The Running Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

December 2017 • Issue 24
Print ISSN 1835-6141
Online ISSN 2204-390X

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

Department of
Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government

Manager's **message** – December 2017

As the Program Manager of the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP), I have taken on the Manager's message from Peter Voller who has done so for a few years now. I thank Peter for his inspiring and thoughtful contributions to our newsletter and for his ongoing support for the Program.

This has been a busy year and the PLCP team has been kept hard at work supporting the nature reserve estate on private land which, inclusive of Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife, now covers some 145,000 hectares! Interestingly, 65 covenanted properties changed ownership last year, with a similar number expected to transfer ownership this year. While the improved property market is obviously a factor in this, the high numbers are encouraging in suggesting that conservation covenants are now broadly accepted in the market place.

In this issue we look at some of our less well known environments and animals, which nonetheless are important features of our landscapes. Many landowners of properties adjacent to the coast or those who enjoy walking along beaches may be interested to learn about the marine plants that inhabit the waters around our shores.

When thinking about wildlife people tend to consider the large more visible animals, but in this issue we are taking some time to look at the fascinating bats and beetles that also play a valuable role in our ecosystems. You may like to get involved in looking out for the green-lined ground beetle in the Tamar Valley region. The National Private Land Conservation Conference was held 18th – 20th October in Hobart and was a great success with a number of covenant and LFWers attending, a nice summary is provided if you weren't able to attend.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Running Postman, and I wish you all an enjoyable festive season and a happy and prosperous new year.

Helen Crawford,
Program Manager,
Private Land
Conservation Program

In this **Issue**

The Running Postman *is printed on Maine Recycled Silk paper, made from 60% post consumer waste fibre and 40% FSC® certified virgin fibre. Maine recycled is also CarbonNeutral®.*

*On the cover: Little forest bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*). Photo: Lisa Cawthen.*
Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPIPWE.

Marine plants of coastal Tasmania

Have you ever wondered about plant life in the sea? Tasmania's marine flora is remarkably diverse (over 700 species) and offers a window into the ecology of our estuarine and marine environments. Almost any beachcomber on Tasmania's shores will eventually stumble across the green sheet-like sea lettuce (*Ulva*) and the brown bubble-like Neptune's necklace (*Hormosira*), and perhaps storm-washed banks of papery eelgrass (*Zostera*) or the massive leathery bull kelp (*Durvillaea*). But unless you don a mask and snorkel and plunge into the briny yourself, low tide is probably the best time to get a good look at and truly appreciate the diversity of marine plants, and how the different species can favour particular zones of their environment. The saltmarsh and coastal areas in which they grow are worthy of protection because they provide landscape connectivity for both plants and animals—just think of how many insects, birds, reptiles and even mammals forage in these habitats! For landowners of coastal properties that have covenants or are Land for Wildlife, the following brief introduction to the marine flora of Tasmania may be of interest.

Plant-looking material washed up on our shores is often a mixture of different organisms yet is often referred to *en masse* as seaweeds, or macroalgae (to give it a more technical term). The green algae, red algae and seagrasses are indeed all in the Plant Kingdom, but brown algae fall within a different group altogether, the Kingdom Chromista. For convenience all these organisms can be referred to as plants, but perhaps *in*conveniently most do not have a common name, as many land plants do.

Marine plants are highly adapted to living in high-saline aquatic environments — in saltmarshes and estuaries, and in the sea from the intertidal level down to about 30 metres or so deep. Being photosynthetic (they require light to make their own food) and because they grow attached to sand or rock, they are by-and-large restricted to the coastal light-penetrating zones of our ocean. Plant morphology ranges from fine hair-like mats, membranous sheets and wiry blades, through to thick-branched or leathery kelps. Some species—the coralline algae—are impregnated with calcium carbonate and have a stony look and feel. A recently published book *Marine Plants of Tasmania* (available from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Bookshop) illustrates many species found in our waters and offers a solid plain-language introduction to the study of our marine flora.

Seaweeds have often been described as a good soil conditioner for gardens, due to the nutrients and trace elements contained within them. Opinions vary as to whether seaweeds should be applied to garden soils *as is*, wet or dry, or whether they should be washed (to remove excess salt) or steeped for a few weeks to create a seaweed tea. The DPIPWE website states that "No licence is required when seaweed is collected for private use. A daily limit of 100 kilograms per person for cast seaweed applies. Collection is only permitted from beaches with public access. Seaweed attached to the sea floor must not be harvested. Seaweed may not be taken in marine nature reserves."

With the ever-increasing pressure on the use of our marine resources the formal protection of saltmarsh and coastal lands through private land conservation would benefit all Tasmanians. It would be a fine way to help minimise potential degradation of these precious environments.

Fiona Scott,
Tasmanian Herbarium,
Tasmanian Museum
and Art Gallery

*Photos (L to R): Bull kelp (*Durvillaea potatorum*) growing in the low intertidal zone of rocky shores. Sea lettuce (*Ulva australis*) proliferates seasonally on rocky shores.* Colpomenia sinuosa *plants are often seen as hollow papery balls washed up on shore. Photos: Fiona Scott*

Selling conservation land, preserving the legacy we have created

Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) now has more than 200 people on its contact list. These people own land that is dedicated to conservation. Most have, or are planning, legal conservation covenants over their land. CLT members enjoy meeting other like-minded conservation landholders at field days and conservation forums, where they can discuss issues of concern with each other and with experts.

CLT members are a subset of a growing number of conservation landholders in Tasmania. The number of conservation covenants and the area they cover in the State has roughly doubled in the last decade. It now stands at 850 covenants covering more than 100,000 hectares of land. This is wonderful news for the protection of precious Tasmanian habitats.

All conservation landholders have to face the fact that one day they will need to sell their land, or pass it onto the next generation. How can current owners' best preserve their legacy created through their care of the land, and ensure that the natural values persist into the future? If there is nobody to pass the land onto, what is the best way to find a conservation-minded buyer for covenanted land? What happens when covenanted lands change hands?

A conservation covenant is a permanent, legally-binding agreement placed on a property's title to ensure native vegetation on the property is protected forever. In reality, how secure is the covenant in the future? Who makes sure that new owners abide by the covenant? And what are the consequences for non-compliance?

At the request of its members, CLT is holding a conservation forum in Campbell Town on 17 May 2018 entitled, *Selling conservation land: preserving the legacy we have created*, at which experts will help us answer these and other questions.

Victoria Marles, the CEO of the Trust for Nature, will speak about her organisation's experiences of selling covenanted land. The Trust for Nature is licensed to sell properties and has about 55 currently for sale, including some from Tasmania. The interactive map at **www.trustfornature.org.au/properties-for-sale** makes for fascinating viewing. We will also learn about government legislation upholding covenants in Tasmania, and hear the latest news on the way it is implemented from Helen Crawford, Program Manager for DPIPWE's Private Land Conservation Program. Staff from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy will tell us stories from their busy schedules visiting new covenanted property owners - sixty five new owners in 2016, with a similar number projected for 2017. And some people with covenants will give us firsthand accounts of their experiences of buying conservation land while others will share their plans for the future of their land.

If you have suggestions and questions to guide our speakers' presentations, email them to **robin@rubicon.org.au**.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania has held twelve field days and four conservation forums since CLT began in 2012, on topics ranging from ecological burning to weed control, from managing riparian zones to plant identification. Reports from all of these events are available on the CLT website **www.clt.asn.au**.

We are fortunate to have financial support from Cradle Coast NRM, NRM North, NRM South and Landcare Tasmania for all these events, with administrative support from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Branch of DPIPWE. Staff from these organisations will join conservation landholders for the forum on selling conservation land on 17 May 2018

Robin Garnett

Photos (L to R): Property with a Protected Area on Private Land covenant. Photo: Robin Garnett.
Eco property for sale sign. Photo: Anna Povey.

Birds behaving very badly

Birds are very good indicators of the ecological condition and health of environments – a diversity of bird species generally means a diversity of native plant species and associated wildlife species. In many areas small bird species (e.g. pardalotes, small honeyeater species, eastern spinebills, wrens and robins) are declining largely due to the loss of understorey vegetation. This has led to dominance in larger bird species, such as Noisy Miners, which favour open country with scattered trees and little to no understorey.

Noisy Miners, a native honeyeater, are very aggressive birds which exclude, or kill, smaller birds from their territory that they defend rigorously. They live colonially in family groups and their dominance can cause an ecological imbalance in bird numbers and diversity. Their aggression is not solely related to competition for food, they just don't like other birds in their space! Noisy Minors prefer open woodlands and habitat edges where they can move easily and can visually observe their territory for intruders. In many areas their numbers and presence has increased due to land clearing, fragmentation of remnants, simplification of habitat structure through stock grazing or frequent burning resulting in depletion of the shrubby understorey layer.

Noisy Miners can also occur in urban gardens and parklands which similarly lack complexity of vegetative structure.

Noisy Miners are not only an indicator of degraded habitats, but they can cause degradation of habitats. A number of studies have shown a decline in birds of similar size or smaller caused by Noisy Miners. These smaller bird species play important roles in feeding on leaf eating invertebrates or assisting pollination, thus tree health can seriously decline leading to dieback. Poor pollination reduces seed set leading to poor recruitment and further degraded health of woodlands. Noisy Miners are often not successful at causing the removal of birds of larger size even though they may try to bully them out of their neighbourhood.

The preferred food of Noisy Miners is nectar, insects and lerps (a sugary secretion from certain insects), therefore in order to occupy and expend energy defending their home territory there needs to be plentiful food resources available all year round.

Studies entailing experimental removal of Noisy Miners from woodland remnant sites have shown a return in the number and diversity of bird species even at times before an improvement in habitat condition occurs which it does subsequently. This shows that Noisy Miners actively excluded small birds from their territory. It is possible to take measures to prevent, or reduce the chance of Noisy Miners establishing themselves by retaining, allowing regeneration or actively planting native understorey vegetation. This can equally apply in urban gardens or parklands as well as shelterbelts or remnants in rural areas.

Iona Mitchell

Photos (L to R): Noisy Miner scanning its territory. Noisy Miner feeding on nectar from flowers. Photos: Charlie Price.

Have you seen this **beetle?**

The Green-lined ground beetle, *Catadromus lacordairei* is an endemic Australian carabid beetle species occurring across all States and is also present on Kangaroo Island. Regarded as relatively common across its mainland range, in Tasmania the species distribution is sparse and it is known only from a few locations. The species was originally listed as rare on the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, but in 2008, following a review of its status, it was upgraded to vulnerable.

With a body length of 28 - 37 mm, *Catadromus lacordairei* are spectacular beetles. The species displays sexual dimorphism with males being slightly smaller and more slender. Adults are fully winged and the elytra (wing cases) are deeply etched with longitudinal striae, shiny black and outlined with striking metallic golden/green margins, which extend to cover the ventral surface on some specimens. The mandibles are characteristically robust, strongly curved and capable of delivering a painful bite; they also expel a pungent chemical, if carelessly handled. Three other carabid beetle species within the size range of *Catadromus lacordairei* also occur in Tasmania; however, these are pure black, flightless, have very different habitat requirements and cannot therefore be considered as confusing species.

Despite *Catadromus lacordairei* being widespread across the continent, little was known about its life cycle, until 2013, when we opportunely discovered egg capsules one of which we successfully reared to adult (a female), allowing us to describe the larvae and life cycle of the beetle. The introduction of a wild caught male provided the means to captive breed the species, following which the offspring have been released in suitable habitat.

Open grassy woodland at low altitude, usually associated with wetland areas; naturally occurring or artificial, permanent or ephemeral, constitutes suitable habitat for the species. In such habitat, ground debris, especially decaying wood, provides important microclimatic conditions for both sheltering and hunting. Sites that have been found to harbour the highest beetle densities support a mosaic of tussocks (*Poa* spp., *Juncus* spp., *Carex* spp. and *Lomandra longifolia*) where the exotic grasses are kept short by the grazing activity of sheep and native fauna.

Adult beetles are active for the warmer months only and

*Photo: Green-lined ground beetle (*Catadromus lacordairei*).*

consequently all survey effort is confined to the summer and early autumn. In Tasmania, adult *Catadromus lacordairei* are known to be opportunistic hunter/scavengers. They are usually located beneath ground debris, including decaying wood and stones, whilst some individuals have been found sheltering beneath sheets of roofing iron; they are also known to inhabit fissures in dry cracking soils. The species is largely nocturnal/crepuscular, are known to be attracted to lights at night and are strong fliers. Adult beetles actively pursue prey both on the ground surface and in confined spaces. Metamorphling frogs are the only vertebrate prey known to be taken, but the list of invertebrate prey recorded includes coleopteran (beetle) larvae, oligochaetes (worms), dipteran (fly) larvae and the black field cricket, *Teleogryllus commodus*; our captive animals happily devour raw chicken.

The first specimens of *Catadromus lacordairei* recorded in Tasmania were collected by Augustus Simson (in the early 1900s), who noted the distribution as "Macquarie River". Additional distribution records have been sporadically collected over the decades and the species is now known from a total of 20 locations across the northern and central Midlands of the State (see map). The current conservation measures for *Catadromus lacordairei* are severely limited by the lack of distributional information, and until further study is undertaken to provide a better understanding of the beetle's ecological requirements, management outcomes will remain uncertain.

If you are an interested land manager within or adjacent to the area in which the species is known to occur, and have any information (e.g. beetle sightings, nocturnal visitations, observations of partly eaten frogs etc.) or would be amenable to a survey targeting suitable habitat on your property, please contact Karen at DPIPWE (**karen.richards@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**, **6165 4338** or **0499 773 707**). Any survey conducted by us would also provide to you a snapshot faunal inventory.

Chris P. Spencer & Karen Richards

Photos (clockwise from top left): Tasmania can only boast 4 large species (> 25 mm), of these, Catadromus *is the most spectacular (from LHS –* Percosoma sulcipene, Catadromus lacordairei, P. carenoides, Scaraphites rotundipennis*) Fireblight beetle. Suitable habitat for* Catadromus lacordairei *drying off in November.*

Catadromus lacordairei *distribution map and records sites where found. Map source The LIST © State of Tasmania.*

Catadromus lacordairei *habitat near Cleveland (on a wet year). Photos: Chris Spencer & Karen Richards.*

Bats behaving beautifully

Tasmania has eight micro-bat species, so referred because of their small size. They are often overlooked because of their cryptic nature as they only become active at night. During the day they hang upside down sleeping in safe roosting places where they are hidden from potential predators. Favourite roosting sites are in hollows and fissures in trees, under bark or at times in the roofs of sheds and houses. Bats are unique in that they are the only mammals on earth that can fly.

It is often extremely difficult to identify species when they are in flight because of their erratic flight and generally poor light at the time they fly out to feed. If you are prepared to be patient, you can sit and watch to see if you can identify their shape. The different profiles of the facial features and shape of the ears of the four genera of Tasmanian micro-bats (Chalinolobus, Vespadelus, Nyctophilus and Falsistrellus) are used to help identify them. But often the only sure way is to see them close up if they are caught or you come across an injured or dead one. But please avoid handling them without wearing gloves as like any wildlife they can be carriers of disease.

Another method for determining the species of a bat is through the use of a 'bat detector', such as an AnaBat detector. This is a device with a special microphone that can detect sound from a broad range of frequencies covering the range that bats emit. It can be set-up to record in a fixed position over a period of time or carried while walking to survey for bats. Bat calls are generally a repetitive series of sound pulses and often at a characteristic frequency. Specific software enables the analysis of the sound recorded to provide a visual (sonogram) or audible representation. The shape of the call frequency curve and the frequency range is used to identify particular bat species. As an example, the call of an Eastern falsistrelle is shown above, along with a photo of this bat species.

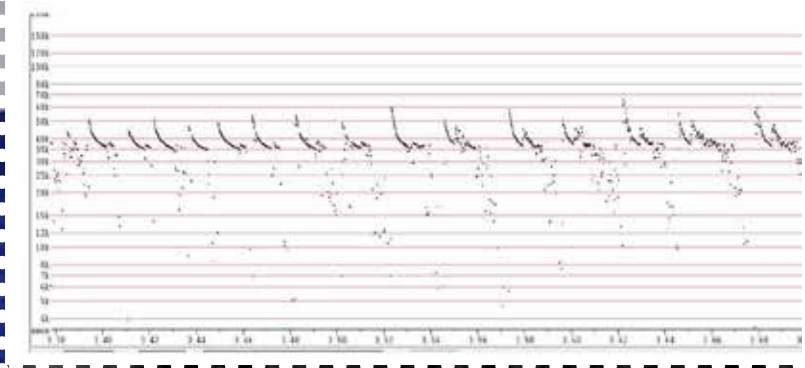
Recently, this technology has become more accessible with the capacity to have a hand-held recorder with real-time sonogram display which can attach to your Android phone or iPad – pretty amazing!

Bats are fascinating creatures and have a remarkable way in which they hunt and capture their prey in the dark. They use a process called echolocation by sonar, which involves sound waves. Echolocation is achieved by using the reflected sound waves (echo) to locate and identify prey. This is quite a complex process by which the bat detects changes in the frequency and intensity of the reflected sound. Receptors in their ears and computations within their brain enable the bat to use the change in frequency between the call emitted and the return echo to differentiate between texture, size, direction, distance and whether the reflected sound waves are from objects such as leaves, twigs or other non-edible surfaces which they may risk colliding with.

Bats emit calls from their mouth that are made up of ultrasonic frequency sound waves in the range of 20 to 200 kilohertz. These are beyond the frequency range of the human ear (upper limit of 20 kHz), hence we cannot hear them.

If you have seen photos of micro bats, you will notice the complexity and variation in the shape, texture

Photos (L to R): Eastern falsistrelle micro bat. Tasmanian long-eared bats. Photos: Lisa Cawthen.



and size of their ears. The shape and size of the ears help capture the sound, and creases or wrinkles in the skin of the ears assist in directing the reflected sounds to the receptor cells in the ear. Bats can work out if the sound is coming from above or below them and also the direction of sound through the difference between hearing the sound in each ear. Not unlike how owls determine the direction of sound as described in the Masked Owl article in the June 2016 Issue 21 edition of The Running Postman.

The wings of bats consist of a thin flexible membrane skin which attaches from their 'hand' to their body and also between their fingers. Their equivalent to a thumb sticks out from the wing and acts as a claw enabling bats to climb up branches, tree trunks or other structures. One reason why bats hang upside down is that this enables them to have a quick take off by dropping into flight from a height, unlike birds which launch themselves into flight upwards from a standing start. The soft membrane is very flexible and allows bats to have great maneuverability in flight, ducking and weaving to avoid collisions or pursue prey.

Another interesting fact is that hanging upside down actually requires little muscle power or energy as once the claws of the bats grip they 'lock' in place aided also by gravity, so they simply just relax and hang. They can, and do, hang like this for long periods of time, particularly as they are warm blooded and need to hibernate during cold periods. They also go into torpor reducing their body heat and metabolism to conserve energy and resources to maintain the minimum body function.

Bats have a very valuable ecological role in eating insects, such as moths, mosquitoes, beetles, flies and other insects that are out at night flying or on leaves or other surfaces. It has been reported that they can eat up to around one third of their body weight a night – that's a lot of insects! Bats are particularly beneficial for controlling pest insects in agricultural crops or the home garden. They can often be seen flying around street lights or lights from houses. Some people believe that this is because they can 'see' insects more clearly, but it is largely due to the fact that the insects are attracted to the light and so it makes it easier for bats to get a good feed.

Bats are fascinating animals and have their own special beauty, they provide valuable ecosystem services in our agricultural landscape, bushlands and gardens. We can help by providing or protecting their habitat, particularly the types of places they like to roost.

An excellent booklet on 'Tasmanian Bats and their habitat – a guide' is available on the Forest Practice Authority web site **http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/127703/Bat_booklet_2015.pdf.**

Iona Mitchell

Photos (L to R, top to bottom):
Tree hollow maternity roost of Chocolate wattled bats.
AnaBat bat detector.
Eastern falsistrelle call sonogram.
Lesser long-eared bat juveniles in roost at Woodsdale.
Photos: Lisa Cawthen.

Valuing Nature – report on the recent 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference, Hobart

Is nature priceless? As conservation landholders, we know that nature provides inspiration, peace (and sometimes terror), creatures with whom we share this world, and ecosystem services such as carbon capture, pollination, pest control, water filtration, rainfall and so much more. If only nature was respected and loved for the many services she provides to us all and just for being there.

But she isn't, not always. With clearing and degradation going on apace, perhaps it is time for a monetary value to be placed on those services, so that areas can be protected that would otherwise be lost. Various schemes are in place around the world to try to value nature's contribution and account for it in our economic systems. These can be especially effective in places where poverty and limited legal structures make it difficult to protect nature, even when people want to do so.

Sometimes monetising nature enables conservation wins, but sometimes there is a conservation loss on the other hand ("offsets" seemed to be a dirty word for many attendees). It's hard to know if putting a price on nature's values facilitates protection, or simply a greenwashing of what is, essentially, still ongoing loss.

This was the dilemma explored by speakers at the conference, a challenging film, "Banking Nature" (in which investors buy a piece of priority vegetation and then sell off parts as offsets to developers who want to develop other areas of such vegetation, thereby making a tidy profit), and a light-hearted debate on the topic "Nature should be on the balance sheet".

Organised by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, for the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, there was a wide variety of inspirational speakers, in talks, workshops and a field trip, at what was, for one conservation landholder, "the best conference I've been to in 40 years".

Keynote speakers included Jennifer Morris, President of Conservation International, who argued that their work valuing nature in poorer countries has provided an income for people while protecting nature. Fiona Simson, President of National Farmers' Federation, talked about combining production and conservation, which of course we need to do and many farmers juggle well (but she didn't like the question about land clearing rates).

Indigenous conservation was a component throughout the conference, and it was great to hear so many speakers acknowledging indigenous rights and concerns, and working towards better indigenous involvement in decision making, land management and even municipal planning. Ricky Archer, General Manager of Djelk Rangers in Arnhem Land, told us about the fantastic work of men and women rangers who look after country over an absolutely huge area of land and sea. They are using their indigenous knowledge, building capacity in their communities, gaining skills, and increasing their authorisation to do compliance work (catching illegal fishers etc).

New Zealand's valuing of nature inspired me. Alan Saunders, Integrated Catchment Management at Waikato Regional Council, talked about how NZ has tackled mammalian predators on islands, despite an assessment by experts that rat control would never be effective, and how they have since been successful on larger islands and are now tackling "islands" of vegetation on the mainland. Paul Kirby, Manager Legal Services, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust,

Photo: 2017 ALCA Private Land conference field trip to Flat Rock reserve. Photo: Anna Povey.

told us how they have defended covenants from removal, all the way to the Supreme Court, and have so far been successful. This legal protection keeps covenants strong, and values the efforts made by all conservation landholders who work for nature.

So who won the debate? While both sides presented strong arguments, the "no" case won, probably on the basis of being more amusing, and also the short film in which people were asked to value their mother. What do you love about your mother? Would you sell her? Maybe swap…

If you missed this ALCA conference, the 2018 National Private Land Conservation Conference will be hosted by the Queensland Trust for Nature, Brisbane 24, 25, 26 October.

Presentations from the 2017 ALCA conference will be available on the conference web site **http://plc-conference.org.au/**.

Anna Povey, Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Can I **burn** in my covenant?

This is a question often asked by landowners who own covenants as well as those that don't. The answer is 'yes', the majority of covenants contain vegetation communities that can be burnt. Burns can be conducted to reduce fuel loads for safety reasons, and in many instances vegetation communities can benefit from an ecological burn.

An Authorisation from the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) will be needed before undertaking a burn. This can be done by email to **PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au** or by contacting a stewardship officer (contact numbers at bottom of page) to request an authorisation to burn. If the planned burn is within the Fire Permit Period you will need to seek a permit from the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) (**1800 000 699**). Outside this period we recommend you register your burn with TFS (**1800 000 699**).

If the burn is being conducted by the TFS or the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), these organisations will provide the burn plan to the PLCP. If you are undertaking the burn yourself, the PLCP will discuss the details of the burn with you and will advise on any particular natural values which require special management or which need to be avoided.

Once the details of the planned burn are finalised and provided to the PLCP, the Program will issue a letter of Authorisation to the covenant owner, with a copy provided to the TFS or PWS if these organisations are managing the burn.

Do you have to allow the TFS to undertake fuel reduction burns on your property if it is part of a planned burn area? The Fuel Reduction Program is voluntary. If you have concerns about a proposed planned burn we recommend you talk to the Fuel Reduction Unit in TFS about why this particular burn has been identified.

The PLCP can provide advice during the planning stages for a burn but does not provide on-ground assistance in undertaking burns. If you do not have the equipment or expertise to conduct a burn yourself, then we recommend you seek advice from the Fuel Reduction Unit or your local brigade.

We also recommend that you refer to the "Planned Burning for Farmers and Landholders, April 2017" which is available at **www.sfmc.tas.gov.au** or by emailing **sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au**.

Information on the ecological requirements/impacts of burning for bush is available in the "Planned Burning Manual – Guidelines to enable safe and effective planned burning on private land" which is available at **www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/conservation-on-private-land** or at **www.sfmc.tas.gov.au**

Contact your stewardship officer with the PLCP for further information or advice (Anna Povey – **0498 800 611**, Oliver Strutt – **0407 352 479**)

Photo: Resprouting eucalypt shoots emerging after fire. Photo: Janet Smith.

Future events

Conservation Landholders Tasmania: next events

Conservation landholders are welcome to participate in the following events:

Saturday 17 March 2018, *A Devil of a Day: Tasmanian devils and other native animals on conservation properties*, Pipers Brook

Learn from experts about managing native animals and the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Then visit Scott Bell's property, which is home to a captive population of Devils.

Thursday 17 May 2018, *Selling conservation land: preserving the legacy we have created*, Campbell Town

A conservation forum to discuss how best we can pass on our precious land to others who will preserve its natural values. Victoria Marles, the CEO of the Trust for Nature in Victoria, and others will be speaking. More details in the article in this issue.

To join the CLT email contact list, email Robin Garnett **robin@rubicon.org.au** or John Thompson **thompsonjohng@gmail.com**. Invitations are sent to the list a month before each event.

Update your contact details

Let us know your email address and updated contact details.
Contact Iona Mitchell on **03 6165 4409** or
email **iona.mitchell@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at June 2017

Number of covenants	850	107,644 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	972	58,046 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	595	2,876 hectares

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

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**

Selling property?

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. 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.

Contacts

Stewardship
Anna Povey (North) **0498 800 611**
Oliver Strutt (South) **0407 352 479**

Land For Wildlife
Iona Mitchell **6165 4409**

Natural and Cultural Heritage
Private Land Conservation Program
134 Macquarie Street Hobart
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp

Tasmanian Government

BL11243