

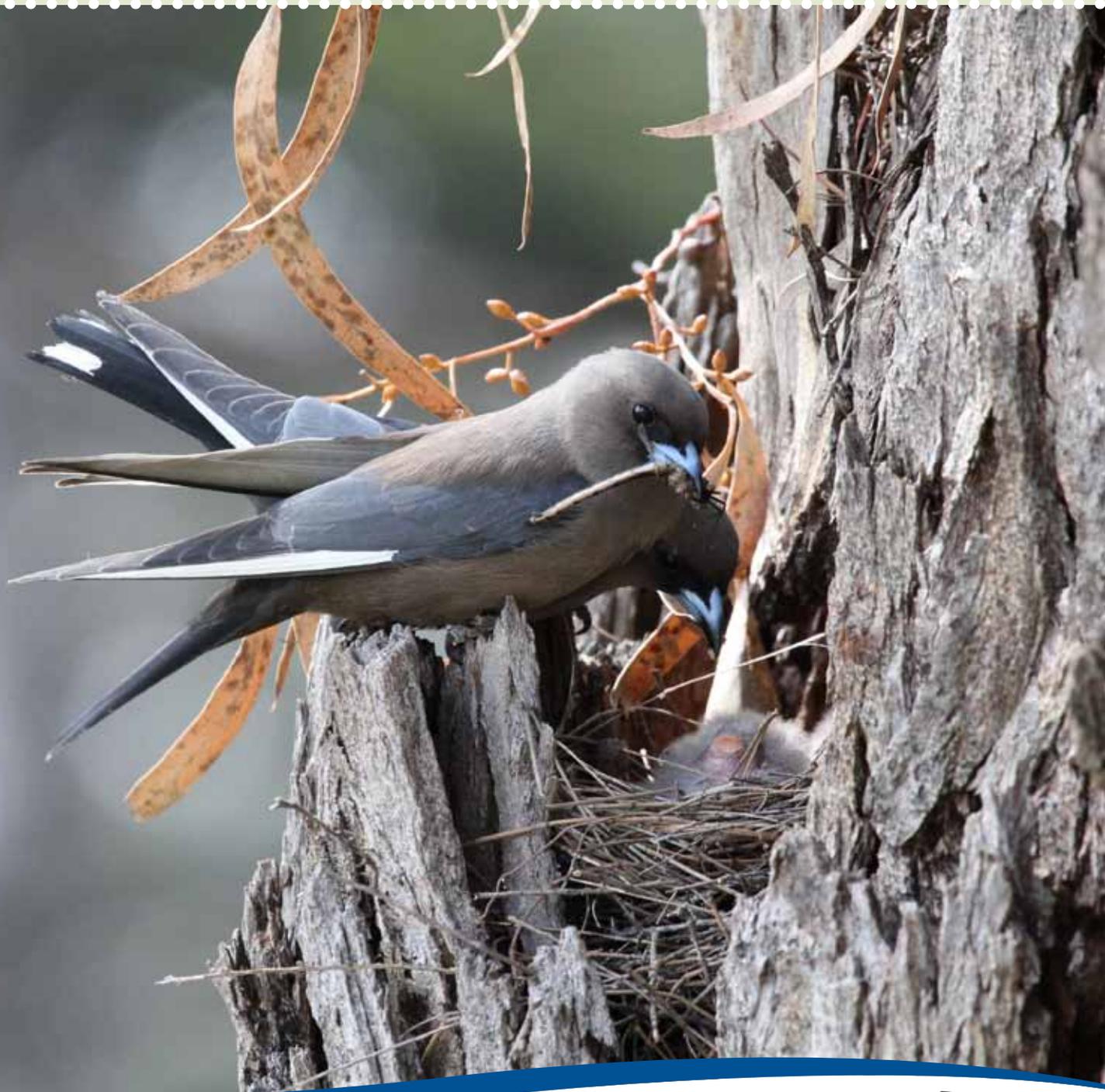


The **Running** Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

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*Building partnerships with landowners for the sustainable management
and conservation of natural values across the landscape.*



Manager's message – Winter 2014

The Winter break has come and with it replenishing rains for tarns, lakes and rivers. Tasmania is blessed with an abundance of nature and natural resources, the changing seasons are no greater testament to the wonder of diversity from bedrock to treetop.

Tasmania is a truly special place – I recently learned of the unique attributes of Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This area is one of the world's most anomalous estuarine systems with beautiful and unusual organisms concealed within its tannin-stained waters, including deep-sea species present at unusually shallow depths. The surrounding ecosystems are largely undisturbed, shaped by geological processes allowing for the continuation of long-ongoing ecological processes, including speciation. It is also an area that provides habitat for rare and

threatened species including the orange-bellied parrot, spotted-tailed quoll, Maugean skate and the Kings Holly.

In the midst of this ancient and enduring wilderness, the work of private reserve owners is all the more special. The Tasmanian private reserve estate is a critical part of an overall effort to conserve and foster special and wild places of global significance, and you are an amazing part of that – I thank you.

In this edition we announce the formal creation of a business partnership with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) that will improve and expand our support services for private nature conservation.

The TLC's strategic vision is for *Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation and sustainability.* This vision is not just about the TLC,

but a wider view of well managed and sustainable approaches to landscape protection.

DPIPWE has taken the proactive step of investing with the TLC in this inspiring vision by sharing resources and employees to provide an integrated *Protected Areas on Private Land* program to support the growing number of private conservation reserves in Tasmania. I am personally inspired by the success of the TLC in their visionary approach to conservation, with strong links to the wider community. I am sure you will find this new partnership a positive step.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter; we are always keen to have your feedback and ideas for future stories.

*Peter Voller, Manager
Sustainable Landscapes
Branch*

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*On the cover: One of Tasmania's woodland dependent bird species, the dusky woodswallow, dutifully nurturing their young. Photo Stuart Smith.
Design and layout: ILS Design Unit, DPIPWE.*



The more things change, the more they stay the same - **the 'new' PAPL Partnership**

Over the coming months and years you might see a few familiar faces in different roles, our new partnership program with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) has deliberately been given a familiar name and the team is strong and local.

DPIPWE and the TLC have a long history of working together on covenanting programs, community events, joint grant projects and just sharing ideas and strategies. Our new formal partnership brings together complementary and high quality expertise from both organisations into one focussed team aimed at ensuring high standards of service delivery and less duplication.

The partnership also allows each organisation to bring strengths to bear that could not be achieved alone, for example, the TLC has the capacity to encourage philanthropy and grant funds, DPIPWE can offer extensive research and policy development functions that non-government organisations don't often have. Combining the resources of both organisations improves our capacity for community awareness and research programs; and wider networking at the state and national levels is a

great opportunity as well.

Under the PAPL partnership, staff of the PLCP and the TLC work together in the field and office, to assist the ongoing management of your reserved areas. PAPL includes joint delivery of community engagement and advice services as well as reserve monitoring and adaptive management planning on covenanted private reserves across the State.

The key PAPL people are:

- **Stuart King** – Stu was the Stewardship Officer in the North of the State. His role now focuses across the whole State dealing particularly with covenant variations, management agreements and works contracts
- **Janet Smith** - Janet's role continues to focus on biological monitoring on reserves across the whole of the State
- **James Hattam** – James focuses on providing adaptive management, monitoring and stewardship advice in the south of the State
- **Anna Povey** – Anna focuses on providing adaptive management, monitoring and stewardship advice in the north of the State

- **Iona Mitchell** – Iona continues in her role as State Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator, she is also a key person for PAPL's community engagement activities.

James and Anna will have the critical roles of being first point of contact for landholders seeking advice or help to manage conservation issues on their reserves.

This team is backed by a strong governance team of senior staff of both organisations, with key contractual delivery requirements.

One of the most exciting things about PAPL is the opportunities that may unfold into the future. It is hoped that the partnership will provide greater capacity building opportunities for landowners with private reserves and in the broader community, and building of funds for the ongoing management of private reserves and reservation of key areas for conservation into the future.

Peter Voller and Louise Mendel (Manager Conservation Partnership Section)

Photos (L to R): James Hattam and Anna Povey setting up a motion sensor camera. Photo: Janet Smith. Janet Smith wetland monitoring Photo: Louise Mendel. Stu King landowner field day Photo: Janet Smith.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania Field Day at Glenfern



Nearly all us who own land for conservation in Tasmania have weeds of one sort or another on our properties. This unwelcome fact made the latest CLT field day with the theme of *Weed management: planning and practice* particularly relevant.

Thirty one people, including 23 conservation landholders from around Tasmania, attended the NRM South sponsored field day which was held at Graham McLean's property 'Base Camp Tasmania' at Glenfern near New Norfolk on Saturday 1st March. The weather was fine and warm and the venue, high on the west-facing slopes of the Glenfern Creek valley, was most pleasant. Graham and his partner Carol Emden were the perfect hosts, tending to everyone's needs throughout the day. Dr Magali Wright, the Biodiversity Coordinator from NRM South, did a wonderful job of organising the venue, catering, presenters and group discussion facilitators.

The morning session included a guided walk over Graham's conservation areas showing the excellent progress that he has made in controlling gorse and other weeds and promoting natural revegetation of the degraded areas. The upper slopes of the property are *Eucalyptus delegatensis* dry forest grading to

Eucalyptus cordata on the lower slopes.

The principal presenter was Sandy Leighton who has over 20 years of experience in weed management and most recently held the position of Project Manager for the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy.

For the field day Sandy developed a comprehensive Weed Action Plan template as a resource for conservation landholders. The template guides landholders through four steps:

- 1) assessing the site;
- 2) setting objectives;
- 3) developing and implementing the plan; and
- 4) monitoring outcomes and adjusting the plan.

She stressed the importance of follow up after initial weed control and avoiding the spread of seed to weed free areas. The Weed Action Plan template is available from John Thompson on request.

Sandy's presentation was complemented by Karen Ziegler from Landcare Tasmania who talked about how to obtain financial assistance for weed control.

The next field day will be held in the North West at Phil Collier's and Robin Garnett's property, 'Rubicon', near Port Sorell on Saturday 20th

September 2014. The theme will be *Monitoring on Conservation Properties*. After the field day an optional evening meal will be held at the nearby Shearwater Resort so participants from around the State can continue to catch up. And on the following morning there will be an opportunity to visit Val and Geoff Bromfield's conservation property near Bridgenorth. These extra activities will also make the trip more worthwhile for southern members.

The subsequent field day will be held in the North at Josh and Wendy Cocker's property on Los Angeles Road, East Tamar with presentations and catering at Dilston Community Hall on Saturday 21st February 2015. The theme of this field day will be *Plant Identification* and will be presented by Tasmanian botanist Fred Duncan. This theme topped the list of requested future themes at the last field day.

Everyone on the CLT email contact list will receive details about the forthcoming field days nearer to the time. Email Robin Garnett robin@rubicon.org.au or John Thompson thompsonjohn@gmail.com to join the CLT contact list.

*John Thompson
and Robin Garnett*



DIY Possum excluding plant guard

On our conservation property at Gunns Plains we are revegetating approximately 3.0 ha of rank pasture to link existing stands of the threatened *Eucalyptus viminalis* wet forest community. Our property adjoins lush farmland and suffers from significant overpopulations of pademelon and brushtail possum.

In our first year of plantings in 2011 using 60 cm high corflute plant guards the moment the *E. viminalis* poked their heads above the corflute guards they were eaten by the taller pademelons, or so we thought!

To combat this we upgraded to 105 cm high wire netting cylinders then went on holiday. A small number of cages had lids on just in case it wasn't the pademelons. On our return every plant in a netting cylinder without a lid had been stripped of its leaves or snapped at the base. About one quarter never recovered. Closer inspection of the browsed leaves showed what we now recognise as brushtail possum bite marks.

The success of our revegetation program depended on finding an effective, low-risk, scalable solution

given that you can't have *E. viminalis* wet forest without *E. viminalis*.

There are two broad approaches – constructing a possum-excluding perimeter fence or designing a possum-excluding plant guard. We rejected the former approach as this would provide a single point of failure.

After building a number of prototypes we settled on an 'inverted top hat' design using wire netting. It emulates the success of floppy fences in excluding possums, while also excluding pademelon browsing, resisting high-speed pademelon collisions and producing more robust plants.

The design was developed with the aid of a motion-activated night-vision camera to confirm its effectiveness in foiling the wiliest of brushtail possums. When the possum reaches the junction of the cylinder and the floppy lid it balks at climbing upside down and eventually gives up. The design has proven 100% successful over a two year period.

At this stage we don't know how long the guards will be needed.

Our initial plan was to remove the guards when the trees reached 2 to 2½ metres. As an experiment we removed the guard from a two year old 2 metre *E. viminalis* and within a few days a window shopping possum found the shop door open and helped itself. Since then that plant, shown in the photo above, has been continually browsed. We will repeat the experiment each year and will only remove the rest of the guards when we are satisfied that the growth of the trees will not be retarded by possum browsing.

The cost of materials per guard is about \$10 if you use new galvanised netting and fencing wire though the netting and wire can be reused for at least 20 years. Guards made from recycled netting and wire are just as effective and a lot cheaper. Details of the design with assembly instructions are available on the *Gardens for Wildlife* web site (www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au under 'News and Features') or via email to thompsonjohnh@gmail.com.

*John Thompson
and Annette Vojinov*

Supporting conservation management through the **Landcare Biodiversity Grants**



Finding the resources to manage conservation values on private land is an undeniable challenge. Over the last three years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been rolled out for priority on-ground work in high conservation areas across the state. The Landcare Biodiversity Grants have been a fruitful partnership between Landcare Tasmania and the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP), with funding through the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future, Biodiversity Fund. Fifty-seven projects have been funded across the state, removing threats to 4,180 ha of high conservation vegetation communities; protecting and enhancing 1,753 ha of vegetation communities in good condition and; undertaking activities on 363 ha that support biodiverse plantings and areas with a high natural regeneration potential. The fifty-seven projects include 42 covenants and 19 Land for Wildlife (LFW) properties (some projects are on multiple properties or are both a covenant and LFW).

Landcare Tasmania project staff and PLCP Stewardship Officers have supported landholders developing projects and compiling applications for funding. A skills-based Technical Assessment

Committee then scrutinised project methods, work plans and budgets, ensuring that proposals with the best conservation benefits (as outlined by the Australian Government) received funding. A Steering Committee, including representatives from both Landcare Tasmania and PLCP, has overseen the initiative to guarantee the program is delivered strategically, efficiently and effectively.

Landcare Tasmania has been developing and refining its grant processes for several years. Fairness, rigour and accountability are embedded in program processes, from application assessment to reporting. Progress updates from grant recipients ensure staged projects with multi-year funding stay on track to deliver all activities successfully. While landowners are responsible for managing their project, Landcare Tasmania and PLCP staff provide support where possible. For some landowners it's the first time they've received a project grant and it's hoped that the experience builds their confidence and capacity to secure grants for support through future programs.

As highlighted in the June 2013 issue of *The Running Postman*, round one of the program targeted PLCP focal landscapes. Landowners

in specific areas were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) then a subsequent application. Round two was an open round and heavily over-subscribed. Many of the exceptional projects for which there was insufficient funding in round two, were subsequently funded in round three. Additionally round three provided a second chance for good applications requiring clarification or technical amendments to be re-submitted for consideration.

One of the targeted focal landscapes in round one was Tasmania's far NW. *Melaleuca ericifolia* forest and *Eucalyptus brookeriana* forest as well as the saltmarsh and wetlands of the East and West inlet of Stanley were among the listed values. Threatened fauna in the area includes the wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*), white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) and giant freshwater lobster (*Astacopsis gouldi*).

Landowners Sarah and Rob Medwin from Forest near Stanley, received funding in round one of the program. The Medwin's property has 1.5km of Black River frontage and 500m of the Ferny Creek tributary. Eucalypt communities on site include *E.*



viminalis, *brookeriana*, *obliqua* and *nitida*. The riparian zone is largely intact but pockets of weeds, particularly gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) threaten biodiversity values.

With four project sites, the Medwin's employed various weed control techniques from spot-spraying, to cut and paint and hand pulling. A biological control, the gorse soft shoot moth (*Agonopterix umbellana*) will be released on nearby sites next year as part of the grants program through the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Research, supporting control efforts and reducing the threat from adjacent properties.

The Grants have enabled the Medwin's to undertake weed control through a whole of property approach. Robin and Sarah have been controlling gorse for many years and have now completed all primary control on the property. It's a great effort, though follow-up for gorse also requires a long-term commitment. Seeds can lay dormant for decades then germinate, making monitoring and follow-up treatment critical.

The Medwin's are in it for the long haul. Robin's family have been farming in the area for several generations, though they only bought this property in 2000. The Medwin's run beef cattle, while also

agisting dairy heifers and leasing land for cropping. Of the total 287 ha, 24 ha of the property is protected native vegetation. Robin and Sarah are in the process of joining the LfW program and are considering putting this bush under covenant in the future.

Funding recipients like the Medwin's have until May 2015 to complete their project. By then, the Landcare Biodiversity Grants will have been running for four years. This longer period of delivery has had real benefits. On some projects we've seen real on-ground change during the program period and it's immensely rewarding to see significant improvements to these precious places.

The Landcare Biodiversity Grants filled a real gap, providing practical support and funding to landholders managing biodiversity values on private land. In some cases, extra resources have stimulated a re-engagement with covenant owners or helped to build connectivity between key properties and property owners.

This has been the first collaboration between Landcare Tasmania and the PLCP and I believe it's benefited both our organisations and landholders too. The collective effort has delivered an enhanced result with contracted program

targets being well exceeded.

I've particularly appreciated the work of the Stewardship Officers and the LfW Coordinator. Their role in the field has been invaluable supporting the development and delivery of projects. Big thanks to Stu King, Lyn Pullen and Iona Mitchell for their hard work, and to all of the PLCP team.

Thanks also to Karen Ziegler, Landcare Tasmania Project Officer, to the hardworking Landcare Tasmania staff and committee, and to the Technical Assessment and Steering Committees.

I congratulate funding recipients on their commitment to improve the condition of biodiversity on their patch and wish them well in their conservation efforts.

While all grant funding has been allocated for this program, I encourage landowners to check Landcare Tasmania's Deductible Gift Recipient the Tasmanian Landcare Fund for future funding rounds, see <http://www.landcaretas.org.au/about-us/our-programs/tas-landcare-fund/>.

Peter Stronach

Photos (L to R): Sarah and Rob Medwin with Sam Bryant (weed contractor) and Peter Stronach inspecting gorse tackled through the grant. Photo: Colin Winhall. View from Little Silver, Flinders Island - funding supported fencing to exclude stock from the covenant area. Photo: Matt Taylor. A bird orchid (Chiloglottis sp) found in the Medwin's wet Eucalyptus obliqua forest. Photo: Joanna Lyall.

Singing the praises of the **Woodland Birds Project**



In 2011 BirdLife Australia gained funding through the Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country Program to lead an ambitious three year project to protect woodland bird habitat across south eastern Australia. Across Australia 80% of temperate woodlands have been cleared, leaving the remaining vegetation altered, fragmented, degraded and at risk of further decline. Woodlands typically exhibit an open structure, with a grassy ground layer and often a sparse shrub layer, providing a unique combination of resource including tree hollows, peeling bark, lerp, nectar, and manna which supports a distinctive woodland bird assemblage.

BirdLife Australia compiled a list of 55 temperate woodland dependent bird species that were declining across their range in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania and then meticulously mapped their critical habitat on private land. This prioritisation process identified key woodland bird species and target areas for protection.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) joined forces with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's (DPIPWE) Protected Areas on Private Land Program (PAPL) and set to work to deliver perpetual conservation covenants on private land containing breeding and foraging habitat for the nationally endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus*

discolour) and forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) as well as five other woodland bird species declining across the state; spotted-quail thrush (*Cinclosoma punctatum*), painted button quail (*Turnix varius*), flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) and dusky woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*). Prioritisation mapping identified the dry blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) forests and woodlands of southeast Tasmania as critical for these species.

From 2011 to 2014 a total of 19 private properties ranging from the Freycinet Peninsula, Kelleve, Bream Creek, Nubeena, Bruny Island to Dover, were protected with a perpetual covenant through this program. A total of 884 ha of critical habitat was reserved and close to \$480,000 was distributed in financial incentives to ensure these properties are managed for conservation into the future. Financial assistance supported targeted activities including fencing, establishment of artificial water sites and reducing the impact of firewood gathering aimed at reducing threats to critical habitats.

On Bruny Island the properties of "Inala" and "Whalebone Way" protect significant breeding habitat for swift parrot and forty-spotted pardalote and also supports an eco-tourism business that specialises in guided tours for bird enthusiasts. At the north end of Bruny Island "The Township" provides a haven for both

of the target species and was the first site trialling artificial nest boxes to improve breeding success of forty-spotted pardalotes. "Wattle Banks" at Little Swanport was once part of a large grazing property and was purchased by the present owner primarily for conservation. At 330 ha it is the largest property covenanted through the Woodland Birds Project in Tasmania. On the foothills of Taroona is the smallest covenant – a 10 ha property containing a remnant breeding colony of forty-spotted pardalote and an essential corridor linking Mt Nelson with Tinderbox. Nestled in over 70 ha at Dover the eco-tourism property "Blubber Head" showcases a range of woodland and coastal heathland bird species with views of an adjacent eagle nest. Collectively these properties add special values to Tasmania's reserve estate and will form the basis of a long-term monitoring program for woodland bird species using acoustic and photo-monitoring points.

The amazing success of this project in Tasmania would not have been possible without the partnership and dedication of the TLC and DPIPWE staff as well as the PAPL Program. The networks, friendship, long-term commitments and hard work by staff and landholders alike continually reinforce that significant conservation outcomes can be achieved when people work together.

Sally Bryant

Moths, wattles, bats and truffles



Did you know that the number of moth species in Australia far exceed the number of butterfly species? There are over 10,000 named moth species (compared with less than 420 butterfly species) with still many more yet to be collected and identified. Moths largely differ from butterflies by the shape of their antennae which are slender and feathered, whereas butterflies have stalked antennae with a club-shaped tip. Butterflies also tend to sit at rest with their wings up. Another interesting difference is that butterflies tend to look for their mate by sight, while most male moth species find their mate by the scent known as pheromone which is given off by female moths – that is also why male moths have more feathered antennae, to better trap the pheromones.

The first stage of a moth's life is as an egg, hatching into a caterpillar – the larval stage. The larvae grow, moulting a number of times as they develop before creating a cocoon for the pupa stage. The pupa stage may last for a few weeks to several months. It is during the pupa stage that there is complete metamorphosis from a non-flying caterpillar to a mobile winged

insect. There is also a change in diet to more high energy content food, such as nectar, sap or rotting fruit. Caterpillars feed on a variety of items such as leaves, stems, seeds or roots of the food plant.

Now, this is where wattles come in – there are a number of moths that specifically lay their eggs on wattles as the preferred food plant of the larvae. In fact, the names of many moths are obtained from the appearance or behaviour of their larvae (caterpillars), such as the 'wattle snout moth', 'painted Acacia moth', or 'wattle goat moth'. Larvae that burrow into wattles and eat the internal wood are quite different in form to those that feed on the leaves – think 'witchetty grub' as opposed to beautiful, ornate and colourful caterpillar. Yellow-tailed black cockatoos are very adept at knowing when larvae are present in wattles and will rip the bark, and indeed sections of the trunk with their powerful beaks, to feed on the larvae.

Moths are often associated with night time as this is the time when many species are mobile and active, frequently being attracted to lights. Bats take advantage of this and can be seen flying near street lights or

outdoor spotlights to easily catch moths attracted to the light. In Tasmania there are eight species of microbats which are all nocturnal insect eaters emerging at dusk. Bats are very efficient feeders and can consume up to half their body weight each night – they can also be very effective controllers of insect pests.

Wattles are excellent primary colonisers after fire or disturbance and have the advantage that they can create their own nitrogen via special nodules on their roots, much like beans and other legume species. They also have special fungi which have a close association with their roots, known as mycorrhizal fungi. This enables the plant to more readily obtain and absorb minerals and nutrients from the soil. The underground fruiting bodies of some of these mycorrhiza are known as 'truffles' and are a valuable source of food for native mammals, such as bettongs and bandicoots. In fact, the eating of truffles by native animals aids the dispersion of the spores which are distributed elsewhere in the droppings for the benefit of other wattles, or newly emerging seedlings.

Iona Mitchell



Planning to **change track?**

Internal fencing is common infrastructure on properties with high conservation values. Fencing is often critical to production and conservation needs and is given a fair amount of thought in planning and design. Cell grazing, crash grazing, off shears grazing, fuel hazard reduction grazing and game proofing are good examples of design influences.

In contrast, roads and tracks can be more casually approached, even though critical to asset management and expensive to construct and maintain. Achieving the most direct access to point 'A' may be the priority, even sole design consideration, and while useless unless meeting that purpose it should not be the only concern.

Just as fencing design and construction has moved with the times so has our understanding of the ongoing benefits of good road and track design. There is no doubt keeping a road or track as direct and thus short as possible will save on upfront costs. But that approach might also compromise

longevity and increase maintenance costs. On the other hand a poorly planned access might meander more than required, resulting in greater disturbance and maximised ongoing maintenance costs.

Planning of (formed) roads and (unformed) tracks is not hard, just a little time consuming. A map or aerial image is a great place to start. Before considering the location of the proposed route itself start by marking on the map the things *you* know are there but the map or image might not illustrate. Unstable slopes, rock outcrops, wet areas, defined management use areas, water courses, heavily browsed areas, erodible soils, historic or ecologically sensitive areas, these are all things that might be known to you alone. You can also highlight topographic features such as saddles or gaps that would suit a junction or turn around. While this is by no means an exhaustive planning approach, it will at the very least, identify potentially costly troubles with design and construction.

Operating periods might also be considered during planning and how these relate to seasonal conditions, all of which impact the type of construction required. Then there is safety, not just your own but of others: contractors, fire wood collectors, rural fire services or shooters may now (or in the future) be operating on your infrastructure. The local fire service for example has quite specific requirements for operating effectively and safely.

As noted earlier, roads and tracks are costly to maintain, not always in ways immediately obvious. They increase the threat of weed, pest and disease invasion and can also create thoroughfares for browsing animals. So it is desirable to service as much area as possible with as few roads/tracks as possible. This limits the time and cost of maintenance and the impact on our resources, both natural and productive. Once the route(s) are narrowed down on the map they can be checked for unexpected issues in the field. Revising a route



is much cheaper now than with a machine running.

Some issues are more easily dealt with. Critical habitat such as a known wedge-tailed eagle nest is a single point that can be avoided. More broadly distributed concerns, such as weeds or *erodibility* of soil (the susceptibility of soil particles to detach and transport after rainfall) might be unavoidable and require more careful consideration. It is easier to overlook issues that occur over longer time frames, yet taking them into consideration in the planning phase can save a great deal of time and money down the track (pun very well intended).

Early identification of longer term impacts on and as a result of *permanent* infrastructure provides a head start. It hints at design and construction needs. Good design is critical if the investment of additional input up front is to be returned over time. A good example are water bars (or 'roll over drains'). They are a common feature on sloping forestry tracks having proved themselves as cost

effective to maintenance and overall longevity of infrastructure that are only periodically used. However the time and money spent installing them is wasted if it is not effective. The degree of slope is not surprisingly linked to the frequency and dimensions of each installation. Install too few or too many and you might just be wasting time and money.

With all the cost and effort it is tempting to wonder if it is worth putting in a road or track at all. And in fact it is a good question. The required frequency of use, the type of traffic, and the necessity of access will answer that. You might not drive across a paddock very often so a track is not required; indeed when you do you might sensibly avoid driving in the same place every time. The same might be said in the bush. If it is possible to get light vehicle traffic through, but not required with any frequency then just taking a different path each time might do it. Of course you still need to make sure the vehicle is not bringing in its own trouble, so

good weed hygiene is critical (but the effort to wash-down a vehicle is considerably less than constructing a track).

In covenanted areas remember that there might be a requirement to have new management tracks approved by the PAPL program. This is to ensure that the persistence of key values for which the reserve was put in place is not threatened by the construction or its ongoing use. The infrastructure required to manage whole of property can and should be able to coexist with conservation objectives of a covenant area. But whole of property management changes over time. If it does for you and access needs change as a result then get in touch and let's sit down and look at a map. If you want more information on farm road and track planning, design, and construction we also have plenty on hand.

Stu King

Photos (L to R): A formed road through wet forest.

Photo: Stu King.

Gully erosion cutting into a sandy track. Photo: Lyn Pullen.

This rocky track is bumpy but 4WD accessible in most weather. Photo: Paul Fazackerley.

Vegetation inhibits erosion on this infrequently used highland track. Photo: Clare Lond-Caulk.



Upcoming Field Days for **Conservation** Landholders Tasmania

Selling property?

Conservation landholders are welcome to participate in the following field days:

Saturday 20 September 2014.

Theme: *Monitoring on Conservation Properties*

Phil Collier and Robin Garnett have twelve threatened plant species, including five threatened orchid species, on their conservation property, 'Rubicon', near Port Sorell. They have an annual program of patch burning and extensive monitoring to inform their management of these species.

This field day, which is supported by Cradle Coast NRM, will begin with presentations about monitoring, followed by a guided tour of 'Rubicon'. Optional extras: an evening meal at Shearwater Resort and a visit to Val and Geoff Bromfield's property near Bridgenorth on Sunday 21 September.

Saturday 21 February 2015.

Theme: *Plant Identification*

A hands-on workshop on identifying native plants and a walk around Josh and Wendy Cocker's conservation land on Los Angeles Road, East Tamar.

Contact

Robin Garnett - 0438 002 615 robin@rubicon.org.au or
John Thompson - 03 6429 1138 thompsonjohnng@gmail.com
to add your details to the CLT email list.

If you have a conservation covenant over your property and are thinking of selling, you should keep in mind that anyone involved in the sale process (e.g. agents, lawyers) need to be informed of the covenant and its implications.

Prospective buyers and new owners must also be informed of the covenant on the property title so that they can factor this into their decisions.

A covenant may appeal to particular purchasers and should be promoted as a valuable aspect of the property. The PLCP Stewardship Officers are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

We often find that buyers of Land for Wildlife (LFW) properties are keen to enter the program so that they can get involved in more active conservation management.

We therefore also ask LFW owners who are selling to notify us so that we can make contact with the new owners and see if they would like to keep the property in the program.

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at May 2014

Number of covenants	745	85,019 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	872	56,492 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	498	2,612 hectares

Please note that some landowners are registered with more than one program and there is some overlap in the figures presented.

PAPL Contacts

Stewardship

Stu King (Statewide) 6777 2238
James Hattam (South) 0428 129 285
Anna Povey (North) 0498 800 611

Land For Wildlife

Iona Mitchell 6165 4409

Post or email

Just a reminder that if you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Running Postman* by email please contact the PLCP on 6165 4409 or iona.mitchell@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

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