



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 – Summer 2014

As spring returns the days lengthen, wildflowers bloom and many native animals and birds focus on raising their young. It is a time of great beauty and renewal, not just for nature, but for the human spirit.

In this issue we reflect on the vulnerability of young native wildlife - from yet-to-fledge swamp harrier chicks, wildly skydiving wood ducklings to adventurous young devils – all not yet wise to the dangers of interactions with humans. There are simple measures we can all take to protect these youngsters as they emerge to tackle the complex world around them. I hope the information provided in this edition helps remind us all.

I have been genuinely impressed by the success of the Red Hot Tips program in providing landowners with greater confidence to

undertake ecological and hazard reduction burning. This program has been valuable because it addresses both the planning and practical aspects of managed burning. It is an example of well-targeted cooperation between NRM, Private consultants and Conservation Partnerships to meet landholder needs. Well done Bronnie Grieve and Leanne Sherriff from Macquarie Franklin for your efforts to deliver this program!

This edition also acknowledges the phenomenal contribution of private land owners, large and small, in their decision to set some or all of their land for nature conservation. My team and I recently reviewed the participation rates for the various types of conservation agreements offered by DPIPW. This simple review revealed that in Tasmania some 2000 individual properties are

now registered under one or more of the conservation agreement programs supported by DPIPW. This contribution amounts to over 130,000 ha or 1.92% of the area of the state voluntarily protected for conservation.

This shows that nature conservation on private land is a significant land use in Tasmania and contributes to an overall effort to protect and maintain wide ranging habitat for our unique flora, fauna and geodiversity.

Your contribution to this amazing outcome as a partner with DPIPW in the private land conservation program is genuinely appreciated.

*Peter Voller,  
Manager Sustainable  
Landscapes Branch*



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*On the cover: Swamp Harrier chicks in carrot crop. Photo Alison Dugan. Design and layout: ILS Design Unit, DPIPW.*

## Harriers in the Harvest: all you need to know!



*"Harriers in the Harvest was established on the back of passion for productive and biodiverse landscapes. This site shares information on a native bird species that is a quiet achiever in the farming landscape: the Swamp Harrier."*

*Alison Dugand*

A new web site 'Harriers in the Harvest' has just been launched by well-known ornithologists Peter Tonelli and Alison Dugand from northwest Tasmania. The website <http://harriersintheharvest.com.au/> is visually spectacular and contains all the practical based information you need to know on identifying and protecting Swamp Harriers in your region. The web site is particularly aimed at helping farmers protect nest sites on production land in northwest Tasmania but the information is relevant to everyone no matter where you live.

Swamp Harriers are one of Tasmania's largest birds of prey but unlike other raptor species they build their nest and raise their chicks on the ground. This

makes them particularly vulnerable to disturbance if their nest is in a hay paddock, poppy field or other agricultural crop at a time when you need to harvest. This web site demonstrates true 'Living with Wildlife' principles by providing advice on identifying the species, how to protect nests during harvest time, and what to do if you inadvertently disturb or injure chicks during harvest operations. Here are some of the management recommendations:

- Pre-harvest – place around the nest site with brightly flagged fence droppers, providing at least a tractor length (5 x 5m) around the nest.
- Post-harvest – If possible, keep stock out of the stubble until the young have flown (at approx. 8 weeks old) temporary fencing is an alternative.
- Shade is crucial – If the site is destroyed during harvest, a make-shift one can be created by placing three smaller bales into a U shape allowing entry/exit for adults access to feed the chicks.

- Avoid handling the chicks – Talons are their best line of defense and can inflict serious injury, when in doubt seek professional advice.

Swamp Harriers are a majestic and distinctive bird of prey as they glide low over paddocks looking downward, their wings outstretched and white rump highly visible. They are the farmer's best friend by feeding on vermin like rats, mice and rabbits and helping to rid paddocks of unwanted pests. No matter where you live in Tasmania, check out this great web site, and if you need advice or help with injured birds then contacts are provided. You can enter your own Swamp Harrier sightings on the web site, tweet it, twitter it, follow it on face book, or search through the long list of additional web sources, all options are catered for. Well done Peter and Alison, this is a great resource for everyone.

*Sally Bryant*

*Photos (L to R): Alison Dugand with Swamp Harrier chick. Photo: Peter Tonelli. Peter Tonelli monitoring Swamp harrier chicks in pyrethrum crop. Photo: Alison Dugand.*



## Monitoring for better management of conservation properties

Monitoring for better management of conservation properties was the theme of the most recent field day of Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) supported by Cradle Coast NRM through funding from the Australian Government. Thirty people who manage conservation land gathered at Port Sorell to meet, to learn and share ideas with each other.

The meeting began with the very real problem that faced Phil Collier and Robin Garnett when they bought their property, Rubicon. How should they manage and monitor the six threatened species of orchid that were listed as growing there? We discussed these challenges in small groups and came up with a range of answers, including to research the fire history through soil cores; prioritise endangered species; and monitor orchids after burns at different times of the year. Phil later described how a method called demographic monitoring has shown that a sustainable flowering population of the black-tongued finger-orchid, *Caladenia congesta* can be maintained by slashing its habitat on a three year cycle whereas this method is not as effective for the pretty leek-orchid, *Prasophyllum pulchellum*. In the afternoon the group walked round

Rubicon and inspected the orchid and other monitoring projects.

Two experienced conservation scientists shared their perspectives on monitoring with the group. Matt Taylor, from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), spoke of the importance of identifying goals, threats and management issues before developing a monitoring plan. Surveillance monitoring might be needed to detect threats (e.g. deer damaging vegetation) whereas long-term monitoring of transects might be needed to make management decisions (e.g. will removing cattle from the Vale of Belvoir have a negative impact on threatened plant species). TLC involves volunteers in its monitoring activities and makes a point of storing its data safely and sharing its findings.

Dr Louise Mendel, from DPIWWE, gave us a fascinating overview of the results of monitoring on properties with conservation covenants. Her group has completed more than 700 Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCAs), mostly on forested properties, and the VCA scores have been mapped as a GIS layer. Analysis of the data from 365 disturbed dry forests have found, for example, that there is no relationship between

the size of a covenanted reserve and its vegetation condition but that reserves with buffer zones of more than 20% surrounding intact native vegetation along a 3km boundary are in significantly better condition than those with less than 20%.

All three speakers emphasised that there is no single correct monitoring method – it depends on the purpose of the monitoring. Setting up motion sensing cameras to capture animal activity is a relatively simple monitoring method whilst, for many landholders, taking photos from fixed positions every year might be sufficient to monitor vegetation changes.

The next CLT Field Day will be held on Saturday 21 February at Dilston Hall, East Tamar and at Wendy and Josh Cocker's covenanted bushland nearby. Tasmanian botanist, Fred Duncan, will guide us in the identification of a wide range of native plant and weed species. Contact [robin@rubicon.org.au](mailto:robin@rubicon.org.au) or [thompsonjohn@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonjohn@gmail.com) to have your email address added to the CLT contact list. Details will be sent to everyone on the list a month beforehand.

*Robin Garnett,  
John Thompson  
and Phil Collier*

## Tree nesting ducks!

You may think it strange for a duck to nest in a tree, but that is exactly where and how Australian wood ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) nest and breed. In fact, an important aspect of their habitat is that there are trees with hollows within a range of around 100-200 m of a water source, often a large dam or lake.

The Australian wood duck is widely spread in Australia and Tasmania but only in areas where there is water and trees. The greater part of their diet is through grazing on land eating vegetation, such as grass and clover; with the occasional insect eaten if it happens to be on the plant leaf they are feeding on. Though they are a duck, in water they feed by dabbling rather than diving, this is more to gather grit or sand to help with digestion or source of minerals. They are not really very good swimmers, but will take to the water if they feel threatened or are disturbed. They much prefer to walk on land or roost on logs or tree limbs.

Wood ducks are a medium-sized stocky duck around 40-50 cm in size. With adult birds, the sexes can easily be distinguished. Males have a dark brown head and dark brown short mane, the body is pale grey with a mottled brown-grey breast

and black belly. The wings are pale grey with black flight feathers and white bar on the underside visible when they are flying. Females are not so glamorous in appearance and have a paler head and brown-grey speckled breast and flanks and have a white belly. Wings are similar to males. Females have two white stripes above and below the eye.

Their call is a very mournful nasal sounding 'gnow' or 'wrouw' and quite distinct, especially heard when the ducks are in flight. They are faithful ducks and pair for life after bonding. Family groups will often remain among the flock to keep the family together.

They nest in a tree hollow in the trunk or limb of a tree, sometimes quite high off the ground. Both inspect suitable hollows before making their decision on which to use. This is an important choice as generally the same nest site is used each year. They have sharp claws that enable them to climb trees or to hold onto branches. The nest is lined with feathers plucked from the duck's breast. Breeding is from September to November in Southern Australia and Tasmania. The female lays 8 to 10 cream-white eggs, which are incubated for around 28-30 days. Both parents

take turns sitting on the eggs, but often the male's role is to guard the nest.

After hatching, with Mum's gentle calling from below, the ducklings make their way to the entrance of the nest and jump to the ground. This sounds an alarming thing to do, especially from some heights, such as 40-60 metres!! But no, up they get to follow Mum and begin learning how to find their own food and feed themselves. This is often why they prefer to nest over water so the ducklings have a softer landing. After leaving the nest, the ducklings can swim, so water poses no danger for them.

Both parents look after and teach the ducklings. After about 57 days, the ducklings are fully feathered and able to fly. They often remain with their parents with the family joining a flock. They tend to be rather sedentary remaining in the same place, so availability of fresh water and trees with hollows are important for the successful breeding and survival of this duck species.

*Iona Mitchell*



## Red Hot Tips - giving private landholders confidence to do planned burning

The Red Hot Tips (RHT) – planned burning on private land project is helping landholders increase their confidence to enable them to safely and effectively conduct planned burning of native vegetation on their properties. RHT is funded by the Tasmanian Government and delivered by Macquarie Franklin. The project continues the work of the Planned Burning Pilot project, which was delivered in 2012 with support from NRM North and funding from the Australian Government.

The project is supported by a steering committee with representatives from State Fire Management Council, Tasmanian Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife Service, DPIPWE, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Forestry Tasmania and NRM North. It is being rolled out in three separate rounds, offering 20 landholders across the state the opportunity to participate in each round. Round 1 finished in June 2014, Round 2 is currently

underway and will finish in June 2015 and Round 3 commences May 2015 and wraps up in June 2016. There are a number of landholders with conservation covenants from across Tasmania participating in all rounds of the project.

Melissa and William Fergusson from Grindstone Bay run a sheep and beef property at Triabunna and participated in Round 1 of the project. William said "I want to use fire to better manage and reduce fuel loads, improve biodiversity and grazing outcomes on my property. The project gave me the opportunity to increase my confidence in planned burning. Before the project I occasionally burnt very small areas but now I have more confidence to tackle larger areas."

The activities involved in the project include participating in a workshop on the theory of planned burning covering topics such as fuel hazard assessment, fire behaviour, weather, legalities, equipment and fire ecology.

A fire consultant then works with the landholder to develop a property-based Fire Management Plan. This involves identifying goals for fire management on the property such as asset protection zones, hazard reduction, biodiversity, weed management and fire exclusion zones, and then actions to meet these goals. The necessary permission from DPIPWE (Conservation Partnership Section) is obtained for participants with conservation covenants wanting to undertake planned burning. If threatened species are known to occur in areas planned to be burnt a permit to take must be obtained from the Threatened Species Unit (DPIPWE). The permits are issued for the life of the fire management plan.

Participants also have the opportunity to participate in planned burns. Bronnie Grieve (Macquarie Franklin) the Project Officer for Red Hot Tips said that "Participating in a case study burn gives landholders the opportunity to put the

theory into practice. Participants bring a range of differing experiences with fire, and the project team is comprised of fire experts from a number of different agencies who have the experience and learning of years of many planned burns that they share with participants. We have found that everyone who participates takes away with them some new learnings from the day that they can apply to their situation."

Sarah and Stephen Barrington, sheep farmers from Apsley Park, participated in Round 1 of the project to gain more confidence in using fire as a tool on their property - "Over the generations planned burning is a skill that has been lost and I saw this as an opportunity to gain the experience and increase my skills to better manage fire on my property." The majority of Apsley Park has not had any planned burning undertaken in over 30 years. In May this year a case study burn was undertaken on Apsley Park on 12ha of silver peppermint forest. The two main goals for burning this bush were to

encourage native plant regeneration and reduce fuel loads. The burn achieved a very successful mosaic burn. Tom Clark, from Lanoma Estate at Westerway is a farmer and volunteer fire fighter with TFS who also participated in Round 1 of Red Hot Tips. Tom attended in the case study burn at Apsley Park - "normally I try to burn early in the season but today taught me it is possible to burn later in the season, by monitoring the weather, opportunities do arise."

Melissa and William Fergusson's Grindstone Bay property was also chosen as a case study burn site. 2ha of remnant black peppermint forest was burnt, also in May this year to encourage native plant regeneration and reduce fuel loads. The majority of the block was burnt. "The case study burn taught me the importance of planning and preparation. We needed to protect the fences before the burn and it is easy to think that you need to do a lot of on-ground work such as clearing an earth break to protect the fence.

However, since we took the time to develop the burn plan we were able to protect the fence by the way we lit the block. Additionally, we were also able to identify risks and develop contingency plans, reducing the overall risk of burning". William Fergusson.

More information on Red Hot Tips, including access to some of the tools that have been developed (Planned Burning Manual, risk assessment template, monitoring the weather tool, equipment list and monitoring templates) and the case studies outlining the burns done through the project, can be obtained from the websites of the project partners including: <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/red-hot-tips> or [www.macquariefranklin.com.au](http://www.macquariefranklin.com.au).

Bronnie Grieve  
– Macquarie Franklin

# Smart Conservation



Whether you're a conservation landholder or a general nature enthusiast, access to technology has become a useful tool in gathering information as well as sharing it with the broader community. The interactive features of many devices including smart phones have provided the masses with a seemingly endless supply of information and digital capabilities. The growth of smart phone applications ('apps') in recent times provides us with easy access to a wide range of resources available at our finger tips. Whether you're searching for a place to stay, eat, directions or a way to connect with friends, most people's first instinct these days is to pull out their smart phone.

With technology moving at a rapid pace, it can at times feel daunting and overwhelming to try and keep up, let alone utilise it to its full potential. Despite this, whatever your level of understanding or technological know-how is, it is rare nowadays to go anywhere without your phone. In their current form, smart phones have the capacity to gather simple as well as complex information through the use of a variety of 'apps'. A chance observation of an unfamiliar bird or an out-of-place plant can be captured with a phone, either with a quick recording or photo which can help you or others identify it at a later date. These days most smart phones and other devices

will automatically georeference photos which store the exact location of these observations. Valuable data which in the past was often a secondary thought and commonly missed all together can now be easily gathered and stored within the observation itself (often referred to as meta-data).

Over the past few years there have been numerous 'apps' developed around the world for a variety of uses including interactive field guides, recording specific observations, sharing data and as a valuable educational tool. There are numerous 'apps' available with direct application for Tasmania; some of these are listed in the table below.

App	Designer	System/s	Comments
<i>A Bird in the Hand- Tas</i>	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service	iOS, Android	Images, audio, distribution, descriptions
<i>Frog Log- Tas</i>	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service	iOS	Images, audio, distribution, descriptions
<i>Flowering Plants of Tasmania</i>	William Higham	iOS	Images, diagrams, descriptions, scarcity
<i>Orchids of Tasmania</i>	William Higham	iOS	Images, diagrams, descriptions, scarcity
<i>Field Guide to Tasmanian Fauna</i>	Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	iOS, Android	Vertebrates, invertebrates (incl. freshwater and marine), details, distribution, audio, scarcity
<i>The Michael Morcombe and David Stewart eGuide to the Birds of Australia</i>	mydigitalearth.com	iOS, Android	Comprehensive number of birds, audio, diagrams, descriptions, record notes/observations
<i>OzAtlas</i>	Dave Martin	iOS, Android	Links to the Atlas of Living Australia; >30 million observations, record and share observations
<i>Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia</i>	Invasive Animals Limited	iOS, Android	Descriptions, distribution maps, photos, animal calls, control information and resource links for 53 pest species
<i>My Environment</i>	Dept. Environment	iOS	Locate Australian environmental places and species that make up your neighbourhood or area of interest (inc. covenants)

Technology is also providing landholders with an increased capacity to monitor changes on their land; especially with the greater use of infrared remote sensing cameras and specifically designed 'apps' for smart phones and other devices.

Through the Protected Areas on Private Land Program's (PAPL) regular use of technologies such as 'apps' and remote sensing cameras, landholders gain a better understanding of the native fauna as well as potential invasive species which are present on their land. 'Apps' can combine diagnostic characteristics of individual species such as animal calls, visual descriptions, images and potential habitats. While cameras can often pick up cryptic and at times difficult to record species, including a number of elusive birds such as the painted button quail (*Turnix varius*), spotted quail thrush (*Cinclosoma punctatum*), small mammals and the ever present feral cat. This information can help landholders better understand the threats and values on their land and can also be used as a powerful education tool to show the direct benefit of conservation on private land.

With the growth in technology has come a new wave of tools to educate, inform and engage the broader community. This has increased the exposure of

numerous projects, with a diversity of 'citizen science' initiatives from around the world taking advantage of this medium. Citizen science has seen a significant expansion in recent years, following the simple theory of engaging general citizens in the scientific process through data collection, interpretation and analysis. Citizens and scientist work side by side to achieve common goals. With the ability to record, share and view information (data) through digital devices, numerous citizen science projects have designed specific 'apps' to increase their reach and participation. One such 'app' is *rePhoto*; a specially designed 'app' to help people better understand their environment, both built and natural, through a simple photo point monitoring function. Photo point monitoring is a simple, user-friendly monitoring tool which can gather a range of information including changes in vegetation structure over time.

Developed in the United States through an ongoing collaboration between researchers at University of Vermont, Washington University, St. Louis and University of North Texas under the guidance of Associate Professor Ruth West, *rePhoto* has been adopted with great success around the world, including here in Tasmania. The 'app' follows a simple and easy to use design which supports

repeat photography through the development of individual projects. The 'app's' interactive screen display allows users to intuitively align the area of interest from the same perspective as the past image. The 'app' utilises the simple functionality of 'Google maps' to locate photo points as well as capturing the device's meta-data (e.g. GPS coordinates, time, date, direction, exposure etc), which is automatically uploaded to the *rePhoto* website (<http://www.projectrephoto.com/>). Privacy levels can be set to align with individual project requirements. For example images can be visible to anyone via the *rePhoto* website or only accessible to particular users depending on your preference.

While nothing will ever replace a bookshelf of field guides, journals and observation filled notebooks collected over a lifetime of interest and passion, it seems these days we are spoilt by choice when it comes to accessibility of information and technological capabilities. Irrespective of your expertise, technology has and will continue to foster a new generations' interest in the natural world, empowering the community in direct involvement in the scientific process, while also providing many with a new tool to add to the collection.

James Hattam

Photos (L to R): Painted button quail (*Turnix varius*) Tinderbox covenant. Photo: Tasmanian Land Conservancy; Feral cat. Central Highlands covenant. Photo: Tasmanian Land Conservancy; Orchids of Tasmania app. Photo: James Hattam.



## Survey for **Orphaned Devils** in Tarooona

Late in September, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program received a call to the Devil Mobile (0427 733 511) from a member of the public who had picked up a roadkill devil on Sandy Bay Road, close to the Truganini Reserve, Tarooona (near Hobart).

On inspection, the devil was a healthy adult female with four active lactating teats. Unfortunately, this is indicative that there were four young devils possibly in a den waiting for their mum to return. At this time of the year, devil joeys are usually about 6-7 months old and, while they are becoming more adventurous at this age, they are still usually dependent on the mother for food and protection.

In response to this report and its close proximity, Devil Program staff decided to attempt to capture the orphaned devils or at least find out more about the urban population. They contacted the office of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) situated only 500m from where the devil had been killed – adjacent to an extensive bushland reserve which connects the urban areas of Sandy Bay, Tarooona and Kingston.

The TLC agreed to assist in the survey, providing secure access to the land behind its offices which adjoins the bush reserve. Five baited traps and three remote sensor monitoring cameras (surrounding a staked wallaby carcass) were installed and a joint effort was made between staff of the Devil Program and the TLC to trap the orphaned young or at least capture them on camera.

Unfortunately no young devils were trapped over the four trap nights but another lactating female was captured. This female, which was given a clean bill of health (free of Devil Facial Tumour Disease) before being released, had been micro-chipped previously although the original recording has not yet been traced. Pictures of her markings were taken to compare to camera footage and a range of data was collected and recorded including date of birth, weight, behaviour and health.

On inspection of the camera footage, three individual devils were recorded, one adult female and two juveniles. The identity of the adult female is consistent with the lactating female trapped during the

survey; and the joeys, which are a size consistent with devils born in March/April this year, are likely to belong to her but alternatively, they could be the orphans of the roadkill female. Regardless of whose offspring, they appeared healthy and of a size that they could potentially survive on their own.

In addition to devils, there was an interesting array of animals – domestic, wild, threatened and common – captured on camera; and there was one local domestic cat, which was trapped and released. Overall, this was an interesting and worthwhile exercise, providing reassurance that there is at least one family of healthy devils living in the area.

The Devil Program would like to thank the TLC for allowing traps and cameras to be set at its property, with special thanks to Sally Bryant and James Hattam for their help setting and checking the traps and cameras.

*Save the Tasmanian Devil Program*

## Gardens for Wildlife **500th** milestone



The Tasmanian Gardens for Wildlife (GFW) scheme was officially launched in August 2008. Since that time it has steadily grown, recently reaching its first milestone with the registration of the 500th member, Angela Andriopoulos.

To celebrate this Mary Jolly from the Understorey Network (a long-term partner of GFW) and I visited Angela at her Lower Snug property to deliver 50 local provenance native plants as a gift from the Understorey Network. Angela was also given a copy of NRM South's Native Gardens planting guide and the recently revised 'Bugs, birds, bettongs and bush' book by the DPI/PWE Protected Area on Private Land Program.

Angela was absolutely thrilled to receive these gifts and proud to show Mary and I her garden and to tell us her plans and ask advice. Fortunately, in her garden she has some remnant native vegetation which had not been cleared. There are a few large trees and native shrubs which are naturally regenerating. Since working to develop her wildlife-friendly garden she has developed a passion and great love of native plants and gardening. 'I just love it and could spend hours in the garden without needing to talk to anyone' she said.

GFW was developed in recognition that there was potential to achieve broader community engagement in

nature conservation and sustainable land use practices on private land, largely focusing on properties within the urban or suburban fringe and those which did not meet the minimum size criteria under the Tasmanian Land for Wildlife scheme (2 ha).

Providing an opportunity for the urbanised population to participate in nature conservation also increases the scope for broader community awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation in general. As suburban sprawl and other forms of land clearing continue to reduce wildlife habitat and safe refuge, gardens increasingly become more important and valuable in such altered landscapes for providing space, food, water, shelter and a place to rear young. They can also provide 'stepping stones' or corridors to habitat nearby (such as natural bush reserves).

At a state level GFW has steadily grown to cover 2,638 ha. The attractive GFW sign displayed allows members to be recognised. It also increases awareness, promotes the scheme and encourages others to join. The GFW scheme also shows that habitat conservation is for everyone not just large landholders, national parks or reserves.

Many GFW members have planted their gardens using local

native plants and have reported great success with increasing the number and variety of native birds which now visit or live in their garden. These members love to see native birds in their garden and get great enjoyment from doing so. Other wildlife welcomed include pademelons, eastern barred bandicoots, frogs, lizards and even brush-tailed possums.

The scheme also focuses on environment-friendly sustainable practices, as what we do in our garden can affect other places beyond our boundaries. Watering the garden uses precious water resources. After watering or rainfall, any chemicals used, such as pesticides or excess fertiliser, will run into stormwater drains and eventually end up in the local river or estuary. Planting native species can reduce the use of water and chemicals.

GFW has now spread outside Tasmania. It has recently been adopted by the Barung Landcare Association, based in Maleny (Queensland). Barung Landcare have used the same artwork for their GFW sign only changing the scarlet robin of the Tasmanian sign to a more familiar bird species for the Maleny region of Queensland, the red-backed fairy wren.

*Iona Mitchell*

# Upcoming Field Days for **Conservation** Landholders Tasmania

## Selling property?

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

### Saturday 21 February 2015.

Theme: *Plant Identification for Conservation Landholders*

Experienced botanist, Fred Duncan, will lead a hands-on workshop on identifying Tasmanian native plants at the Dilston Hall, East Tamar. He will include a session on "Know your thistles" too. Bring along plant specimens from your own property to find out their names. Afterwards we will walk around Josh and Wendy Cocker's conservation land nearby. It has dry sclerophyll white gum forest on bluestone and is beautifully situated above the Tamar River.

### Contact

Robin Garnett - 0438 002 615    robin@rubicon.org.au or  
John Thompson - 03 6429 1138    thompsonjohnhg@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 PAPL 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 December 2014

Number of covenants	760	96,142 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	880	56,680 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	513	2,638 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](mailto:iona.mitchell@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

Resource Management and Conservation  
Private Land Conservation Program  
134 Macquarie Street Hobart  
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001  
[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp)