



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

NEWS



Newsletter of the LAND FOR WILDLIFE scheme



Turn to pages 14 and 15 to read about a fauna survey done on "Challicum", a Land for Wildlife property near Buangor.

The Spotted Marsh Frog is one of the six species of frogs found on the property. Photo: Geoff Glare.

Billy Billy Creek provides excellent habitat values as well as providing a beautiful environment. Photo: Peter Homan.

Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria, Australia.

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Land for Wildlife
News
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Statewide Coordinator and Editor,
Felicity Nicholls
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Box 3100,
Bendigo Delivery Centre,
Bendigo, 3554.
Tel: (03) 5430 4363
Fax: (03) 5448 4982
Email:
felicity.nicholls@dse.vic.gov.au

See page 20 for a list of where Land for Wildlife Extension Officers and Contacts can be found.

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Editorial

Dear Land for Wildlifers,

After 17 months on leave I have returned to the position of Statewide Coordinator of the Land for Wildlife Program. I enjoyed my time at home with Hamish and I have decided to balance my home/work life by working part-time.

I would like to thank Pam Clunie for acting in my position. She did a fantastic job and I have returned to a very organised office with everything in order. Congratulations to Pam and Kevin on the arrival of Stella. Pam has taken 12 months leave and I know she will find great happiness and satisfaction in this new era in her life.

There has been many changes in the Land for Wildlife Extension Officer team and I hope you have been able to contact and meet the new officers. I look forward to meeting them very soon myself. Each one will bring a new set of skills to the team. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you have any questions as this is part of the service offered to members of the program. See the updated contact list on the back page.

Some of you may have noticed that this issue is late. This is mainly due to limitations on the time available to complete the usual June/July issue after my return. But as a bonus, this issue will have an extra four pages! I have also put back a page for the kids - *Little Land for Wildlifers!* Unfortunately, there will only be 2 issues of the newsletter in the future, however this will give me more time to enrich the future issues. The next issue will be out early 2005.

This year we will not be running a statewide Land for Wildlife Open Property Scheme, however, there will be a handful of properties open that have been

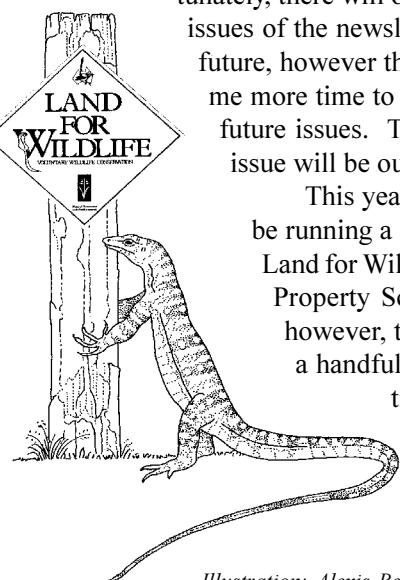


Illustration: Alexis Beckett

DSE/DPI Customer Service Centre

Phone the freecall number if you have any questions relating to natural resources and the environment

136 186.

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10% discount is available to all Land for Wildlife members. Please have your Land for Wildlife property number available.

Website

Go to www.dse.vic.gov.au and enter via plants and animals, native plants and animals and then Land for Wildlife

organised and advertised locally (see back page for list of sites and contacts). Contact your local Land for Wildlife Extension Officer for more details. I hope you can find the time to visit some of these fantastic properties and become inspired by the wonderful work that some of our members have done.

Felicity Nicholls
Statewide Coordinator



Pam and Stella

Visit the Land for Wildlife Web site at www.dse.vic.gov.au

and enter via 'plants and animals', 'native plants and animals' and then 'Land for Wildlife'

Figures include reductions to areas due to de-registrations of properties. Current at 5th August 2004.

LFW MEMBERSHIP	PROPERTY AREA	RETAINED HABITAT	HABITAT UNDER RESTORATION	NEW PROPERTIES SINCE LAST EDITION
5,962	570,171 ha	138,122 ha	23,825 ha	263

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Thanks for the newsletter. I do enjoy it and manage to get to some of the events too.

I asked one of the Land for Wildlife staff how to establish water plants in a clayey dam, and as you see from the photo, the suggestion of a bale of straw with plants poked into it is working well.

The tiny dam is only a few feet deep and would have been scooped out with horsepower, and used to irrigate an orchard. It's fed by water that trickles or seeps from the line along the clay bank on the far side. It dried out last summer for the first time in many years.

Gaille Abud, LFWer, Hurstbridge.

Dear Gaille,

Thank you for your letter and photo. This techniques looks very interesting and may allow plants to establish on the bales as well as in the dam environment in time. I have heard that barley straw bales may give the added bonus of helping to clear the water of algal blooms. It is very important to make sure the bales are good quality that are free of weeds. Loose twine may also pose a problem getting entangled around birds legs.

The Editor

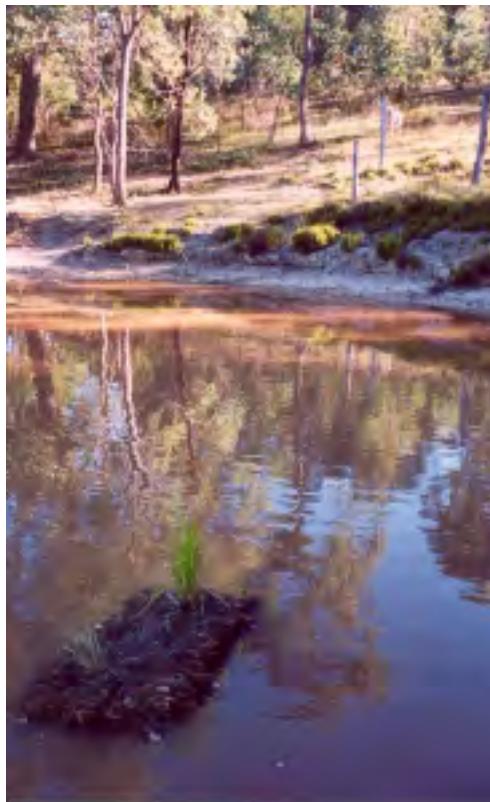


Photo: Gaille Abud

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the excellent Land for Wildlife News: it is full of good information, inspiration and sound advice.

In the latest issue the introduced pest fish *Gambusia holbrooki* is (mis)-named as "Mosquitofish". Unfortunately such a common name imparts an undeserved credit to a species that could be called the "House Mouse of the waterways". While it readily eats mosquito wrigglers when they are combined in an aquarium, in the wild wrigglers hide in shallow and plant-choked places whereas the fish inhabit much more open water. In short, the two rarely meet and the fish are not effective as the misnomer suggests. Many of the native fishes are much better at mosquito control. In recent times the preferred common name Plague Minnow has been applied to *Gambusia holbrooki*, and I urge its widespread use.

Harald Ehmann, Adelaide, SA,
LFW News reader

Dear Harald,

you are correct in implying that there is much in a name. Plague Minnow sounds very appropriate for this pest species.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

Just a short note to say that I was very pleased to read that a new project, the Southern Ark, will be starting soon to help rid Gippsland of the feral fox. As a property carer in the Wimmera, I would like to say if this is successful it would be a great step if the next stage of the project would be to include the western half of Victoria, especially the Grampians, Little Desert and Big Desert, a huge natural refuge for the fox.

I am also wondering if there are any projects in the pipeline that can target the common bee. I have been fighting bees since purchasing my property. We have won a few battles but not the war (mostly I lose).

Last month I spotted a raven which was killed by a swarm of bees, 2 metres from their hive.

Thank you for your information and newsletter.

Sam and Sari Cuce, LFWers, Kaniva

Dear Sam and Sari,

Thank you for your feedback on the Southern Ark program which is being rolled out in

continued on page 10

Putting the call out for curlews

Do you have a Bush Stone-curlew nesting in your paddock? If so, two Charles Sturt University PhD research students Andrew Carter and Elisa Tack would love to hear from you.

The pair have just started three year research projects investigating the habitat

and management requirements of this endangered species, and are looking to find out where curlews are persisting throughout Victoria.

While a survey in southern NSW by the Nature Conservation Working Group

revealed about 100 birds, little is known of bird numbers in Victoria. "We are wanting to hear from landholders about as many active curlew nests as possible, to monitor breeding success over the next three years," Mr Carter said. "We know there are a few birds around Benalla and Yarrawonga but there doesn't seem to

be a huge breeding rate because of predation by foxes and cats. Almost all remaining curlews are on private land and without the co-operation of landowners the species could be in strife."

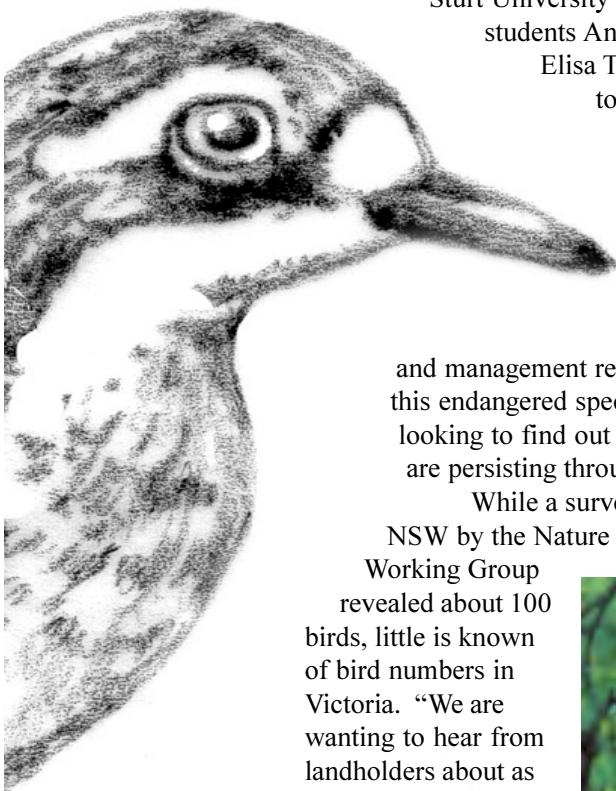
Mr Carter said the sites identified under the survey would be kept confidential.

The Bush Stone-curlew is a shy, ground dwelling bird, about 60cm tall with long, gangly legs.

Nests are simply a scrape on the ground, typically containing two 'chook-sized' eggs.

Curlews make a distinctive, wailing cry at night that has been described as the sound of "a woman being murdered."

Landholders can contact Andrew Carter on 02 6051 9623 or email acarter@csu.edu.au



Bush Stone-curlew.
Photo: Graeme Chapman
Illustration by Dawn Harris



Netting can be a danger to wildlife

With the ever increasing amount of netting being used in vineyards, orchards and private vegie gardens, there is an increasing danger of entanglement by wildlife. This copperhead snake was lucky to be found in time and was rescued by Parks Victoria staff. If you use netting, regularly monitor it for trapped wildlife. Contact a wildlife rescue organisation (see Land for Wildlife News 5_6 page 10) for information about how to rescue wildlife from netting.

Photo: Brian Martin, Parks Victoria, Wonthaggi

Rabbit Free is the way to be

Some of you may have seen these signs on fences and gates and wondered what it was all about. No, they are not giving away free rabbits, the sign on the front gate means that the landholder aims to have no rabbits on their property and has been accredited as Rabbit Free.

Rabbit Free recognises landholder efforts in successful control of rabbits and is supported by the Pest Plant and Animal Program of the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria.

To be accredited as Rabbit Free, landholders must;

- Demonstrate long term control of rabbits on their property
- Commit to being Rabbit Free
- Use Integrated Rabbit Control to keep the property Rabbit Free
- Pass the Rabbit Free Assessment process
- Agree to the conditions set out in the Rabbit Free Agreement form.

Integrated Rabbit Control, is the combination of two or more proven methods of rabbit control used concurrently. Proven methods include ripping of warrens, fumigation, removal of harbour, poisoning, use of exclusion fencing and shooting.

While realising that it is nearly impossible to totally eradicate rabbits, we must still aim for the best possible result, as even small numbers of rabbits can impact on pastures, soil and regeneration of trees, not to mention numbers can build up rapidly in the right conditions. An interesting fact is that on Christmas Day 1859 there were about 24 wild rabbits in Australia, it's hard to believe the impact that grew from such a

small population.

For further information, contact DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or check out the website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/rabbitfree

All Land for Wildlife members should already be doing their best to eliminate



rabbits from their properties anyway and this is a way to get some free advice and recognition for their efforts, not to mention another sign for the front gate.

*Geoff Harvey, LFW Extension Officer,
St Arnaud*

Refer to Land for Wildlife Note 31 "Rabbit Control in Wildlife Habitat" for information about rabbit control techniques in conservation areas

Has it been a long time since your property was visited by a Land for Wildlife Extension Officer?

Have you got lots of new questions to ask?

Would you like to show them the changes that have happened on your property to improve its conservation value?

Give your local LFW Extension Officer (see page 20 for contacts) a call and invite them out to your property for another visit.

Did you get.....?

As members of Land for Wildlife, you should have received a folder with some back copies of newsletters and a full set of Land for Wildlife Notes series (43 notes in the set).

Please contact your local Land for Wildlife Extension Officer if you did not receive these after your property assessment. They are also available on the Web. See page 2 for more details.

Bush Detective

Who made this?

Who did this?



Are you wondering what made this inconspicuous mark in the ground? It was a bearded dragon that had excavated a chamber, deposited eggs and then covered the chamber up again. Mating occurs in spring. Gravid females are found from October to February, indicating that more than one clutch may be laid in a season. Females lay from eight to thirty-five eggs per clutch in a short, chambered burrow that she packs with soil and conceals.

Photos: Geoff Harvey



Did you know.....?

Eucalypts develop **hollows** at all ages, but hollows suitable for vertebrate fauna do not typically appear until trees are at least 120 years old. Hollows for larger species may not appear until trees are at least 220 years old.

Reference: Gibbons, P. & Lindenmayer, D. (2002) Tree hollows and wildlife conservation in Australia. CSIRO Publishing.

Observations of Owlet Nightjars

About four years ago I reported in a LFW newsletter, an Owlet Nightjar roosting in the top of a verandah post of my house. The bird would nearly always call when it arrived back at the roost in the early morning light. It would then rest and sit up high to bask in the warm sun. If an adult walked too close it would drop back into the hollow. If a smaller child or a dog walked along the bird would soon become accustomed and watch with interest and caution.

I put a larger wooden nest box up under the roof and although the bird took it over, it was not so impressed. I established a smaller wooden hollow construction on the verandah post and this was nearly always the preferred roost site. A couple of years ago the bird disappeared and it was only a few weeks later that we noticed two heads poking out of the larger nest box. One was a fledgling. So with closer inspection from the house window we watched the parent birds feeding during the night.

For the second year they have fledged at least one other young. Now the boxes appear empty but I have heard an Owlet Nightjar calling in the early morning from the direction of the machinery shed and I have yet to find it.

I know they have used a horizontal downpipe for day roosting but not if it is too hot. They have also used the top of the house wall on warmer days and can drop back into the wall cavity if danger approaches.

In the evening, it waits until it is almost total dark before it departs to feed with no variation to the routine. I have waited for it and once it flies off it is only the house light that lets me see it for a few meters and then it blends with the night. Sometimes the birds will call during the night and be answered from a distant tree.

The bird returns to the roost at first light. It was always hard to approach before it slipped back into the hollow and often stayed down for only a few minutes before trying again to sit up top. It seemed to be a preferred position to sit on top and watch the world go by and would stay for hours. I could often tell if it had a hard night because it would stay down for some hours, but other days it would be up nearly all day. It is unusual that an Owlet Nightjar lives so close to human habitation.

Barry Clugston, former LFW Extension Officer, Wimmera.



Photo: Victorian Fauna Display, Viridans. Ian Morrison

Property Profile

Saving Our Stringy

When dealing with an endangered species, finding one member of the species is hopeful, two is promising, three is exciting and fifty... a dream come true!

Mitzi and William Jones' property at Lima South is just that. A beautiful, undulating grazing property of 67 hectares. Situated at the foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges, below Lightening Ridge, it could be considered the jewel in the Lima Stringybark 'crown' or canopy as it were.

The Lima Stringybark (*Eucalyptus alligatrix* spp. *limaensis*) is the focus of a Threatened Species Network funded project 'Saving Our Stringy', conducted by the Swanpool Landcare Group. The Lima Stringybark is probably naturally rare, and intriguingly occurs only in a 10 kilometre radius of the Swanpool Township. Its occurrence is restricted largely to the narrow roadsides and a few groups on private properties. Regeneration is largely absent, threatening its future survival.

From a distance, the Lima Stringybark can appear a little more open in the canopy than the locally common Red Stringybark. The leaves are a dusty olive-green colour and the bark is dark, deep and fissured. Unlike the January and February flowering Red Stringybark, the Lima Stringybark usually flowers in March or April. Perhaps the most reliable indicator are the buds, which occur in groups of three. Red Stringybarks always have seven or eight. Once you have discovered this, you have your man, or tree in this case!

A little practice is required when trying to identify this tree. Debbie, when asked to do the Land for Wildlife property visit, knew that they occurred in the area and researched them before she went in the hope of finding one. She examined every stringbark tree to see if the buds were correct and eventually found one, which was pretty exciting. Janice, in her role as Swanpool Landcare Group 'Saving Our

Stringy' Project Coordinator visited the property and immediately found around 50. Practise makes perfect!

Mitzi and William's property provides a fantastic refuge for this beautiful tree. Numbering approximately fifty individuals, it boasts regeneration, a healthy and diverse intact understorey, and trees present in gullies where there has been

recent fire activity - perfect for monitoring the effects of fire on the life and times of the Lima Stringy. Another bonus – although purely only from the human viewpoint – is an abundance of low-hanging branches, perfect for often elusive

seed collection. Mitzi Jones is thrilled about having endangered plants on her property. "The opportunity for landholders to learn more about this species and the financial support available to protect stands of Lima Stringybarks is invaluable".

With the property only being lightly grazed in the past, and with new awareness gained through the Land for Wildlife program and the

'Saving Our Stringy' project, the Lima Stringybark is fortunate to have their safe haven in Lima South.

Janice Mentiplay-Smith, Swanpool Landcare Group 'Saving Our Stringy' Project Coordinator.

Debbie Colbourne, Biodiversity Landscape Planning Officer/ Land for Wildlife Extension Officer.



Left: the buds of Lima Stringybark occur in groups of threes.

Below: Mitzi Jones and Janice Mentiplay-Smith stand proudly next to one of the magnificent Lima Stringybarks.

Photos: Debbie Colbourne



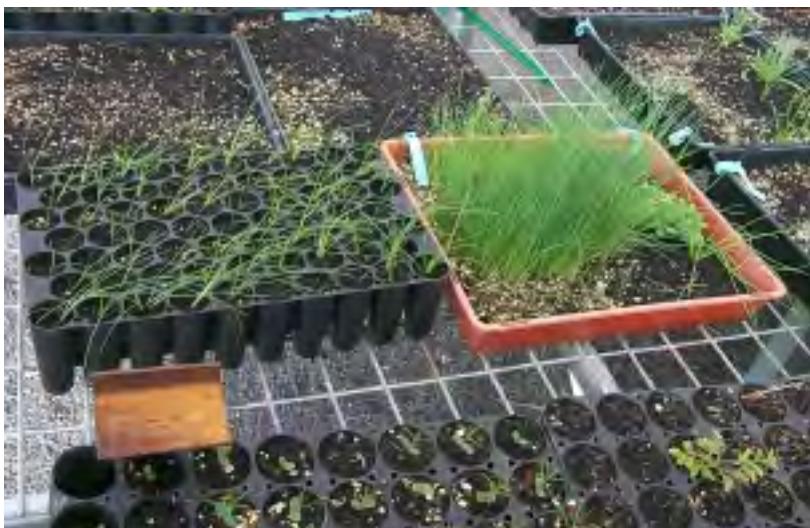
Practicalities.... handy hints and ideas

A simple guide to growing native plants from seed

Top: Seedlings grown in flat trays. These will have to be transplanted into individual pots as they grow.

Middle: Native grasses grown in Hiko trays on left and a plain flat tray on the right.

Bottom: Eucalypt grown in Hiko tray showing root system. Photos: Geoff Harvey



In our last newsletter, there was an article about how to collect native seed to use for revegetation. The next question is what to do with all this seed you have collected and safely stored away. Seed should be stored in a cool dry area in sealed containers and should be treated for insects as they may consume large quantities of seed. A mothball or small amount of naphthalene flakes will do the trick.

Germinating the seed

Most Acacia species are fairly easy to get to grow, although many need some treatment as most have a hard seed coat which needs to be softened (see box below for details) or abraded or nicked in some way (knife or sandpaper) to allow moisture to penetrate.

Then simply place the seeds in a tray and lightly cover with growing medium and keep warm and moist.

Eucalyptus species

can be simply spread on top of soil and lightly sprinkled in.

Some species, eg eremophila, lignum, grevillea and correa are better grown from cuttings.

Growing medium

There are various commercial potting and seed raising mixes available from nurseries and garden supply stores which are designed specifically for the purpose and using these will be much simpler than mixing up your own. Seed raising mixes are generally finer than potting mixes so are more suitable for very fine seeds like eucalyptus and melaleuca species.

Acacia seeds should be covered with a fine layer of soil and Eucalyptus seeds can be given a fine cover of vermiculite to protect them and reduce them from drying out. Simply keep warm and moist and you may be surprised how quickly they will start to grow.

Tubes, trays or pots?

This depends on how many plants you wish to grow. If you just want to try a few then you don't need commercial equipment, just some forest tubes or small containers with drainage holes in the bottom. If you want more numbers, the Hiko tubes are good, as plants can be germinated in them and not disturbed until planting. Plants grown in this type of tray can also easily be mechanically planted with a variety of equipment.

Don't be afraid to try, it's amazing how easy some of our native plants are to grow without any special equipment.

*Geoff Harvey, LFW Extension Officer,
St Arnaud*

Liz Russell, from Banyandah Nursery in Donald has a helpful suggestion.

Treat Acacia seeds with hot water, the smaller the seed the cooler the water (for example, *A. acinacea* at cup of tea temperature, up to boiling for larger seeds). Cool seeds by running cool water through them. Leave seeds to soak after cooling for 24 hrs then plant out.

Property Profile

Marysville Wastewater Management Facility is Declared LFW

Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) has been actively involved in protection of remnants, revegetation and management of ecosystems to conserve environmental values and ensure productive capacity of land and water resources under its control. Its Wastewater Management Facilities at Shepparton, Kilmore, Broadford and Marysville are all LFW-registered.

During February 2004, Mike Kopanica visited the Marysville site with Amy McPhee, Melissa Johnstone, and Tim Tanner from GVW for a property assessment. Marysville is situated in the sub-alpine mountain terrain of the Great Dividing Range, and the area consists of steep hills and mountains, dissected by streams, rivers and alluvial flats.

The primary role of this facility is to treat the town's wastewater (sewage). Its 30ha includes 20ha of bushland most of which is irrigated with reclaimed water. There are 2 treatment lagoons (an aerated lagoon, a facultative lagoon) and a winter storage lagoon, which make up the other 10ha.

The area comprises Valley Grassy Forest, dominated by a tall open forest of Peppermint and Messmate, with a sparse low to medium shrub understorey. The forest was selectively logged in the 1950s and a few remnant over-mature 'stag' trees occur, which are important habitat for arboreal mammals and bats. Silver Wattle, Dogwood, Handsome Flat Pea and Prickly Currant Bush dominate the shrub layer. Patches of Rough Tree Ferns occur, particularly on lower slopes, while Narrow Leaf Wattle and Small Grass Tree are more common on the upper slope. The ground cover includes Ivy-leaf Violets, Pink Bells, Geranium, Pennywort and sparse grasses. Plenty of fallen woody debris exists on the forest floor, providing a wonderful haven for ground dwelling fauna such as wombats and reptiles. The State Forest around the facility is relatively undisturbed and there are very few exotic plant species.

This site is an important wildlife corridor, with the Cathedral Range State Park to the north and the Yarra Ranges National Park to the south. The Hardhead, vulnerable in Victoria, was one of 17 bird species recorded during a recent flora and fauna survey. The birds recorded included 7

wetland or lagoon related species, with the remainder forest species. No doubt many other species visit the area.

About 17ha is irrigated each year with overhead sprinklers from December and March. Moisture sensor probes enable optimal scheduling of irrigation and an accurate determination of water balance in the area.

GVW is educating operational staff by incorporating biodiversity issues such as LFW into training programs. The authority has set a biodiversity budget to protect and enhance flora and fauna assets, including strategic fencing to protect remnants from stock grazing and enable natural regeneration.

The lagoons provide some water bird habitat, uncommon in this region. While the area is relatively small, it is part of an extensive forest and is remarkably weed free, despite experiencing some disturbance when the irrigation system was installed. There is no indication that the reclaimed water in the irrigated forest is having any impact on the species composition, compared to the un-irrigated forest. The irrigation has only been practiced for a relatively short time.

GVW has developed a Biodiversity Action Plan, which includes recommendations concerning protecting and enhancing biodiversity, undertaking flora and fauna surveys and pest and weed control, and integrating biodiversity needs with management of the facility. GVW aims to have 5 LFW-registered sites by the end of 2004, and is considering registering the Numurkah facility where a wetland area exists. The authority is committed to protecting land and water quality, and looks forward to continuing its involvement in Land for Wildlife.

Amy McPhee, Environmental Scientist, Goulburn Valley Water



*A Rough Tree Fern.
Photo: Mike
Kopanica*

Little Land for Wildlifers

Young Land for Wildlifer's Drawing Competition

Hello Young Land for Wildlifers,

Sharpen those pencils and let your artistic skills run wild!

Land for Wildlife is running a drawing competition and we hope you will send in your masterpieces. Draw or paint a picture of something relating to wild plants and animals you have seen on your Land for Wildlife property. For example, you might like to draw an echidna, an orchid, a forest or a wetland.

There are two age categories:

- 10 years and under, and
- 11 to 16.

A winner from each category will win a prize and their works of art will go into the next newsletter along with their photos.

Send in your entry to:

Felicity Nicholls
DSE
Box 3100
Bendigo Delivery Centre
Bendigo 3554

Don't forget to tell us your age and an address so we can send your entries back after the competition. Arts of work to be no bigger than an A4 piece of paper.

Competition closes Friday 1st October 2004.

Good Luck!

continued from page 3

East Gippsland. If the program has been successful, then DSE may consider similar programs elsewhere in the State.

*As far as bees are concerned, there has been a recommendation for the nomination of the following potentially threatening process, "Threats to native flora and fauna arising from the use by the feral honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, of nesting hollows and floral resources", to be listed on Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. I have not been able to find any current management actions occurring but, if the nomination is successful, there is a good chance that positive actions will stem from the listing. The Keith Turnbull Research Institute, DPI, has been carrying out a successful program to keep Victoria Bumble-bee free.*

The Editor

"To truthfully reflect and say, yes, we've made a better world for all our children is perhaps the only real measure of success"*



*Taken from a quote in "Bushcare in Tasmania 1998-2003", Bushcare & NHT. Photos: Felicity Nicholls. Sketch of bandicoot by Alexis Beckett.

The State of Australia's Birds 2003 - an overview

The State of Australia's Birds 2003 report is an overview of the status of Australia's birds, the main threats they face and the conservation actions taken. The report and much of the data in it were collected and largely funded by volunteers and culminated in "The New Atlas of Australian Birds" (see page 18). This is an extraordinary expression of concern for Australia's birds and their habitats. Without such commitment, how are we to understand the state of our birds: which species and bird communities are truly in trouble, where to focus conservation efforts, whether conservation interventions are working?

THE KEY FINDINGS

Favourable News

- A concerned effort by dedicated individuals, recovery teams, landholders and governments has improved the prospects for several threatened species.
- Conservation of birds can be compatible with human land uses, for example, sustainable farming and the recreational use of beaches.
- The number of volunteers working to monitor and improve the status of the nation's birds is increasing.
- Knowledge of long-term patterns and trends in bird populations is improving.
- Most of the more highly threatened species have been listed federally and/or by the appropriate State (but preparation of recovery plans lags behind).
- The rate of broadscale clearing of native vegetation has been markedly reduced in New South Wales and preliminary steps have been taken towards its cessation in Queensland.
- Our cities provide habitat for a wide and increasing variety of native birds, eg Peregrine Falcons and Magpie-larks.

Unfavourable news

- Populations of several common and widespread woodland birds of the extensively cleared wheat-sheep belt continue to decline, eg Hooded Robin.
- Populations of several migratory shorebirds show evidence of long-term decline, eg Curlew Sandpiper.
- Knowledge of habitat management by burning is improving, but an inability to control extensive dry season fires remains a threat to several northern grassy woodland species.
- In the 20 years between Atlases, another introduced species has established and two of the more recently established

species - Spotted Turtle-Dove and Common Myna - have spread.

There is strong circumstantial evidence that:

- Species richness is reduced where native vegetation clearance is continuing.
 - Low reporting rates are associated with areas of reduced native vegetation cover.
 - Climate change is compromising high altitude residents, eg Rufous Scrub-bird and Noisy Pitta.
- Broadscale, intensified agriculture, such as cotton growing, is an increasing threat to bird populations.



Australian Magpie-larks have shown an increase in cities since the last Atlas. Photo: Victorian Fauna Display, Viridans.

Uncertain news

- Unsustainable farming practices, particularly in the wheat-sheep belt, are joint threats to agriculture and birds.
- Conservation effort has been directed at rare species with relatively little action taken to improve the fortunes of more common declining species.
- The impact of the extended drought and exceptional fires that burned much of the High Country of the south-east in 2003 is yet to be revealed.
- Populations of several long-established introduced species are declining, as they are in their natural range, eg European Goldfinch and European Greenfinch.

Reference: The State of Australia's Birds 2003. Olsen, P., Weston, M., Cunningham, R. and Silcocks, A. Birds Australia. Supplement to Wingspan vol. 13 no. 4 December 2003.

Economic Benefits of Biodiversity

The bush medicine cabinet

People have long used biological resources for medicinal purposes. Australian Aboriginal societies made use of many native plants as medicines; at least 70 were used by central Australian Aboriginal people alone. Examples cover many genera, and include acacias and eremophilas, as well as individual species such as *Isotoma petraea* and the parrot plant (*Crotolaria cunninghamii*). A few Aboriginal medicines have been widely used in western medicine, such as the ubiquitous eucalyptus oil for relief of respiratory tract infections, but many more are now being investigated. A prime example is provided by current research into the bark of a tree found in the Kimberleys, which is known to Aboriginal people as a powerful painkiller.

A number of Australian species are the basis of medicinal products. Hyoscine (or scopolamine), used to treat motion sickness, stomach disorders and the effects of cancer therapy, is a product of two species of corkwood

(*Duboisia* spp.). One of these, *D. leichhardtii*, is restricted to Queensland, and the hybrid between the two species produces more hyoscine than any other plant. The vine (*Tylophora* sp.) is the source for the drug

tylorebrebe, which has been effective in treating lymphoid leukemia, while the kangaroo apples (*Solanum aviculare* and *S. laciniatum*), found in Australia and New Zealand and cultivated overseas, provide salasodine, which is easily converted to steroids.

Wild plant, animal and microorganism resources are also of great importance in the search for new medically active compounds, and the potential of other Australian biota to contribute to modern medicine has scarcely begun to be realised. Many of the drugs presently used are derived from plants: many

medicines, in particular antibiotics, are derived from microorganisms, and new chemical structures are being discovered all the time. The native pepper (*Piper novae-hollandiae*) and the blackbean (*Castanospermum australe*) both offer potential in the treatment of cancer. Current work at Macquarie University is exploring the antibiotic potential of secretions from glands of bulldog ants (*Myrmecia* spp.). The substances have strong antibiotic properties, and kill a wide range of selected bacteria and fungi. Their potential, particularly as industrial biocides, is enormous.

Studies of various chemicals produced by other animals have led to discoveries of medicinally useful substances. A substance called Prostaglandin E2, which could be of importance in the treatment of gastric ulcers, was originally discovered in the two species of gastric brooding frogs (*Rheobatrachus* spp.) found only in the rainforests of Queensland. Unfortunately, both species have not been sighted for some time, and it is conceivable that one at least (*R. silus*) is now extinct.

About 50 per cent of species in Australia are known but only a quarter formally described. As knowledge



Secretions from glands of bulldogs (*Myrmecia* spp.) have strong antibiotic properties.

Photo: Victorian Fauna Display, Viridans.

improves, new bioresources to increase human welfare will be discovered and developed. There is a clear relationship between the conservation of biological diversity and the discovery of new biological resources. The gastric brooding frogs is a classic example of the urgent need to halt the extinctions occurring worldwide.

Reference

Biodiversity and its value, Biodiversity Series, Paper No 1, Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (1993).

Let sleeping logs lie

Does your paddock or patch of timber resemble an ‘English park’ with mature trees towering over a tidy understorey of grass and the odd shrub or three? While there is undoubtedly something aesthetically pleasing to the human eye about an ‘English park’ landscape, these highly modified landscapes are viewed very differently by many native animals. This is because many habitat features that provide foraging substrates, shelter and breeding sites for native animals are no longer present. Consequently, the number of species found in these landscapes is usually much lower than it once would have been. Fallen logs and branches (collectively called ‘woody debris’) are an important, but frequently overlooked, habitat feature that is often absent in remnants of native vegetation. Encouragingly, they are also one component of the environment that we can do something about with relative ease.

Woody debris is important at many levels of the web of life. It provides habitat for many invertebrates and fungi, which in turn facilitate the decay of fallen timber and the return of nutrients to the soil. When woody debris is removed from a remnant or paddock, the nutrients bound in the wood are lost to that system forever. Woody debris also helps to secure soil, water and fine litter, reducing both water loss and soil erosion. Woody debris also has great benefits for biodiversity conservation. Many scientific studies have shown that areas with a structurally complex ground layer – one composed of a mosaic of bare ground, grasses, herbs, small shrubs, fine litter, larger branches and fallen logs – support more species of invertebrates, reptiles, birds and mammals than equivalent areas with a disturbed ground layer and a paucity of woody debris.

How can fallen timber make such a difference to the number of species present? The key is that it provides different things to different species. For example:

- Brown Treecreepers move over logs and branches feeding on insects that live on and under the bark of fallen timber;
- Buff-rumped Thornbills not only feed amongst woody debris but often build their nests there as well;
- Bush Stone-Curlews are dependent on an environment replete with fallen branches for their immaculate camouflage to be effective;
- Sacred Kingfishers feed on small reptiles, which in turn rely on woody debris for their food and shelter;
- Southern Whiteface and Superb Fairy-wrens retreat to piles of fallen timber when threatened in their more exposed feeding habitat;
- Hooded Robins perch on fallen logs as they search the ground for their insect prey.

In short, woody debris provides foraging sites, shelter, refuge and breeding sites for many ground-dwelling animals. Without these valuable assets, many species are unable to occupy remnant vegetation.

Woody debris is often collected for firewood or tidied up because it is perceived as a bushfire hazard or harbour for rabbits and foxes. However, we should seek other sources for firewood and other approaches to bushfire and pest animal management. Furthermore, the fire and pest animal risk that is posed by woody debris in most circumstances is dubious and more than offset by the productivity and biodiversity benefits of retaining fallen timber. The bottom line is that if we want remnant vegetation to have significant biodiversity value, fallen timber must be allowed to remain on the ground and fulfill its critical ecological roles.

Jim Radford, School of Ecology and Environment, Deakin University.



*Illustration of Hooded Robin:
Dawn Harris*

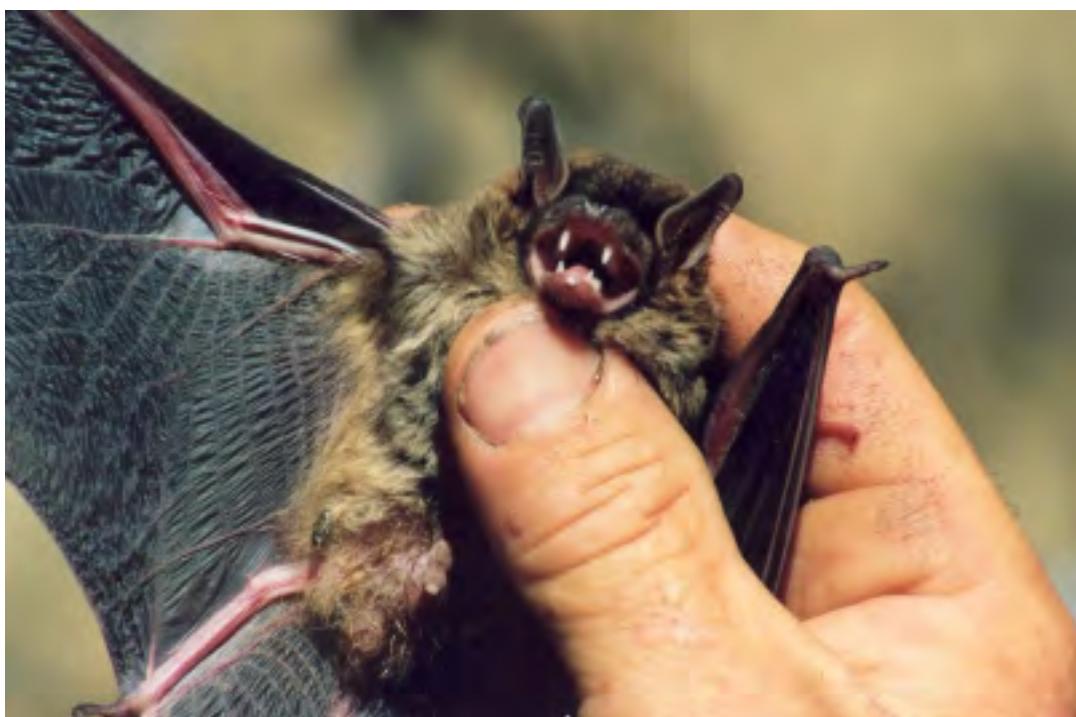


A fauna Survey of "Challicum", a Land for Wildlife property near Buangor

"Challicum" is a 1300 hectare sheep property situated on Victoria's basalt plains about 170 kilometres west of Melbourne, near the town of Buangor. The property runs approximately 6000 Merinos and Polwarths for fine wool and prime lambs and is bordered to the north-west by the Challicum Hills, home to Victoria's first inland wind farm.

The current owner, Mr Doug Hopkins,

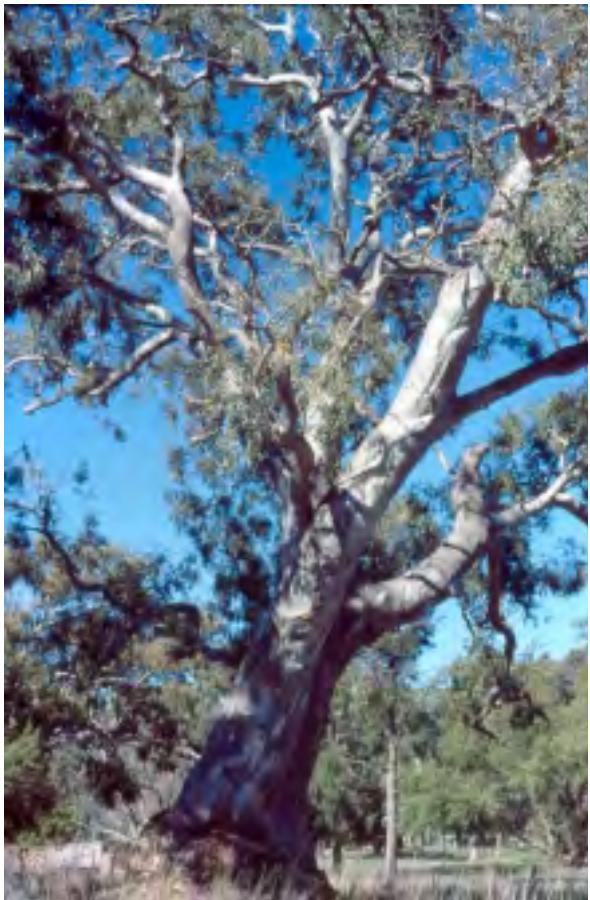
the Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*, and insectivorous bats. Seven species of bats have been recorded so far, including the Eastern False Pipistrelle *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*, an uncommon species that is normally found in tall forests. The Pipistrelle was an unexpected find in this low lying area of River Red Gums. Black Wallabies *Wallabia bicolor* also inhabit the woodland along Billy Billy Creek.



joined the Land for Wildlife scheme in 1990 and has since planted large numbers of trees and shrubs and fenced off areas of River Red Gums and native grassland. The fauna survey began in December 2002 and will be a long-term study of the mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds inhabiting various parts of the property.

So far, seventeen species of mammals, seven reptiles, six frogs and sixty bird species have been recorded. These include the threatened Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*, which was found in River Red Gums along Billy Billy Creek, one of the two streams that flow through the property. The threatened Warty Bell Frog (Growling Grass Frog) *Litoria raniformis*, has also been located in a large permanent pool on Billy Billy Creek. The Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* is also present in the creek and the large gums along the banks provide many hollows for

One large paddock, which is covered in large surface basalt boulders, has never been ploughed and is only lightly grazed. Large swathes of Spear Grass and Wallaby Grass are present as are various grassland plants including Blue Devil, Sheep's Burr, Chocolate Lily, Pink Bindweed and Pale Mat-rush. This paddock has many ponds that fill after good rains and provides perfect habitat for various frog species including the Spotted Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, and Common Froglet *Crinia signifera*. The Little Whip Snake *Parasuta flagellum*, Southern Grass Skink *Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii*, and Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*, have also been recorded in this area. This is the first time that the Tussock Skink has been recorded in this district and the survey has significantly increased the known range of this species.



In the fenced off areas near this paddock large numbers of River Red Gums are regenerating and several species of birds whose range have decreased in recent years, have been recorded. These include the Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*, the Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* and the Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*. The current owner's policy of

leaving most fallen branches in the paddocks where they fall has benefited such birds as the Brown Treecreeper, which requires this sort of habitat. The many fallen logs in the fenced off areas has also benefited native mammals. The Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, which cannot survive in open farmland, has been found in these areas and the Swamp Rat *Rattus lutreolus* is particularly abundant.

Measures taken by Mr Hopkins at Challicum to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat are really paying dividends on this interesting property on Victoria's basalt plains.

Peter Homan, Fauna Consultant

Peter Homan is a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. He does contract fauna survey work for Parks Victoria and DSE. He is also a lecturer in Conservation and Land Management with RMIT University. Peter can be contacted on Peter.Homan@RMIT.edu.au

Photos;

Far left; Eastern False Pipistrelle. Photo by Peter Homan.

Above; Large River Red Gum. Photo by Peter Homan.

Below; Peter Homan sitting by Challicum pond. Photo by Maryrose Morgan.
See front page for more photos.



Fungimap - putting Australian fungi on the map

Fungi are everywhere! However, when you're out in the bush in the dry summer months, enjoying the plants and animals, it's easy to forget the existence of these fascinating organisms. A huge diversity of fungi live hidden from view in the soil, leaf-litter

and in fallen timber. Some even live on the roots of plants. We usually only see evidence of their existence after heavy rains in autumn, when wet and warm conditions trigger the larger fungi to initiate fruiting and to push their fruiting bodies into the open. Larger fungi that you may be familiar with include mushrooms, coral fungi, jellies, earthstars, stinkhorns and bracket fungi.

ephemeral, very little is known about their distribution. There are very few published maps of fungi and this impedes our understanding of their conservation status, biogeography and ecology.

To address this lack of information, Fungimap was started in 1996 as a joint initiative between the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Fungimap is a community-based mapping scheme for Australian larger fungi. With the help of over 700 volunteer observers across Australia, from professionals to amateurs, Fungimap aims to map the distribution of 100 target species of Australian fungi. Species selected as Fungimap targets are reasonably easy for amateurs to identify in the field, so becoming involved in Fungimap is a very good way to gain an introduction to the world of fungi.

If you are interested in fungi, you can contribute to the Fungimap project by sending in records of any target species you come across, either at home or in your travels. As so little is known about Australian fungi, all contributions are very valuable, even if you only learn to recognise a couple of species.

To join Fungimap, or find out further information you can call the Fungimap Office (Tues-Fri) on 9252 2374 or email fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au. You can also visit the fungimap website at <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/>

Cassia Read
Fungimap Coordinator



Above: *Dermocybe splendida* at Wilpena Pound, Flinders Ranges, SA. This Fungimap target is in a group of fungi known to form symbiotic relationships with eucalypts. *Dermocybe* species grow around the roots of eucalypts and help the trees absorb nutrients from infertile soils. Photo by David Catcheside.

Right: Cage Fungi (*Ileodictyon gracile*). A strange looking Fungimap target growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Photo by Paul George.

When the weather is right, you may be witness to displays of their beautiful colours and unusual shapes.

Spending most of their life cycle in the form of fine cotton-like threads (called hyphae), fungi play a crucial role in the function of ecosystems.

They help many Australian plants absorb essential nutrients, break down woody debris and provide a food source for a range of animals, such as insects and the endangered potoroo.

Without fungi at work, the bush would be a very different place. Because fungi are so mysterious and



Painted Snipe - secretive inhabitants of wetlands

The Painted Snipe is among Australia's most mysterious and cryptic birds. One of three kinds of Painted Snipe in the world, the type found in Australia was formerly considered a subspecies of the Greater Painted Snipe that occurs throughout Asia and Africa. However, recent taxonomic revision, including DNA and morphological analysis, has revealed that it is a separate distinct species, *Rostratula australis* – the Australian Painted Snipe. The third type of Painted Snipe is endemic to South America.

Australian Painted Snipe are very secretive and unpredictable inhabitants of freshwater wetlands, occasionally turning up in small numbers and staying for a few weeks, days or hours, before moving on. There are no known sites where one can be guaranteed of seeing a Painted Snipe and the species remains one of the least studied and poorly understood shorebirds in this country. Information about many fundamental aspects of their life cycle, including habitat requirements, distribution, movements, breeding biology and dietary requirements, are limited. One thing we know for sure is that the Painted Snipe is incredibly rare, with a total population perhaps as few as 1500 birds and declining (Watkins 1993). During the period of the first Atlas of Australian Birds (1977-1981), the Painted Snipe had the lowest reporting rate for any species of resident shorebird in Australia. Despite its ability to colonise shallow temporary wetlands, the Painted Snipe has probably suffered as a result of widespread wetland drainage and the diversion of water from rivers. This has caused a reduction in the frequency of flooding of some wetlands. In the Murray-Darling Basin, water resource developments from the 1960s-1990s have coincided with a significant decline in the number of reports received (Atlas of Australian Birds database, 2003).

In an attempt to address the knowledge gaps, Birds Australia's Threatened Bird Network has begun a project involving researchers, conservationists, land managers, land owners and combinations of these. The first major task was to build a database of all Painted Snipe records (historic and current). In order to focus people's attention on Painted Snipe and potentially increase the number of recent sightings, a regular community-based survey program has also been established. We also anticipate that the Painted Snipe, with all its beauty and intrigue, would be a terrific flagship species

for freshwater wetland conservation, highlighting the desperate plight that so many wetland species find themselves in.

As a result of our work thus far, we are developing a much better understanding of Painted Snipe ecology, and we now find ourselves in a position where we can answer some of the questions raised half a decade ago. For instance, it appears that Painted Snipes prefer shallow ephemeral wetlands, particularly when water levels are receding, where there are areas of damp exposed mud between sparse low vegetation, such as flooded Lignum, Samphire or tussock grasses. It appears they seldom occur at wetlands that contain large expanses of tall reeds, such as Cumbungi. We have also made advances in developing techniques that maximise chances of finding these birds. Painted Snipe, unlike the more commonly encountered Latham's or Japanese Snipe, can be incredibly cryptic and reluctant to flush, preferring to rely on camouflage and remain on the ground. It is recommended that any searching be conducted carefully and patiently and we suggest a sit-and-wait technique, which gives snipe a chance to settle from any disturbance upon an observers approach, and resume feeding.

Over time, we hope to continue these discoveries that improve our knowledge of Painted Snipe, with an aim to pass on as much of what we learn to landholders, land managers and people wishing to take part in surveys and conservation work. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Painted Snipe project, or getting involved, please contact Chris Tzaros, Threatened Bird Network, Birds Australia, phone: (03) 9882 2622, email: c.tzaros@birdsaustralia.com.au

References

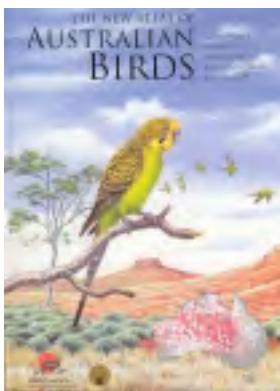
- Watkins, D. 1993. *A National Plan for Shorebird Conservation in Australia*. Australasian Wader Studies Group, Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, and World Wide Fund for Nature. RAOU Report No. 90.

Chris Tzaros, Birds Australia,
Threatened Bird Network



Female Australian
Painted Snipe.
Photo: Tom Tarrant.

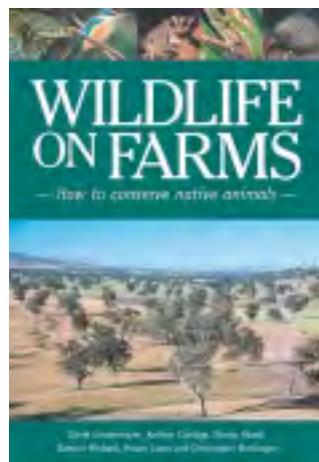
Recent Publications (see page 2 for member discount)



The New Atlas of Australian Birds (2003)

Geoff Barrett, et al. *Birds Australia.*

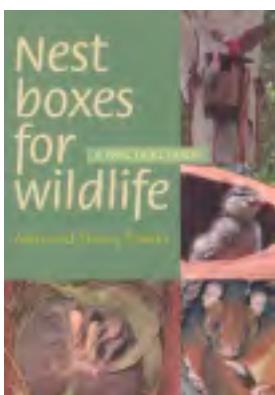
For four years between 1998 and 2002, Birds Australia co-ordinated the largest continent-wide survey of birds in the world. Over 7000 atlasers produced 270,000 bird lists and nearly five million bird records. This book marks the culmination of these efforts, presenting 4000 distribution maps for over 650 bird species, including seasonal changes and breeding range. Change maps are also presented for 250 species identifying those that are more common or less common since the first Atlas of Australian Birds was completed 20 years ago. \$89.95 plus \$8.50 p&p. Available from Birds Australia, The Birding Shop, Hawthorn East (03) 9813 5488.



Wildlife on Farms - How to Conserve Native Animals (2003)

David Lindenmayer et al. *CSIRO Publishing.*

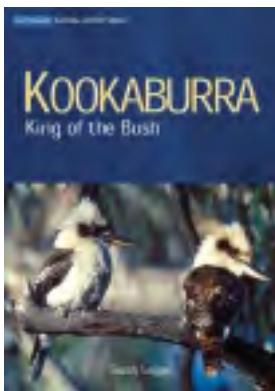
Wildlife on Farms outlines the key features of animal habitats - large flowering trees, hollow trees, ground cover, understorey vegetation, dams and watercourses - and describes why landholders should conserve these habitats to encourage wildlife on their farms. The book shows how wildlife conservation can be integrated with farm management and the benefits this can bring. Wildlife on Farms contains 29 example species that are found in southern and eastern Australia. Each species has a general description, key habitat needs are described and a list of 'what you can do on your land' to help the species is provided. \$29.95. Available from DPI/DSE Info Centre (see page 2) as well as local book stores.



Nest Boxes for Wildlife - a Practical Guide (2003)

Alan & Stacey Franks. *Blooming Books.*

This book offers many practical insights into the types of nest boxes favoured by different species, and how to build, install and look after them. This book is a complete practical guide which provides extensive plans for nest boxes. The practical advice given by the authors is based on personal observation and experience, as well as information they have gathered from other wildlife experts. \$16.95. Available from DPI/DSE Info Centre (see page 2) as well as local bookstores.



Kookaburra - King of the Bush (2004)

Sarah Legge. *CSIRO Publishing.*

Kookaburras are among the largest kingfishers in the world. They can live in a wide variety of habitats, and have adapted to living around humans relatively well. While they may be a familiar icon, the author also explains why this laughing 'king of the bush' is a much more complex bird than generally assumed. This book provides a complete overview of kookaburras and their unique place in Australian culture and natural history. The book features stunning photos and an excellent overview of the biology, ecology and behaviour of these famous birds. \$34.95. Available from DPI/DSE Info centre (see page 2) as well as local book stores.



Indigenous Plants of Bendigo - a Gardeners Guide to Growing and Protecting Local Plants (2004).

City of Greater Bendigo & Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc.

The purpose of this guide is to foster an appreciation and the conservation of the local native flora. As well as providing information on protecting remnant vegetation, it provides detailed information on the cultivation of 124 different local species, including tips on how to use them in suburban gardens. Available free from City of Greater Bendigo (5434 6000) or email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Conservation Properties for Sale

Far East Gippsland. 140 acres, LFW property, 50 minutes to coastal resort of Mallacoota, 70 minutes from Eden, NSW South Coast. Two fully equipped holiday cottages, catering for international and local guests, regular clientele and farm income from cattle agistment. Comfortable home, large machinery shed and other buildings, large dam, ample tanks supplying gardens and troughs, all houses solar powered. One of the best wildlife areas in eastern Australia, close to Coopracambra and Croajingolong National Parks, short walk to Genoa River. Creek runs through property - lots of possibilities. Good road access. Health issues force reluctant retirement. \$445,000. Contact owners, Peter and Marg on 03 5158 8277.

Traralgon. LFW property, 464 acres, 20 minutes from Traralgon. Adjoining natural bush in a sheltered valley, the property is situated at the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges. The property has a balance of good creek flats and good carrying rising country sown to improved pasture. Flynn's Creek that flows the full length of the property and 19 dams supply permanent water. Lots of tree and shrub plantings over the years has helped to attract over 100 species of birds to the property. Remnant patches of bush have been fenced to prevent stock grazing but not the wildlife. The property also has commercial plantings of trees. 2003 winners for the Lake Wellington Catchment Landcare Award for Sustainable Farming. A great example of a balance between Landcare, conventional farming and nature. \$2694/acre. Contact Graeme and Elaine Crawford on after hours 03 5174 7617 or Colin and Heather Crawford at Woodstock@vic.australis.com.au

Stirling Range Retreat & Bluff Knoll Lodge Development, WA. Members of LFW, Stirling Range Retreat is 40 acres of fantastic bush, adjoining Stirling Range National Park, making it a top ecotourism opportunity in the SW region of WA. Includes chalets, cabins, vans, hostel rooms and camp sites. It is offered with the adjoining Bluff Knoll Lodge site (2.19ha, lodge plus 48 units), both with their own titles. \$2,050,000. Contact Tony Sands on (08) 9827 9229 or email stirlingrangeretreat@bigpond.com

Buxton/Marysville. The Eagles Nest. This rare 10 acre (4 ha) rainforest property is located a comfortable 1 hour drive from the eastern suburbs of Melb. The property has an abundance of birds (over 40 species including lyrebirds) and native mammals. It is a pristine forest setting comprising predominantly Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Messmate and Mannagums as well as numerous types of shrubs, wild flowers and ferns (maidenhair to towering treeferns). Three bedroom timber dwelling with magnificent views towards Buxton and the hills beyond. Three large bedrooms, open plan living/dining area and a 2 car garage and carport. Huge workshop/cottage. 25,000 litre fiberglass water tanks and a spring fed dam. Property for sale for around \$480,000. Contact Cliff on (03) 5963 3731 or 0429 391 330.

Langwarrin. 10 acre property with abundant wildlife. Over 60 bird species and over 70 indigenous plants and fungi. 28 square B/V Federation style house, including 2 car garage. 3 square outdoor spa/entertainment area. 9 square work shed. Only 45 minutes from Melb. city. Asking price \$850,000 plus. Contact L.J. Hooker - Gary Dogeschal (03) 97765805 or 0418990379.

Lal Lal. 'Ushambani' is a 170 acre LFW property located 20 minutes south of Ballarat. Mostly grazing land with wildlife corridors and patches of remnant stringybark/peppermint forest. 9 paddocks, each with a dam. Abundant wildlife. Sheds and an old ruined cottage on property. Planning permission not required for a building permit. Asking price is \$425,000. Contact owners on 5341 7645 or 0403 345 573.

Properties for sale continued on page 20

Have you sold or are you thinking of selling your Land for Wildlife property?

If you sell your Land for Wildlife property, please inform the Extension Officer or Statewide Coordinator. We can then alter the database and invite the new owners to join. **The Land for Wildlife sign is the property of DSE and needs to be returned or picked up.** Advertising your property here is free to Land for Wildlife members.

Land for Wildlife
Extension Officers and contacts are at the following Department of Sustainability and Environment Offices:

Alexandra
Janet Walton
- (03) 5761 1569

Bairnsdale
Lucy Clausen
- (03) 5152 0410

Ballarat
Elspeth Swan
- (03) 5336 6722

Benalla
Janet Walton
- (03) 5761 1569

Bendigo
Shaun Burke
- (03) 5430 4368

Central and West Gippsland

Kylie Singleton
- (03) 5172 2123

Colac
Kelly Dufty
- (03) 5565 4417
- 040965 4425

Geelong
Kate Mackie
- (03) 9785 0134

Horsham
Jill Fleming
- (03) 5362 0765

Melbourne area & Port Phillip East
Kate Mackie
- (03) 9785 0134

Mildura
Kathryn Biesaga
- (03) 5022 4324

Portland
Tanya Wood
- (03) 5522 3445

St Arnaud
Geoff Harvey
- (03) 5495 1700

Swan Hill
Murray Rohde
- (03) 5036 4824

Wodonga
Janet Walton
- (03) 5761 1569

Bird Observers Club of Australia PO Box 185, Nunawading, 3131 (03) 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342 (country callers).

Courses/Field Days/Information Sessions

14th August. Information session on Diploma of Conservation and Land Management Course. Peppermint Ridge Farm. Tynong North. 5942 8580.

19th August. Invasive Garden Plants and Weeds of the Future. Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV). DPI, Frankston. Non-members fee \$5. Contact Richard Fossett 9844 3057.

19th & 26th August. Fire Management and Ecology. Greening Australia Vic. (GAV). Heidelberg. \$440 or \$176 concession. 9450 5321.

September. Restoring Native Vegetation - introduction to Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs). GAV. Heidelberg. For more info on course and costs contact David Simondson on 9450 5314.

21st & 28th September and 5 & 9 October. Grassland Identification and Management. GAV. NW Melbourne. \$440 (FarmBis rebate pending). 3 nights and 1 day field trip. Contact Jane McQueenie 9450 5328.

14th November. Horses and Land Management. Peppermint Ridge Farm. Tynong North. \$70 or \$20 for Cardinia Shire residents. 5942 8580.

Land for Wildlife Open Properties

September **Amphitheatre** Shaun Burke 5430 4368.

September or October **Wedderburn/Wychitella area** Geoff Harvey 5495 1700.
10th September **Mt Wallace (near Ballan)** Elspeth Swan 5336 6722.

11th September **Meerlieu** Lucy Clausen 5152

0400.

17th September **Nelson** Tanya Wood 5522 3445.

26th September **Ross Creek (near Ballarat)** Elspeth Swan 5336 6722.
23rd October **Newry** Kylie Singleton 5172 2123.

Calligee. 'Woodstock' consists of 191 ha, nestled in a sheltered valley fronting Flynn's Creek. The property, 5 km north of Calligee, has an abundance of wildlife with over 100 species of birds recorded. There is plenty of stock water available. Heaps of shelter and aquatic areas and nearby Crown Land native bush. Nearest city is Traralgon, 22km away. Soils are varied, some rich and fertile growing cricket bat willows and other species and rearing vealers and fattening bullocks. For details, contact Graeme and Elaine on (03) 5174 7617.

Land for Wildlife Accommodation

Have you ever planned a visit to another part of Victoria and wondered whether there were *Land for Wildlife* properties which offered accommodation?

Well the answer is a definite yes. There are a number of LFW properties that do offer accommodation. This provides a great opportunity for you to visit and stay with like-minded landholders keen to protect and enhance their land.

If you'd like to find out more, we can provide a list of LFW properties that offer accommodation. Please contact Felicity Nicholls via email on felicity.nicholls@dse.vic.gov.au or phone 5430 4363

Yinnar South. A garden and wildlife paradise located 25 minutes south-west of Traralgon. The unique contemporary mudbrick house on 2.7 acres is nestled in a private and sheltered setting. The light, airy 3-bedroom home has open plan living areas. Paved outdoor entertainment area flows into naturalistic gardens where extensive native plantings blend with exotics and mature trees. The many plants help support a wide variety of birds. Mammals are abundant including koalas. A special bonus is the huge water catchment and storage capacity, plus a permanent spring, fern gully and dam. Additional features include a mature orchard, paddock, double garage and carport, workshop, cat enclosure and electric-boosted solar hot water. Soil rich and productive with annual rainfall 840mm. Asking price \$305,000. Contact owner on (03) 5169 1727.

Visiting WA this year

Want to meet some Western Australian Land for Wildlifers who offer ecotourism services - from B&B to wine-tasting - and learn first-hand about our flora, fauna, farming and landcare?

You need the WA LFW

Ecotourism list!

Contact LFW WA

Ph: (08) 9334 0427 Fax (08) 9334 0199

Email: claireh@calm.wa.gov.au