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
Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

Manager's **message** – December 2022

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Running Postman.

In this edition, we take you into the tantalising world of carnivorous plants, find out about the remarkable rediscovery of the endangered New Holland mouse, learn about swift parrots, and focus in on a couple of priority natural values for our covenanting program. On top of that, we say a fond farewell to some of our friends and partners, and a big welcome to some new faces.

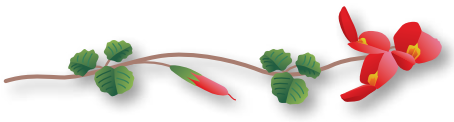
The Private Land Conservation Program and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) have been working together for the past two decades on a shared mission to protect private land for conservation. For the past eight years, TLC has worked under contract with the PLCP to deliver stewardship services to landholders, giving covenant landowners support and advice on managing natural values. On June 30 this year, this contractual arrangement came to an end; and on behalf of the Program, I'd like to acknowledge the incredibly valuable work that TLC has done over these eight years and the contributions it has made to the Program. We've shared many laughs and tears along the journey, and we look forward to continuing to work together for many more years to come.

I'd also like to acknowledge the enormous efforts of one of our 'behind the scenes' Program staff, Cindy Page, who has recently entered retirement. Cindy has played a huge role in the Program since she started over 20 years ago – with over 90% of all covenant agreements having been crafted by her! We wish Cindy all the best in her retirement.

And acknowledgements wouldn't be complete without a huge hats off to all of you, our covenant landholders, for the wonderful work you do in protecting and maintaining your covenanted land and all its unique values.

Happy reading!

Anthony Mann
Acting Program Leader, Private Land Conservation Program



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: Tasmanian masked owl. Photo: Stuart Smith
Design and layout: Heritage and Land Tasmania Design Unit, NRE Tas.

Stewardship changes within the Private Land Conservation Program

The Private Land Conservation Program is delighted to welcome our two new Conservation Program Officers, Pip Jones and Lauren Bird, to continue the role of providing stewardship support to conservation covenant landowners. Lauren and Pip take over the reins from Anna Povey and Julie Fielder (both of TLC) and are now the key contacts for covenant landholders throughout Tasmania.

Pip Jones

I'm excited to join the PLCP as the Conservation Program Officer for the south. When the headlines seem to be dominated by bad news stories about the state of the environment, the most effective thing you can do is take care of your patch – and there's no better patch protection than a covenant. Conservation covenants offer some of the strongest safeguards we can provide for our natural values, and I can't wait to get better acquainted with these remarkable landscapes through the knowledge and energy of the PLCP's covenant landholders.

I've been lucky enough to work alongside patch protectors from all walks of life, from vollies to researchers and land managers. I returned to lutruwita/Tassie after a stint in Victoria working as a park ranger and contractor on the Merri Creek, where I focussed largely on grassland ecology, ecological restoration, waterway health and burning for biodiversity with Traditional Owners. More recently, I was working with the City of Hobart on the Bushcare program and the Fire & Biodiversity team, where I worked on priority weed control and fuel reduction burns. I'm in my second year as convenor of Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare and I take great pride in what our volunteer work has achieved.

As a self-confessed grassland tragic, I may occasionally need reminding to look up – but I'm excited to discover the diversity of ecosystems under our care, and support covenant landholders to continue their vital patch protection.

Lauren Bird

I grew up on a small farm in the south-east of the state and believe that there is no place better in the world to call home than lutruwita/Tasmania. The incredible geology, mountains and coastlines, unique flora, critters, and beasties, and the seasonal delights of fungi and native flowers – what is not to love?

I am particularly passionate about engaging with landholders and the community to achieve best-practice land management and conservation outcomes. I 'migrated' to the north of the state to study a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Science) with the University of Tasmania and have a background in land management and restoration ecology. Since 2018, I have worked as a Biodiversity Coordinator with NRM North coordinating multi-year threatened species recovery and riparian restoration projects and providing advice and support to landholders to best manage the natural values on their properties. I have been incredibly fortunate during this time to work with senior ecologists and species experts and to bring together private landowners and the community to achieve on-ground outcomes for iconic and threatened species, including the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*) and Shy Susan (*Tetratheca gunnii*).

Many of our state's natural treasures occur on private properties, making conservation covenants one of the most effective ways to protect natural values across the landscape for future generations. I am very excited to join the PLCP as the northern Conservation Program Officer and look forward to supporting covenant landowners in the important role they play as stewards for these natural values now and into the future.

Photos (L to R): Pip Jones. Photo: City of Hobart. Lauren Bird. Photo: NRM North.

Swift parrots – how you can help!

Swift parrots cross Bass Strait twice a year - a monumental feat given that this stretch of water spans 200 kilometres at its narrowest point and that an adult bird weighs in at only 65 grams. Although precarious, the journey across the sea is essential for the birds to return to the ancient forests of Tasmania each summer, find a mate, nurture their eggs, feed their chicks and fledglings and prepare for the journey north to their winter foraging grounds on mainland Australia.

This small, mostly green fast-flying parrot is one of only two true migratory parrots in the world, with the orange-bellied parrot sharing this honour. Swift parrots are classified as Endangered and it was of great concern to threatened species scientists and managers when numbers of this iconic bird were observed to decline rapidly over 20 years. Current estimates put the population at 1000 birds, with further reductions predicted over the next 15 years (i.e. equivalent to 3 parrot generations).

Annual monitoring surveys led by Dr Matt Webb are plotting the distribution of birds across Tasmania at over 1000 sites during the breeding season. This information provides scientists and managers with a picture of where most birds are from year to year, their relative numbers and site-specific information on whether chicks have hatched and fledged. However, the scientists can't be everywhere all the time, and for a bird that has very unpredictable movements, we still rely on the community for sighting reports to supplement these monitoring surveys and other scientific evidence.

You can help by reporting your sightings!

All sightings of swift parrots, alive or dead, are important to report to our Natural Values Atlas (NVA) database. You can log them via our team at **naturalvaluesatlas@nre.tas.gov.au** or else enter the data yourself on to the NVA (**www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au**). There are also other sighting apps available for this purpose (e.g. iNaturalist or Birdata). We use this information to help understand more about the parrots' broader movements, diet, behaviour and habitat.

There are only four records of dead birds on the NVA, however these reports and frozen birds contributed by the public for us to examine provide valuable insights into causes of death and how this may be prevented.

Important information to record from your sighting include: your name, sighting date, location (preferably a GPS position), notes on behaviour, and images/video/audio. Parrots often get mis-identified, and the swift parrot is easy to confuse with other parrots – therefore any media you can supply helps to validate your sighting. Some resources to help you include bird species identification books and the useful links on our website (**www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au**) (which includes a new Tasmanian swift parrot identification guide on behalf of Birdlife Australia and Zoodoo Zoo).

The **Swift Parrot Recovery Project** is a Tasmanian Government initiative to coordinate strategic planning and on-ground action for swift parrot recovery across Tasmania. The Project Team recognises and acknowledges the important role of the community, including the palawa/pakana (Tasmanian Aboriginal) community and other private land holders, in this iconic parrot's successful recovery. An early priority is to increase the protection of priority swift parrot habitat by establishing conservation covenants on private properties – especially those with established blue and black gum forest. This work will build on the recent covenant project run by NRM South (refer to article later in this edition), and we welcome hearing from you if you are interested participating (email **threatenedspecies.enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au**).

Dr Margie Morrice
Project Manager, Swift Parrot Recovery Project

Photos: Swift parrots. Photos: Matt Webb.

Mapping made easy

New technology has made field mapping and data collection so much easier. One very useful (and free) app for this purpose is Avenza Maps. The app is easy to download and after just a few steps anyone can be navigating through their property and collecting useful information. Here we provide some instructions on using Avenza Maps so that you can navigate your way around your property and record natural values information.

Steps:

1) **Download the app** using the App Store on your smart phone or tablet. This allows you to upload up to three maps which should be sufficient for your needs. There are **Getting started** instructions in **My Maps** and more in-depth **Help** in Settings.

2) **Download a background map.** Background maps can be obtained through the Avenza Map Store: useful maps include free maps of south-east, north-east, north-west and south-west Tasmania and larger scale 1:25,000 TASMAP topographic maps can be purchased for approximately $2.00 (**TIP:** the name and number of your relevant TASMAP for your covenant is on your Nature Conservation Plan maps). Alternatively, you can create your own maps by using a GIS mapping program (**NOTE:** only geo-referenced maps can be used - normal scans or .jpgs will not work).

3) **Opening a map:** Downloaded maps are shown in **My Maps**. Click on a map to open, then press the arrow to find your location. This is shown as a blue dot. Maps remain in My Maps unless deleted.

4) **Collecting Information:** The lollypop toggle is used to collect point information, e. g. if you want to record the location of a weed on your property. To do this you need to move the crosshair circle in the centre of your screen to the location you want to record – most times it is your location. When you have the crosshairs in the correct position, press the lollypop toggle. This brings up a screen to add information that will be linked to this 'placemark' on the map, i. e. Title, Photo, Description. When completed press submit in the top right-hand corner. This takes you back to the map showing your placemark. To view placemark information press the (i) icon to the right of the label (**NOTE:** accuracy of location can depend on satellite cover, weather or environmental conditions, e. g. dense canopy above at the time of recording.

Avenza is fun to use and can be used for many different activities: bushwalking, cycling, touring. There are lots of other functions that are worth exploring such as downloading your data and mapping your photos.

Janet Smith

Photos: Avenza Map app on a mobile phone.

Carnivorous plants

It never ceases to amaze me how fascinated we are with carnivorous plants. Although Tasmania does not have the larger exotic Venus fly trap or pitcher plant lurking out there, there are small ravenous meat-eaters that prey on the unsuspecting insects that enter their lair. Yes - hard to believe we are talking about our sweet and beautiful sundews (*Drosera* spp.) and bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) whose carnivorous tactics could fit very well in any Hitchcock horror movie.

To overcome nutrient shortages in poor soils, carnivorous plants developed specialist features to capture 'food' from insect prey. The tools may be different, but their methods all include a system to attract, catch and retain the prey - followed by digestion and absorption of its important nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients.

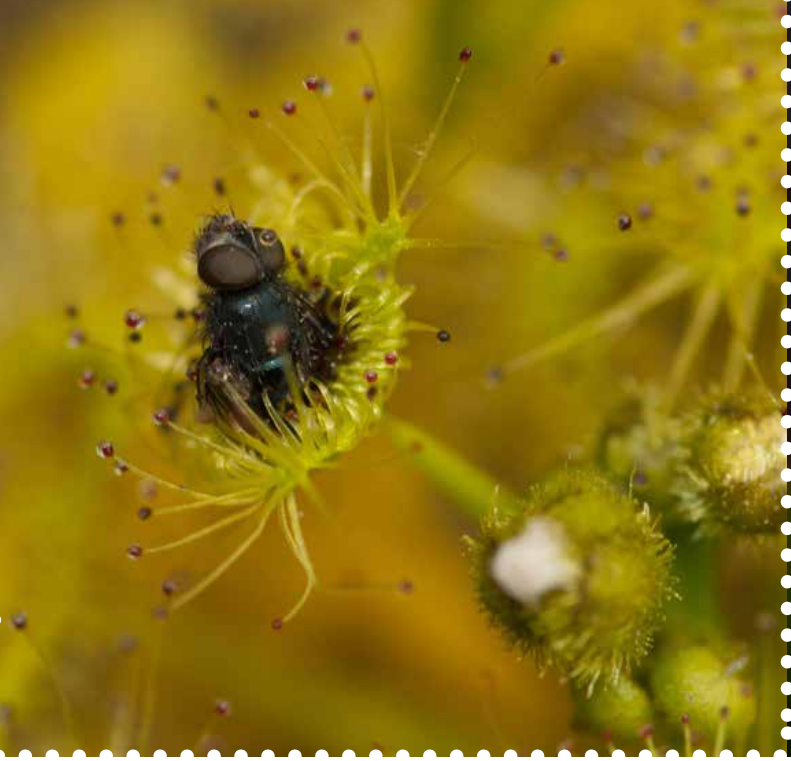
Sundews (*Drosera* spp.): Tasmanian sundews are small cryptic terrestrial herb species. They are sometimes difficult to see, but once you have your eye in you will see them everywhere. Look out for small round leaves surrounded by hair-like tentacles with a small round dewdrop at the end.

Tasmania has 11 species of sundew. They are widespread and found in many different habitats, so it is more than likely they are lurking within your covenant. One species, the giant alpine sundew (*Drosera murfetii*), only recently described in 2014, is found nowhere else in the world.

All species of sundew catch their prey using sticky flypaper-like traps (dewdrops) produced by glands at the end of tentacles (glandular hairs) found along the margin of their leaves. Long tentacles are stationed on the marginal sides of the leaf and shorter tentacles in the centre.

The insect prey is usually caught first by the sticky tips of the central tentacles. The long lateral tentacles on the leaf margins then begin to bend slowly towards the prey, which eventually becomes completely covered by tentacles - like fingers around a fist. The tentacles then arrange the prey for suitable digestion. In 1875 Charles Darwin described this process as if the plant was forming an 'outer stomach' where glands secrete digestive enzymes and then the uptake of the resulting soluble nutrients takes place. Darwin was so curious about sundews that his wife commented that 'he hopes to end in proving it to be an animal'. His book *Insectivorous Plants* was published on 2 July 1875.

Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) are also widespread throughout Tasmania, but unlike sundews they are restricted to freshwater wetland environments. There are 250 species of bladderworts found across the world, with 60 found in Australia. Their generic name *Utricularia* refers to their carnivorous sac-like organ or bladder (utricle means a small sac or bag-like body). Charles Darwin also studied bladderworts. His investigations showed that these bladders were used to trap prey and were not floatation devices as originally thought. Bladderworts are the only plants in the world that have this type of carnivorous adaptation. They do not have a root system. Their bladders are found on vegetative shoots that are either attached to the ground or



free-floating. Leaves are present in some species. They persist during dry periods from either tubers or seeds in the soil.

Two forms of bladderworts are recognised. The first, known as fixed aquatic, are found attached to soils at the edges of wetlands and tolerate both saturated and shallow inundated conditions. Their bladders are underground or on the soil surface. They prey on small animals that swim through the water or are trapped in the soil, such as protozoa and rotifers. The second form, submerged aquatic, are unattached plants that free-float throughout the water profile. Their bladders are attached to leaf-like vegetative shoots that float with them. They trap slightly larger free-floating animals such as amoeba, water fleas, aquatic worms and mosquito larvae.

Tasmania has seven species of bladderworts. Most are fixed to the soil and can be easily recognised from their tall nodding flowering stems topped by showy purple flowers. Stem heights range from 2 to 30 cm depending on species and water level conditions.

One species, yellow bladderwort (*Utricularia australis*), is totally aquatic with submerged free-floating leaves and yellow emergent flowers. This species can become quite dense throughout the water profile. It can be eaten by waterbirds such as black swans.

Now comes the gruesome part. How, with no real effort on their part are they able to trap and devour their prey? It is all facilitated by the mechanical structure of their bladders and water pressure.

The bladders are round hollow structures that conceal a closed deadly trapdoor. The trapdoor is opened when an animal brushes against sensitive trigger hairs close to its mouth. The walls of the bladder are constantly pumping out water generating a low-pressure system inside the bladder. This causes the bladders walls to be sucked inwards and any dissolved material inside the bladder to become concentrated.

When an animal brushes against the trigger hairs, the trapdoor flies open and because of the low pressure within the bladder, water is rapidly sucked in along with the unsuspecting prey. As soon as the trap is filled, the door closes, the bladder resumes its rounded shape, and the digestion begins. The entrapment takes all of 1/35th of a second and the digestion a few hours. The bladder walls continue to pump out water and are ready for the next capture in about 15 to 30 minutes. The bladderwort is the only carnivorous plant to use a suction method to trap its prey. A movie of the entrapment can be seen at The ultra-fast trap of an aquatic carnivorous plant - YouTube.

Carnivorous plants such as bladderworts and sundews help to regulate ecosystems. Surveys in Queensland discovered 40,000 prey items, mostly mosquito larvae, in one single bladderwort plant. They are often regarded as an indicator of good water health. If you are thinking about how to remove mosquito larvae from your garden pond, consider planting *Utricularia* to help reduce them and also bring some colour.

Janet Smith

Photos (L to R):
Utricularia dichotoma bladders. Photo: Janet Smith
Drosera spatulata on recently burned peaty ground. Photo: Miguel de Salas.
Sundew and fly being digested – Drosera foliosa. Photo: Miguel de Salas.
Fairy aprons (Utricularia dichotoma) flowers. Photo: Miguel de Salas.

Playing hide and squeak with **Tasmania's most mysterious mouse**

A remarkable rediscovery has put Tasmania's elusive New Holland mouse back on the map. After 12 years of evading every trap, bait and camera, *Pseudomys novaehollandiae* was feared extinct in the state. The endangered native mouse had not been seen since an individual was trapped near wukalina/Mt William in 2004, and the last hair sample had been collected at Waterhouse Conservation Area in 2010. Things were looking grim for the New Holland mouse, but after intensive and broadscale surveys covering eight regions and 259 camera locations, one of the 40,000 images captured finally yielded results.

On Flinders Island in September 2021, the New Holland mouse was lured back from the brink by a stick dipped in peanut butter.

The incredible finding took place as part of the Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and their Habitat initiative, coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) and the Australian Government. As part of the initiative, NRE embarked on the New Holland mouse Conservation Assessment, a collaborative effort by several branches within the department. Led by NRE wildlife biologist Dr Billie Lazenby, the project aims to provide a clearer picture of this species' distribution, habitat and management needs.

Measuring about 90mm with a long dusky tail, the New Holland mouse can be distinguished from the introduced house mouse by its relatively large eyes. It has also been described as lacking the 'mousey smell' attributed to the house mouse – that's if you can get close enough to give one a sniff! Also occurring in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, the species was formally documented in Tasmania in 1976 and found to inhabit coastal open heathlands, open woodlands with a heathland understorey, and vegetated sand dunes, where it likes to nest in sandy soil burrows. Its known range encompasses the eastern and north-eastern coastlines of Tasmania, including Flinders Island. Sub-fossil remains of the New Holland mouse have been found as far south as Hastings Caves, suggesting that the species' range has seen a significant reduction since European settlement.

When Dr Lazenby and her team took on the conservation assessment, no stone was left unturned. Several different techniques were used to find this cryptic critter, including hair traps – a contraption comprising of PVC pipe, double-sided tape and irresistible peanut butter bait – and the analysis of dozens of predator scats. The dietary content of predators, such as feral cats, can be revealed by identifying the undigested hair left in the scat, leaving clues as to the distribution of prey species like the New Holland mouse. The remote cameras used by Dr Lazenby's team were custom focussed to result in a clear picture of the distinguishing features associated with small mammals, such as head profile, ear and eye shape, and the length of the body relative to the tail.

The conservation assessment is contributing to the development of management guidelines for the New Holland mouse across eastern Australia, with input from over 60 Traditional Owners, land managers and researchers. In Tasmania, habitat loss, inappropriate fire regimes and predation by feral cats are believed to be significant threats to the species' survival. The devastating effects of root rot fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) have also had an impact on the species' preferred coastal heathland habitat. Research on the mainland has shown that the species can peak in abundance in the 2-3 years after a fire has come through its heathy home, however there are a number of factors which determine the success or otherwise of a burn,

so careful periodic burning may be the key to reversing the species' decline.

Urgent management intervention is already underway in Tasmania. In August this year, Bush Heritage Australia and the truwana Rangers conducted a cultural burn on their Friendly Beaches covenant to create a mosaic of coastal lowland heathland at different phases of post-burn regeneration. Also attended by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Tasmanian Fire Service, this burn was the first cultural burn to be conducted on a Bush Heritage reserve in Tasmania.

The Friendly Beaches covenant neighbouring Freycinet National Park contains one of the most diverse plant communities in the state and although the New Holland mouse has not been detected at this site, it has been identified as prime real estate for the species. An appropriate fire regime here will allow for a mixture of vegetation at different stages of regeneration and provide the native mouse with a variety of habitats in which to shelter and forage for the seeds, flowers, fungi and small invertebrates that make up its diverse diet. Coastal heathland fire regimes are a delicate balance to strike, however. A cool fire improves the structure of fire-dependent species, promoting increased seed set and germination. If fires are too frequent and too hot, vegetation may not recover and the New Holland mouse could be left susceptible to predators.

As the New Holland mouse may be persisting anywhere in Tasmania that comprises of its favoured coastal heathy ecosystems, its range may be greater than studies have so far shown. The species' preferred habitats often contain co-occurring Common Aotus (*Aotus ericoides*), Tassel Rope Rush (*Hypolaena fastigiate*), Sand Swordsedge (*Lepidospermaconcavum*) and grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea*) species. If your property fits the bill, keep an eye out for this enigmatic little mouse – your covenant may be providing critical habitat, and any data you contribute will help shape the management guidelines for this endangered species. Get in touch with the Private Land Conservation Program to discuss monitoring options on your property. Tasmania's next big rediscovery could be just a whisker away!

Pip Jones

Photo: New Holland mouse, Flinders Island. Photo: NRETas.

Using covenants to protect **high-value swift parrot habitat** on private land in perpetuity

Swift parrots are a charming and social parrot with bright plumage and a warbling chatty call. They are the fastest parrot on earth and have been clocked at speeds of up to 88 kilometres an hour. Only breeding in Tasmania, they return to our shores each spring from their winter feeding grounds on mainland Australia and begin surveying the terrain for areas that will have the best food availability over the spring and summer months. When breeding they are particularly fond of the nectar from Tasmanian blue gum and will mirror their seasonally variable nesting patterns with the flowering patterns of this endemic eucalypt, the timing of which can vary a lot between locations and years. Once a pair of swift parrots are happy that the food will be plentiful in a certain area, they then start looking for a good spot to nest.

Swift parrots nest in tree hollows and they tend to be picky about which ones, with researchers estimating that only 5% of tree hollows are suitable. As tree hollows take a long time to form, typically over 150 years, swift parrots depend on mature eucalypt forests to provide suitable nests. This combination of particular requirements – a suitable nesting hollow within proximity to a good source flowering blue gums – is why protecting suitable habitat is essential to the ongoing survival of this critically endangered bird.

NRM South has been working with the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to establish new conservation covenants on private land to help protect areas of high-value swift parrot habitat – areas that have mature eucalypt forests as well as Tasmanian blue gum dominated forests. Over the last two years, two new covenants have been approved for establishment through the PLCP, adding 114.6 hectares to Tasmania's reserve estate. These newly protected sites include 64.7 hectares of foraging habitat and 113 hectares of mature forest with potential nesting habitat. Another two properties have been assessed and will soon be submitted for approval, potentially protecting in perpetuity a further 83.4 hectares of important habitat.

Altogether, the four properties span a large proportion of the swift parrot core breeding range, with the sites spread out from Pelverata to Coles Bay. Many additional natural values will be protected through these covenants, including habitat for threatened species such as Tasmanian devils, eastern quolls, masked owls, wedge-tailed eagles and over 50 listed plant species.

Several threatened vegetation communities are also secured by the new covenants.

Through implementing this initiative, where conservation covenants are established on private land, this project has been able to increase the amount of reserved habitat set aside for endangered species and threatened vegetation communities in areas that are becoming increasingly modified by human activities.

This project is supported by NRM South, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program with significant in-kind support from PLCP.

Maudie Brown, NRM South

Monitoring, Care and **Conservation of Native Wildlife**

Chauncy Vale provided a wonderful 'off-the-grid' venue in a beautiful bush setting for the November 2021 Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) field weekend run in collaboration with NRM South and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC).

Graham Green, an environmental scientist working part time with Southern Midlands Council, manages the reserve at Chauncy Vale. Graham provided an interesting history of the reserve from pre-colonial days to the present. Chauncy Vale has a special place in the history of conservation in Tasmania, being the first private land holding to be declared a reserve in 1935. Graham gave special acknowledgement to the Chauncy and Masterman families for their vision and continued involvement in the reserve extending over 100 years. He discussed the management issues associated with the balance of conservation and public access and is currently working on updating the reserve management plan. The reserve has an extensive variety of native wildlife including over 80 different bird species. The importance of the Chauncy Vale Reserve and the adjoining Flat Rock Reserve, owned and managed by the TLC, within close proximity to a capital city is notable. Chauncy Vale Reserve continues to play an important and impressionable role in the creation of many young conservationists.

TLC CEO James Hattam provided maps of the Chauncy Vale Nature Reserve and surrounding lands, highlighting the significant extent of private and public reserves including TLC's Flat Rock Reserve adjoining Chauncy Vale Reserve. James spoke about the value of conservation commitments in preserving habitat for native wildlife. He outlined TLC's success in securing funding and purchasing high value properties for conservation. In celebration of 20 years of TLC's involvement in Tasmania a special publication titled *Breathing Space* has been published.

The Tasmanian Land for Wildlife (LFW) Program is now delivered by the TLC, who are very supportive of LFWers being included in CLT events. TLC's Anna Povey and Phil Wise are the new coordinators of LFW. Phil previously worked for many years in the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Julie Fielder, an ecologist and stewardship officer for covenant landowners in the south of the state also provided support for the field day.

Maudie Brown, Senior Project Officer (Environment) with NRM South outlined the conservation projects currently being undertaken by her organisation, including the establishment of covenants that protect swift parrot breeding and foraging habitat.

Andrew Darby from Birdlife Tasmania spoke about some of the fascinating facts in his latest book *Flight Lines*. He outlined the amazing journey of two grey plovers, whose movements were tracked by satellite from South Australia to Siberia and back. The grey plovers faced a perilous journey with rain, wind and storms, habitat loss at key refuelling sites, pollution, and predators.

Bonorong CEO Greg Irons gave an update on the wildlife sanctuary's state-wide wildlife rescue activities. A large network of trained rescue volunteers operate 24 hours a day to ensure injured and orphaned wildlife are rescued, transported, cared for, and hopefully successfully released back into the wild.

Greg urged anyone interested in getting involved with the wildlife rehabilitation sector to contact Bonorong on **(03) 6268 1184** to arrange to do a free online rescue training course.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania

Photos (L to R):
James Hattam in front of one of the many caves.
Graham Green telling the history of the Reserve.
Photos: Phil Wise.

Private Land Conservation Program **participants**

Selling property?

as at November 2022

Number of covenants	929	111,544 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	751	3,097 hectares

Update your contact details

Let us know your email address and updated contact details. Contact the PLCP via email at: **PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au**

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 at **PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au**

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 Conservation Program 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.

Conservation Program Officer contacts

Lauren Bird (North)
0499 759 958 Email: **Lauren.Bird@nre.tas.gov.au**

Pip Jones (South)
0499 446 252 Email: **Pip.Jones@nre.tas.gov.au**

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Tasmanian Government