Honours project at the University of Tasmania, Hobart

# Assessing the conservation value of *ex situ* plantings of the rare *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*

- Help develop conservation strategies for one of Australia's rarest eucalypts
- Laboratory, glasshouse and field work
- Collaborate with government agencies and private companies

Photos: R. Wiltshire

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is restricted to two main natural populations in Tasmania. Until recently, the Calverts Hill population was considered healthy, but there has been a dramatic decline in health in the adult trees at this site in recent years. *Ex situ* plantings of *E. morrisbyi* have been established, but the Calverts Hill population is poorly represented, mostly due to the increased susceptibility of this provenance to possum browsing.



This project will assess the value of community conservation plantings as an alternative *ex situ* resource of Calverts Hill seed. It will involve field work in the South Arm area of Tasmania (health surveys and seed collections), genotyping to determine the origin of these plantings, and glasshouse trials to determine the genetic purity of seed collected from these stands. It will involve collaboration with agencies such as DPIPWE and the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre.

The **Eucalypt Genetics Group at UTAS**, led by Profs Potts and Vaillancourt, has a world-class interdisciplinary research programme that investigates the evolutionary and ecological forces that shape diversity in *Eucalyptus*.

The Group consistently publishes in high impact journals, with recent publications in *Nature*, *New Phytologist* and *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

The Group collaborates with other universities and research institutions in Australia and internationally that can bring other skills to a supervisory team.

Learn more at www.eucalyptgenetics.com

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