, including decreases in body size and changes in colour.

A 2008 CSIRO study on the implications of climate change for Australia's National Reserve System (a network of protected areas, which includes covenanted land) has shown that climate change will worsen habitat fragmentation, invasive species and extreme floods and droughts.

Trust for Nature is joining with others to address this challenge. The Trust stewards more than 12 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in its reserves and covenanted properties. This is equivalent to removing more than 2.5 million cars from our roads for a year.

Thanks to the ongoing management of this land, and additional landowners choosing to

permanently protect their land with a Trust for Nature Covenant every year, these carbon stores are continually growing.

With support from the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund, the Trust has been reviewing its conservation planning approach in the face of climate change. As an evidence-based conservation organisation we are focusing on:

- Continuing habitat protection and expansion of the National Reserve System
- Protecting areas identified as 'refuges', for example wetlands, waterways and rainforests
- Protecting and restoring areas identified as important for improving habitat connectivity
- Protecting and restoring areas identified as being important as existing carbon stocks (for example, old-growth forests and woodlands) or for their potential to store carbon (for example mangrove ecosystems)
- Increased management of pest plants and pest animals
- Increased support for landholders to help mitigate the impacts of climate change at a property scale.





Looking forward

Future generations are impacted by how we treat the world around us, and how much they're involved and have experienced.

When kids spend time in nature and are involved in conservation work they're more likely to care about it as they grow up.

Trust for Nature, with the support of funding proudly run field days throughout Spring called, 'Spring into Nature'. Often at these events, school children attend. A highlight has been the involvement of primary schools at Bank Australia's conservation reserve in the Wimmera region where students were introduced to plants and animals on the property. The Barengi Gadjin Land Council also taught students about their history and connection with the land.

Nature is home

Jacob, 12 years, (pictured left) has been involved in conservation from a young age. For him looking after nature is rewarding and necessary.

"When you plant a plant you get to watch it grow. Then you see animals come and live in the plant. I guess it's really fun creating and protecting habitat," Jacob said.

"One of my favourite animals is the Kookaburra because of its unique laugh — it's such an Australian animal. My favourite plant is the Eucalyptus tree — they smell so nice. I love it when we go for walks and I can smell them all around me, it's a real typical Australian smell.

"It's really important that we look after our plants because it's where the animals live. It's their home. I would be sad if someone came and knocked down my home. Plants don't have a voice, but we do so we have to speak up."

How you can be involved

If you care about Victoria's natural wonders as much as we do, there are many ways you can contribute to conserving them:

- **Covenant** – if you own a property with conservation value, you may be in the special position of being able to protect some of Victoria's native vegetation and wildlife forever.
- **Bush Protection Program - Monthly Giving** – Recurring monthly donations help us focus on onground works and less on administration and fundraising. Our Bush Protection Program is our monthly giving option which gives certainty to species-saving work. If you're a business, consider payroll giving.
- **Fundraise** - hundreds of hectares have been protected forever due to the support of individuals and organisations, if you'd also like to be part of this support please visit our website to donate.
- **Consider making a bequest** – a gift to Trust for Nature in your Will costs you nothing now, but carries your vision for the future, and will serve as a living memorial to your values. Please contact us if you'd like to know more about this and becoming part of the Trust for Nature Bequest Society, Natures Custodians.
- **Support a project** – As a state wide organisation, we have many different projects we are working on and many more that require funding. If you would like to find out more, please call and we would be more than happy to discuss with you.
- **Become a corporate supporter** by partnering with us.
- **Learn more** – visit our website www.trustfornature.org.au to find out about our work, news and events.
- **Sign up** to receive our newsletters and regular updates including events.
- **Promote** the purpose and work of Trust for Nature within your family, your workplace, your organisation, and your community (especially in schools to enthuse the next generation of Victorian's).
- **Encourage others** to be environmentally aware, and join the movement for conservation of nature in Victoria.
- **Volunteer** – there are many different ways Trust for Nature can use your time and skills in our state-wide projects.
- **Attend an event** - Trust for Nature holds many events each year, from supporter events to field days for land managers and visits to reserves. Go to the events page at trustfornature.org.au for more information.
- **Join us on our socials** - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn.
- **Be in touch** – we love to hear from like-minded people:
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**PARTNER WITH US
TO CARE
TO PROTECT
TO CONSERVE
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**TRUST FOR
NATURE**

If you'd like to explore partnership opportunities with Trust for Nature, please get in touch. Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that has tax deductible gift status.

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In the interests of conservation, please keep this brochure for future reference. If you no longer need it, please pass it on or add it to reading matter in a public place. Thank you.

Cover image: Squirrel Glider. Back cover image: Red-headed Spider Ants feeding on Silver Banksia near Omeo. Trust for Nature is providing support to 'Bringing Back the Banksias', an initiative of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation. Photo: Will Ford.