



# The **Running** Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

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



# Manager's message – June 2023

*Anthony Mann  
Acting Program Leader,  
Private Land  
Conservation Program*

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the Running Postman

Success is sweeter when it's shared – and as you'll see in this edition of The Running Postman, partnerships are a key ingredient to successful conservation outcomes. Over the following pages, we honour some of the great successes that the Private Land Conservation Program has shared with covenant landholders and partner organisations in recent times.

Continuing our swift parrot theme from the last edition, we hear about a successful partnership which has protected hundreds of hectares of habitat for this critically endangered species – through a conservation

covenanting program. We also hear about a swift parrot field day where conservation agencies and landholders came together to share information and advice about swift parrot conservation on private land.

You'll learn about an incredible program being run by the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, which partners with individuals and landholders to return parcels of land to Aboriginal ownership. There are some truly inspirational stories behind this program, some of which involve conservation covenants.

And if you want more inspiration, check out the story about the Friends of Randalls Bay – and see how this group of passionate conservation-minded volunteers used their infectious energy and determination to establish a conservation covenant over their patch of paradise.

On the invasive species front, we've got some hot tips on strategic weed management – including a great example of several agencies partnering with a covenant landholder to effectively manage a nasty weed infestation on his property.

And – speaking of hot tips – a fantastic story about Copping farmer and covenant landholder Sarah Jacobson about partnering with Red Hot Tips to carry out strategic burns on her mixed-use property.

I hope you find these stories a source of inspiration in managing your covenanted land and being part of Tasmania's conservation covenant community.

*The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land, and acknowledges Elders past, present and emerging.*



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*On the cover: The Teniswood family returning their covenant, Wind Song, to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.  
Photo: Jillian Mundy.  
Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, NRE Tas.*

# Covenanting project has NRM South absolutely *Ovata* moon



*Sophie Golding*  
Senior Project Officer –  
Biodiversity, NRM South

Conservation efforts often work on protecting large areas of intact landscapes. Actions may focus on one or several species within that landscape – or trying to preserve a specific type of habitat such as grassy woodlands or temperate rainforest. However, when a habitat has become fragmented and is largely found in modified landscapes, such as farmland or urban areas, we need to look at a different approach.

Tasmania is home to a unique and critically endangered ecological community known formally as ‘Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus brookeriana*)’ or black gum–Brookers gum forest for short. This ecological community has declined by 90% from across northern and eastern Tasmania – mostly due to past agricultural and forestry activities, but also from urban/peri-urban clearing in recent times.

Today, these forests exist as fragmented patches. Most are less than 10 hectares (ha), but the average size is around 2.5 ha. Not surprisingly, the ecological integrity of these forests has seriously declined. While many patches are connected with, or near to, other native forests, over a quarter of all remaining patches are isolated

from any other native vegetation, and many sites have been invaded by weeds and are home to feral browsers such as deer. NRM South has been working with partners including the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) and the Private Land Conservation Program to covenant and protect what is left of these forests and to recover and expand what remains.

NRM South engaged TLC to broker five high-priority covenants. As a first step, TLC mapped the remaining stands of southern Tasmanian black gum–Brookers gum forests and shortlisted potential properties that would be suitable for conservation covenants and management agreements.

Less than 50 of the properties surveyed contained more than 10 ha of black gum–Brookers gum forest, and these were typically made up of multiple smaller patches.

Priority was given to properties depending on:

- Conservation value. This included size, condition and other natural values (e.g. threatened plants and animals);
- Likelihood of remnants to maintain conservation value in the long-term; and
- Landholder capacity. This included willingness, ability to undertake on-going stewardship, and impact of covenant on

property succession planning.

An important part of the process was developing an equitable landholder support package. These stewardship funds were tailored to the capacity of each landholder and management needs of the priority remnants. For instance, funds were used for on-ground works (e.g. weed control and fencing) appropriate to the site’s needs.

As a result of this project, approximately 208 ha are now under conservation covenants, with a combined total of 34.65 ha of black gum–Brookers gum forest and approximately 170 ha of adjoining wet and dry blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) forests, silver peppermint (*Eucalyptus tenuiramis*) forest, sedgeland, rushlands and lacustrine herblands.

Black gum–Brookers gum forests are vital for sustaining the health of our landscapes – not just for their environmental values, but also for the benefits they bring to land productivity and people. With only 25,000 ha of this forest type remaining, every small pocket that is protected is important and provides a foundation for improving the stewardship of this rare habitat and improving its connectivity through the landscape.

This project is supported by NRM South through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

Photos (L to R):

*Black gum (Eucalyptus ovata).*

*Black gum–Brookers gum forest.*

Photos: Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

# Fire on the farm: finding the balance



The Red Hot Tips Program aims to educate, engage and support farmers and landholders to actively manage their bushfire risk encouraging collaborative vegetation fire management and ecological sustainability across the landscape.

## A one-stop service for farmers and rural landholders

Facilitators work with farmers and landholders in rural areas, who own large tracts of land, to provide:

- practical advice on effective bushfire risk management
- guidance on developing burn plans
- opportunities for private and public landholders to work together
- training and mentoring
- assistance identifying resources needed for planned burning
- advice on alternative fuel reduction treatments
- access to helpful resources like the SFMC booklet: **Planned burning for farmers and landholders**

Do you own or manage a large rural property in Tasmania? Would you like to hear more about the program and how the RHT can help you manage your bushfire risk?

Find RHT program information at [SFMC.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips](http://SFMC.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips), or email [RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au) with your contact details and the type of support you would like, or call our facilitators Sam Tacey 0417153620 or Frank Bishop 0459 908 539



## Pip Jones Conservation Program Officer, Private Land Conservation Program

Taking your eyes off the road on the Arthur Highway past Forcett is never advised – the road twists and banks as it weaves through pockets of gangling silver peppermints (*Eucalyptus tenuiramis*), tall pine plantations and paddocks that push up the hillsides to an unbudging treeline. The glimpses that you do get, however, go some way in telling this place's story. Someone has spray painted wings onto the yellow advisory signs that indicate the presence of Tasmanian devils in the area, making them look either angelic or a bit like a gargoyle, or both. Traces of the Dunalley bushfires are everywhere – the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) canopy through here is still recovering, relying on epicormic growth to survive.

Before you hit Copping proper, the

landscape flattens out. Nelson Rivulet pushes its way through the pasture grasses, keeping the paddocks a vivid green and primed for the lambs and breeding ewes that graze here.

This is Hazelwood Farm, a family property and covenant network co-managed by Sarah Jacobson. Sarah's a farmer who has handled this place through everything the last decade threw at it, and like anyone around here, she has a bigger picture in mind as a result.

"We've got four covenants – three of them are locked up for good, the other one has 15 years on it. All of them protect something different. Black gums, blue gums and swift parrots are what led the covenants to be placed, but now that I've walked all my covenants I've realised there's not just the one species we're focusing on – there's a whole ecosystem being protected."

Stretching through Copping and Kellevie, Sarah's covenanted land is as diverse as it is significant,

and caring for the bush is just part of everyday life on the farm. "We're surrounded by bush, all our production ground – the covenants all come up to our boundary fences. It's a juggle, but the covenants and the farm go hand in hand."

Part of Sarah's regular run includes checking her boundary fences and keeping an eye on the weeds. "You can't let weeds run amok in your paddocks and you can't let them go into the bush, they'll just come back into your paddocks! So it's important to find a balance."

Within that balance is finding a way to reintroduce fire to the landscape, an issue that is both ecologically and socially sensitive in a place like Copping.

"A lot of farmers have lost confidence on how to burn or if they should or not, especially because some local communities are not that keen on seeing smoke, which is understandable."

Sarah turned to Red Hot Tips and the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) for guidance and put a burn plan together for her covenant out near Kellevie,



known as Ravenscroft Rivulet. Protecting an expanse of white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) grassy woodland and a significant stretch of the threatened vegetation community black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest and woodland, the plan had to take a number of factors into consideration.

“We wanted to do a really light burn because we couldn’t remember when that covenant had last been burnt – it didn’t get burnt with the rest of the farm in the Dunalley fires in 2013. We didn’t have any records, so we thought it’s probably been 20-30 years since it’d been burnt, back in my grandfather’s time. We made the decision to do a mosaic pattern burn over the five years.”

The old-growth black gum woodland needed to be excluded from burning, but was also at risk of an infestation of gorse that was making its way across the hillside. By splitting the covenant into three blocks and committing to burn these over the next five years, Sarah is protecting the threatened black gum woodland and swift parrot habitat, as well as managing the gorse with post-burn weed control.

After months of planning and assessing, her first burn on the property went off without a hitch. Red Hot Tips provided advice and boots on the ground, coordinating a few fireys from the local Dunalley Volunteer Brigade to pitch in on burn day.

“When we did the first burn in 2021, we were just running around with drip torches and it was such a slow process and not intense at all, there were wallabies hopping out in front of us and echidnas making their way to shelter. Everything had plenty of time to move on. We had a really nice rain afterwards and you could barely tell we’d been there – everything just freshened up and it’s made a huge difference to making space for the understory to grow back.”

*We were trying to remind our community that seeing smoke is fine, and the benefit is fuel reduction, instead of letting it all build up and in another 15 years we have another Dunalley-scale bushfire.*

*We also wanted to prove that we could do a fuel reduction burn that was low impact and to the benefit of threatened ecological communities and species that need fire to regenerate.*

Her advice to covenant landholders? Get on the front foot, get some advice and reach out to the PLCP to go through the process to get set up for an authorisation to burn. “Red Hot Tips definitely made it smooth, having their support there on the day and leading up to the day, really helped with our confidence as well. If you’ve got a covenant, you’ve got to look after it – we’re land managers and we’ve got to do what’s best for our covenant.”

# Campaigning for Country: the **Giving Land Back** story

## *Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania*

The Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) is the statutory body, established under lutruwita/Tasmania's *Aboriginal Lands Act (1995)*, that owns and manages land on behalf of Tasmania's Aboriginal Community.

ALCT owns and oversees the management of just over 60,000 ha of land, less than 1% of the Tasmanian landmass - islands once 100% owned and stewarded by Aboriginal people for millennia.

Most of this land is in the Furneaux Group, comprising islands of Community and cultural significance like truwana (Cape Barren Island), the only Aboriginal Land in Tasmania that supports a permanent resident population of Aboriginal people.

On Flinders Island, ALCT owns the immensely significant historic site at Wybalenna, and is currently engaged in planning and consultation to develop a vision for the site and establish its role in the national need for Truth Telling.

The outer islands of Chappell, Badger, Babel, Big Dog and lungtalanana (Clarke) Islands, and titima (Trefoil Island) in western Bass Strait, returned to the Aboriginal Community in the late 1990s and early 2000s, recognise the immense cultural significance of yolla (mutton bird) and historical occupation by Aboriginal families.

Yolla is a significant cultural resource

and "birdin", the commercial harvest of mutton bird, remains one of the most important events on the cultural calendar and one of the few economic opportunities that can be realised on Aboriginal Land.

Along with piyura kitina (Risdon Cove), putalina (Oyster Cove) and preminghana (Mt Cameron West), all these lands were state owned and progressively returned to Aboriginal ownership by the Tasmanian Government.

Despite credible land claims, undeniable heritage values and a strong moral imperative to return more public land, Native Title has no legal basis in Tasmania (dispossession and exile means continual and unbroken connection cannot be proven). The Aboriginal Lands Act 1995, and the consent of Parliament, is the vehicle for the realisation of land rights over public lands.

Aboriginal people will always work for justice and the return of land, so ALCT's attention has turned to alternative pathways.

Private land returns have emerged as an important pathway to Land Justice and recently ALCT launched the initiative [www.givinglandback.org](http://www.givinglandback.org). For the first time ever, the Aboriginal Community is proactively seeking the support of everyday people for the return of private freehold land to Aboriginal ownership and management.

Inspired by the opportunistic purchase of trawtha makuminya (Gowen Brae) and Kings Run,

and the incredible generosity of the Teniswoods who gifted their Windsong covenant to ALCT, Giving Land Back seeks donations to assist with the purchase of land, direct gifts of land, or the bequest of either, via a person's will.

ALCT has recently been granted charity status and is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. This makes fundraising from the public a reality and provides the opportunity to purchase and manage important parcels of private land. Initial fundraising has topped \$40,000 and ALCT is now actively looking for a target block of land to focus future fundraising efforts around.

Private land returns, through purchase, gift or bequest, are an important means of Land Justice in Tasmania. While hopes are high that a future Tasmanian Parliament will restart the return of public land, **Giving Land Back** gives everybody the opportunity to take action.

Private land that has been returned to date has come with conservation covenants. As elsewhere, these covenants protect important environmental values, however on Aboriginal Land, natural and cultural values are managed concurrently.

This is achieved through the development of management plans and the active management of environmental and cultural values by teams of Aboriginal rangers.

'Healthy Country Plans' are developed under the Open Standards consultative process and



capture the cultural, environmental and community health of Country, identifying values, threats, goals and actions that need to be taken to restore or maintain that health.

Planning is an essential element of the management of Aboriginal Land.

No land has been returned to Aboriginal people in its original condition. As all landowners know, much of Tasmania is riddled with weeds and feral animals and Aboriginal Land is no exception. Old-growth gorse, boxthorn and mirror bush, cats, rats, mice and deer come with the land that is returned and Aboriginal rangers spend significant amounts of time and resources planning, seeking funding and attacking these infestations in an attempt to restore a balance.

As everywhere, it comes with mixed success, but progress is being made and on some land, rangers are

taking the next step.

On lungtalanana for example, the removal of cats has prompted the reintroduction of historically recorded, but locally extinct marsupials. This includes wombats and potoroos. At preminghana on the remote west coast, persistent focus on the removal of gorse has seen the revegetation of Mt Cameron West and a slow restoration of health.

In 2022, the repatriation of preminghana petroglyphs stolen from a rock art gallery in the 1960s was an example of cultural repatriation in action.

Similarly, regular trips to Aboriginal Land provide opportunities for palawa people to connect with their community, culture and Country improving their lives and actively contributing to better health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals.

Without the return of land, none of

this is possible and **Giving Land Back** has an important role to play.

Tasmania has a long way to go to achieve credible measures that protect Aboriginal heritage values and redress just some of the inequity that came with dispossession.

Land will always be central to the identity and aspirations of Aboriginal people. Returning private, freehold land is an important way that individuals can take real action, deliver justice and opportunity for Aboriginal people, and set an example that elected representatives should not be allowed to ignore.

# An integrated approach to getting out of the weeds



*Morgan McPherson  
Operations Manager,  
Derwent Catchment  
Project*

Everyone has had a weed dilemma, be it a hillside of gorse or a pesky tree that drops seeds in your backyard. Weeds are hard things to manage on your own as they often come from somewhere else, including over your neighbour's fence. Weeds can end up on your land through various vectors, including wind, water, animals, vehicles, and even through contaminated fill (dirt). While you can try and limit the infestation through good hygiene, it can be hard to stop flood waters or flying animals. Once these weeds are on your land, you must devise a way to manage them. Some land managers create competition for land through good vegetation management (pasture/turf/dense plantings), while farmers might look towards grazing pressure; however, sometimes physical control, either with chemicals or manual removal, is the only way. In all instances, treating a patch of weeds in isolation from the initial infestation can result in an ongoing weed problem.

## **The solution to treating weeds in the landscape**

Managing weeds including the main infestation means there will be long-term control; this is often referred to as a strategic weed management approach. With river landscapes, this means working from the top of the catchment down to the river mouth. As the river flows in one direction, the weeds will likely only go in one direction. An example of this on the Tyenna River in the Derwent Valley, where the Derwent Catchment Project is working with the Willow Warrior volunteers to remove every willow from the top of the catchment all the way to the Derwent River. The other approach is to work from the weed outliers towards the main infestation. In both instances, the weeds are treated strategically, with resources being used effectively.

Carrying out this type of weed management involves having good relationships with neighbouring land managers, a strategic plan with an initiator, and funds to undertake works over multiple years. The Derwent Catchment Project has developed plans for the Brighton, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Councils that aim to achieve

a holistic and strategic approach. These plans have helped connect various stakeholders and have great on-ground outcomes for weed management.

In a recent example, a covenant landholder consulted with the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) to discuss an issue with blackberry growing onto their land from the TasRail corridor. Fortunately, a strategic plan had been developed by the Derwent Catchment Project for Brighton and Derwent Valley Council that encompassed the site and was already being used to treat weeds in the area. The strategic weed management plan had a range of stakeholders connected, including the Derwent Estuary Program and TasRail. This meant stakeholders could quickly look at the site and communicate with PLCP to discuss and deliver outcomes for the covenant landholder.

While work could have been carried out on this site without a plan, there would have been a greater chance of reinfestation from the local area. The strategic weed management plan meant that any work carried out for this section of the rail corridor would ensure follow-up





work in the coming year, resulting in a sustained weed-free environment.

### **Why it is hard to achieve strategic weed management**

The outcome of the previous weed management case is an example of how cross-tenure weed management can have positive outcomes, but weed management is not always straightforward.

Treating weeds in the landscape can be quite simple when looking at a map, but the reality of the real-world application of weed control involves a lot of facilitation and communication, and even then, a single landholder can refuse to be a part of the management approach and the potential for reinfestation is greatly increased.

Understanding the size of an infestation is crucial to good weed management, but knowing what is happening in the landscape can be hard. Advancements in technology, such as satellite imagery and, more recently, the use of drones, can help land managers gain a more comprehensive understanding and deliver better outcomes on-ground. Budgets and resources are a major speedbump for weed management;

whether it is a large infestation of English broom in a paddock or a small infestation of foxglove in someone's backyard, managing weeds comes at a cost. This is why it is important to manage weeds in a strategic way that reduces follow-up work and thinks holistically.

### **How you can get involved in strategic planning**

It can often feel like a plan might be a waste of time and that you should spend the time getting stuck into the problem, but a plan can help direct your efforts and even help you find funding for a long-term outcome. Even in your backyard, you will need a plan that could be as simple as standing at the front door, looking at the garden and thinking about where you should start.

If you live within the Brighton, Central Highlands or Derwent Valley municipalities, contact the Derwent Catchment Project or visit their website to see the strategic plans for your area. If you live in other municipalities, you might be able to find a strategic weed plan for that area as well (look at council websites and/or local NRM groups). If you have a

concern about a particular weed that is not already mentioned in a plan or perhaps it has become a serious concern in your area, have a chat with your neighbours or local Landcare group to see if you can put together some information and a plan to put forward to your local council. You can also contact the PLCP, who can provide advice on weed management within your covenanted land. You can use this information to apply for grants or to help you and your neighbours get on top of local infestations such as foxglove. Working together on weed management means better environmental outcomes and helps decrease costs.

*Photos (L to R):  
Tackling riparian weeds.*

*Photo: Derwent Catchment Project.*

*Derwent Catchment Project and TasRail assessing the boundary of a covenant in Dromedary. Photo: Pip Jones.*

# That's when **good neighbours become good Friends** groups



## *Paul Thomas* *Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare Group*

The Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare Group (FORB) was established in 1997. FORB aims to protect and maintain the natural values of the Randalls Bay area (including rare and threatened vegetation communities, plants and animals), while providing a pleasant family-friendly environment for residents and visitors to enjoy recreation activities such as walking, swimming, bird-watching, fishing and kayaking.

The area we support includes: Echo Sugarloaf State Reserve; the Randalls Bay coastal reserve; the conservation area between Randalls Bay and Miceys Beach; and the Quarry Reserve. We work and liaise with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Huon Valley Council.

Working bees are held on the second Sunday of each month, with volunteers keeping our areas weed free and walking trails maintained. Working bees are well attended and provide a great opportunity to foster friendships and a strong sense of local community.

In 2018, Huon Valley Council offered FORB the opportunity to purchase a 24-hectare expired gravel quarry adjoining our other coastal reserve areas. The quarry had been, with FORB's assistance, rehabilitated and made accessible with a public walking track. However, despite its high conservation value - with resident

bettongs, eastern quolls, golden brushtail possums and Tasmanian devils - it did not meet the criteria required by other agencies to take it on. For FORB to accept the council's offer we needed to find \$150,000 - no small task for a Coastcare group!

Having no 'regular income stream', FORB was unable to secure bank financing. Innovation was required! To start, three members established a beneficiary trust with a long-term plan to secure the land, fundraise and eventually donate it to the group.

Then the fundraising blitz started! FORB appealed to locals and the general public. In just 3 months, we had met our target!

Quarry Reserve was purchased from council for \$130,000 - without the need for the trust or a loan. This was achieved with \$80,000 in local donations and fundraising events and \$55,000 in a crowdfunding campaign.

Our journey to purchase and covenant the Quarry Reserve is an inspiring 'third way' for communities when facing the loss of much-loved local land with important natural values. The Quarry Reserve is now vital to the suite of reserves that keep Randalls Bay protected from development.

In order to permanently protect the area, we worked to have this area covenanted with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Private Land Conservation Program. Joe Quarmby was of great assistance

in collating the flora and fauna data needed in developing the required Nature Conservation Plan.

In 2021 two privately owned swamp blocks adjacent to the Quarry Reserve (another 5 hectares), were generously donated to FORB for conservation, ensuring we met the criteria for a covenant application.

Not only does a covenant conserve and protect property for the future, it also enables Land Tax exemptions, and Council rate rebates in some local government areas. TLC also successfully sought to have the property included in NRM South's Black Gum – Brookers Gum Project, a covenant agreement that commits NRM South and FORB to working together to protect the natural values of Randalls Bay Quarry Reserve.

FORB continues to maintain the Quarry Reserve as we have for many years. Our plans include finalising a planned walking track program including the small return loop around the internal pond and a second trail enjoyed by orienteers. Recently, we completed the second stage of the 4.5-kilometre Echo Sugarloaf Nature Trail. Assisted by several grants and lots of volunteer hours, this walking trail is already recognised as one of the best short walk experiences in Tasmania and provides a health and recreational activity to thousands of locals and visitors alike.

*Photos (L to R):*

*FORB volunteers installing their customised covenant signage.*

*Quarry Reserve now has seating for birdwatching. Photos: FORB.*



# Conserving Habitat for the Swift Parrot: CLT Field Day

## Conservation Landholders

**Tasmania (CLT)** held their annual field day at a newly covenanted property in Pelverata, assisted by NRM South and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC). Situated within a blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest, the covenant comprises significant swift parrot habitat and provided the perfect backdrop for a discussion on this critically endangered species by some of Tasmania's leading swift experts:

**Dr Catherine Young** is a senior project officer with NRM South. Catherine has a long history with swift parrots through her work with the Australian National University's Difficult Birds Research Group and Inala Nature Foundation on Bruny Island.

**Sophie Golding** is NRM South's biodiversity project officer and is delivering the "Protecting the breeding populations of swift parrots" project.

NRM South's Australian Government funded project works to protect high-value, functional swift parrot habitat and investigate the effectiveness of different methods of sugar glider control.

Through the project's covenanting initiative, almost 400 hectares of potential breeding and foraging habitat will have been protected on five covenants. NRM South also provides financial and technical support to covenant landholders to manage threats to the swift parrot's potential habitat.

**Dr Margie Morrice** is the Project Manager of the Swift

Parrot Recovery Project at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. She has worked as an ecologist across Australia for 37 years.

As part of the Protecting our Unique Environment and Investing in the Circular Economy policy the Tasmanian Government initiated the Swift Parrot Recovery Project, committing \$1 million over 4 years to support the species' long-term viability. Swift parrots are one of only two true migratory parrots in the world, and like the orange-bellied parrot, breed in Tasmania in the summer months and then move north to overwinter on mainland Australia. The threats affecting swift parrots are complex, and this Project coordinates efforts across jurisdictions, landscapes and stakeholders. This includes analysis underway by the Landscape Recovery Foundation for understanding population trends, breeding success and the threat of sugar gliders, and a covenanting project on Bruny Island delivered in partnership by TLC and PLCP.

**Glen Bain** is a conservation ecologist at TLC and coordinates the WildTracker program. Glen completed his PhD on restoring habitat for woodland birds in Tasmania's Midlands. His Masters focussed on the (complicated!) mating behaviour of Australian fairy-wrens. He is interested in how new technology can assist wildlife conservation and is currently working with UTAS to further develop an artificial intelligence

model for species identification from camera trap images.

**Peter Stronach** has been involved in conservation management for over 25 years and is Landcare Tasmania's current CEO, where he manages biodiversity issues through education, research, and incentive programs.

Peter provides an overview of current Landcare Tasmania support programs for landholders undertaking conservation activities across Tasmania. These include landscape restoration projects and workshops focusing on riparian restoration, citizen science, cat management, cultural burning and carbon markets.

**Simon Roberts & Joanne Wheat** moved from Melbourne 20 years ago looking for a quiet, forested block to build on and support wildlife. They found the perfect spot in Pelverata; a 120-hectare block containing black gum and blue gum forest and hollow-bearing eucalypts. After registering the neighbouring 95-hectare bush block, they now own two covenants protecting swift parrot habitat.

Swift parrots have been sighted several times on the properties and there has been an increase in the number and diversity of wildlife seen on camera traps. Simon and Joanne have been focused on weed control and the revegetation of creek lines and wildlife corridors. They have seen the gradual revegetation of paddocks with shrub and forest species as well as a shift from introduced grasses to native grasslands.

Photos (L to R):

Attendees learning about swift parrot habitat on a covenanted property in Pelverata. Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) forest. Photos: NRM South.

# Private Land Conservation Program **participants**

# Selling property?

## as at June 2023

Number of covenants	940	114,531 hectares
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## Do you know someone who may be interested in establishing a new covenant on Bruny Island?

Please invite them to join a growing community of landholders and stewards helping the recovery of swift parrots by establishing conservation covenants that protect this critically endangered species' habitat. Interested landholders can get in touch with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania's Private Land Conservation Program at [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au)

Please include an address of the property and/or title reference, contact information, and a brief description of the property's environmental values.

## Save a tree!

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](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au)

If you have a conservation covenant over your property and are thinking of selling, please keep in mind that anyone involved in the sale process (e.g. agents, solicitor/conveyancer, prospective buyers) needs to be informed of the covenant and its implications.

Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) staff are available to talk to prospective buyers and real estate agents regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

When the ownership of a property changes, **it is very important that the PLCP team can contact the new owner(s)** to welcome them to the Program and provide them with a copy of the covenant document and accompanying Nature Conservation Plan/Operations Plan.

## Conservation Program Officers

If you have a question about your covenant or the natural values it protects, please contact your local Conservation Program Officer on the details below.

Lauren Bird (North) - **0499 759 958**

Email: [Lauren.Bird@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Bird@nre.tas.gov.au)

Pip Jones (South) - **0499 446 252**

Email: [Pip.Jones@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Pip.Jones@nre.tas.gov.au)

## Changed your contact details?

Send your updated contact details to: [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au)