

Township Lagoon Nature Reserve - Tunbridge

Township Lagoon and native grasslands in Spring 2016 (Photo – Graham Green)



The Township Lagoon Nature Reserve, lying just to the east of Tunbridge, provides a window into the original understory flora of the Tunbridge plains and is a highly significant site for nature conservation. It is a 'listed' grassland community under the EPBC Act, has the highest concentration of threatened plant species in Tasmania, features a salt-pan lagoon, and is habitat for the endangered salt lake slater. The site is now managed for the preservation of its important natural values but could easily have been lost due to a combination of incompatible uses and impacts e.g. gorse invasion, off-road recreation vehicle disturbance, agriculture, and encroachment by a municipal refuse disposal site (now closed and rehabilitated). Although just a small site (17 hectares), 22 listed threatened flora species (Figure 2) and two fauna species are current as at 2016 at the Nature Reserve (Table 1).

Table 1: Township Lagoon threatened species (Source: Natural Values Atlas October 2016)

SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME	STATE THREATENED SPECIES SCHEDULE (TSPA)	NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES SCHEDULE (EPBCA)
<i>Pterostylis commutata</i>	midland greenhood	endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	soft peppergrass	endangered	Endangered
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> var. <i>tricolor</i>	grassland paperdaisy	endangered	Endangered
<i>Prasophyllum tunbridgense</i>	tunbridge leek-orchid	endangered	Endangered
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	grassland flaxlily	rare	Endangered
<i>Pimelea</i> sp. Tunbridge	grassland riceflower	endangered	
<i>Stackhousia subterranea</i>	grassland candles	endangered	
<i>Brachyscome rigidula</i>	cutleaf daisy	vulnerable	
<i>Isoetopsis graminifolia</i>	grass cushion	vulnerable	
<i>Pultenaea prostrata</i>	silky bushpea	vulnerable	
<i>Scleranthus diander</i>	tufted knawel	vulnerable	
<i>Asperula scoparia</i> subsp. <i>scoparia</i>	prickly woodruff	rare	
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	rough speargrass	rare	
<i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i>	sea clubsedge	rare	
<i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i>	marsh clubsedge	rare	
<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>	milky beautyheads	rare	
<i>Lachnagrostis robusta</i>	tall blowgrass	rare	
<i>Ruppia megacarpa</i>	largefruit seatassel	rare	
<i>Vittadinia burbridgeae</i>	smooth new-holland-daisy	rare	
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i> var. <i>cuneata</i>	fuzzy new-holland-daisy	rare	
<i>Vittadinia gracilis</i>	woolly new-holland-daisy	rare	
<i>Wilsonia rotundifolia</i>	roundleaf wilsonia	rare	
Township Lagoon Threatened Fauna			
<i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i>	tussock skink	vulnerable	
<i>Haloniscus searlei</i>	salt lake slater	endangered	

Figure 2: The 'endangered' Midlands everlasting (*Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*) at Township Lagoon Nature Reserve (Photo – Graham Green)

