

## **Tenkile Conservation Information Evening**

Presenters: Jim & Jean Thomas  
When: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010  
Time: 6.30pm 7.30  
Where: Library – Learning & Education, Melbourne Zoo  
RSVP: [fotzvolunteers@fotz.org.au](mailto:fotzvolunteers@fotz.org.au) by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

*Tea / Coffee and a light supper will be provided*

### **Tenkile Conservation Program Outline**

The Tenkile Conservation Program grew out of an assessment of all Papua New Guinea tree-kangaroos in 1998, which showed that the Scott's Tree-kangaroo, or Tenkile, was the most threatened species of tree-kangaroo in the world. The Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) was established two years later and now manages what Tim Flannery considers is "the only really successful recovery program for a critically endangered species in PNG".

Jim and Jean Thomas arrived at Lumi on Australia Day 2003 and now oversee a program that encompasses species research and protection that has seen a 50% increase in the Tenkile population, rabbit farming across 39 villages as a sustainable alternative to hunting wildlife, installation of water tanks and a health and hygiene project that has dramatically improved community health, extensive training and employment of more than 100 villagers, and habitat protection leading to a 90,000 ha Conservation Area.

Strong support throughout the program has come from Zoos Victoria and Australian Volunteers International.