The Running Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

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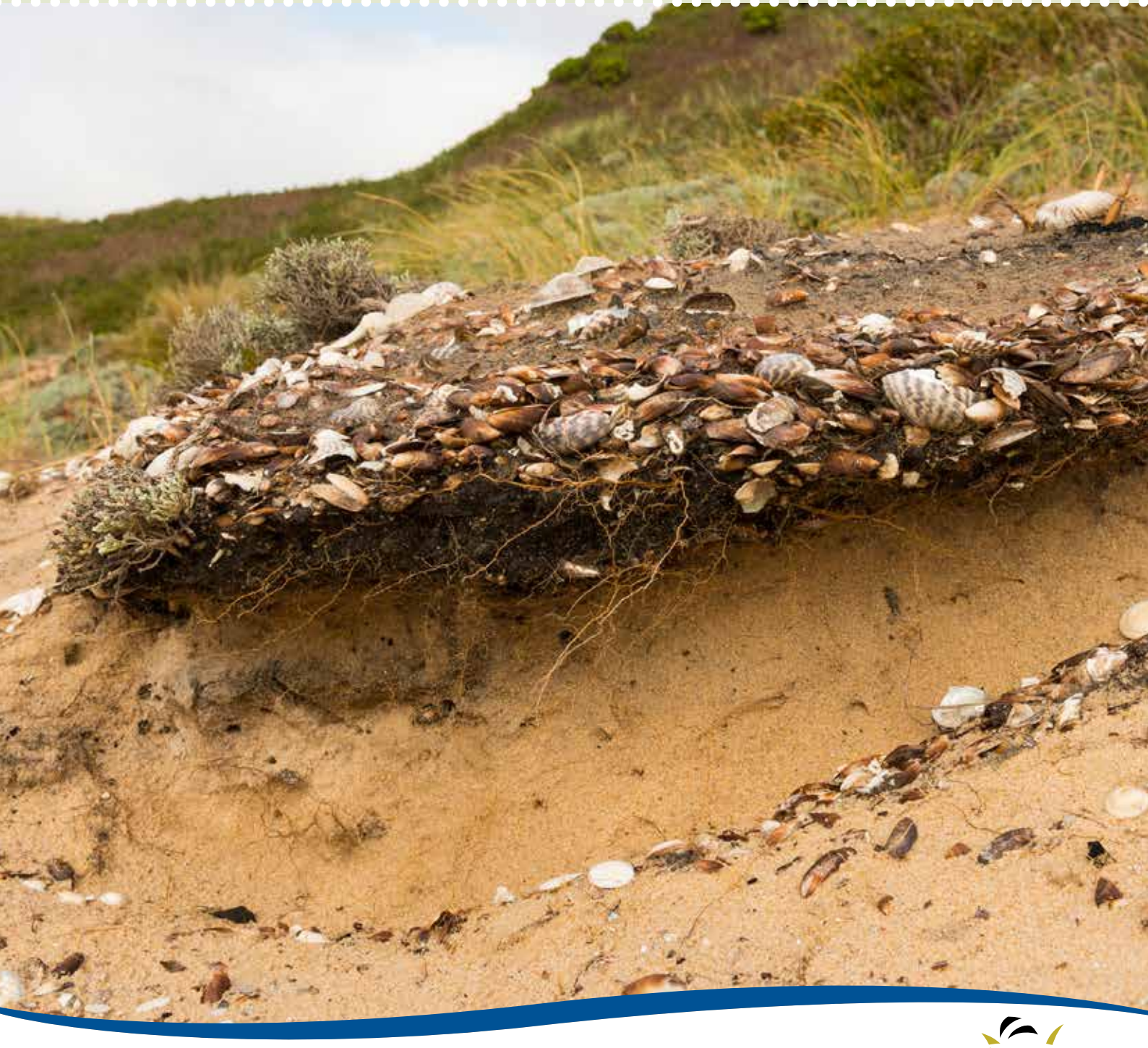
Building partnerships with landowners for the sustainable management and conservation of natural values across the landscape.



Department of
Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government

Manager's **message** – June 2021

Welcome to this June 2021 edition of the Running Postman. We have now moved to a single edition of the Running Postman each year and I hope that the breadth of topics covered in this issue provides you with some interesting and enjoyable reading material during the cold winter months!

In this issue we celebrate the success of the 2020/2021 breeding season for orange-bellied parrots, with the population in the wild swelling to 51 birds returning to Tasmania to breed, up from the low several years ago of just 17 birds. It's a significant milestone for the recovery of the wild population of this endangered species.

2020 also yielded an unexpected find when zoologists searching for the Salt Lake slater, not seen in Tasmania since the 1980's and thought to be locally extinct at Tunbridge, found their first specimens!

This issue provides some information on contributing data to the Natural Values Atlas (NVA). The NVA is a comprehensive database of Tasmania's natural values with observations of over 20,000 species. You can contribute your own observations, including by an app such as iNaturalist downloaded to your mobile device.

I encourage you to take the time to read the article on Aboriginal cultural heritage. Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects can be found all over Tasmania, and it is important to be aware of your legal obligations in relation to their protection and management. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania has useful online resources including a property search website which will allow you to see if you have Aboriginal heritage sites or objects on your land.

Fungi are often overlooked, but they play an extremely important role in our ecosystems, occurring in every type of habitat on earth and having a fascinating life history. They are thought to enable plants to communicate with each other through extensive mycorrhizal networks.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and feedback is most welcome.

Best wishes, Helen.

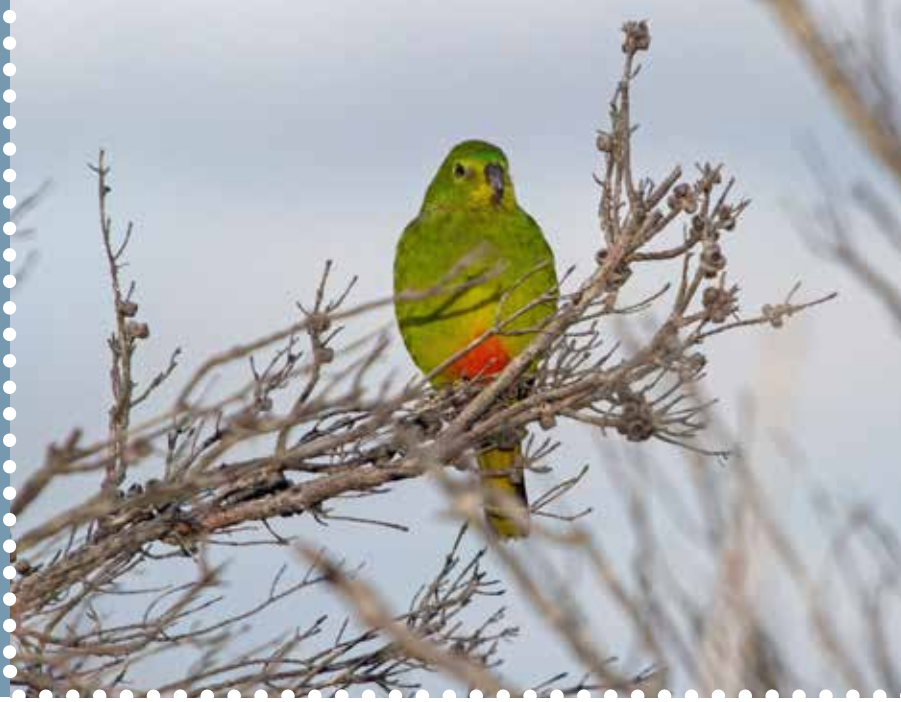
Helen Crawford,
Section Head,
Threatened Species &
Private Land Conservation

In this **Issue**

The Running Postman *is printed on ecoStar+ Recycled Silk paper, manufactured from 100% post consumer recycled paper in a process chlorine free environment under the ISO 14001 environmental management system.*

On the cover: West Point midden feature.
Photo: Nick Monk (©DPIPWE).
Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPIPWE.

Promising milestone for the **orange-bellied parrot**



In the December 2016 edition of the Running Postman (Issue 22) there was an article titled 'In full flight: helping to save the orange-bellied parrot'. This article highlighted the enormous efforts being made to save these beautiful little birds that are one of Australia's most endangered species and one of only three species of migratory parrots in the world.

Each October orange-bellied parrots (OBP) return to Tasmania to breed over summer returning to the mainland to over winter late in February to mid-March, or early April for juveniles. The size of the OBP population is counted in December each year after adult birds have returned to Melaleuca for breeding, the main area they are found to breed. They nest in natural hollows or artificial nest boxes that have been carefully positioned in tall Eucalypts or on poles. Each September, prior to the breeding season, the nest boxes are carefully prepared with new nesting material.

This season has been the most successful to date with the population swelling to 51 birds returning, up from the low several years ago of just 17 birds. With the annual release in spring of captive bred adults to supplement the breeding season, by the start of breeding in November last year there were a total of 76 OBP's known to be alive in the wild with a good season predicted with up to 38 potential pairs. It was good, with the OBP Team carrying out health checks, collecting blood samples and banding a total of 87 nestlings. The number of nests, eggs and fledglings produced in the wild were the highest since systematic nest box monitoring began in 1994.

Another encouraging sign was that two pairs of OBP nested in nest boxes at the New Harbour site which is about 5 km distance south of Melaleuca. New Harbour is within the foraging range of Melaleuca, however OBP have not nested there since nest boxes were installed in 2010. The two pairs that did breed produced seven fledglings with all birds joining the flock at Melaleuca before leaving on their migration to the mainland.

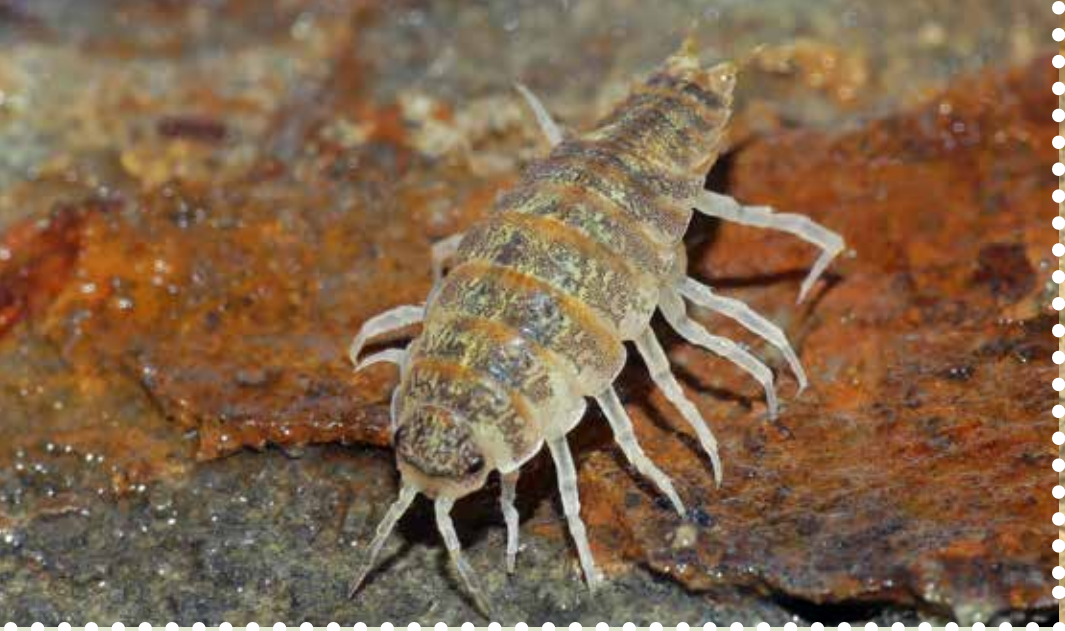
Over this season, OBP were observed feeding in the buttongrass plains around Melaleuca. Supplementary food is provided at Melaleuca; however, natural foraging is greatly preferred for the birds for not only nutritional reasons, but to encourage the birds to seek and feed on natural food plants over a wider range of the buttongrass plains. Planned burns at various times and locations in the region have proved extremely beneficial in increasing the abundance and availability of food plants. Regenerating buttongrass following burns has resulted in more abundant natural food, particularly after two or more years post-fire. The OBP Program Team continues to work with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to identify suitable areas to undertake future planned burns in a mosaic to enable a staggered succession of food plants over a broad area.

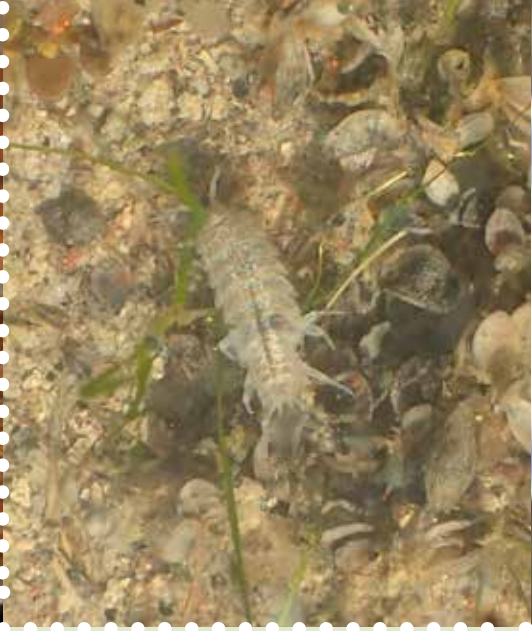
This year DPIPWE released a total of 80 OBPs at Melaleuca: 31 adults in spring to increase the number of breeding pairs and 50 juveniles at the end of the season to increase the size of the flock heading to the mainland. The release of captive-bred birds is a critical recovery action to supplement the wild OBP population at Melaleuca.

May the success of this season continue, to achieve a viable self-sustaining wild population of these extraordinary parrots into the future.

Iona Mitchell

Photo: Orange-bellied parrot. Photo: DPIPWE.





In search of the **Salt Lake slater** yields an unexpected find

Haloniscus searlei (Salt Lake slater) is a saline-water adapted species, thought to have evolved from terrestrial isopods, although recent genetic studies are questioning this belief. It is the only truly Australian aquatic Oniscoidae (woodlice family) and is amongst a select few amphibious isopods found elsewhere, the remainder are predominantly freshwater troglodyte species occurring in South American caves (e.g. *Xangoniscus itacarambiensis*, Olhos D'Água Cave, Brazil), with only one so far recognised as being salt water (in mangroves) adapted. While relatively widespread and common across salinity-affected regions of mainland Australia, in Tasmania where the species is only known to occur in two saline lakes in the vicinity of Tunbridge and Ross, the species is considered threatened and is listed as endangered on the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. However, other saline areas occurring on private land nearby remain unchecked and could potentially contain the species. A recent search of the ephemeral saline waterbodies on a covenanted property near Ross, failed to locate the species. There is also a supposed report of the species from Musselroe Bay area (Simon Grove pers. comm.), although this requires confirmation, and more curiously, a record of a 1976 wet preserved specimen held at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) and reported on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) from Frome Dam in north east Tasmania, needs investigation, particularly as the water in Frome Dam is not saline.

Despite several survey attempts, the Salt Lake slater has not been recorded since the 1980s, and until recently was considered likely to be locally extinct from the saline lagoon near Tunbridge.

In October 2020, zoologists from the Threatened Species Section (TSS) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (Simon Grove) made a site visit to the lagoon near Tunbridge to locate the elusive slater. Being a relatively wet winter/spring, the lagoon held water, which is not always the case, especially in drier years. Armed with gumboots, waders, dipnets and white trays and venturing to the water's edge, within 2 minutes the zoologists had detected the first specimens of the slater.

Using the latest technological advances, Simon immediately contacted Sarah Tassell, a museum counterpart in New Zealand, about the find. Sarah provided details on the species' habits that she had observed in Bar Lagoon west of Ross some 16 years earlier. Having acquired specimens for the museum, the zoologists now went in search of the slater, this time using Sarah's visual survey approach. It wasn't long before one, and then another was seen climbing around on the substrate and aquatic vegetation in water 10 – 20 cm deep. Photo opportunities were taken of the slater in situ.

Further behavioural observations were recorded a short time later. Upon turning over submerged rocks and remnant woody debris present in the lagoon, occurring at depths of between 15 - 25 cm, numerous slaters congregating on the underside of the habitat

were revealed. Similar behaviours in *Haloniscus searlei* populations from mainland Australia have been reported.

Whilst celebrating the continued presence of the slater in the lagoon, attention was drawn to an unexpected crustacean, approximate length 10 cm, swimming on its back immediately beneath the surface of the water. Having captured a few specimens to photograph, further correspondence with Sarah confirmed the species to be the brine shrimp *Parartemia zeitziana*. Many of you might recall such animals being labelled 'sea-monkeys', with their eggs available via comic-book distributers in the 1970's. Thought not to occur in Tasmania, subsequent literature searches indicated that the species had previously been recorded in the lagoon in the 1970's and then again in 2004; although no records exist on either the Natural Values Atlas (NVA) or ALA for Tasmania.

South-west Western Australia is a hotspot for inland crustacean diversity, a group to which brine shrimp and fairy shrimp (Anostracans) belong. In fact, 14 of the 19 known species of Parartemia occur there, 10 of which are endemic to the region with a number occupying only a handful of saline lakes. The species identified here (*Parartemia zeitziana*) occurs in saline lagoons across south-eastern Australia, as far west as Ceduna, South Australia, but in Tasmania it has a locally restricted distribution. *Parartemia* reproduce in two ways: they may give birth to live nauplii (early larval form, dissimilar in appearance to adults) and can produce several broods during a filling event, but they also have a strategy to survive dry periods in that they produce drought-resistant eggs, called cysts, capable of withstanding desiccation for lengthy periods. Interestingly, this method of survival is not duplicated by the slater, which carry eggs in specially modified pouches beneath the female abdomen until juveniles' hatch. Such eggs are unable to tolerate desiccation, so it is thought likely that individuals retreat into deep cracks in the drying substrate during dewatering events.

Records of both discoveries at the lagoon have now been entered on to the NVA and consideration is being given to the potential listing of *Parartemia zeitziana* as threatened under state legislation.

Karen Richards

If you come across any interesting terrestrial or aquatic invertebrates (bugs, beetles, worms, butterflies) that you think may be rare in your covenant and you would like to know what they may be, email images to the **ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**. Remember, the collection of threatened species requires a permit - send an email to the Threatened Species Section (as per the one given) to obtain more information on what is required or look up the Threatened Species web page **https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/threatened-species-and-communities**.

Photos (L to R): Haloniscus searlei looking down on body. Photo: Simon Grove. Haloniscus searlei on substrate in the lagoon. Photo: Karen Richards. Parartemia zeitziana female with eggs. Photo: Karen Richards. Haloniscus searlei. Photo: Simon Grove. Parartemia zeitziana swimming on surface. Photo: Karen Richards.

The **fungi** beneath your feet

As winter sets in you may start to see the emergence of fungi on your land. This shows us it is the indigenous season of Tunna, which typically occurs between May and August here on Iutruwita (Tasmania). These fungi can take many strange and unusual forms, including the classical mushroom, brackets, jellies, corals, birds' nest fungi, stinkhorns, clubs, rusts, boletes, and toothed fungi. There are also many species that have fruitbodies too small to see with the naked eye, that we are only just discovering with the advent of new high throughput DNA sequencing technology. This technology is doing what the microscope has done for other biological disciplines in terms of expanding our knowledge of the Kingdom fungi.

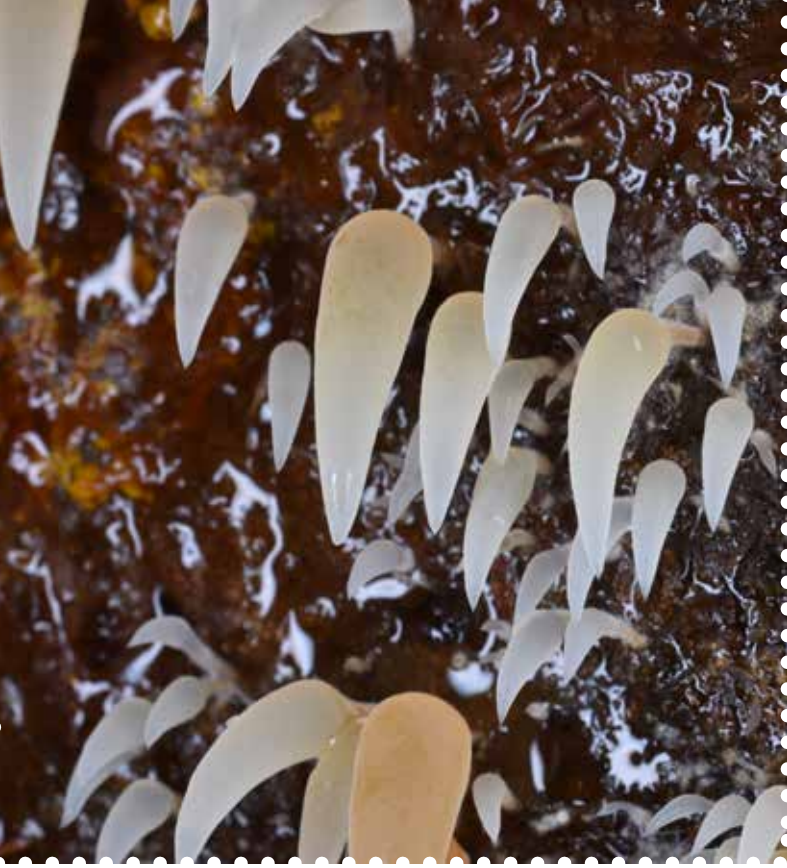
Fungi occur in every habitat on earth, including terrestrial, marine, and aquatic environments; as symbionts on our skin; and within our digestive system. Scientists estimate that there are around 17 species of fungi for every plant species.

These often brightly coloured yet cryptic structures are the sexual reproductive structures of the fungus, whose body is comprised of fine networks of hyphae known as mycelium. These hyphae are typically 10 micrometres (10/1000ths of a millimetre) wide, and are made of organic polymers, typically chitin, which is the same substance that makes up the exoskeletons of insects and crustaceans. One handful of soil can contain as much as 50 km of fungal hyphae.

These mycelial networks can be quite small, around 5 cm diameter in some species such as *Laccaria*, to many hundreds of square metres in species such as *Russula*. You can think about the differences between these fungi as analogous to a small herb, or an old growth *Eucalyptus regnans* (swamp gum/mountain ash) tree. You will often see *Laccaria*, recognisable by their flesh-coloured gills under chestnut brown caps, growing along the edge of tracks and in disturbed places such as new plantations. Whereas areas that have abundant fruit bodies of *Russula* tend to be older systems, with less recent disturbance, such as old growth forests.

These larger fungi form huge networks, that connect many different species of plants together using relationships with plant roots known as mycorrhiza. These mycorrhizal connections enable the plants to exchange nutrients gathered from the soil by fungi, such as calcium, phosphorus, and nitrogen, with sugar that the plant makes through photosynthesis. These mycorrhizal relationships are present in 80% of the world's plants and have been present since the earliest land plants evolved. Plants cannot survive without their fungal partners, and we should be viewing these systems not as individuals, but as meta-organisms, where fungi, bacteria, archaea, and viroids all contribute to the function and survival of the association.

Mycorrhizal networks also enable plants to communicate with each other, as well as learn and respond to environmental stimuli as a group. Canadian mycologist (mushroom



scientist) Suzanne Simard has found that 70% of the nitrogen that passes through the mycelial networks between trees is in the form of glycine and glutamate, which are the same neurotransmitters in our brains that we use to think. This discovery has caused us to question the way we think about cognition and sentience in the natural world.

If you want to know more about the fungi growing on your property, there are several great resources available that are good for beginners including:

- A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi – Gates and Ratkowsky (available at Fungimap Book shop **https://shop.fungimap.org.au/** or through the Tasmanian Field Naturalists).
- FungiFlip (available at most bookshops).
- Fungimap website: **https://fungimap.org.au/**.
- Fungimap Australia project on iNaturalist – add your records to the Atlas of Living Australia and get community IDs on your photos.
- Tasmanian Fungi Facebook page: **https://m.facebook.com/groups/tasfungi/**.

When taking photographs of fungi for identification there are some important points to remember:

- Take several angles, from the above, at a 45 degree angle, and from the side so the gills (underside) are clearly visible.
- Frame the photograph so the fungus occupies most of the photograph, and all the diagnostic features are visible, i.e. the cap, the gills and the stem in mushrooms.
- Use a coin or ruler for scale.
- Use a macro lens if you have access to one.
- Try and capture all the growth stages of the fungus, from buttons to mature.
- Use a small tripod, particularly in dark conditions, so your photos don't come out blurry.

Things to take note of:

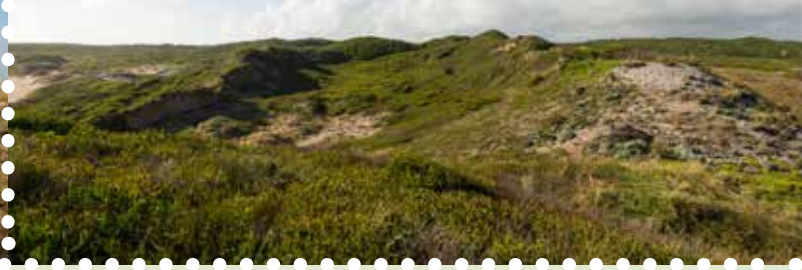
- What is the fungus growing on? E.g.: soil, live plant (list species if known), dead wood, another fungus, a dead insect.
- What sort of vegetation or habitat did you find the fungus in? List dominant plant species if you know them.

So next time you encounter a mushroom, a bracket, or a tiny cup fungus, remember there is far more going on than meets the eye. While we only witness their presence for a fleeting moment, increasing our understanding of their ecology, taxonomy, and how to address their conservation needs is essential if we are to look after our conservation estate and preserve biodiversity for future generations.

Julie Fielder, Conservation Program Ecologist, Tasmanian Land Conservancy

(Co-author of the upcoming book, **Fungi4Land - https://fungi4land.com/**).

Photos (L to R): Cicada with entomopathogenic fungus. Geastrum sp - Earthstar fungi. Mucronella pendula - Jelly fungi. Podoserpula pusio - Leather fungi. Photos: Ian Bell.



Worth protecting: **Aboriginal cultural heritage** in Tasmania

Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage provides a spiritual connection for Tasmanian Aboriginal people today and valuable information about one of the oldest living cultures in the world.

Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects – such as shell middens, stone artefacts, rock shelters and art sites - can be found all over Tasmania and are often located near major food sources such as rivers, lakes and the coast line.

Aboriginal places and objects can also be found on private property. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania in DPIPWE works in partnership with landowners, land managers and Aboriginal communities to record, protect and manage these places and objects.

Protecting Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* provides for the protection and management of Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage (referred to under the Act as 'relics'). Under the Act it is an offense to destroy, damage, deface, conceal or otherwise interfere with relics without a permit granted by the Minister. There is an obligation to report findings of relics as soon as practicable.

Developments and other activities can cause significant harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage. To access advice on Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects in relation to your property or project visit the Aboriginal Heritage Property Search website www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/propertysearch/. It is important to check the Aboriginal Heritage Property Search website before undertaking development and other activities that may impact Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Conduct a property search

Use the **Aboriginal Heritage Property Search website** or the Dial Before You Dig website **www.1100.com.au/** to determine if your project activity may impact Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The Aboriginal Heritage Property Search website provides the first step for land owners to determine whether there is a need to seek further advice about the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage in an area.

This website undertakes a preliminary search of the **Aboriginal Heritage Register** and provides a result on whether there are registered Aboriginal 'relics' in an area or a risk of impacting Aboriginal relics. It is important to check the Aboriginal Heritage Property Search website before undertaking activities that may impact on Aboriginal heritage.

The Property Search website is intended mainly to assist small scale developments. Proponents or consultants working on public land or larger scale developments are advised to contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania directly.

The **Property Search website** provides the best available information about the presence of relics in Tasmania; however, the records are not complete. Obtaining a Search Record from this website does not exempt a person from their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

Report findings of Aboriginal heritage

If Aboriginal cultural heritage is disturbed by your activity, or you make an unanticipated discovery of something that you think might be Aboriginal heritage, you **must stop work**. Do not interfere with the site.

To report an unanticipated discovery or suspected Aboriginal heritage (relic) contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on **1300 487 045** or email **aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au**.

Aboriginal cultural heritage fact sheets provide information about the types of Aboriginal cultural heritage found in Tasmania. These Fact Sheets are located on the Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania website or **https://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/cultural-heritage**

Emily Smith and Margaret Petrovic

Photos (L to R): West Point midden site. West Point coastal landscape. Photos: Nick Monk (©DPIPWE).

Finding a new **native plant species**

The incredible foresight of a group of native orchid enthusiasts recognised the uniqueness and high conservation value of a property near Port Sorell which still retained pockets of remnant coastal vegetation and wetlands. Several species of orchids known to be uncommon occurred on the property with one species, the marsh leek orchid, known to only occur on the property. The property also contained *Eucalyptus ovata* (black gum) woodland, listed as a threatened vegetation community, and was home to the threatened *Engaeus granulatus* (north-coast burrowing crayfish). When the property came on the market in the early 2000s the group of native orchid enthusiasts were the principle drivers for the purchase of the land by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) in 2003 as the first property under their new revolving fund scheme. It was first known as the 'Dorothy Reeves Reserve' as a tribute to a significant financial donor to the TLC.

The TLC placed a covenant on the land to protect the natural values in perpetuity and sold the land in 2007 to Phil Collier and Robin Garnett. The property became known as Rubicon Sanctuary. Robin and Phil developed an impressive plant species list through their observations and confirmed the property as being a botanical hot spot. They managed the property for its conservation values through burning, slashing and weeding with monitoring and surveying to assess the outcomes of their management regimes. Through observations and measurements, they gained a greater understanding of the management needs for the priority species that occurred on the land. In doing so, they have contributed a significant and valuable understanding of the needs of threatened orchid species which occur on the land.

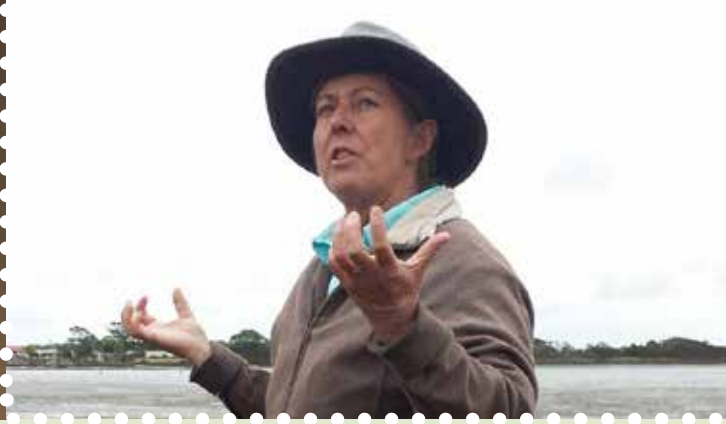
Their astute observations and curiosity led to the discovery of a new plant species to Tasmania, one that is Nationally listed as a threatened species. They noted a shrub of around 1.5 m height growing in the wetlands. Advice provided stated the identity as being dollybush (*Cassinia aculeata*), but Phil was not convinced based on the floral arrangement, plant form and the fact that *Cassinia aculeata* prefers growing in drier sites. In 2010 Phil was convinced that the closest identity to the 'mystery' plant was *Cassinia rugata* (wrinkled dollybush) a species that lives in southwest Victoria in 'wet' heathland and riparian woodland habitat. He sought the advice of Tony Orchard, a former curator of the Tasmanian Herbarium, who suggested it was a morphological variant of *Cassinia rugata*. It was Neville Walsh from the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens who confirmed it as *Cassinia rugata*.

It is listed as rare in Victoria with only a few plants found in several locations. Rubicon Sanctuary has been identified as the stronghold of this threatened species, listed as endangered in Tasmania with around 300 plants. Limited recruitment has been reported in Victoria and land clearing, fragmentation, weeds and altered hydrology are some of the factors causing loss of the species and most likely has been a factor in its restricted occurrence in Tasmania.

Phil and Robin have recently analysed all the data from their monitoring of *Cassinia rugata* on Rubicon Sanctuary, plus the results of a seeding and translocation experiment authorised by a permit from DPIPWE. A new report provides recommendations about future management options of this species, which will hopefully assist the TLC, the current owners of Rubicon. Copies of the report are available from **phil.a.collier@outlook.com**.

Iona Mitchell

Photos (L to R):
Flower cluster of Cassinia rugata.
Mature flowering Cassinia rugata at Rubicon.
Photos: Phil Collier.



Conservation of **Coastal Saltmarshes**

Forty participants attended this full and enlightening event organized by Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) in collaboration with the Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) and held in Smithton 13 March 2021. It was the CLT's first person-to person-event since the Covid pandemic struck and the event complied with all current Covid requirements. The participants included landholders with existing covenants as well as local landholders with conservation properties interested to learn about the opportunity to place covenants on their properties. Various professionals working in and amongst the extensive North West saltmarshes attended, as did interested members from the public.

The day started with an update of CCA's many and varied activities and projects by new Regional NRM Manager Mike Thomson. It was rewarding to see the extensive application of these conservation initiatives across such an important and diverse part of the state.

Fiona Marshall, CCA's Agricultural Project Coordinator, gave a detailed overview of CCA's Coastal Saltmarsh Project. Fiona introduced us to saltmarshes, their ecological importance, current threats and the need to permanently conserve these delicate landscapes. Helen Morgan, Ecologist from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) followed with an informative session on conservation covenants and the important part they play in bringing about perpetual conservation on private land.

Anna Wind, CCA's Environmental Project Coordinator and Sue Jennings from the Circular Head Landcare Group gave a lively session on managing rice grass. This imported weed has had a destructive hold on large parts of the saltmarshes in North West Tasmania for too long and efforts to eliminate it through a concerted spraying program are paying dividends.

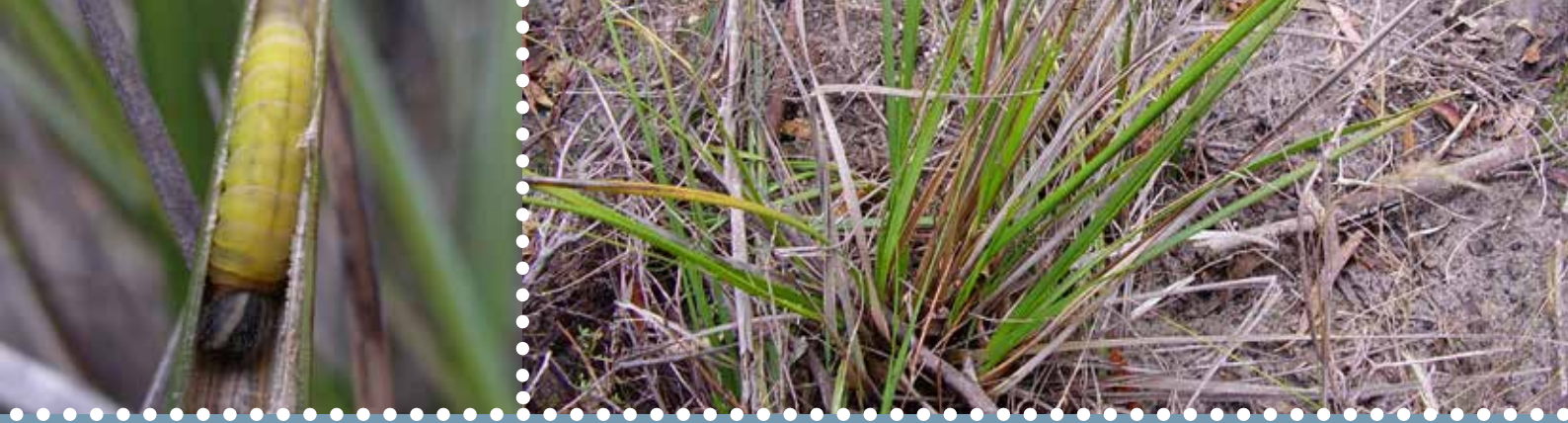
Eric Woehler from Birdlife Tasmania then spoke about the importance of a healthy saltmarsh on the lives of migratory and local shore birds. Whilst his talk was inspiring in terms of the extraordinary effort many of these birds make as global travellers with their set breeding patterns, it came with a warning that the overall bird count across a number of species is in decline.

John Thompson and John Dennett finished with an update on CLT's activities concerning the current roll out of the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which provides for a new Landscape Conservation Zone (LCZ) which is intended to be applied to land identified for protection and conservation and while allowing some small-scale development does prohibit mining and extractive industries. The CLT's activities included making submissions on behalf of covenanted landholders on a council-by-council basis, attending each Commission hearing and making representations as well as submissions and having a favourable meeting with the Minister for Planning. An enthusiastic discussion followed with conservation landholders encouraged to contact their local council as the roll out of the new Planning Scheme continues to ensure they obtain maximum protection for their individual properties.

A very successful day finished with a drive from the Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre down to the saltmarshes near the Smithton township where Sue Jennings, donned her gumboots and stood in the saltmarshes to lead a spirited discussion and demonstration of her Landcare group's great work over the years.

John Dennett
(Co-Chair CLT)

Photos (L to R): L-R Helen Morgan (TLC), Mike Thomson (CCA), Anna Wind (CCA), Sue Jennings (Circular Head Landcare), Gail Dennett (CLT) and Fiona Marshall (CCA). Photo: CLT
Sue Jennings showing where rice grass control has been undertaken in the Duck Bay estuary. Photo: Anna Wind.



Information source on Tasmania's **natural values**

The Natural Values Atlas (NVA) is a useful on-line tool for searching for information on Tasmania's natural values such as threatened species, observation records for a specific species, or finding out what flora and fauna species have been recorded at a specific location. The NVA is an authoritative and comprehensive database on more than 20,000 species from Tasmania and provides maps showing their location and extent.

However, the information in the NVA is only as good as what has been recorded and entered into the NVA database. An NVA record provides information on the presence of species as recorded at a particular time and location. The absence of a record for a particular species does not necessarily mean that species does not occur at a specific location but may simply mean that it has not been recorded at that location. Consideration needs to be made of the habitat or vegetation community. As an example, if Chaostola skipper (a threatened butterfly) has not been recorded in an area but *Gahnia radula* (a favoured food plant of the caterpillar stage of Chaostola skipper) is present, then it is likely that Chaostola skipper may occur. This would be a prompt for further searching to confirm presence or absence.

The more records uploaded to the NVA, the greater the amount of information is available about Tasmania's biodiversity. This is where you can help by recording observations you make of species you have seen at particular locations, such as in the bush on your land, in your backyard or going for walks in other places. An easy way to do this is to join iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org/), an on-line not-for-profit network of naturalists, citizen scientists, biologists and ecologists who record their observations. In doing so they are making a valuable contribution to the understanding of biodiversity worldwide. To join so that you may also contribute your observations, simply download the free iNaturalist app onto your mobile device and use it to collect species records as you see them.

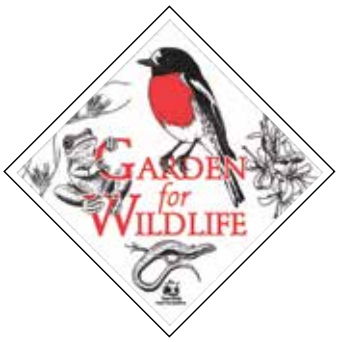
The records you make must have an accompanying photo for confirmation of the species identification. It does not matter if you don't know the species name, the iNaturalist online community will assist in identification from the photos you provide with your record. So, it is also a great way to learn the names of plants and animals you see. The app automatically records the location co-ordinates for your photo/observation, as well as the date and observer name (your iNaturalist user ID).

The NVA team within DPIPWE have set up a project in iNaturalist called 'Natural Values Atlas Tasmania' which you can join and submit observation records to. The NVA team will routinely harvest the data from the Tasmania specific iNaturalist project and load into the NVA to build on the understanding of species types and distributions in Tasmania.

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), a collaborative, digital, open infrastructure that pulls together Australian biodiversity data from multiple sources, has often been used to record species observations and contains significant quantities of Tasmanian species records which are not held within the NVA. The NVA team have developed a process to harvest and check the quality of this data and then add the cleaned data to the NVA to also increase the knowledge of Tasmanian biodiversity.

Through iNaturalist, you can help gain a great understanding of Tasmania's flora and fauna and where they occur.

Iona Mitchell



Photos (L to R): A Chaostola skipper larva exposed in a rolled up leaf. Gahnia radula favoured habitat of Chaostola skipper. Photos: Phil Bell.

Future events

Conservation Landholders Tasmania

Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) future events will be posted on the CLT website **www.clt.asn.au**. To join the CLT email contact list, email Gail Dennett **gaildennett@gmail.com**. Invitations to events are sent to those on the email list at least a month before each event.

Update your contact details

Let us know your email address and updated contact details. Contact the PLCP on **1300 368 550** or email **PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at June 2021

Number of covenants	907	109,650 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	710	3,050 hectares

** Since 1 Feb 2020 the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. now deliver the Land for Wildlife scheme.*

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 **1300 368 550** or **PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@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, Solicitor/Conveyancer) 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. Stewardship Officers are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

When the ownership of a property transfers, the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) receives an automated notification from the Land Titles Office. This notification provides the new owners name(s), but unfortunately not the contact details for the new owner. **It is very important that we make contact with the new owner(s)** and we therefore ask that these contact details are provided for the new owners by the agents, Solicitor, Conveyancer or landowners undertaking private sales.

The PLCP write to all new owners to provide them with a copy of the Covenant document and accompanying Nature Conservation Plan/Operations Plan. A Stewardship officer will contact the new owner to arrange a suitable time to visit to introduce themselves and to provide any advice or assistance with understanding the covenant documents or any other aspect related to the management of the land.

Contacts

Stewardship

Anna Povey (North) **0498 800 611**
Julie Fielder (South) **0488 553 356**

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Tasmanian Government