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Bush Heritage purchases perfect parcel of land in the Liffey Valley, Tasmania

National conservation not-for-profit Bush Heritage Australia today announced the purchase of its newest Tasmanian reserve, Glovers Flat, in the Liffey Valley on Palawa country.

The purchase comes 31 years after renowned environmentalist Bob Brown and a group of likeminded conservationists came together to purchase two forest properties in the Liffey Valley destined for wood chipping in what would become formation of Bush Heritage Australia and in many ways a watershed moment in the Australian conservation movement.

Glovers Flat is now Bush Heritage's fifth reserve in the Liffey Valley and forms the perfect link between Oura Oura and Dry's Bluff reserves and borders the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

At 94 hectares, it is home to significant areas of endangered Black Gum Forest and unlogged old-growth, hollow-bearing trees that provide habitat for threatened species such as Masked Owls and potentially Swift Parrots. The damp sclerophyll forest also provides rich habitat for the largest surviving marsupial carnivores, the Tasmanian Devil and Spotted-tail Quoll.

"Glovers Flat was too good an opportunity to be missed. It preserves landscape connectivity so animals can continue to move safely through these significant areas of healthy habitat and makes a more cohesive protected landscape – allowing us strategic management of weeds, fire and public access across the adjacent reserves," says Michael Bretz, Bush Heritage's Tasmanian Reserve Manager.

Currently, 86% of the reserve is zoned as a 'Private Timber Reserve' meaning this property could be logged and lost forever if purchased by another buyer. Glovers Flat will now be protected in perpetuity, thanks to the incredible generosity of The Alerce Trust, who gifted the amount of the property and continue the legacy of Bob Brown and his peers.

"The Alerce Trust is honoured to be able to enable the purchase of Glovers Flat. When we visited the Liffey Valley as a family last year, we were awed by the Black Gum Forests and the beautiful Australian bush. To be able to play a small role in its protection is a gift in and of itself; one we hope will inspire others who are able to support Bush Heritage in its mission to buy and manage land for conservation," The Alerce Trust, Bush Heritage supporters.

The Liffey Valley region is a meeting place for three Tasmanian Aboriginal groups: The Big River, North and North Midlands people. The area's sandstone overhangs provided shelter, and stone artefacts mark Aboriginal campsites. Bush Heritage has met with local Elders who support the purchase, with cultural assessments a top priority for reserve management.

A conservation covenant will be placed on Glovers Flat, bringing the total area protected by Bush Heritage in the Liffey Valley to nearly 400 hectares.

“The forest of Glovers Flat has come home to Bush Heritage. So, this thriving wildlife refuge which fills the gap between Bush Heritage’s Oura Oura cottage property, its Drys Bluff forest block and the bluff itself in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, is now safe. In a world losing its species so rapidly, and where fragmentation is death, this purchase gives a life-saving integrity and wholeness to an expanse of the Liffey Valley’s river-to-mountain ecosystem which is truly magnificent. Congratulations to every Bush Heritage supporter who has helped secure the White goshawks nesting up there! I am delighted.” Bob Brown, environmentalist and former Australian politician.

Glovers Flat quick facts

- Spans 94 hectares in the Liffey Valley of Tasmania on Palawa country
- Forms the missing link between Bush Heritage’s Oura Oura and Dry’s Bluff reserve and borders the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Preserves landscape connectivity between exceptional places of healthy habitat
- Protects endangered Black Gum forest from logging
- Protects habitat for Masked owls, Tasmanian Devils and Spotted-tail Quolls

Bush Heritage Australia is an independent not-for-profit that buys and manages land, and partners with Aboriginal people to protect our irreplaceable landscapes and our magnificent native species forever.

There are close to 2,000 animals and plants on Australia’s threatened species list. Bush Heritage steps in where we’re needed most, protecting all species on our reserves

We respect, listen and learn from working side-by-side with Traditional Owners, and by working in partnerships with pastoralists and other organisations to have the most impact

Together, we’re returning the bush to good health.



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