



The **Running** Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

December 2013
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*Building partnerships with landowners for the sustainable management
and conservation of natural values across the landscape.*



Bugs, birds, bettongs and bush – revised edition



We have great pleasure in giving you a copy of the revised edition of the popular publication, *Bugs, birds, bettongs and bush* by Sarah Lloyd. Sarah is a well-known Tasmanian naturalist, writer and photographer who continues to make an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of Tasmania's wonderful natural values.

This edition brings together the latest information on Tasmania's native fauna and habitats in a highly accessible form. At a time when there continues to be landscape scale change in Tasmania, publications such as this provide valuable support to the community to develop knowledge, skills and capacity to engage in a range of conservation activities. As Sarah points out in her Introduction, an

impressive number of people in the Tasmanian community have made commitments to conservation through Land for Wildlife, Gardens for Wildlife, conservation covenants, and generally participating in conservation efforts on their own land and in the broader community.

This publication includes some fascinating insights into the unusual and quirky nature of our fauna... bats for example, of which Tasmania has eight resident species, eat half their body weight in insects every night, while migratory cuckoos lay their eggs in a matter of seconds in the nests of other birds whose eggs they remove, with the hatched cuckoo chick also ejecting any other eggs or chicks in the nest!

Sarah has included insights into the

history of change in the Tasmanian landscape and implications for wildlife and habitat, along with contemporary conservation thinking and wildlife identification and monitoring techniques that can be used by everybody.

The layout of this publication is excellent. Sarah has done a wonderful job in producing the revised edition, including her stunning photographs that richly illustrate the great diversity of native wildlife we have in Tasmania. I trust that you will find the revised *Bugs, birds, bettongs and bush* publication a highly valuable and most enjoyable resource.

*Alistair Scott
and Louise Mendel*



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On the cover: Tiny red jewels (Mycena viscidocruenta). Photo by Phil Collier. Design and layout: ILS Design Unit, DPIPW.



Manager's **message**

Welcome to the Spring/ Summer 2013 edition of our newsletter.

In this edition, we acknowledge and remember three valued contributors to private land conservation who have passed on, and we say farewell to one of the team as she heads for the wilds of Africa.

I note with deep respect the passing of Rod Pearse, a gentle giant of a man, generous of spirit and deeply committed to the conservation of wild places and of wildlife. Rod passed away after a battle with illness in early October 2013. For those who knew or dealt with him, he was a man of the greatest integrity and serene wisdom, introspective yet boundlessly creative. Rod worked for the Department for many years and was a key instigator of the Private Forest Reserves Program before moving on to horticulture, and then a member of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy team, leading the revolving fund program. His vision and confident tenacity have been an inspiration.

September saw the passing of Geoff King and Karl Irwin, Geoff a covenant owner from Arthur River

and Karl from a small but much treasured reserve near Mole Creek. Both these men were stalwarts for conservation and they carried with them an indelible sense of place and purpose.

Geoff King was heavily involved in his community and served with me on the Cradle Coast NRM management committee. He was a man respected by many and a man who could see the value of experience in changing people's views of the natural world. His "Devils Kitchen" farm tours convinced many of the magic and wonder of the natural North West.

Karl on the other hand was more focused on the values and intrinsic worth of a single reserve and its place in an ancient and uniquely linked landscape. He defended his patch and the values it contained through years of illness. He was a strong advocate for the conservation reserves system on private land and sought to ensure that his reserve remained pristine and healthy.

On reflection of the passing these three fine men, I am reminded of a poem by Robbie Burns

Epitaph On A Friend

*An honest man here lies at rest,
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd;
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

As we mail this newsletter out, the PLCP team says goodbye to one of our most dedicated workers, Lyn Pullen. Lyn and her partner have decided to take on new challenges in South Africa. I have personally known Lyn for more than 25 years, and I have found her to be a person of the utmost integrity and ability. Her work in this program has brought with it a level of experience and vision that will not be easy to replace. I hope you will join me in wishing her well in what is sure to be a wonderful new adventure.

*Peter Voller, Manager
Land Conservation Branch*

Meeting of Conservation Landholders Tasmania in Campbelltown



“What are your objectives for your conservation land?” This was the key question that expert speakers posed to conservation landholders at a meeting in Campbelltown last August. It is the key question, they said, because the answer guides all subsequent management decisions.

Conservation landholders and organisational representatives had gathered to discuss *The management of pest animals on conservation properties*: to share experiences and gain knowledge about managing animals that are damaging the natural values of conservation land. The meeting was sponsored by NRM North with welcome collaboration from Sustainable Landscapes Branch, DPIPW. The problem animals named by the landholders ranged from rabbits, cats, dogs and deer to brush-tailed possums, Bennett’s wallabies and pademelons.

Three DPIPW staff: Craig Elliott, Invasive Species Branch, Jonathan Knox, Browsing Animal Management Program and Kate Gill, Game Management Unit, all gave useful advice about managing problem animals. Craig told us about a new strain of Calicivirus that should help control rabbits in a few years’ time. He talked about the *Cat Management Act 2009*, implemented by local Councils, which allows conservation landholders

to trap cats on properties with conservation covenants. He stressed the complexity of assessing the role of cats in landscape ecology. For example, in some situations, cats may be useful predators, helping to control rabbits and black rats. Jonathan and Kate gave useful information about managing wallabies, pademelons and deer through fencing, trapping and shooting under permit.

It was salutary to be reminded by Nick Mooney, an experienced wildlife biologist that, depending on attitudes and values, anything can be regarded as a pest and indeed thylacines and Tasmanian devils were both killed as pests in recent times. He advocated a careful, humane consideration of the net gain before taking any control measures. An animal shouldn’t be regarded as a pest just because it annoys a landholder:

Ted Lefroy from the University of Tasmania described research on fallow deer. Their abundance and range has increased from 7,000-8,000 occupying 400,000 ha in the 1970s to 20,000-30,000 deer occupying 2.1 million ha. Modelling based solely on climatic suitability suggests that the population could increase by 35% in the next ten years without culling beyond the current rate of permits for recreational hunting and crop protection. Given the availability of suitable habitat, for example through

vegetation thinning, fire or clearing, the population could ultimately reach one million.

After lunch Malcolm Wells led a workshop about the future of CLT. We divided into groups to firstly identify the needs of conservation landholders and secondly to consider whether CLT should remain as an informal group or become a more formal, incorporated one. Finally we voted individually. An overwhelming majority voted for the continuation of an informal group, with the qualifications that additional steering group members are needed for CLT to remain viable; and that links to the NRMs and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy should continue.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania will be holding two field days in 2014. The first one, on 1 March, will be held in conjunction with NRM South at Graham McLean’s property at Glenfern on the theme of *Weed management: planning and practice*. The second will be at Port Sorell on 20 September on *Monitoring on conservation properties*. Everyone on the CLT email contact list will receive details about these field days nearer the time. Email Robin Garnett robin@rubicon.org.au or John Thompson thompsonjohn@gmail.com to join the CLT contact list.

*Robin Garnett
and John Thompson*

Red hot tips

– the planned burning pilot project



The Planned Burning Pilot Project, finishing in November 2013, has developed a range of tools and strategies to assist Tasmanian private landholders with fire management, including the safe and effective use of planned burning.

The first stage of the project involved a survey of landholder attitudes to and experience with planned burning. Over 80 landholders from across the state participated in the survey, giving a broad range of opinions and perspectives.

The results from the survey assisted the project team to develop a range of practical tools for both wildfire management and planned burning on private land. A group of 10 pilot farmers based in north east Tasmania and the northern midlands then worked with the project team to test the tools that had been developed. These tools included property-based fire management plans, training workshops, risk assessment, a monitoring template and a technical manual on planned burning. Burns were conducted on some of the pilot farmer properties, and these have been written up as case studies. The burns were also used as practical training for the pilot farmers to reinforce the theory learnt at the workshops.

Where threatened species were known to occur in areas planned

for burning, the fire management plans were submitted to DPIPWVE (Threatened Species Unit) for approval, so that a permit to destroy could be issued. Once obtained, the threatened species permits are issued for the life of the fire management plan and only need an annual renewal. Where covenants occur in areas proposed for burning, permission must be obtained from the Minister; through DPIPWVE (Private Land Conservation Program). Permission is again issued for the life of the plan.

Some of the key learning's from the project include:

- Putting in the ground work before the burn is essential to getting good outcomes (consideration of impacts on neighbours and notifying neighbours, preparation of fire breaks, coordinating the resources (labour and equipment needed), etc).
- Private landholders are more likely to be able to manage fires which are lit so that they self-extinguish, rather than require active suppression. This can be achieved by watching forecasts for suitable weather systems, and carefully managing burn parameters.
- Do not have all burn parameters (wind speed, humidity, fuel moisture, fuel hazard) at extreme values. If they are all too low then the burn is unlikely to sustain; if all are too high

then the burn is likely to burn with too high an intensity and be too hard to control.

- Log heaps require ongoing monitoring and management to ensure that they are completely extinguished. Log heaps are best burnt in autumn or winter and then turned to ensure they fully burn out.
- Working through a lighting plan, TFS permit burn plan and risk assessment before lighting the burn assists in highlighting flaws in the plan and enables risks to be managed.
- Registering a burn by contacting TFS on 1800 000 699 (inside or outside the fire permit season) means that the likelihood of unnecessary brigade callouts is reduced.

This project was funded by NRM North and was managed by Leanne Sherriff from Macquarie Franklin and Jon Marsden-Smedley, with support from Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and Forestry Tasmania. For more information or to download the manual or case studies go to www.nrmnorth.org.au, www.macquariefranklin.com.au or www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp.

*Leanne Sherriff,
Macquarie Franklin*

Securing Tasmania's rarest orchids from extinction



Tasmania has a very rich and unique flora represented in a variety of habitats from alpine herbfields, heathland, ancient rainforests, tracts of native grasslands and dry windswept coastal vegetation. Tasmania's orchids are ubiquitous, occurring in each of these habitats, often reliant on highly specific biological and ecological interactions for growth and survival. However; due to the specific nature of these interactions and the changes imposed on Tasmania's landscape through anthropogenic activities, many of Tasmania's orchids are endangered and threatened with extinction. Over 210 native orchids have been recorded in Tasmania, almost one third are endemic. Of these, 76 are listed as threatened on the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and 41 are listed on the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, through the Tasmanian Orchid Conservation Project, have embarked on an ambitious task to secure the long-term conservation of all Tasmania's orchids. Orchids produce many thousands of dust-like seeds and can be easily stored for long periods of time at -20°C in tiny vials. However; to germinate, orchid seed requires the presence of a specific mycorrhizal fungus, so this

fungus must be isolated, cultured and stored at the same time. Focussing on the highest priority species first (those on the EPBC list), the orchids are located and pollinated. Then, tiny sections of plant roots are collected and in the laboratory, under a microscope and sterile conditions of a laminar-flow cabinet, the mycorrhizal fungi is carefully teased out and plated on nutrient agar media. Once the fungus has grown sufficiently they can be placed in liquid media for long-term storage. Four weeks after pollination, the orchids are revisited and the mature seed capsule is collected and brought back to the laboratory for drying and preparation for long-term storage.

Currently, the Tasmanian Orchid Conservation program has approximately 80 species in long-term storage represented by over 110 collections. In the 2013–14 season, we are targeting another 11 EPBC listed species for collection. Locating these rarest of plants is incredibly difficult, often relying on local knowledge of their whereabouts and flowering status. Information from private landholders is pivotal to ensuring high quality collections. For example, Phil Collier and Robin Garnett, owners of the covenanted Rubicon Sanctuary near Port Sorrell, have provided substantial information with regards to the identity, flowering

time and exact locations of several key EPBC listed and many common Tasmanian orchids. This has led to the collection of over 15 species' seed from their property, as well as numerous mycorrhizal isolations.

The germination/propagation process involves spreading the tiny seed over a petri-dish containing the cultured mycorrhizal fungus. If the fungus is compatible with the seed, germination takes place over the next three months. Following the development of a green leaf, seedlings are transferred to a plastic container with nutrient agar and sand as a 'half-way house' between the petri-dish and the nursery. After six months seedlings are ready for the glasshouse and within three years first flowering is usually observed and plants are able to be transplanted to secure field sites.

Knowing the biodiversity on your property is critical to the future conservation of many of Tasmania's orchids. Private landholdings provide the possibility for collection of orchid seed and mycorrhizal fungi from otherwise inaccessible locations and may enable future reintroduction of orchids generated from ex situ propagation programs.

*Nigel Swarts,
Royal Tasmanian
Botanical Gardens*



Farewell Lyn Pullen

On a glorious day six years ago, I took Lyn on her first site visit to a conservation covenant on the Tasman Peninsula. This day was part of a familiarisation to her new role as Stewardship Officer in the south of the State for the Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP).

What Lyn didn't know was that I had a cunning plan. The day was clear and calm and the bays and inlets on the drive from Hobart looked magnificent, shimmering in the morning sunlight. All was going well as I explained aspects of stewardship work to Lyn and her role in supporting owners of private reserves throughout southern Tasmania.

The covenant I had chosen for this first site visit contained virtually pristine forests, including old growth trees, perched atop a sheer coastal cliff formation, with views to die for. After familiarising ourselves with the reserve and conducting some monitoring of vegetation condition in the morning, we took a break for lunch.

The lunch spot looked out over the high cliffs to the then gently rolling sea. By our reckoning it was definitely a 10 out of 10 score (we

have a particular penchant for scenic lunch spots when in the field). From that moment, I knew that Lyn was hooked. My plan was a success.

Lyn came to us from Queensland with a wealth of experience in nature conservation, having had many years working in Queensland National Parks and regional Natural Resource Management, as well as experience in Africa including training wildlife and parks rangers.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Lyn, with many days spent in the field together over the years. Lyn is a highly experienced operator who has taught me many skills, and got us out of quite a few tricky 4WD situations. I can't recall a problem we have had in the field that Lyn hasn't been able to solve, though a couple of times we have had to agree, "*what happens in the field, stays in the field!*"

The support Lyn has provided to owners of covenants has been outstanding in the many aspects of a stewardship role. She has a very engaging personality, with a great sense of humour, but can also be a tough negotiator when required. Lyn has gone out of her way on many occasions to provide opportunities

and information for landowners to help manage their private reserves, including recently putting enormous effort into gaining funding for many through the Landcare Biodiversity Grants.

Lyn has provided great support and counsel to myself and other members of our team. Her strong ethics and care for others have made it a great pleasure working with Lyn. We have many times appreciated Lyn's insights and approaches to issues, and she is widely considered 'the voice of reason'. So, it was with great sadness that we heard of Lyn's plans to move into new activities at the end of this year.

We are very grateful for the work Lyn has done for landowners, the PLCP and for nature conservation, and we are just as grateful to have had the pleasure of working with Lyn over the last six years. We will dearly miss Lyn, as I'm sure will many of you out there.

We thank you Lyn and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

*Louise Mendel
Manager, Private Land
Conservation Program*



Flowering in Blue gum



Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) are now flowering abundantly with their large conspicuous yellow 'fluffy looking' flowers and sweet nectar smell. Birds and insects just love them. But not every year do they flower so profusely. In fact the last time in Tasmania that they flowered like this year was around five years ago in 2008. The main flowering time for blue gums is September to December, with the peak period October and November.

Blue gums are readily recognisable for their large single flowers borne in the leaf axils. They are the largest flower of any Eucalypt in Tasmania. The young foliage has broad leaves which are blue-grey in colour as are the juvenile stems which are characteristically square in cross section – an easy means of identifying young blue gums. Mature leaves are dark green and sickle-shaped arranged alternately on rounded stems.

It is interesting to note the annual variation in flowering abundance of blue gums as well as variation spatially across the landscape. This can have a huge influence on species which have an almost exclusive reliance on their flowers and the nectar they produce at specific times of their life cycle. One such species is the endangered Swift parrot (*Lathmus discolor*) a

migratory bird species that is heavily reliant on blue gums during its breeding season from September to January in Tasmania. The other preferred Eucalypt species which Swift parrots feed on during their breeding season is the black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*). Black gums provide an important source of nectar when the flowering season of blue gums is poor. Variations in blue gum flowering strongly influence the distribution of Swift parrots causing them to move around depending on where blue or black gums are flowering. So during the breeding season in one year Swift parrots may be predominantly found feeding on blue gums around the east coast of Tasmania, the next on black gums in the southern forest and perhaps the following year on blue gums on South Bruny Island and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Blue gums occur predominantly in coastal and near-coastal areas of lowland eastern and south-eastern Tasmania, the Bass Strait islands, Wilson's Promontory and Cape Otway district of southern Victoria. This preferred range has meant that large areas of former blue gums and their habitat have been cleared for agriculture or coastal development. In Tasmania, clearing has resulted in a loss of over 50%

of the original grassy blue gum forest that existed pre-European settlement. Continued clearing further contributes to significant loss of valuable feeding and nesting areas causing further fragmentation of their habitat. Such activities pose a serious threat to the survival of Swift parrots and negatively impacts chances for the population to recover or increase.

It is extremely important where possible that old blue gum (and black gum) trees should be retained and protected, especially large or older trees which are more prolific flowerers. Flowering intensity tends to increase with tree size. Similarly old trees with hollows in the feeding range of Swift parrots should also be retained and protected as Swift parrots are hollow dependent species relying on hollows for nesting and breeding. This is considered equally as important, regardless of forest type or eucalypt species. Feeding and breeding habitat within the same area improves successful breeding as the birds do not expend too much energy travelling from nest site to feeding sites.

Iona Mitchell



An amazing array of **fungi**

Have you ever taken a careful look at the fungi on your land? We hadn't until Sarah Lloyd visited our conservation property three years ago and pointed out an amazing array of different fungi. She sparked our curiosity and we began to notice more kinds by ourselves. We took to photographing them and recording their habitat. That led on to buying books about fungi, making spore prints and drawings, consulting other experts, a Fungimap conference – and now we are hooked!

We live on a 20 hectare conservation block, Rubicon Sanctuary, that is renowned for its diversity of orchids. The vegetation is mainly black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) woodland and sedgy wetland; not the damp rainforest where you might expect to find fungi. Yet when we began looking we found fungi in a wide range of micro-habitats: in soil amongst the bracken, along the slashed fire break, on fallen branches, bark and rotting logs, and even on fallen blackwood leaves.

Many of our fungi are orangey brown or creamy white in colour but others come in an astounding variety of different colours and a great range of shapes. There are tiny red jewels (*Mycena viscidocruenta*), shaggy mounds like small animals (*Bolletellus emodensis*), little parasols

(*Melanophyllum haematospermum*), dollops of horse dung (*Pisolithus albus*), stripy half-saucers (*Trametes versicolour*) and beautiful orange corals (*Clavaria miniata*). There is even a Beefsteak fungus (*Fistula hepatica*). One underground truffle species (possibly *Mesophellia glauca*) is particularly attractive to potoroos, especially after we have burnt its growing area.

Potoroos may eat our fungi but we never do. For us, the risks of misidentifying a species and being poisoned are just too great!

But finding names for all these fungi can be quite a challenge especially as there are some Tasmanian species yet to be described and few have common names. We find it is worth persisting with identification attempts because it sharpens our observation skills – the more we know the more we see. At present, we use *A field guide to Australian Fungi* by Bruce Fuhrer, which has brief descriptions and numerous photos. Also useful is *The Fungi CD* produced by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and sold through their website www.fncv.org.au for \$15. We are looking forward to the launch of Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky's new book, *A field guide to Tasmanian Fungi*, due in March 2014, which will describe and illustrate over 500 different

species of Tasmanian fungi. It will be available through the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club web site www.tasfieldnats.org.au for \$39.95 including postage for Australian buyers.

Another rich source of information and encouragement for people interested in fungi is Fungimap, a community based organisation run from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. Its website fungimap.org.au is an excellent starting place for fungi beginners and its conference, held every two years, brings together amateurs and top professionals in the field.

At Rubicon Sanctuary, we find that May and early June are the most prolific times for fungi although we could find some in every month of the year. We have been amazed to find over a hundred and fifty different species in our first few years of fungi hunting. We cannot mark their positions accurately as we can for our orchids, so each year brings its own exciting surprises.

Robin Garnett and Phil Collier

Photos (L to R): Like small animals (*Bolletellus emodensis*).
Little parasols (*Melanophyllum haematospermum*).
Beefsteak fungus (*Fistula hepatica*) Photos by Phil Collier.

Bugs that swim backwards



Ponds or other water containers in the garden can provide wonderful habitat for a variety of interesting life forms, from tadpoles, frogs, bugs and other invertebrates. They also provide a fascinating mini-ecosystem to study the various life stages of invertebrates with some species preying on others, or each other, to grazers which eat the slimy algae.

One relatively common and fascinating bug you may see is one which swims not only backwards, but upside down, and is appropriately called the backswimmer bug. Backswimmer bugs have large bulging eyes which take up most of their head. Their backs are convex and often light coloured as a form of camouflage for predators in the water looking upwards – this makes backswimmers not so noticeable against the background light of the sky. A very handy thing for a bug which is a particularly desirable tasty morsel to fish.

They swim by using their long back legs which are modified to sweep not unlike the action of rowing a boat with oars. Hairs along the bottom part of their back legs also help to propel them along. They can swim

at quite a speed, but also can remain suspended as they hover in search of prey.

Adult backswimmer bugs can range from 4 mm to 10 mm in length and so can be quite clearly visible if you peer into the water. They use their forelegs to capture and hold their prey. Their mouths are modified so that they may pierce and suck up the fluids out of what they are feeding on. Mostly this is plant material, but they are also predators of other invertebrates, including tadpoles. Be careful if you handle them as they can give a painful bite. When backswimmers bite they also inject chemicals which help to paralyse their prey so that they can suck up the body fluids without their prey wriggling around and making it very difficult for them to be eaten!!!

They can survive under water by trapping a bubble of air which they carry near their abdomen, returning to the surface to replenish their air supply sometimes up to around six hours later.

There are three stages in their life cycle from egg to larva (or nymph) to adult bugs. Females after mating lay

their eggs, which are often white in colour, in small clusters on or inserted into the leaves of aquatic vegetation. Usually the eggs hatch in a few weeks into nymphs which look quite similar to adults. They are also vigorous predators like their parents, but need to be on the alert so that they are not eaten by their parents!

Backswimmers are common in not only still water but slow-flowing water. But how do they appear in pond or pools which have been filled with fresh, clear water? The adults are not only excellent swimmers but very good fliers and so can quickly colonise fresh ponds or pools.

A healthy garden pond with lots of water life is a great educational resource for kids, or anyone really. A small dip net is a great way to capture and study insects at various stages of their life cycle. It is best to put them into a tray or glass of water so that they don't dry out while you are looking at them. But remember to return what you collect back to the pond or pool so that you can continue watching progress as they grow and change in form.

Iona Mitchell

Revolving Fund conservation



Have you heard about?

The term 'Revolving Fund' describes the purchase of land with important conservation values, the permanent protection of those values through a conservation covenant and re-sale of the property as a 'conservation lifestyle' property – a residential block with a very big, beautiful backyard! A Revolving Fund provides a very cost-effective mechanism for achieving conservation on private land as every precious dollar spent is returned to the fund and can be re-invested in further conservation purchases.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc (TLC) has operated a Revolving Fund since its inception back in 2001. However, the full potential of the TLC's fledgling fund wasn't realised until the Commonwealth of Australia, through the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF), entered into a Deed of Agreement with the TLC on 3 October 2007 to establish and manage a Revolving Fund in Tasmania. This agreement provided TLC's Revolving Fund with \$6 million over 5 years to protect old growth and under-reserved forest communities on private land in Tasmania.

The TLC works closely with the State Government's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to implement the Revolving Fund; a relationship leading to timely administration of covenants and quality long term stewardship of covenant properties.

Over the 5 years that the FCF Revolving Fund has operated, the TLC has purchased 24 properties

and protected approximately 3,400ha of land, including 1580ha of under-reserved and old growth forest communities. The Fund has protected precious habitat for many of Tasmania's threatened species including a number of Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle nesting sites. The TLC also recently entered into a contract to purchase and protect another 1600ha of forest near Swansea.

According to the TLC's CEO Jane Hutchinson, "With continued Commonwealth and State Government support, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy is well placed to continue the Revolving Fund to achieve outstanding private land conservation outcomes well into the future."

The TLC has a range of attractive bushland properties for sale. By choosing to purchase property through the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, you make an exciting positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. Anyone interested in purchasing a conservation lifestyle property can visit

www.tasland.org.au/revolving/ or contact TLC's Conservation Programmes Officer Jim Mulcahy: 0424 505 184 jmulcahy@tasland.org.au.

*Phillip Roach,
Tasmanian Land
Conservancy*

The following website www.youcamp.com may be of interest to private landholders wishing to share the natural values on their properties. According to the creators of the site, youcamp is a new accommodation and activity-based travel website which connects people who own, manage or lease land with paying visitors/guests across Australia. The website focuses on connecting private landholders with visitors/travellers and is designed to allow landholders to list a property and manage bookings themselves.

One of the categories is called 'conservation sites' and applies to landowners who manage parts or all of their land for conservation outcomes. The website creators have advised that there is no charge for landholders with conservation properties to be involved. The types of experiences that landholders may wish to offer include accommodation (from self contained cabins to single rooms to campsites) or they may like to open parts of their properties up for day visits, picnics or bushwalking. Basically the scale, type and price of the activities and accommodation offered is determined by the landholder and may be as extensive or restrictive as they choose.

If you would like advice on what activities may be appropriate to offer on your conservation property please contact Stu King on 6336 5427.

Photo: Grass Tree Hill. Photo by Matt Newton.



Conservation Partnership Section

– Private Land Conservation Program

Selling property?

Since 30th October 2013 the phone contact numbers for the PLCP team have changed. Below are the new office phone numbers. Mobile phone numbers remain unchanged.

	Office	Mobile
Louise Mendel (Section Leader)	6165 4386	0427 052 854
Helen Crawford (Coordinator Conservation Agreements)	6165 4390	
Iona Mitchell (Land for Wildlife, Gardens for Wildlife)	6165 4409	0418 545 970
Cindy Page (Quality Assurance Officer)	6165 4387	
Stuart King (Stewardship Officer)	6336 5427	0428 099 124
Janet Smith (Biological Monitoring Officer)	6165 4413	0428 378 196
Paul Fazackerley (GIS Officer)	6165 4385	0427 876 765

“I am looking forward to arriving, but not to leaving”.

It is with very mixed feelings that I leave both the Stewardship role with the PLCP and Tasmania at the end of this year, as my partner and I head overseas to be closer to growing young families. It has been a real privilege to work in the Private Land Conservation Program for the past 6 years: to meet with, learn from and get to know passionate landowners and managers; to see and walk over some of Tasmania's most beautiful places and to work with some of this State's very best people.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and best wishes for the future to the conservation covenant landowners, resource management staff in council, Landcare, TLC & NRM groups, and lastly to my colleagues for making my time at PLCP such a pleasure and such fun. I am looking forward to the next phase of my life whatever that maybe and will always look back with fond memories of my time in Tasmania.

Cheers for now, Lyn.

Private Land Conservation Program participants as at November 1, 2013

Number of covenants	734	84,693 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	863	56,407 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	488	2,605 hectares

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

Post or email

Just a reminder that if you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Running Postman* by email please contact the PLCP on 6233 6427 or iona.mitchell@dipwwe.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, lawyers) need to be informed of the covenant and its implications.

Prospective buyers and new owners must also be informed of the covenant on the property title so that they can factor this into their decisions.

A covenant may appeal to particular purchasers and should be promoted as a valuable aspect of the property. The PLCP Stewardship Officers are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

We often find that buyers of Land for Wildlife (LFW) properties are keen to enter the program so that they can get involved in more active conservation management.

We therefore also ask LFW owners who are selling to notify us so that we can make contact with the new owners and see if they would like to keep the property in the program.

PLCP Contacts

Stewardship

Stu King 6336 5427

Land For Wildlife

Iona Mitchell 6233 6427

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