



# The **Running** Postman

Newsletter of the Private Land Conservation Program

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



# Manager's **message** – June 2019

Welcome to the 27th edition of the Running Postman. In this edition we hear about the fascinating field days held by Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) at Nubeena, looking at the importance of insects – wildlife that are often overlooked. The event included talks from enthusiastic experts as well as hands-on collecting and identification of insects. In recent times the CLT have undergone a change in structure which allows for more independence and greater capacity to apply for funding in their own right. They are also looking to encourage broader participation in the group, including Land for Wildlife members who make such a valuable contribution to protecting wildlife species and habitat in this state.

Foxgloves may be considered pretty

in the garden, but they can have a detrimental impact if they are allowed to escape and spread into areas of natural bushland. They are a difficult weed species to control, but some useful information and tips to successfully do so are provided. We also have an inspiring article from a 'Garden for Wildlife' member about their transformation of an old neglected home and garden into a wildlife-friendly productive food garden in an urban setting.

Many landowners may be interested in the recently released PooFlip which is a great guide for the life-sized identification of the scats of Tasmanian mammals. We take the opportunity to look at this and the other 'Flip' guides in the series.

Since 1st February 2019 there

has been a change in the delivery of Land for Wildlife with all new requests for property registrations being assessed by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. What this means and how it will happen is outlined.

I'd also like to encourage you to send through your email address to the Program if you have one, as we use email to let people know when there are funding opportunities or field days that may be of interest.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition.

*Helen Crawford,  
Program Manager,  
Private Land  
Conservation Program*



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### **Update your contact details**

Let us know your email address and updated contact details. Contact the PLCP on **03 6165 4409** or email [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

*The Running Postman* is printed on Maine Recycled Silk paper, made from 60% post consumer waste fibre and 40% FSC® certified virgin fibre. Maine recycled is also CarbonNeutral®.

*On the cover: A stunning photo sent to us of a sea eagle feeding on a puffer fish that we just had to share with you.*

*Photo: Stuart Smith (Covenant landowner).*

*Design and layout: Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPIPWE.*

# Enthusiasm, generosity and knowledge . . . and **insects!!!**



The Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) weekend event on the importance of insects (18/19 November 2018) was held in the CWA hall at picturesque Nubeena. We especially looked forward to the enthusiasm, generosity and knowledge of CLT guest speakers.

After a warm welcome to all, Gail Dennett shared CLT's currently reduced funding position, plus good news of the new CLT Trust. The Trust will secure formal ownership of the group's name and facilitate exploration of funding possibilities.

Key note speaker, Peter McQuillan captured our attention with the statistic that the insect world provides 99% of biodiversity on earth yet attracts only 1% of conservation funding. As well, if all creatures larger than mice died, biodiversity would drop by 1% but if all life forms smaller than mice died, biodiversity would drop by 99% and complete the 6th great extinction!

Despite insects being the dominant species on earth, only about half are known or named. As the building blocks of life, Peter stressed the need to nurture both common and rare species – plus maintain thresholds that ensure ongoing breeding.

Insects spread diseases such as Zika, Dengue fever, malaria and the Plague. They also eat crops. To counter this, pesticides are continually developed that

consequently become ineffective within 10-30 years - insects respond to them as simply another evolutionary pressure.

In his second session, Peter suggested ways landholders can promote insect numbers and diversity. As devourers of sugars and protein, insects are responsible for soil conditioning, food dispersal, pollination, recycling of organic matter, and aerating soil. Robust insect populations can be supported by a move away from monocultures to more complex, diverse natural environments with native grasses, rocks, trees and leaf litter.

Historically, introduced sheep and cattle have impacted soils and flattened terrain thus reducing insect habitat. Today for example, climate change is increasing spring warmth and awakening bees earlier, but as days remain short, flowers are not opening - we have yet to see if bees can adapt.

A terrific Q&A session covered topics around birds, fungi, bumble bees, foxgloves, roadside spraying, lyre birds, European wasps, echidna latrines, mosquitoes in Tasmania, the size of Australian flowers, and felling of dead trees. This is why we love CLT gatherings: they truly address the complexity of maintaining a healthy natural environment!

After lunch we drove to a Tasmanian Land Conservancy property. Divided into groups and furnished

with containers, preserving fluids, nets, sticks and collection trays, we photographed, collected, identified and mostly released a variety of insects - while Peter, Janet and Oliver roamed around offering assistance.

A cool breeze and setting sun prompted our return to the Parsons Bay Retreat for a tasty meal followed by a lively game of "Bug Bingo" creatively named by Janet Smith.

Sunday morning, Karen Richards and Chris Spencer provided a memorable double act. Karen noted that of the 216 listed threatened fauna in Tasmania, 119 were invertebrates about which we know little except that they inhabit specialised environments: wetlands, higher altitudes, caves and stream headwaters. She also impressively described specific sizes of a selection of snails, beetles, crustaceans, butterflies and sea stars, displaying their Tasmanian distribution.

Chris then enthralled (entertained!) us with details of his research into the Simpsons Stag Beetle (studied for 23 years); one of the Jewel Beetles, declared extinct in 1999 and then found again. His anecdotes should inspire us to press politicians at all levels for greater funding of insect research!

*Dylan Yorkston and  
Carolyn Emden*

*Photos (clockwise from left):  
Class room talks – Janet Smith giving a presentation.  
Looking for invertebrates – Jumping spider web and eggs.  
Jumping spider found on bark.  
Photos: Gail Dennett.*



## Diamond in the rough



*An inspiring story from a 'Gardens for Wildlife' member about creating a wildlife-friendly productive food garden in an urban setting – truly a Garden for Wildlife.*

My husband, Andrew, and I flew home to Launceston, Tasmania for Christmas in 2014 and noticed a 'for sale' sign on the fence two doors down from his parent's home. The real estate agent kindly agreed to show us around, even though it was the holidays. I can remember the moment we walked in the door because it was like stepping back in time. Built in 1875, the house had been largely abandoned for nearly 70 years and was filled with a lifetime of dust and cobwebs. It had no power, no kitchen, and was dark and gloomy with lead paint flaking off all the walls. As we walked through the tiny rooms that made up the servants quarters, the agent advised us the house was going to auction and would likely be purchased by a construction company that would knock it down and cover the 1 acre block with units. It was at this moment

we passed through a bizarre false wall erected in the middle of the hallway and into the main part of the home. Suddenly, the grandeur of the house was revealed as Andrew and I stood in the murky, dusty light slowly spinning around trying to take in the height of the ceiling, the decorative archway and architraves, the 10m long hallway. The real estate agent disappeared out the front door and I turned to Andrew and said: "we *have* to save this house". Ten minutes later we made an offer.

It was madness really. We were living in Melbourne and had no intention of buying a house, never mind one that was not livable – yet, the house was ours! For 18 months the house sat as it had for so long, slowly crumbling. I lived in the house as best I could, but with no bathroom, kitchen, laundry, or heating, life wasn't easy. I spent much of my time speaking with neighbours and the Heritage Council and searching the internet, museum, and city archives to find information on the history of

the house. Sadly, little had been documented and some records had been lost in the Invermay floods. I was able to locate a single aerial photograph from 1920 and determine the original name: Ellerslie House.

Finally, in 2015, Andrew and I quit our jobs and joined forces with his uncle (a builder) to spend six months working on the house. This was a physically and financially challenging time, but the rewards were huge. A kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and 33m verandah were revealed to the world: no small feat considering the house had no power (and power tools were required to renovate it!). The misery of chasing electrical wires into double-brick is something Andrew will probably never forget, as is four days of bashing down a chimney (I hurt in places I didn't even know existed and earned the nickname Darth Vader because I was covered head-to-toe in black soot).

The struggles this house created



are now well behind us, and Ellerslie House is now a much-loved, (nearly) fully restored beauty. From the street, all you can see are her seven chimneys standing tall above the high fence. Ellerslie House was built by Daniel Room who also built Mayfield House a couple doors down. Daniel's son, Tom Room AM became a Mayor of Launceston. Few realise the piece of history that sits quietly behind the gates, so we make an effort to throw the gates open in summer and invite people in for a tour:

The tour includes the 0.5 acre of gardens, which are part of the DPIPWE *Gardens for Wildlife* network. Ellerslie House sits in the middle of the plot, with the northern half converted to permaculture where everything from kiwi fruit to hops are grown in huge abundance (excess produce is donated to the Launceston homeless shelter and various 'crop swap' community groups). The southern half of the block was once a junkyard, filled with abandoned vehicles, water tanks,

and more shards of broken glass, nails, and screws than one could possibly count. The junk was removed, along with decades of invasive blackberry and the land fully restored and converted to bushland, complete with a large pond and >300 Australian native plants. Many of these plants we propagated ourselves through the Tasmanian Native Plant Society, with the property now home to numerous unusual and endangered species such as serrated banksia and river heath. A historic 40m high California sequoia planted in circa 1914 is in the garden. Fundamental to the recovery of this 'metropolitan oasis' is a monitoring system which Andrew and I implemented just prior to the restoration: every month we deploy a special net (malaise trap) which generates data on the abundance and diversity of flying insects. We currently have data for four years, during which time the cuttings we planted have grown from tiny sticks into fully-fledged trees.

There are different levels of

adventure in life. And there are moments that define you. We never guessed it would be the accidental discovery of a house that would set our lives on a whole new trajectory. For us, Ellerslie House has become a teaching tool: if a house built in 1875 that was all but forgotten can become self-sustaining on a relatively small block (note: the house survives on a 5kw solar system – we haven't had a power bill in three years and has rainwater collection), it speaks to the potential in all buildings and gardens, new and old.

*Jennifer Laver (Gardens for Wildlife member)*

(Jennifer's story and more pictures are available on the Gardens for Wildlife web site

[www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au))

*Photos (clockwise from left):  
Demolition inside the house.  
Front yard – before. Front yard – after.  
Photos: Jennifer Laver.*

# Changes to the delivery of Land for Wildlife in Tas

All Land for Wildlife (LFW) members should have received a letter late January 2019 to advise of the proposed transition of the LFW scheme from the DPIPWE Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) Inc. TLC commenced delivery of the scheme on 1st February 2019 under a 12 month trial period.

DPIPWE have operated the LFW scheme in Tasmania since 1998 through an agreement with the Victorian Government. The LFW scheme originated in Victoria in 1981 and the State of Victoria holds the copyright and trademarks of the scheme.

The Department considers the transition of the scheme to the TLC as an opportunity to build on the existing scheme and secure its long term delivery. The TLC have committed to extending the reach of the scheme through the use of volunteer assessors and greater community awareness raising, as well as providing opportunities for additional engagement and support to LFW members. The Government remains supportive of LFW and recognises the positive contribution made by LFW landowners in maintaining and protecting areas of natural bushland and wildlife species on their properties.

The Department and TLC will be undertaking a review over the coming months to consider whether the TLC will take on the full delivery of the scheme once the 12 month trial concludes. The review will be an opportunity for both parties to consider how the

scheme is being delivered and whether the national standards are being met. It will also consider feedback from the community.

If full transfer of the scheme to TLC occurs, existing LFW members will retain their registration and will not need to reapply to LFW, provided that they provide consent to have their contact details transferred to the TLC. Under the terms of DPIPWE's agreement with Victoria, personal information obtained for the LFW scheme cannot be released without the consent of the landowner. This requirement means that should the scheme transition fully to the TLC, the Department will only be able to provide contact information to the TLC for those landowners who have provided written consent. This process will be made as simple as possible for landowners, who can either indicate their consent via email or sign a form which the Department will provide together with a self-addressed envelope.

I have been the State LFW Coordinator since 2004 and have had a strong commitment to ensuring the scheme kept going and growing over this time. It is such a wonderful nature conservation scheme which I have felt very privileged to be involved with, especially since I am passionate about protecting our wildlife species and their habitats. The success of the scheme nationally has largely been due to its simplicity and direct contact with landowners. For me it has been such a pleasure to have met so many members and been invited to walk their land – a truly special and wonderful experience

which I have enjoyed enormously.

I will remain the State LFW Coordinator for the twelve month transitional period and will oversee the transition. However, I will no longer be undertaking LFW property assessments. Matt Taylor from the TLC will be the central point of contact for new property assessments. If you have any concerns or would like more information about the new arrangement, please give me a call to discuss. Your feedback is most welcome as it helps maintain the standards that have been set for LFW in Tasmania and supports continued improvement in the delivery of the LFW scheme. I can be contacted on 6165 4409 or [iona.mitchell@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:iona.mitchell@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au).

*Iona Mitchell*





## Conservation Landholders Tasmania Update - **the times are a changing!**

The last twelve months has seen significant changes to Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT) with its formalisation into an educational trust. It continues to provide a learning forum for private landholders with conservation covenants as well as other landholders who are concerned for the conservation of biodiversity - the beneficiaries of the trust.

The 9 trustees are representatives of a variety of different landholdings across Tasmania. For its first 7 years CLT was an unincorporated body of like-minded land carers and conservationists. The organisation performed an important educational service thanks to the continued financial and professional support of its trusted partners, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) and the three NRMs across the State as well as the support of DPIPW including the publication of articles in this newsletter. In these times of financial constraints it became clear that the organisation needed to become independent, stand on its own feet and be able to bid for funding in its own name. The TLC, NRMs and DPIPW still offer enormous support through their generosity and wider professional and other resource

bases. The Trustees have met with their representatives over the last year and are pleased to say that they are confident that that support will continue into the future.

The format of two field days per year, one in the south and one in the north of the State each Autumn and Spring with a full day forum in the middle of the year and the middle of the State will continue.

What is exciting, however is that the trustees would like to extend their educational initiatives to a wider and younger audience.

There has been a strong emphasis on the conservation of flora on land with a lesser emphasis on the importance of conservation of the native animals, birds and other fauna that inhabit that land. Last year CLT ran two popular and successful field days on Tasmanian devils in the north and on the importance insects play in biodiversity in the south. CLT recognises the crucial role all registered Land for Wildlife members fulfil in contributing to the State's conservation of biodiversity when it comes to our very special native wildlife. We would like to liaise and work more closely with them in contributing and participating in future field days

and forums specifically aimed at their particular important interests.

CLT is also mindful that the average age of those who attend its field days and forums is often towards the top of the spectrum. We recognise that conservation of biodiversity is not restricted to one or two generations but is something to be embraced without boundaries of time. Much covenanted land is in perpetuity. We would like to work with the younger generations to assist them in their lifetime ambition towards caring more for our environment. We are keen to develop initiatives for future generations of conservationists to have opportunities to experience and learn about conservation of biodiversity on not only private, but all land.

A comment at field days we often hear is "I wish I knew all this earlier". That's a powerful motivator, as is the strong indication that younger generations want to be part of the on-going conservation movement ... so watch this space!

*John Dennett, Trustee CLT*



## Foxgloves – pretty but poisonous weeds

Although photographers may admire the tall, pink spikes of foxglove flowers, conservation landholders know that this plant is a weed which can cause a significant problem in moister parts of the state where it can be very abundant. As every part of the plant is extremely poisonous, there do not appear to be any native herbivores which are able to control this species. Where dense, it can exclude native flora and fauna almost completely. Fortunately, there are some aspects of its biology, as well as some herbicides, which can work in our favour, if we use them carefully.

*Digitalis purpurea* (family Scrophulariaceae), was first known by the Anglo-Saxon name 'foxes glofa' because its flowers look like the fingers of a glove. This name is also thought to be related to a legend that bad fairies gave the blossoms to the fox to put on his toes, so that he could muffle his footfalls while he hunted for prey. Foxglove has been used as a heart medicine, digitalis, but has been largely replaced by standardized pharmaceutical preparations because it is one of the most dangerous medicinal plants in the world, with the therapeutic dose extremely close to the lethal dose. People have been poisoned when they have drunk a foxglove tea, thinking it was comfrey

(which does look very similar). Eating any part of the plant can be fatal, and you should wear gloves if handling foxglove.

Foxglove is a native of Europe and northern Africa, but has become naturalised as a weed in south-eastern Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, South America (i.e. Brazil and Chile), Canada and the northern parts of USA (including Alaska). It tends to prefer part-shade, but can also thrive in full sun (if the soil is not dry) and relatively shaded areas, but dense vegetation can prevent its establishment. Foxglove favour nutrient-rich, acidic soils which are well draining.

Many people in wet forest and riparian areas of Tasmania will be familiar with this weed, and it seems to be heavily associated with past forestry activities and old farms, as it was planted early in European settlement. While it doesn't tend to grow within an intact forest, it will typically be common at the edges of tracks, roadsides and clearings, and along waterways, where it can find the moisture and the light that it needs.

Many landholders have been reporting an increase in foxglove abundance and spread in recent years. Some people have noticed

an influx of foxglove near rivers after flooding, but people are reporting more foxgloves in other areas too. It is possible that the spread of feral bumblebees is contributing to increased seed-set of foxgloves. Bumblebees are "buzz pollinators"; when they visit flowers, they rapidly contract their flight muscles, producing strong vibrations that forcibly expel pollen from the flower's anthers. Foxgloves have co-evolved with bumblebees and produce greater numbers of fertile seeds in their presence.

### **Control – don't disturb the soil, consider herbicides, and aim for alternative (native) vegetation cover**

One of the most important factors to bear in mind in controlling foxglove is its need for light to germinate, and thus its liking for soil disturbance. The seed will not germinate if it is covered by soil (or dense vegetation). Every time you disturb the soil, seeds may be brought to the surface where they can germinate in the light. As each plant can produce half a million seeds in a year, and seeds can live up to 100 years in the soil, you can bet that there are plenty of seeds waiting to germinate! Minimising



soil disturbance is therefore an important component of control.

Hand-pulling can be a useful method of control, especially where the weed is sparse, but it does pull up soil too. Minimise this soil disturbance, and try to cover the soil with native plants or mulch afterwards. Foxglove is a biennial, forming a rosette in its first year and a flower spike in its second year. Hand-pulling while the plants are still small may be the most effective non-chemical control.

A recent trial by the Working Neighbours Program of Parks and Wildlife Service compared hand pulling to spraying with metsulfuron-methyl herbicide (with a penetrant to ensure the herbicide enters the furry leaves). For every plant hand-weeded, another plant grew back. By contrast, the herbicide treatment resulted in only one new foxglove for every ten killed. With the second year of spraying, only 1% regenerated. Weed contractor, Denis Giasli, was involved in the trial and has considerable experience controlling foxglove; he finds that metsulfuron-methyl is a more effective herbicide than glyphosate, as well as being broadleaf-specific, so that it leaves grass cover unaffected.

With careful herbicide application\*\* that avoids off-target damage to

native plants, foxgloves can be killed while allowing natives to thrive and fill the space, thereby further reducing the chance for foxgloves to grow back.

Do not allow herbicides to contact water – follow the DPIPW E 'Guidelines for Safe and Effective Herbicide Use Near Waterways', and hand-pull any foxgloves near water.

Another non-chemical method that may be considered is slashing to deadhead the plant. However, as the spike flowers progressively, some seeds will be ripe even while new flowers are present, so it is likely that seeds will be scattered in the process. Deadheading also encourages re-blooming, causing further flowering even late in the season.

Whatever technique you use, it's not a once-off. As Denis says, "Weed control is like vacuuming the house – it's ongoing".

Finally, the best long-term control of foxglove is shading it out by establishing dense vegetation, so foster appropriate local natives to enjoy a biodiverse and (eventually) foxglove-free environment.

**\*\*Important note:** Agricultural chemicals, including herbicides, are not to be used for any purpose or in any manner contrary to the label unless authorised. Before using a chemical, read and follow instructions for use on the label, and wear Personal Protective Equipment. For information on registered chemicals and current permits, visit the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) website [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au). General use environmental weed permits are available from the DPIPW E website (<https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weed-publications-and-resources/weed-links-and-resources>), and further information can be obtained from Biosecurity Tasmania (61 65 3777, [Biosecurity.Tasmania@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:Biosecurity.Tasmania@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)).

Anna Povey

*Photos (L to R):  
Mature flowering and immature foxgloves.  
Photo: Rebecca Johnson.  
Scattered foxgloves in natural bushland.  
Photo: Rebecca Johnson.  
Foxglove flowers. Photo: Tim Rudman.  
Dense foxgloves in regenerated farmland.  
Photo: Rebecca Johnson.*



## Native hens – Tassie ‘turbo chooks’

‘Turbo chook’ is the affectionate name given to the Tasmanian native hen (*Gallinula mortierii*). However, they have no relationship whatsoever to domestic chickens but are related to a group of waterfowl known as rails. The native hen is a flightless bird standing approximately 45 cm tall with strong sturdy legs. It gets its nickname from its reputation as being a very fast runner, reaching speeds of 50 km/h. They are also good swimmers and will take to the water readily if pursued. You appreciate their speed when seeing them running in a straight line with their wings held tight by their side and neck outstretched – usually on their way to a confrontation with rivals that have breached their territory. Often other hens from neighbouring territories will join in. On the other hand, when chased they hold their wings out for balance, enabling them to make tight turns in their efforts to elude the pursuer.

Native hens are one of twelve Tasmanian endemic bird species, i.e. they are found nowhere else but Tasmania. They did occur in south east Australia, but became extinct

following the arrival of dingos and foxes. Being a flightless bird living on the ground, they are at high risk of predation. In the past, due to their high numbers in Tasmania, they were regarded as a pest species. Large populations were associated with a period of time in the 1940’s to 50’s when rabbit numbers were in plague proportions and hence rabbits provided an alternative food source for native carnivorous predators such as quolls, Tasmanian devils and birds of prey. With the introduction of myxomatosis, rabbit numbers severely declined making native hens prime prey for native carnivores. They are now listed as a protected species.

Native hens prefer to live where there is water, either near a stream, river or dam – or in my experience water bowls or artificial ponds!! They are grazers of grass and seeds and prefer open ground for foraging, especially pasture and grassy vegetation. They also eat insects and have been seen chasing low flying butterflies. Additionally, they require vegetation cover for shelter and to escape predators.

They are very territorial and tend to remain in the area of their birth

often living in multi-generational groups. The structure of groups can be quite complex in terms of the number of mates a female may have and the number of juveniles remaining in the family group and territory.

They are charismatic birds with interesting social structure and behaviours – and are fascinating to watch. There have been at least two long term behaviour studies of Tasmanian native hens over a 3 to 8 year period. These studies have shown that native hens have a complex social and communication system (both vocally and visually). At least fourteen separate calls have been recorded, the most distinctive being a loud rasping sound which sounds like a saw cutting metal. This call is made by both males and females for aggressive territorial guarding – it is actually a two note call with the male call alternating with the female. Often several birds in the group will join in resulting in quite a noisy din which can be heard for some distance.

*Iona Mitchell*

## Flipping useful resources



Since the publication of the EucaFlip, a portable folding weather-proof (laminated) guide to the eucalypts of Tasmania in 2007, a trend was started. Next came the TreeFlip, a life-sized guide to the native trees of Tasmania, followed by the FungiFlip and just recently the PooFlip, a life-sized guide to the scats of Tasmanian native mammals.

The EucaFlip is an excellent resource for identifying the native species of eucalypts which occur in Tasmania. The pictorial guide shows the real-life shape and size of juvenile and adult leaves with key features to note. The shape, size and number of gum nuts are also key features for identifying species, with excellent photos provided to show buds and the capsules they later mature into. The character of bark is also an identifying aspect and photos show good examples of this for the different species. Distribution maps show where you are likely to find each species, along with some information on their habitat preferences such as 'widespread in the lowlands (0 – 400 m asl) of the East Coast' for blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*), or 'Tasmanian endemic, one of the rarest of eucalypt species' for Morrisby's gum (*E morrisbyi*).

Similar to the layout of the EucaFlip, the TreeFlip is a foldout poster providing easy identification of most

of the non-eucalypt Tasmanian native tree species. Life-sized photos show the leaf shape and form, flowers and fruits of 30 common tree species as well as the characteristics of the bark on the trunk and maps showing their likely distribution.

In early 2018 the FungiFlip, a pictorial guide to Tasmanian Fungi was released. This contains beautiful photos of around 270 macro fungi, showing the exquisite colour, form, texture and structure of the most common fungi species encountered in the bush. The FungiFlip captures the most commonly occurring species, but it also notes that these are just a fraction of the vast number of fungi species that occur with many species yet to be found and named. The species shown in the guide are grouped according to their morphology, such as "jelly fungi which are translucent, soft and rubbery spikes, 'ears', or 'brain-like' masses", or "agarics – fungi with true gills". I am sure once you have seen the beauty of fungi you'll become fascinated with them and will be looking for splashes of colour when next you are walking in the bush.

The most recent addition to the Flip guides, and my favorite so far, is the PooFlip, the life-sized guide to the scats of Tasmanian native mammals. The hand drawings of Tasmanian marsupial species by Jane

Burrell of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery are superbly detailed. Many native mammals are nocturnal and so may not be actually seen, but you will know they have been around from the scats (poo) they leave behind! The PooFlip has excellent photos showing the size, shape and form of scats with detailed descriptions of their texture and content. Many people have seen the characteristic cube shape of wombat scats, but you may not realise that scats packed with insects may very well be those of an eastern quoll or eastern barred bandicoot depending on the shape and size. This is where the PooFlip is most useful. It's a great resource for kids to get them interested and looking at the natural world around them..

*Iona Mitchell*

## Conservation Landholders Tasmania: next event

Landholders with conservation covenant, and/or 'Land for Wildlife', properties are welcome to participate in the following event:

### Saturday 16 November - Use of 'LISTmap' for property planning and Wild Tracker workshop

NRM North is offering two half-day workshops in Launceston. The morning workshop will focus on the effective use of the LISTmap to identify the natural values of your property to either design or revise your management plan. The afternoon workshop will demonstrate the use of motion sensor cameras to monitor the fauna on your property with a focus on bandicoots.

For 'early bird' registration or to join the CLT email contact list, email Gail Dennett [gaildennett@gmail.com](mailto:gaildennett@gmail.com). Invitations are sent out to those on the list a month before the event.

## National Private Land Conservation Conference (PLC19), Adelaide 8-10 October 2019.

The 2019 theme is 'Rising to the Challenge'. PLC19 will bring together conservation professionals, scientists, land managers, businesses, indigenous organisations, academics and many others who are helping grow Australia's private protected areas.

Registrations opening soon - for further details and information **keep an eye on the website** [www.naturefoundation.org.au/news-events/2019-private-land-conservation-conference](http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/news-events/2019-private-land-conservation-conference).

## Landcare grants

In partnership with the TFGA and Landcare Tasmania, a new \$1.8 million Landcare Action Grants (LAG) Program is being made available to landholders, community groups and individuals to deliver practical on-ground works for sustainable agriculture and river care activities.

For more information about the LAG Program and to access the Program Guidelines go to [www.tfga.com.au/environment/landcare](http://www.tfga.com.au/environment/landcare)

## Private Land Conservation Program participants as at June 2019

Number of covenants	890	1 10,765 hectares
Land for Wildlife members	1024	58,934 hectares
Gardens for Wildlife members	640	2,960 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 6165 4409** or [PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:PrivateLandConservation.Enquiries@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

Natural and Cultural Heritage  
Private Land Conservation Program  
200 Collins Street Hobart  
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001  
[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp)

# Selling property?

If you have a conservation covenant over your property and are thinking of selling, you should keep in mind that anyone involved in the sale process (e.g. agents, 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. Stewardship Officers are happy to talk to prospective buyers regarding the natural values and how to manage them in accordance with your agreement.

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

We 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 and become members.

## Contacts

### Stewardship

Anna Povey (North) **0498 800 611**  
Oliver Strutt (South) **0407 352 479**

### Land For Wildlife

Iona Mitchell **6165 4409**

