



Media Release

Friday, 3rd September, 2010

NATIVES IN YOUR BACKYARD TOOLKIT

NRM North, in partnership with the Launceston Environment Centre and Tamar NRM, has launched a new flora and fauna information package to help residents enhance their own backyards.

The Backyard Biodiversity Toolkit contains a number brochures and booklets on native flora and fauna that have been produced specifically for the greater Launceston area.

The package includes:

- Gardening for Native Biodiversity (a native planting guide for the Tamar region)
- Gardens for Wildlife brochure (scheme that supports people to make their property friendly for local wildlife and the environment)
- Land for Wildlife (Scheme to assist landowners to conserve, manage and protect habitat for flora and fauna on their property)
- Leave logs for frogs (identifying critical habitat for native frogs)
- George Town, Launceston and West Tamar plant species list (identifying some common plants within each of the municipalities).
- A Guide to Garden Plants that are Going Bush and Becoming Environmental Weeds in the Tamar region.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the toolkit aimed to increase community awareness and provide information on how residents can encourage native flora and fauna into their own backyards.

"Recently, we have seen the greater Launceston area expand and encroach on native habitat which has increased pressure on many of the native flora and fauna species found within this area.

"Over the years, many brochures and booklets on native flora and fauna have been produced for this area and collating these into the one package will make it easier for residents to do something proactive within the community to enhance the environment." Mr McKee said.

Tamar NRM President Ian Sauer said the toolkit built on work Tamar NRM and Launceston Environment centre did in 2003 in developing the Gardening for Native Biodiversity booklet.

"This is the definitive guide and toolkit for those who live in the urban environment who want to gain a greater understanding of biodiversity in their backyards as well as undertaking simple practical steps that will increase the native biodiversity in urban backyards.

"This can only be of benefit to the urban and greater environment at a time of biodiversity loss in our urban areas."

Leigh Walters from the Launceston Environment Centre said the LEC was pleased to be a part of the launch.

"We welcome all interest in maintaining biodiversity and believe the information contained will help residents to understand a little more about biodiversity in the region.

"In particular, we would like to thank NRM North for providing the funding for the re-print of the Gardening for Native Biodiversity booklet. The booklet provides a fantastic guide for those wishing to maintain local native species in the area.

"I would also like to thank the contributors to the booklet as without these dedicated volunteers, this booklet would not be available." Mr Walters said.

If you would like more information or copies of the toolkit please contact:

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