

Why protect the Upper Florentine?

The Upper Florentine Valley is an iconic old growth forest and is a fine example of Tasmania's irreplaceable and high conservation value ancient forests.

This catchment is bordered by high mountains of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and Mount Field National Park.

The forest has been evolving to its present form since the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago.

It comprises a mix of Tasmania's major cool-climate rainforest trees – myrtle, celery-top pine, sassafras and leatherwood – as well as giant eucalypts that are up to 400 years old.

It is home to a diverse range of animals, including Tasmanian devils, quolls, pygmy possums, flame robins, wedge-tailed eagles and a huge range of invertebrate fauna.

The Florentine Valley is honeycombed with caves, underground streams and sinkholes. It is a repository of Aboriginal heritage dating back to the Ice Age and was the last known habitat of the thylacine.

The Australian Government in 2004 promised to protect this extraordinary area which contains, amid stands of old growth forest, some of the tallest flowering plants on earth, and some of Australia's most massive trees, *Eucalyptus regnans*. One of these, El Grande, was destroyed by a 'regeneration' fire in 2003.



Florentine
Protection
Society

Old growth forests
– worth more standing

Patron: Steve Biddulph

CONTACT

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Worth more standing

Join the Florentine Protection Society

The Florentine Protection Society Inc.

The Florentine Protection Society was formed in 2009 as an apolitical, not-for-profit community organisation with the main purpose of preserving the forests of the Upper Florentine Valley and Tasmania's other ancient forests.

Worth more standing

We seek to:

Preserve:

- The environmental, social, cultural and economic qualities of old-growth forests
- Tasmania's beautiful old-growth forests for the benefit of the community
- Tasmania's unique forest biodiversity
- Ancient trees, the "lungs of the planet", storing huge amounts of carbon

Broaden the community's understanding of:

- Tasmania's natural environment and environmental issues
- The wise use of Tasmanian resources, including high conservation value forests

Promote:

- The importance of and reasons for protecting old-growth forests
- The intrinsic value in standing trees
- The unique beauty of Tasmania's ancient forests, such as the Upper Florentine Valley
- The environmental, social, cultural and economic qualities of Tasmania's old-growth forests

Increase appreciation of:

- The majesty of Tasmania's ancient trees
- The beauty and complexity of old-growth ecosystems
- The diversity of Tasmania's native plant and animal life

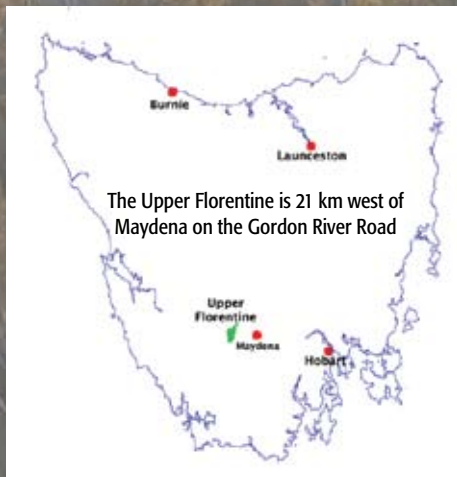
Policy Statement:

The Florentine Protection Society proposes that the Upper Florentine be added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and to the Southwest National Park.

The Florentine Protection Society adopts in principle the boundary of the Upper Florentine as shown in *Western Tasmania: A Place of Outstanding Universal Value* by Geoff Law (2009), which would combine the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and Mount Field National Park as one protected entity.

The Florentine Protection Society therefore calls on the State Government to extend the Southwest National Park to incorporate the Upper Florentine and to support World Heritage nomination of the Upper Florentine.

The Florentine Protection Society also calls on the Federal Government to nominate the Upper Florentine as an extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.



■ Existing reserves ■ Proposed Upper Florentine extensions ■ World Heritage Area

**Application for Membership of
THE FLORENTINE PROTECTION SOCIETY Inc.**

Annual subscription is (per financial year)

- (please tick) \$10.00 (individual)
 \$5.00 (concession)
 \$100.00 (corporate)

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone Home () _____

Work () _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

I hereby accept the rules of the Society and undertake to uphold the objectives of the Society as set out in its constitution.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership fee attached Yes No

I have also attached a donation of \$ _____

Please return to Florentine Protection Society Inc.
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