



NEWSLETTER

NOV 2024 - JAN 2025



Podcast

As part of its compelling Treehouse podcast series, in December 2024 [Tarwin River Forest](#) land stewards Stuart Inchley and Victoria Johnson sat down with GTSAG founders Alison Oates and Dave Sutton to talk about their conservation work over many decades. The 26 min podcast details their work protecting one of Gippsland's most fascinating creatures – the Giant Gippsland Earthworm.

[LISTEN HERE>](#)

AGM & forest walk

Our 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on a beautiful property near Fish Creek in the Hoddle Ranges. It was inspirational to walk through regenerated woodlands and fern gully on a property that had once hosted a monoculture pine plantation. The photo right shows us admiring tree ferns in the rare EVC: Riparian Fern Scrub – only recently discovered by GTSAG botanical ecologist, Alison Oates, during a biodiversity assessment of the property.



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Recognising Jye's star contribution



We would like to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful Biolinks and Threatened Species Officer, Jye Anderson, who will be leaving GTSAG on 1 June 2025 to continue working on biodiversity, threatened species and natural resource management issues in Western Australia.

Jye's work has been generously funded by the Render Environmental Trust and supported by the EcoLands Collective over the last 16 months, with support from Bass Coast Landcare Network and GTSAG. In just one day a week, Jye has:

- Collated over 250 local threatened species observations.
- Successfully raised the profile of GTSAG and threatened species such as Koalas and Lace Monitors.

- Mapped all patches of remnant vegetation and revegetation across the Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), minus Phillip Island.
- Prioritised two target biolink areas for Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) and BCSC to adopt into their activities.
- Engaged over 100 landholders in target areas, obtaining informal agreements to conduct biodiversity rehabilitation on their properties.
- Developed more than 50 project sites (habitat regeneration, fencing, planting and weed control) within target areas.
- Successfully focussed 95% of the Bass Coast Shire's 2025 Biolinks budget within one of the target areas (approx. 30,000 plants).
- Attracted funding through Greening Australia for an additional 20,000 plants in that target area.
- Recently applied for funding for two new projects: The Adams Creek Rail Trail (VicTrack) and Ecological burning at the critically endangered Kilcunda Grasslands (BCSC).
- Connected more than ten new landholders with Melbourne Water funding (ongoing) in the Western Port Woodlands target area.
- Secured more than \$180,000 co-investment pledges in an unsuccessful Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Nature Fund application bid in 2023/2024.

Thank you, Jye and good luck with your work in Western Australia!

GTSAG projects

GTSAG members have been working on a diverse range of currently funded projects over the past three months. These include:

- Protection of the Lace Monitor and other threatened species in the Bunurong Coastal Woodlands Biolinks, funded by the Bass Coast Shire Council.
- Soil hydrology of the vulnerable Giant Gippsland Earthworm (GGE) and Census of the GGE – both Federally funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- Protecting Endangered Grasslands at Kilcunda, funded by Coastcare Victoria.
- Assessing the threatened community of Cool Temperate Rainforest and the critically endangered Slender Tree-ferns at Turtons Creek, funded by Wettenhall Environment Trust.
- Protecting endangered Swamp Skink habitat at Inverloch, funded by Coastcare Victoria.
- Restoring endangered Damp Forest habitat and protecting critically endangered plant species at Ritchie Reserve, Korumburra, funded by Landcare Victoria.

1st Quarter 2025

- Begin analysing some of our Giant Gippsland Earthworm (GGE) soil and hydrology data.
- Get our GGE census survey online and send a survey out to more than 2,000 households/landowners within the area the GGE inhabits.
- Launch our newly-developed GGE app, which is a tool for landowners and community members to record GPS locations of GGE.
- Continue rehabilitation of Ritchie Reserve in Korumburra.
- Undertake a biodiversity survey and EVC mapping in the Adams Creek Nature Conservation Reserve at Lang Lang, which contains rare orchids and several threatened fauna species, including the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Southern Toadlet.
- Complete signage, planting and weeding in the Swamp Skink habitat at Little Screw Creek, Inverloch.
- Ongoing works at the Outtrim Cemetery Nature Conservation Reserve, which has a significant population of the critically endangered *Eucalyptus kitsoniana*.
- Begin planning in earnest for a cultural burn of Natural Damp Grasslands in Kilcunda if we're fortunate to receive funding; and
- Pursue the elusive ideal of funding at a landscape scale for biolinks