



# CONSERVATION COVENANT *news*

Issue 6

National Trust of Australia (WA)

December 2007

## Christmas Greetings!



What a great year it has been. There has been a growth in interest across the south west for conservation covenants and this has led to increased protection of privately managed bushland. The National Trust has been working with more landowners to access funds from grants and several have been successful during 2007. We are also working to have improved incentives for those landowners wishing to enter covenants under Catchment Council programs. There will be new challenges during 2008 as new contracts are negotiated and the impacts of the federal election are introduced. No matter what, the National Trust will still be accepting voluntary conservation covenants to assist you, the landowners, to better protect into the future, the bushlands that you know and respect.

Best wishes,  
Alan Briggs  
Manager, Natural Heritage

## New! Natural Heritage Website



The new Natural Heritage website is up and running, and may be seen at <http://www.naturalheritage.org.au/> The website contains information on Covenants, Stewardship, BushBank and Special Projects. Natural Heritage staff will also be providing answers to management questions, via the link to Management Q&A. We would welcome questions to be emailed or phoned through to our staff (see contact details over page). The answers will then be provided on the website.

## New! Covenanting Pull-up Stand

The Natural Heritage staff have been very busy over the last few months, organising banners and pull-up stands for our three main programs - Covenanting, BushBank and BushBrokers. A preview of our covenant pull-up is shown below. This will be on show at various events in the upcoming months. And for those interested in buying and selling property, we have included a preview of the new BushBank and Bush Brokers pull-up stands.



## Helping you protect your bushland with a Caveat

In an effort to better assist you with permanent protection of your bushland, the National Trust received legal advice in early 2006 to place an absolute caveat over all land subject to a National Trust conservation covenant. Effectively the caveat acts as an “early warning signal” and gives the National Trust the opportunity to negotiate the signing of a further deed with the new owner before ownership changes hands. This process adds further to the protection of your aspirations for the bushland that you have protected in perpetuity. Having a caveat ensures that the National Trust protects the bushland in accord with your wishes for the land.

Should you decide to sell your covenanted land, the National Trust would be alerted to the sale by the settlement agent acting on behalf of the buyer, should we not manage to hear from you. The National Trust would enter negotiations with the buyer to sign a new Deed of Assignment, that is a deed or contract, which assigns those rights and responsibilities held under the original deed signed by you to the new owner. This ensures future owners continue to work together with the National Trust to protect the bushland.

For any queries, please contact Landgate on (08) 9273 7373 or 1300 556 224,

<http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/>

## New registered covenants in the Avon

We are able to close 2007 with some great news coming out of the Avon region. This month we registered another two covenants in the regions of Merredin and Westonia, protecting a further 360ha of remnant bushland. We thank not only the landowners but also our friends at WWF and in particular, Mick Davis, who was central in our negotiations.



Map of Avon NRM region

Source: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/nrm/wa-avon.html>

**If you have any questions on any of the information provided or would like further information, please contact the National Heritage staff at the National Trust.**

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