



## EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



# saving the grevillea

BIODIVERSITY

**How a Landcare group can make a really useful and cost-effective contribution to threatened species conservation plans.**

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The Colquhoun Grevillea (*Grevillea celata*) is a drought-hardy, compact shrub which has attractive red flowers. It occurs naturally at a handful of sites between Bruthen and Nowa Nowa, and is included on Australia's rare or threatened plants list because its restricted range means that it could be totally wiped out by a natural disaster.

In 2007, Bruthen and District Landcare Group decided to help with the DSE's Biodiversity Action Plan for the Bairnsdale Foothills. Helping save one of East Gippsland's rarest plants stood out as an exceptional opportunity.

The project was formulated in co-operation with DSE Bairnsdale office and is an integral part of the recovery plan for the Colquhoun Grevillea.

In 2009, propagation of cuttings from the wild, collected under permit, was carried out by Landcare member Geoff Cooke, who was responsible for identifying and mapping known populations of *Grevillea celata* on behalf of DSE in 2003. He nursed the young plants through a period of dry weather and co-ordinated their distribution for planting.

Over 50 new plants were established at 15 sites on properties belonging to Landcare members, located within approximately 20 kilometres of the known natural range. Recipients of the Colquhoun Grevilleas had to undertake to plant groups of three or more (to facilitate cross-pollination in case seed is needed in future). They also had to agree to keep the plants weed-free and well watered until established. Locations of all plants have been registered and cuttings and seeds from them may be obtained by DSE at any time for further conservation purposes. The response from members was so enthusiastic that a second round of propagation is planned for 2010.

The development of this ex situ population will help to safeguard the species in the event of a bushfire or other catastrophe. The project provides a model of how a Landcare Group can make a very useful and cost-effective contribution to threatened species conservation plans.

