



TRUST FOR
NATURE
Habitat forever

Issue 71 February 2020

Conservation
BULLETIN

RECOVERING FROM FIRES

What to do if you're selling a
covenanted property

Bandicoots make a comeback

11 new properties protected!



TRUST FOR NATURE

Trust for Nature (Victoria) is a not-for-profit organisation that works with private landowners to protect native plants and wildlife on their land. Two-thirds of Victoria is privately owned, which means that the protection of native plants and wildlife on private land is vital. Trust for Nature has a number of different ways to support private land conservation including, conservation covenants, an ongoing land stewardship support program for all covenantors and a Revolving Fund and the purchase of land for permanent protection.

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria. **Trustees:** Geoff Driver (Chair), Gayle Austen, Dr Sandra Brizga, Dr Dominique Hes, Dr Charles Meredith, Nina Braid, Binda Gokhale, Matthew Kronborg, Nadine Ponomarenko, Jennifer Wolcott.

Recognition of Traditional Owners: Trust for Nature recognises the continuing spiritual and cultural connection of Traditional Owners to Victoria's land, wildlife, freshwater and saltwater environments. The Trust is committed to helping Traditional Owners conserve, restore where possible and protect natural environments, wildlife and cultural heritage values.

Front cover: The nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot was thought to be locally extinct in the northern Grampians. See page 15.

IN THIS ISSUE



Recovering from fires

What we are doing to help landholders impacted by fires restore habitat

04



Conservation science

We can all do something in our backyards to help wildlife locally, which in turn helps conservation at a large scale

21



Making the impossible, possible

Partnerships with philanthropic organisations and private and corporate supporters is critical

05



Events

Breakfasts, finance, graduating rangers and property tours—find out about the range of events we've held

22



Regional updates

From finding Striped Legless Lizards and protecting tall forests, to helping new property owners navigate management plans, the Trust is improving habitat across all corners of the state

06



Covenanted properties

Congratulations and thank you to landholders who have bought properties that have significant conservation values and will protect them forever

24



Meet covenantors

After buying a property from Trust for Nature these covenantors have transformed it to create a wildlife haven

16



Properties under the hammer

A new conservation community is coming together 1.5 hours north of Melbourne

26



Stewardship

Selling your covenanted property? Read this first

18



Collaboration

Giving wetlands a little help to be wet and attract abundant wildlife

27



Making an impact

What you have helped us achieve in 2018-19

19



Volunteers

A reserve in the Upper Yarra Valley is a little patch of paradise maintained by dedicated volunteers

28



Wild card

Species showcase: Short-beaked Echidna. Read about some of its quirks.

20



Thank you

We couldn't do what we do without your help. Fundraising has had a busy six months

30



In for the **LONG HAUL**

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the terrible bushfires, which are ongoing. We have staff who live in affected areas and who have been impacted by the fires and we are providing them with support through this very hard time. Sadly we know at least 40 covenantors have been impacted and we are reaching out to those landholders and offering support. You can read more about the impact and our response on page 4. We have also set up a Bushfire Habitat Recovery Fund to help landholders rehabilitate habitat, see page 30 for more information.

For close to 50 years, [Trust for Nature](#) has worked towards our goal of protecting habitat for future generations. We see the results of this long-term commitment each year. I'd like to acknowledge all landholders who have put conservation covenants on their properties and how much that helps to mitigate the effects of climate change. Over 12 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent is stored across Trust for Nature's 42 reserves and more than 1,450 covenanted properties, an amount equal to removing four million cars from our roads each year¹. Landholders continue to work with us to protect land (and we're aiming to protect a further 50,000 ha) so the amount of CO2 stored continues to grow.

Our Christmas appeal raised more than \$45,000 to help protect more land. To our valued supporters, whether through the Christmas appeal or through any other means, thank you!

Friends of Wanderslore president Geoff Durham has resigned after 26 years at the helm and hundreds of hours working in the Wanderslore reserve in the Yarra Valley. I can think of a no more fitting tribute to his work than to showcase the reserve on page 28), All the very best Geoff and thank you.

The Trust warmly welcomes and looks forward to working with our newly appointed Trustees; Nina Braid, Dr Dominique Hes, Matthew Kronborg, Nadine Ponomarenko, and Jennifer Wolcott. Thank you to outgoing board members Deputy Chair Amanda Noble, Cas Bennetto, James Bentley, Katherine Cary, and Dr Georgia Garrard for your support throughout your tenure. It has been much appreciated.

In 2019 we sadly lost a dynamo in conservation in western Victoria, Diana Snape. Diana's legacy includes the stunning remnant bushland, Snape Reserve, named in honour of the generosity of Diana and her husband Brian. Vale, Diana. You can read more about her contribution on page 30.

In October we took time out to share and learn with colleagues from across Australia as part of the Private Land Conservation Conference in Adelaide, organised by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance. Trust for Nature's Conservation Finance Intensive workshop was very well received with 90 attendees, thanks to support from the NAB Foundation, the Department of the Environment and Energy, Biodiversity Conservation Trust of NSW and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

We look forward to the ninth Celebrating Women in Conservation Breakfast next month in partnership with Bush Heritage Australia. Our special guest speaker is Amanda McKenzie, CEO of the Climate Council, who will share her insights on the climate crisis in Australia. It is an understatement to say that this is an important topic, and one that requires innovative solutions as we step up to the challenge of protecting biodiversity under threat from climate change. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. Please share it with family and friends.

Sincerely

Victoria Marles
CEO, Trust for Nature

¹ Dunlop, M. & Brown, P.R. (2008). Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Reserve System - A Preliminary Assessment. Report to the Department of Climate Change, and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, March 2008.



Recovering from fires

In times of crisis, private land conservation networks become more important than ever. Covenantors have provided Trust for Nature with some of the earliest first-hand accounts of fire intensity and impact in eastern Victoria. Stories of hope and recovery are already trickling in, with covenanted rainforest gullies surviving to provide refuge patches for lyrebirds, parrots, kookaburras and wallabies.

Trust for Nature's role in bushfire recovery is to support covenantors—the keystones in the conservation of these landscapes. Professionals will come and go from these areas, but many covenantors will be there for the long haul. At least 40 landholders with conservation covenants have been impacted, in addition to Trust for Nature's own reserve at Maramingo. You can read more about the impact to East Gippsland on page 8.

Trust for Nature staff in East Gippsland and north east Victoria have started reaching out to affected covenantors to offer support and work with them to recover habitat on their properties. Recovery will take months and years. We still have a way to go before this fire season is over, but what we do know is that whatever areas remain intact after this summer will be more critical than ever to the conservation of Victoria's natural heritage, so we're also aiming to bolster conservation activities on unburnt covenants that host endemic species with narrow geographic ranges that have been significantly impacted.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) estimated in January that more than 170 rare or threatened species of plants and animals have had at least 50 per cent of their habitat burnt. Habitat can bounce back with nurturing, such as weed control, pest control and restoring fencing to give the bush its best chance for natural recovery, and habitat improvements such as nest boxes. After fires in north-east Victoria in 2015, we installed about 100 nest boxes for threatened species like Squirrel Gliders and Brush-tailed Phascogales and we had gliders move into the new boxes within two weeks.

We will continue to work very closely with partner organisations such as DELWP, Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, the East Gippsland and North East catchment management authorities, the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy, and others to help restore habitat on private land.

For those outside affected areas who want to support recovery on covenants, we have a [Bushfire Habitat Recovery Fund](#) for donations towards the extra costs incurred for Trust for Nature and landholders to work together to restore habitat. You can donate through our website.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to call us on [8631 5888](tel:86315888).

Making the impossible, possible

Trust for Nature is achieving considerable outcomes for conservation on private land in Victoria and we couldn't do it without generous supporters.

The Trust aims to create and generate sustainable income sources. It is a not-for-profit entity and receives support from government and through partnerships with other conservation organisations which enables us to achieve great environmental work on private land throughout Victoria. However it doesn't provide enough funds to protect at least another 50,000 ha with conservation covenants—we have protected more than 100,000 ha so far—or significantly accelerate private land conservation in Victoria, which is desperately needed to prevent species decline.

This is why our partnerships with philanthropic organisations and private and corporate supporters are critical. Putting a conservation covenant on a property is not cheap, and because we put conservation above all else, we cover the costs—which are up to \$30,000 for legal work and ongoing support. Added to this, our 42 reserves across the state all need ongoing conservation work to maintain and improve habitat. There are a number of ways we fundraise.

We run two major fundraising appeals throughout the year. We have also established a number of giving programs including Nature's Custodians, Bush Protection and Nature's Visionaries. These initiatives give people the opportunity to see real impact from their support including the opportunity to leave a gift for the Trust in their will. Other fundraising initiatives have included Haul for Habitat which raised \$50,000 (thanks to dollar matching by the Victorian Government), to improve the environment on our 30,000 ha property [Neds Corner Station](#), near Mildura. We look forward to running more crowdfunding projects in 2020 to give supporters the opportunity to donate to projects.

This year we will ramp up the [West Gippsland Conservation Fund](#) which was launched in 2019 and is the result of a generous lead donor who will match every gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000, to bring us to our one million dollar target to reinvest in the West Gippsland region. There is a long term aim to create a fund for each region of Victoria to support our work throughout the state. The Trust has also established an endowment fund to create a sizeable capital base that will be preserved in perpetuity. Its annual investment income will support the Trust's highest strategic priorities in any given year.

Protecting habitat doesn't just happen, it takes investment of time and money to ensure there is enough of it and in good enough condition to prevent species extinction. There are a lot of opportunities for us to do more and we look forward to the challenge of creating even greater support to do it.

To find out how you can support Trust for Nature, contact us (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.

On the edge of the Strathbogie Ranges near Avenel, Deb and Kevin Whithear have made a substantial contribution towards protecting native habitat by taking steps to put a conservation covenant over 140 ha of their property.

The proposed covenant contains steep slopes with areas of granite boulders leading towards an open plateau. Within the covenant there is also an area of White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland, a community listed as critically endangered under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The new covenant will also protect threatened species such as Tree Goanna and Hickory Wattle.

This site was initially identified through a strategic landscape prioritisation project where contact was made with landholders who were thought to have ecologically significant land. The Whithears bought the property in 1995 as a degraded sheep farm and are busy restoring some of what was once there. Having destocked the land, they have been delighted to see native plant species return.

Deb said they often thought about officially protecting the property but never got around to it, until they were approached by Trust for Nature. She said, “We received a letter from Trust for Nature seeking properties to potentially place under a conservation covenant. We thought ‘here’s the motivation we need!’ ”

This project was funded with support of the Victorian Government.

For information about projects in the north east region contact our Conservation Officer [Shae Brennan](#) on (03) 8631 5888 or shaeb@tfn.org.au.



Right place, right time

Nine covenants covering 342 ha have been affected by bushfires this season. While the impact is not fully known, the north east team is supporting landholders during this difficult time.



Deb and Kevin Whithear looking over their property near Avenel in North East Victoria, with Trust for Nature’s Nicki Munro

Tips for protecting steep dry landscapes:

- monitor and control weeds and feral animals regularly
- support natural regeneration
- revegetate areas requiring extra assistance with indigenous species.

Any tips or advice about land management are general in nature. For specific advice, consult an expert who can advise about individual circumstances.



Striped Legless Lizard

On the tail of the Striped Legless Lizard

The Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) was once common across Victoria and parts of the ACT, South Australia and New South Wales. It's believed to be extinct in South Australia and habitat loss has led to a drastic population decline and local extinctions in Victoria. Though widely distributed in northern Victoria, it had not been seen for several decades in the north east.

Striped Legless Lizards are difficult to find. They are small, rare and look similar to several other species. Between 2016 and 2019, Trust for Nature and members of the local community set out to raise awareness of this disappearing species.

Starting with the most recent Striped Legless Lizard records from the Rushworth, Benalla and Wangaratta districts, we sought help from local landholders, conservation groups, and government agencies and surveyed more than 35 sites. We didn't find any of the Lizards until we received a blurry photo of what looked like a Striped Legless Lizard from a locality called Greta West in 2017. This was followed by a confirmed record from Whorouly South in 2019, the first record of the Lizard in this area for almost 40 years! Trust for Nature projects have now found Striped Legless Lizards at three new sites in north east Victoria, suggesting they may be more widespread than anyone had previously thought.

More surveys are planned to better understand the extent of the Whorouly South Striped Legless Lizard

population and help them survive. This project was funded with the support of the Victorian Government. Help from landholders, covenantors and community groups was invaluable.

For more information about projects in the Goulburn Broken region contact our Senior Conservation Officer [Bert Lobert on \(03\) 8631 5888](tel:0386315888) or bertl@tfn.org.au.



Tips

- provide habitat for grassy woodland animals, like the Striped Legless Lizard, by leaving rocks, logs and other natural debris in the paddock. If you have to, move them into piles or rows rather than remove them
- try to avoid cultivating the soil; it is the main threat to Striped Legless Lizards
- if you find a legless lizard, take photos, especially the scales on its head and send to [Bert on 0409 433 276](tel:0409433276).

Protecting tall forests

Despite devastating fires, far East Gippsland remains an environmentally unique region in Victoria, with many habitats, plants and animals found here and nowhere else in the state. The forests house a full suite of fauna and flora, from the ground to the sky. Based on assessments so far more than 170 rare or threatened species of plants and animals have had at least 50 per cent of their known habitat burnt.

At least 31 covenants have been impacted by fire in East Gippsland and we will work with these landholders as they restore habitat over the following months and years. Encouragingly there are patches of unburnt areas on properties that have been affected. Also thousands of hectares across private and public land in East Gippsland forests haven't been directly impacted by the fires. It is really important that we continue to partner with landholders to protect more private land because they are critical in looking after remaining refugia. Properties that have been burnt can still be considered for protection.

We are working on two projects supported by the Victorian Government—Iconic Estates and Ark Link—within an area of East Gippsland. They enable us to work with landholders to protect more forest and help existing covenantors manage pests, weeds and install fencing. These properties will be more critical than ever in helping recovery efforts. One property we are working with the landowners to covenant, and thankfully wasn't burnt, is particularly special because it is adjacent to a state forest and is a valuable breeding site for the threatened White-bellied Sea Eagle. It is also home to the Sugar Glider and the nationally threatened Greater Glider which live in hollows in large trees such as the Mountain Grey Gum.

Covenantors are role models of what it takes to manage the land for conservation. The fires have been devastating but forests will recover and Trust for Nature will be there to work with landholders to help restore habitat and monitor regeneration.

For information about projects in the East Gippsland region contact our Senior Conservation Officer [Brett Mills](#) on (03) 8631 5888 or brettm@tfn.org.au.



Tips for fire recovery

- look after refuge areas. Any unburnt patches need to be protected and managed to maximise their value as habitat. These patches are now vital for the survival of remaining wildlife
- feral predator and herbivore control is particularly important at this time
- there is the potential for woody weeds such as blackberries to explode in spring so monitor your patch
- the forest will regenerate and animals will slowly return.



A Wedge-tailed Eagle chick sits on top of its enormous old nest

Sharing Neds Corner with the community

While seeing biodiversity return to the land is forefront for us, Neds Corner Station also supports a community of people who are working towards conservation.

Having a history of human use spanning over tens of thousands of years, Neds Corner is a living archive of sacred cultural sites and artefacts of the First People of the Millewa-Mallee, being Latji Latji, Ngintait and Nyeri Nyeri Traditional Owners. By providing a place to meet, we hope to continue a long legacy of community-making.

Formal meetings about the management and protection of this important cultural landscape are often held by our partners at Neds Corner, including the Mallee Catchment Management Authority, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and Parks Victoria.

For many years we have also hosted local school visits and field trips for La Trobe University archaeology students and researchers, and in 2019 three University of Melbourne masters students completing a project on Neds Corner. We also regularly benefit from visits from dedicated bird-watching groups and field naturalist clubs who provide a record of species observed during their stay. These exchanges of support and learning are very rewarding and are carefully arranged to ensure every visitor makes a contribution to Neds Corner.

Restoration over its 30,000 ha has provided some surprising and pleasing results—we see species returning to the land that haven't been seen for decades. For the first time in at least 11 years, Neds Corner is home to two Wedge-tailed Eagle hatchlings. Wedge-tailed Eagles need a large range to source food from and we think the return of these birds is a sign that the ecology has recovered to the point where it can now support these majestic creatures. Predators are critical to a resilient and balanced ecosystem and it's been a thrill to watch them grow.

If you would like to support the rehabilitation of Neds Corner Station go to trustfornature.org.au.

For more information about projects in the Mallee region contact our Senior Conservation Officer [Greg Ogle](mailto:grego@tfn.org.au) on (03) 8631 5888, grego@tfn.org.au.



Colleen Barnes - Conservation Officer, Neds Corner Station

Local knowledge means better conservation

Strengthening partnerships with Traditional Owners is helping us manage land for conservation. We share many of the same common goals; protecting habitat, land stewardship, and involving the community in conservation. Working together makes sense.

In 2019, in partnership with Greening Australia and Bank Australia, we engaged Traditional Owners from Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to undertake a cultural survey of the Bank Australia property. It was the first time the representatives of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations had been engaged to undertake a survey not associated with a destructive development. Culturally important scar trees and a women's area on the property were identified. We are continuing to work with Traditional Owners to incorporate traditional land management practises on the reserve, such as traditional burning.

We were also delighted to have on board a school-based trainee, Yasmin Harradine, a Wotjobaluk Traditional Owner. As part of the traineeship, Yasmin has been introduced to a range of land management activities from the prosaic, such as fencing, spot spraying weed species, through to moving logs for reptile habitat, identifying hollows for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, and sampling water for DNA analysis.

She said some of her highlights include seeing a flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and showing Traditional Owners and elders around the property. "The elders were really impressed with the improvements that have been made to the property," Yasmin said. "Working with a fencing contractor who was employed to relocate a pile of logs and place them strategically around the property was also a highlight. I learned so much about log relocation and how important logs are to animals."

The art of log relocation

Logs are essential habitat for small creatures and are breeding grounds for the insects lizards and other creatures like to eat. If practical, trees or branches are best left where they fall. If you have a pile of timber on your property think about spreading it out with the following tips in mind:

- put them where there is little other ground cover or bush debris
- put them in areas of revegetation or native habitat where there are few old trees
- put bark and leaves underneath and around the logs. This reduces grass from overgrowing the log and rotting



Trainee Yasmin Harradine (sitting) mixing damper with visitors to the Bank Australia Conservation Reserve

Yasmin has been a great member of the team, and we thank her for all her hard work during her traineeship.

Growing these partnerships within our local community is a priority for us—we are better together.

For more information about projects in the south west contact our Conservation Officer [Fiona Copley](mailto:Fiona.Copley@tfn.org.au) on (03) 8631 5888 or fionac@tfn.org.au.



Taking on a covenanted property

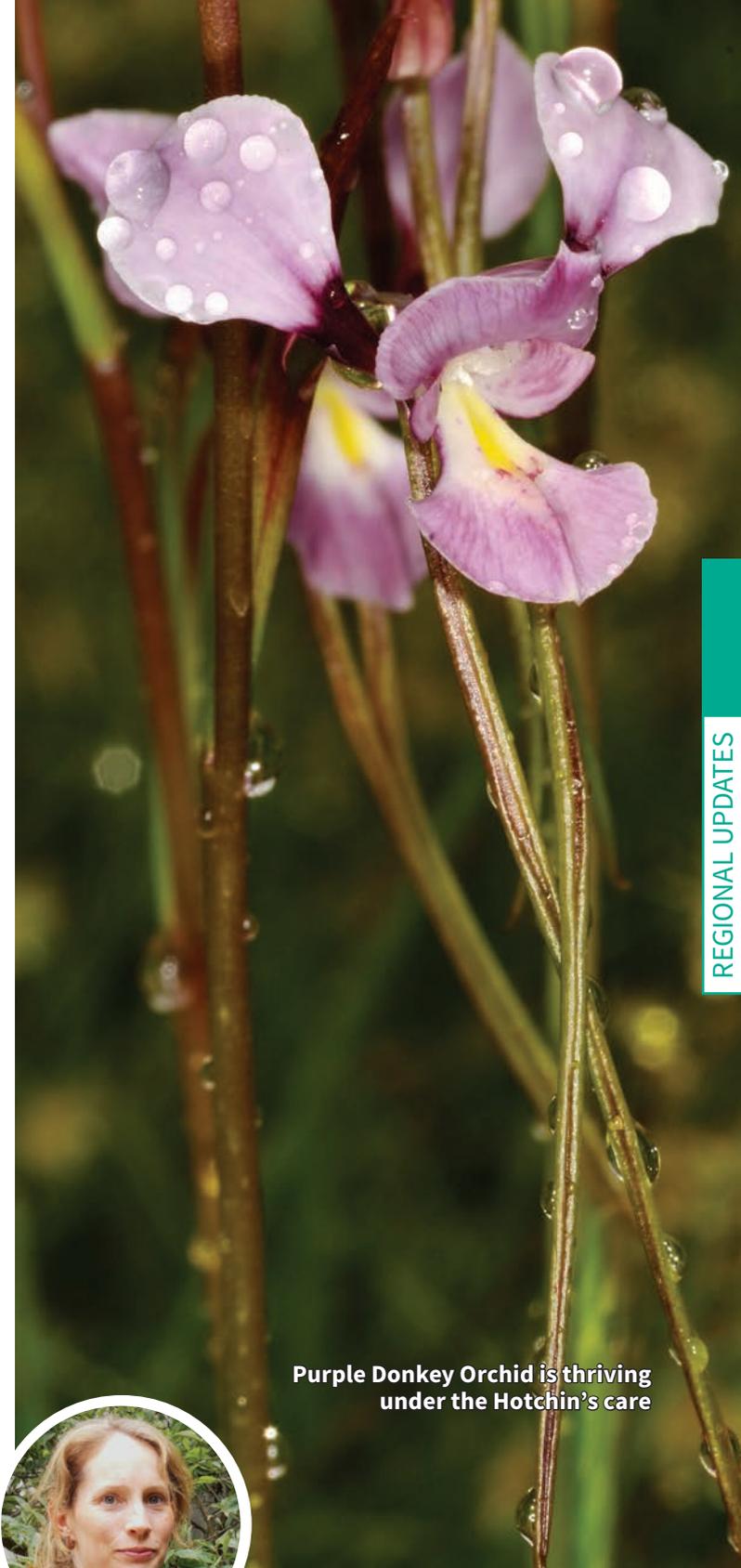
Two years ago Amanda and Bryce Hotchin bought a property at Dereel, south of Ballarat, which had a conservation covenant on it. Amanda said, “We weren’t specifically looking for conservation covenanted land. We have a young family with four boys who need space to roam and trees to climb but we knew from the first time we saw the property, that it was good for us.”

The Hotchins are always looking for ways to reduce their footprint, Amanda said, “Protecting this land is just another way we can do our part.”

Although they knew the basics of the covenant requirements, they didn’t really know what to expect. Trust for Nature has supported their transition, which included developing a new management plan tailored to their knowledge and skills and already they have put in a lot of work towards meeting its goals. They recently installed a second pig-proof fence to reduce damage from feral pigs. With help from Trust for Nature and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Amanda and Bryce received a grant to install more pest-proof fencing.

Two threatened species of plants have proliferated under their care, Clover Glycine and Purple Donkey Orchid. Amanda said, “This year they’ve seriously increased in number and spread across the property, in locations they haven’t been located before. Knowing that we are helping species that are rare and uncommon in other parts of Victoria is really encouraging!”

For more information about projects in the Corangamite region contact our Senior Conservation Officer [Jo Day](mailto:Jo.Day@tfn.org.au) on (03) 8631 5888 or jod@tfn.org.au.



Purple Donkey Orchid is thriving under the Hotchin’s care



Are you buying or selling a covenant?

- we can help you find a conservation-minded buyer by listing your property for sale on our website, email properties@tfn.org.au

- if you are buying a property that has a conservation covenant, get in touch with us. We can help you

understand what the covenant means and walk you through the management plan

- see page 18 for more tips about what you should do before you buy or sell land that has a conservation covenant on it.

Protecting our faunal emblems

More landholders on Melbourne's fringes are legally protecting their properties to save habitat for threatened species. Trust for Nature has partnered with more than 1,450 landholders across Victoria to put covenants on properties, and 48 of these are in the Yarra Ranges—an area that has some of the last remaining habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum.

Living in the Ranges is a lifestyle choice for many; however landholders are also playing a critical role in saving animals from extinction. As part of Trust for Nature's 2019 Spring into Nature program, locals had the chance to visit two properties in the area which had conservation covenants placed on title 12 months ago.

The properties showcase what can be achieved when land is given the chance to regenerate. Previously grazed areas now have rich understorey with many native orchids. Residents Gaye Gadsden and David Carr put a covenant on two-thirds of their property in 2018. Gaye said, "I really love wildlife and we've just got tens of thousands of creatures that we share this property with and I don't want to see their home compromised. We're only caretakers here for at best a couple of decades and beyond that I want to make sure all of those other creatures that we share this place with, home remains."

A number of covenants are in negotiation and we hope to register many of these over the next six months. We are also working with landholders further east in the Cardinia Shire Council between Western Port and the Yarra Ranges whose properties are also providing critical habitat for Helmeted Honeyeaters and Leadbeater's Possum. This work is supported by the Victorian Government.

Meanwhile support for existing covenanted properties continues in collaboration with Zoos Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority. The Friends of Helmeted Honeyeater and Friends of Leadbeater's Possum are two amazing volunteer groups working in the area.



Leadbeater's Possum.
Photo courtesy Zoos Victoria

For more information about projects in the Port Phillip and Westernport region, contact our Conservation Officer [Rachel Douglas](mailto:racheld@tfn.org.au) on (03) 8631 5888 or racheld@tfn.org.au.

Regenerate understorey

All wildlife appreciate mid and understorey plants to live in.

- if you already have shrubs, grasses and herbs, removing grazing stock might be enough to encourage regeneration
- fence temporary exclusion plots to give new plants a chance to establish if rabbits, wallabies and other grazing animals are in high numbers
- if you need to manually revegetate, enquire at your local nursery or Landcare group for tubestock or seeds for indigenous species.

Restoring fringing wetlands on a Gippsland dairy

Sandra Jefford and Wilco Droppert have lived and worked on their 352 ha dairy farm on the fringes of the Gippsland Lakes for eight years. When they were approached by Trust for Nature and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) about restoring and putting a conservation covenant on wetland habitats on their farm, they were keen to do what they could to improve the biodiversity on their land, while continuing to manage the surrounding pasture for cattle. They are now working with the Trust to secure the covenant.

Sandra said, “It’s really a no brainer for us to protect the wetland. It is unproductive land at present, so it makes sense for us to protect it for biodiversity.” The wetland doesn’t function as it naturally did, so work is underway to restore the natural water regime as much as possible. It will also be revegetated and fenced off from cattle. “We are close to the Gippsland Lakes and we hope that will mean frogs and other species will use our wetland as a pathway to get to other parts of our property including our irrigation pond,” Sandra said.

Restoration of this wetland will aim to provide additional fresh water habitats fringing the salinity-affected Gippsland Lakes and provide refugia for threatened species such as the Growling Grass Frog and Green and Golden Bell Frog.

Sandra and Wilco have other plans for the property and are considering putting a conservation covenant on a stand of River Red Gums, which are up to 500 years old. By protecting them permanently, they hope to see new generations of red gums thrive in future.

This work is funded by the Victorian Government through the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee for the health of the Gippsland Lakes.

For more information about projects in the West Gippsland region contact our Regional Manager [John Hick](#) on (03) 8631 5888 or johnh@tfn.org.au.



You can support the work we’re doing in this region by contributing to the West Gippsland Conservation Fund which has a generous donor matching dollar for dollar up to \$500k. See trustfornature.org.au for more information.



Sandra Jefford and Wilco Droppert are protecting parts of their dairy farm near the Gippsland Lakes

Tips for restoring wetlands

- identify the plant and animal species that are there and aim to optimise their habitat needs
- control threats where possible (ie exclude or manage livestock, control pest plants and animals)
- identify if the natural hydrology has been altered such as increased drainage
- reinstate natural hydrological conditions where possible (ie reduce artificial drainage)
- monitor wetland condition through photopoint monitoring to record change over time.

Rallying together on the Patho Plains

When we visited a property of a farmer who had asked about putting a conservation covenant on it, we couldn't believe what we saw. The property had never been cultivated and was the most intact block we'd seen for a while on the Patho Plains.

It was perfect habitat for the Plains-wanderer, one of the world's most endangered and unique birds. The farmer decided he would like to protect it after reading an article in *The Weekly Times* (August, 2019) about farmers putting conservation covenants on land to protect the Plains-wanderer.

The Northern Plains grassland on the Patho Plains originally covered 730,000 ha but just six per cent of it remains. The Patho Plains takes in towns such as Echuca, Gunbower, and Lockington. Much of it is cropped but the remaining native grassland/pasture areas grazed by cattle and sheep often still provide habitat for the Plains-wanderer. Trust for Nature has been working with local landholders, many of whom are members of the Northern Plains Conservation Management Network, for more than 20 years and we're encouraged that support from landholders interested in looking after the bird is growing.

We need to protect 10,000 ha of the Patho Plains to ensure Plains-wanderers have a future and time is ticking. Farmers in the area are under pressure from high water costs and increasing gold exploration is likely to add to the threats facing habitat.

Over the past few years we have protected more than 500 ha, with another 144 ha in the process of being covenanted on the Patho Plains thanks to support from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the North Central Catchment Management Authority and Zoos Victoria. We are also working on solutions to help farmers balance the costs of protecting habitat and having enough land to provide them with room to graze in order to run a financially viable farm.

That farmers are now contacting us and expressing interest in protecting land gives us hope that we can save enough grasslands on the Patho Plains to prevent the extinction of a species endemic to Australia and of global taxonomic significance.

If you're interested to know more about protecting the Plains-wanderer contact our Senior Conservation Officer [Kirsten Hutchison](#) on (03) 8631 5888 or kirstenh@tfn.org.au.



Future home

The Patho Plains will be one of the release sites for Zoos Victoria's Plains-wanderer captive breeding program. We're working with landholders to manage grazing to ensure the paddocks are 'just right' for the young birds.

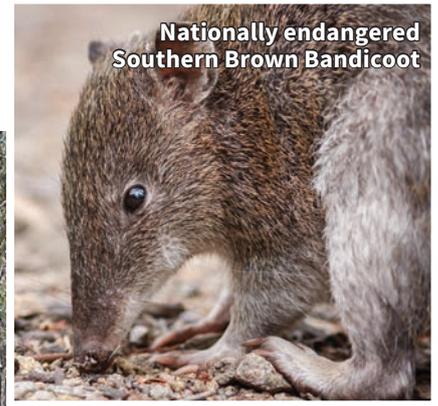


Trust for Nature's Kirsten Hutchison (right) with covenantor Faye Bail on the Patho Plains

Bandicoots make a comeback



The Plains Grassy Woodlands on the property near Halls Gap



Nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot



Western Swamp Crayfish

In lowlands nestled to the east of the famous peaks of the Grampians National Park, a local landholder has recently placed a covenant on 146 ha of high-quality habitat.

Situated just outside of Halls Gap, the property includes Plains Grassy Woodland, a wetland and 68 ha of high-quality habitat for the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot, with a very healthy population of the marsupial. It is the first recorded, sizable and naturally occurring population of Southern Brown Bandicoots to have been recorded in this part of the northern Grampians in the last 20 years—up until very recently they were thought to be almost locally extinct. The landholder has put in place a fox control program.

The property is also home to Western Swamp Crayfish, Southern Pygmy Perch, Tree Goanna, Diamond Firetail, Barking Owl, Powerful Owl and Bush Stone Curlew. The land has long been on a Trust for Nature wish-list for permanent protection. Habitat of this size and quality, with connectivity to the existing Grampians National Park, supports great conservation outcomes and biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Long before the covenant was secured, the landholder contacted our office to share photos to identify species on their land and after building a relationship with the landholder, we have finally been able to work together to protect this habitat permanently for future generations to enjoy. This project was funded with support of the Victorian Government.

For more information about projects in the Glenelg-Hopkins region contact our Conservation Officer [Adam Merrick](mailto:adam.merrick@tfn.org.au) on (03) 8631 5888 or adam@tfn.org.au.



Tips

The landholder has also worked with Nature Glenelg Trust to restore wetlands for aquatic wildlife. Here are some tips for looking after wetlands (and remember to check with your local water authority before doing any works on waterways):

- restore wetland hydrology by blocking/restoring drainage
- remove weeds and monitor for pest fish species
- do not use herbicides or pesticides near waterways or wetlands.

For almost seven years, Libby Woodward, Steve Syer and Ted and Sue Woodward have been working tirelessly on their 142ha covenanted property in the Koonda Hills near Violet Town in north east Victoria.

The property has a mix of Grassy Woodland and Box-Ironbark ecological communities. Libby said, “We were attracted to its range of diverse native species-some threatened and some near threatened. We are aiming to conserve and improve the property and increase the range and populations of threatened species.”

“We bought the property through Trust for Nature’s [Revolving Fund](#) program and at the time the Trust had started on some good conservation improvements. Buying a property through the Fund meant we had to put a [conservation covenant](#) on it, which we were very happy to do.”

Their dedication to restoring the site’s ecological values is tremendous. The owners have increased diversity in many areas through planting shrubs and small trees such as Allocasuarina, Banksia, Bursaria and Callistemons.

The Koonda Hills has a small Bush Stone-curlew population that is barely self-replacing. With support from Libby and Steve, the Trust has constructed a predator-proof, fenced enclosure to protect the birds.

In addition, the owners have built other kangaroo-proof enclosures. Libby said, “We built a new, innovative electric fence around this big dam, which is also our main revegetation area, to protect our plantings and to allow native grass cover to increase. This is a lovely wetland area and other smaller wildlife have unhindered access. This fence has been regularly maintained, all vegetation that grows into the fence is cut so it doesn’t short out the electric wires.”

Libby and Steve are proud of the dam and have built an island which was a priority when the property was purchased in 2013. More than 1,350 plants were planted in the dam area from 2013 to 2017. Direct seeding of native grasses was carried out on the dam banks and in the surrounding area with about 60 to 70 per cent being successful. Natural regeneration has also occurred in the revegetation area and there is small scale historic direct seeding. Grey Everlasting, Austral Indigo and Kangaroo Grass have been successfully direct seeded on the island.

They are seeing the rewards of their efforts in the amount and diversity of wildlife on the property. As a monitoring tool they set up six small ponds with movement-sensing cameras in different areas of the property. They have now captured many remarkable creatures; 125 native bird species, 21 mammal species (including pests), and eight different native reptiles. They feel that, as the climate gets hotter and drier, the ponds are helping threatened species.

[They have a YouTube channel about the different species of birds, animals and reptiles.](#)

To read more about setting up ponds visit victoriannativeseed.com.au. For more information about the Revolving Fund visit trustfornature.org.au.



Revegetation brings in the wildlife



Libby Woodward and Steve Syer

Selling a property with a conservation covenant

By Karen Tymms, Stewardship Coordinator



There are many things to think about when selling your property and if you have a conservation covenant on it, there are a few more things to consider.

The deed of covenant needs to be included in the sales documentation (Section 32), you can also include the covenant management plan as extra information for prospective buyers. Think about listing your covenanted property on the Trust for Nature website. It's free and the properties section is one of the most frequently visited pages on our website and it helps you to attract conservation-minded buyers.

As stipulated in the covenant deed, **please let us know when you have sold your property.** We can then organise a stewardship visit with the new owners as soon as possible to highlight the special features of the property and discuss any queries the new owners have. It's important that new owners feel supported and know we are there to help. We will also develop a new management plan with the buyers to fit their knowledge and skills.

Consider leaving information for the new owners such as historical information, the current management

plan, lists of birds and plants and a list of special rare or threatened species.

Selling your property can be a very busy and emotional time, by letting us know it has been sold we can do everything we can to ensure its ecological values are kept intact well after it's sold. For more information about selling a covenanted property contact [Karen Tymms on 0417 327 514](mailto:karen.tymms@trn.vic.gov.au).

Landmark 1988 legislation updated for 21st century

Amendments to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act were passed by the Victorian Parliament in 2019, following a review led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The Act is the key law in Victoria that protects threatened species. When it was introduced in Victoria, in 1988, it was a landmark piece of environmental legislation. The recent reforms are intended to 'revive' the use of the Act to stop the decline in biodiversity. See environment.vic.gov.au for more information.

Making an impact

National and state parks aren't enough to prevent species extinction which is why putting a protective conservation covenant on a property is one of the most important things landholders can do to help Victoria's plants and animals survive and ensuring they are around for future generations to enjoy. It is a generous act, and we're proud to work with so many Victorians who value conservation.

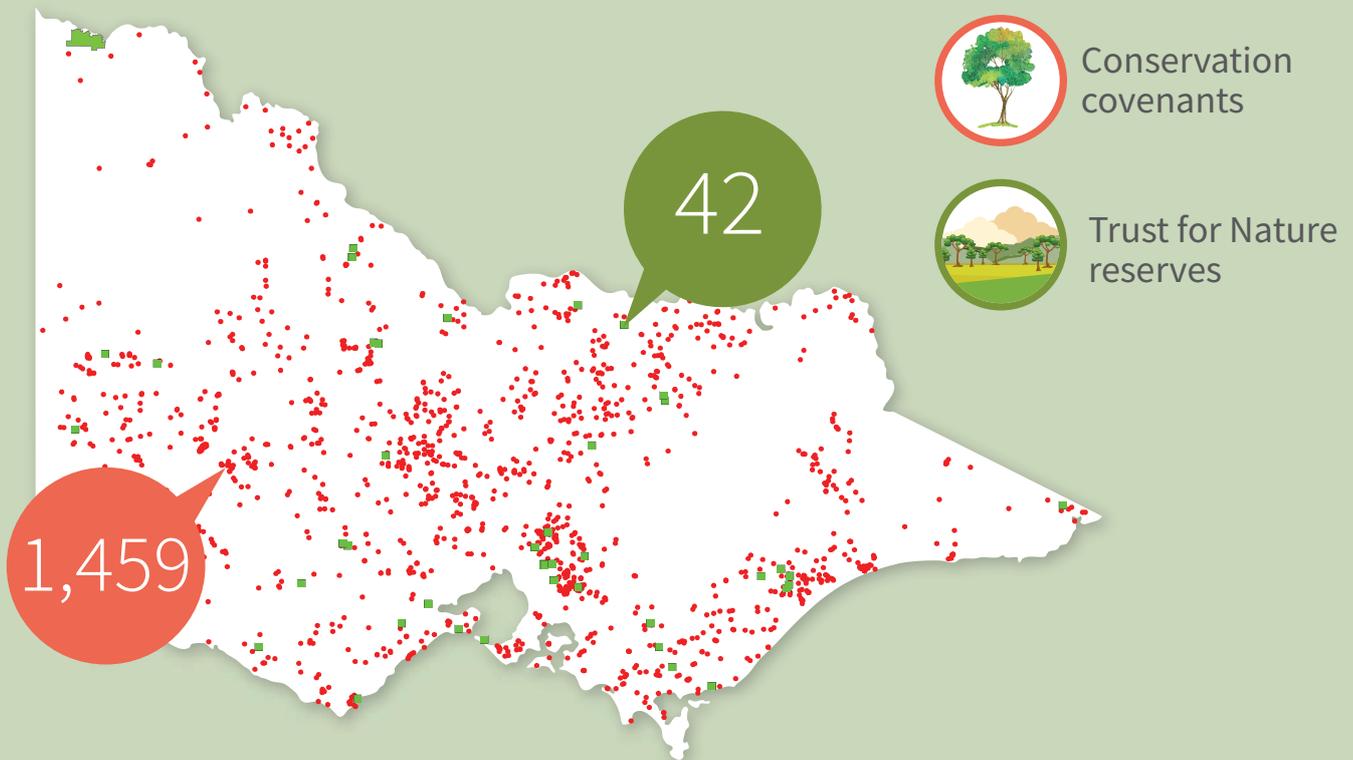
A total of 67,063 ha have been protected by covenants since Trust for Nature's inception in 1972.

In 2018-19
we partnered with
landholders to
put **conservation**
covenants



Bringing total ha of
private land

protected forever
to more than
102,000



PRODUCED 205
ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS
on covenanted properties
and Trust for Nature reserves



MANAGED
54,000 HA OF
feral animal control



HELD 50
EVENTS, FIELD DAYS
and workshops held
across the state



157
CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT PLANS
were prepared for
covenanted properties

These 2018-19 achievements wouldn't be possible without your generous and valued support.

Thank you to covenantors and landholders, volunteers, committees of management and friends' groups, community organisations, project partners and financial supporters including: donors, philanthropic trusts, sponsors, the Victorian Government and Australian Government.

WILD CARD

Short-beaked Echidna

(Tachyglossus aculeatus)

It may appear to be nature's punk but that's all a front: this native mammal is actually a burrowing recluse. That is, unless it's mating season

Short-beaked Echidna
Photo courtesy David Whelan

Lickety split

Good news if you get close—echidnas don't have teeth. Instead they have a long, sticky tongue (it can grow up to 17 cm) which they use to slurp up ants, termites, worms and insect larvae. Their diet, along with their spines, informs their common name Spiny Ant-eater.

The bachelorette

During mating season (June to September), several males will trail a female—described as a 'love train'—until she chooses a mate. Echidnas and platypus are the only mammals in the world that lay eggs and young echidnas are called puggles.

Protecting echidnas

The echidna is one of the species being protected through Trust for Nature's Iconic Estates initiative which is funded with support from the Victorian Government.

They feed on ants and termites, so make sure you have plenty of habitat that supports insects. Leave fallen timber on the ground and other bush debris. They rely on logs and stumps for habitat.

Although not threatened, they will benefit from protection to ensure they don't become a rare species in the future. Every bit of wildlife we have adds to the resilience of our natural environment—and they are a joy to see!

More than 1,450 landholders across Victoria are helping mitigate climate change by having a conservation covenant on their property, ensuring that this habitat is protected forever.

In the last issue of the [Conservation Bulletin](#), we set out a broad framework for thinking about how to manage your protected habitat most effectively in the context of a [changing climate](#). The article stated that there are two fundamental conservation objectives for every patch of protected land:

- maximising the health of the ecosystems present
- providing native plants and animals living there the best chance possible of surviving to reproductive maturity and raising young.

One of the five guiding principles for conservation management is to enhance your local environments to provide as much complexity as possible for animals, plants and other biota.

This principle struck home while watching a Diamond Firetail finch hopping through a garden bed and deliberately seeking out bluebell stalks to build its nest in a creeper and then going off to feed on native grass seeds. Without access to the bluebells, the creeper or the native grasses, the Diamond Firetail would not have been able to use this site or have the chance to breed and raise young. By providing all of these essential resources in the one area we have the privilege and joy of helping this family of firetails survive and raise the next generation.

The peak bird conservation organisation in the UK, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, succinctly summarises this principle as being ‘summer food, winter food, nest sites’, and uses this simple framework to underpin their conservation planning and management advice for the wildlife species they are concerned about.

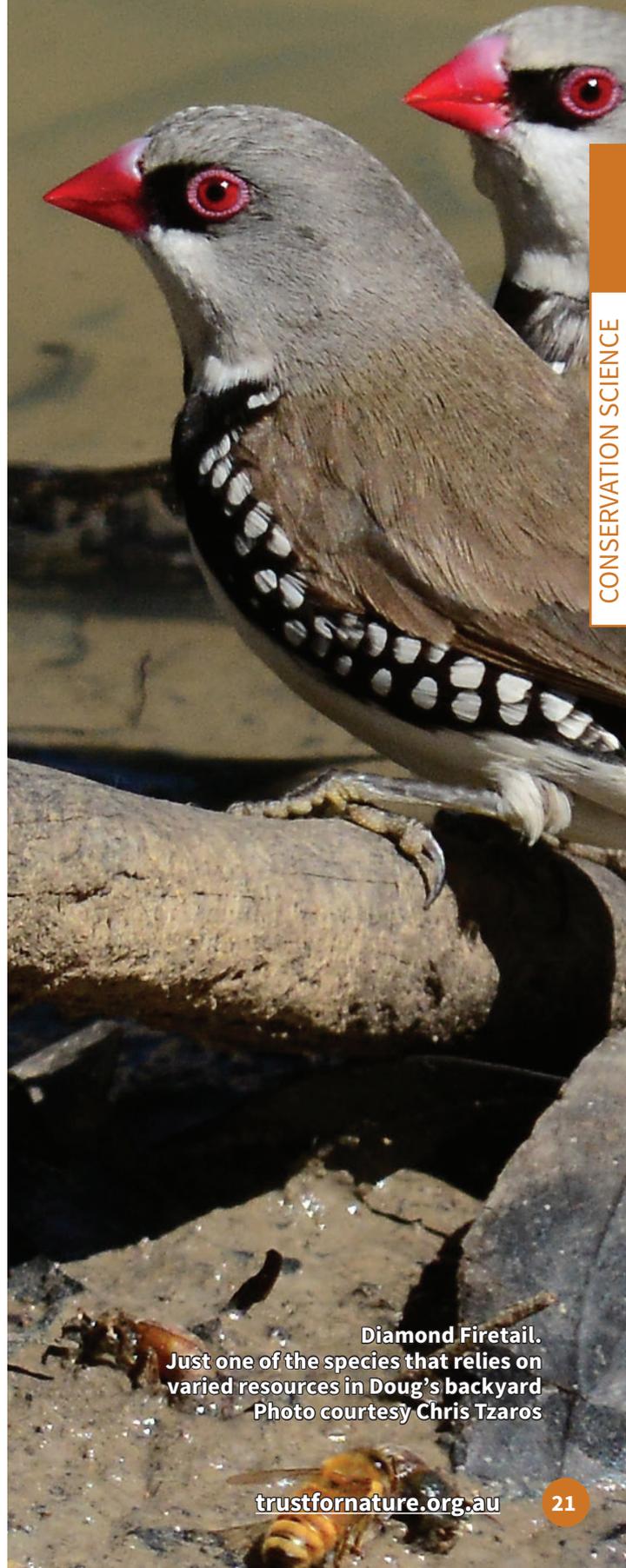
All of us have no doubt watched animals favouring particular plants or habitat in our backyard, wetland or bush, and our ambition at the local scale should be to maximise the availability of these resources so that as much wildlife as possible persists on our property and then, at the larger scale, in each local district.

Maintaining viable populations of plants and animals at a local scale is critical to ensuring that all environments and their dependent species are as resilient as possible in a rapidly changing climate.

Keep an eye out for Trust for Nature’s field days about managing for conservation in climate change at trustfornature.org.au.

Complexity is good

By Dr. Doug Robinson, Trust For Nature Conservation Science Advisor



CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Diamond Firetail.
Just one of the species that relies on varied resources in Doug’s backyard
Photo courtesy Chris Tzaros

Properties open to the public



EVENTS

Trust for Nature's Spring into Nature program in September and October 2019 was the biggest it's been for many years. We held 13 events across the state from the Longwood Plains in the north east to Minimay in the far west. Visitors enjoyed traditional dances, spotlighted for Squirrel Gliders, witnessed an endangered Australasian Bittern and saw a Helmeted Honeyeater on a covenanted property.

More than 100 people turned up on a warm Melbourne evening to hear from elder David Wandin talk about cultural burns, Dr Lindy Lumsden and Dr Dan Harley talk about bats and the work being done to save locally threatened species. Trust for Nature's Ben Cullen also talked about the work landholders are doing to protect our faunal emblems; this event was funded with support of the Victorian Government. Due to the popularity of this event we hope to bring Melburnians more like it in 2020. Stay tuned in September when we announce another wonderful program for this coming spring.



Climate Council guest speaker

Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia's 9th annual Celebrating Women in Conservation Breakfast is on in March. More than 470 tickets have been sold and guest speaker is Amanda McKenzie (pictured), CEO of the Climate Council. The Breakfast helps celebrate International Women's Day.



Rallying together to raise \$1 million



We launched the [West Gippsland Conservation Fund](#) in Noojee in September 2019. It was wonderful to be joined by landholders in the area who have conservation covenants, community organisations, businesses and local government.

The Fund is not only a first for Trust for Nature but a significant agent of change for conservation in West Gippsland. It transforms our ability to protect this wild, beautiful, richly biodiverse part of Victoria by delivering security, sustainability and a game changing boost to our capacity to act on the ground to preserve and rehabilitate West Gippsland's precious natural habitats.

Find out more at trustfornature.org.au.

Funding conservation



On behalf of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, Trust for Nature hosted a workshop about conservation finance, featuring guest speakers Carl Palmer and Henry Tepper from the USA. Part of the national Private Land Conservation Conference held in Adelaide in October 2019, the workshop followed on from a Melbourne workshop in 2018 where we launched the Conservation Finance Scoping Paper and showcased practical approaches and examples of projects that had secured funding in different jurisdictions. See trustfornature.org.au for more information about the paper.

Rangers graduate

In December 2019, seven students graduated from a land management course designed to support Traditional Owners to work on Country. This graduation round follows the highly successful Certificate III of Conservation and Land Management in 2018 at Holmesglen, which saw all of the graduates employed in land management roles after graduation.

The course, which has been given the name Warreen Beek Rangers by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, has been designed specifically for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to secure qualifications and get Bunurong people caring for Bunurong Country. If you would like to find out more about how you can help fund this course in 2020 and beyond please contact us (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.



Supporters with Uncle Tinawin Wilson and Aunty Flo Wilson, Ngintait elders, in front of a large scar tree.

Weekend at Neds

[Neds Corner Station](#) is located in the driest area of Victoria, yet this vast 30,000 ha property supports almost 1,000 different species of plants, animals and invertebrates. We wouldn't be able to protect them as well as we do without the generous help of supporters, some of whom had the opportunity to tour the property recently to understand its cultural significance and ongoing conservation work. The next curated tours are in May. Contact us (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.

ADDING TO VICTORIA'S protected landscape

Putting a conservation covenant on a property is one of the single most important things a landholder can do to protect plants and animals. It truly gives them a home forever and helps to fight extinction.

Properties eligible for covenants can be big or small. They have important plant and animal species or have the potential to support them. Commonly they are in regions that have been identified in Trust for

Nature's [Statewide Conservation Plan](#) for Victoria as critical habitat.

If you have a property that you think is worth protecting call us on (03) 8631 5888 and ask to be put in touch with our local staff.

Here are some of the properties that have been covenanted in the last six months. Congratulations to the landholders!

West Gippsland

- Seaspray, 24.2 ha
- Gormandale, 40.14 ha

Corangamite

- Dereel, 4.05 ha

North Central

- Rostron, 167.54 ha
- Torrumbarry, 129.50 ha
- Chewton, 15.09 ha

Goulburn Broken

- High Camp, 56.34 ha
- High Camp, 154.55 ha

North East

- Chiltern, 40.61 ha

Port Phillip and Westernport

- Tootgarook Swamp (Capel Sound), 28.153 ha
- Tootgarook Swamp (Bittern), 102.533 ha



Feature covenant

Tootgarook Swamp Port Phillip & Westernport Bay



Visitors to Tootgarook Wetland during Trust for Nature's Spring into Nature program were treated to some wonderful waterbirds, including the endangered Australasian Bittern which flew off in front of them

A big congratulations to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for having the foresight to protect a beautiful part of the Peninsula with a conservation covenant.

The covenant protects Warringine Park and the Tootgarook Wetland, providing legal environmental protection for more than 130 ha of the Peninsula. Warringine Park stretches from Hastings to Bittern and was declared a conservation park in 1994, forming part of the internationally significant Western Port Ramsar site.

The Shire has managed the Park since 2006 and recently purchased land in Capel Sound to protect the significant biodiversity values of Tootgarook Wetland. The new protections add to the Shire's existing covenants over other areas of Tootgarook Wetland in Capel Sound and Peninsula Gardens in Boneo.

The Peninsula is home to 400 species of indigenous fauna and nearly 700 species of indigenous plants. Species such as the endangered Australasian Bittern, Swamp Skink, White-footed Dunnart, Lewin's Rail and Leafy Twig-sedge that live in the area are now protected for life.

The protection is the result of a combined effort from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Trust for Nature, and dedicated community groups including members of the former Warringine Park committee of management, Save Tootgarook community group and the Westernport Protection Council.

Trust for Nature received funding from the Limb Family Foundation and the Victorian Government to be able to place the covenants on title.



Coming together at High Camp

A new community of covenantors has been formed just outside of Kilmore, 1.5 hours north of Melbourne. It's called High Camp and in 2019 the last block went under contract.

The High Camp covenant cluster was our biggest [Revolving Fund](#) purchase back in 2013. It was a 640 ha farm which we bought to protect its ecological values. Recognising it is easier for many people to manage conservation on smaller blocks, we sold the land in parcels to individuals, couples and families. It is an innovative approach to private land conservation, flexible and responsive to the market and in the process, we have protected a large parcel of land with conservation covenants.

Buyers Gavin and Belinda Turrell are delighted to be part of it. Gavin said, "Belinda and I have always had a strong interest in promoting conservation and protecting the natural environment and purchasing a Trust for Nature property with a conservation covenant was a great way of doing this.

"The intensification of the negative environmental effects of climate change motivated us to do something that in a very small way helped offset and repair these effects. The property is bound by a creek on the western side, which we love: it really distinguished the

property and made it an exciting and interesting habitat for conservation.

"The extent of biodiversity is very special to us—there are so many different types of flora and fauna on the property, and we discover something new every time we visit."

The High Camp covenant cluster forms part of a larger conservation landscape—it adjoins Goldie Flora Reserve with three covenants close by. "We hope that our efforts and investments in environmental protection, management and repair over the coming decades results in the property's ecosystem being restored to the highest attainable level of recovery," said Gavin.

People from a wide range of backgrounds and conservation knowledge have gravitated to the properties—from resources and construction industries to academics and consultants — which is a testament to the beautiful landscape and the desire many of us have to do something positive to protect habitat.

We congratulate each of the new landholders of High Camp and look forward to working with them on their conservation journey.

For more information about the Revolving Fund contact revolvingfund@tfn.org.au.

Trust for Nature's Revolving Fund is used to buy private land with high conservation values. Once purchased, we sell the property to an owner willing to protect it with a conservation covenant. Sale proceeds are returned to the Revolving Fund to purchase more property, creating a continuous conservation investment cycle.

You can see a list of properties for sale at trustfornature.org.au.



Delivering water for the environment

Eighty per cent of wetlands in Victoria are on private property. Trust for Nature has helped protect more than 100 of them with conservation covenants to ensure they are not damaged in the future.

Getting water to them isn't as easy as it once was because many wetlands are cut off from their natural water supply such as creeks and rivers, and even creeks and rivers don't receive the inflows they naturally did because water is diverted for other uses such as dams.

One recent watering happened after years of planning when pumps were turned on to water wetlands on a 15 ha property that is protected by a conservation covenant in northern Victoria.

Wetlands on this property would have naturally filled each year from flooding from the nearby creek. Now in the absence of major flooding the only way the wetlands are going to receive adequate water is from pumps and pipes that deliver water for the environment.

The water instantly had amazing benefits for wildlife—just a day after the wetlands started to fill—the landholders could hear frogs calling and water birds flocked to the area. The water brought the area to life again. The objective of water for the environment is to mimic natural water regimes.

Delivering water to properties requires collaborating with lots of different entities; landholders, water authorities, catchment management authorities, and organisations that administer water for the environment. This water delivery was made possible thanks to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group with water from the Environmental Water Trust which is jointly owned by the Working Group and The Nature Conservancy and forms part of the Murray-Darling Basin Balanced Water Fund... and of course the fantastic foresight of the landholders, thank you!

In collaboration with the Mallee Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, our reserve Neds Corner Station near Mildura has also received water for the environment to protect plants and wildlife, including the threatened Growling Grass Frog. Other wetland sites on properties that have conservation covenants are in the pipeline.



That's what friends are for

VOLUNTEERS

The Wanderslore Sanctuary is a special place in the Yarra Valley. The 10 ha property is an oasis of native vegetation in an area now heavily subdivided. The land was donated to Trust for Nature in 1987 by the late Constance Coleman—an artist, poet, teacher and nature lover.

The Sanctuary started off as a handful of separate parcels of land that were bought back over time and consolidated. It is now a conservation reserve with creeks, gullies, ferns, grasses, fungi and tall eucalypts. Every year it opens its gates to the public giving them the opportunity to walk through the property and be taken back in time to experience what the area was once like.

Wanderslore has three types of vegetation including a fern gully and is home to wallabies, wombats, antechinus, echidnas, possums, bush rats, bats, reptiles and lots of bird species. The Sanctuary is maintained through the dedication and hard work of volunteer groups, Friends of Wanderslore and the Wanderslore Committee of Management, led by Geoff Durham who has been at the helm of the Committee for its entire 26 years. His dedication to the property goes further back than that, in fact, Geoff has been associated with the property for 40 years, having assisted in 1987 with the initial gifting of Wanderslore by Constance to Trust for Nature.

Friends of Wanderslore and the Committee have spent countless hours on revegetation, managing pests and weeds and monitoring the regeneration of plants and animal populations.

Geoff is hanging up his boots in his official role as coordinator of the Committee and we are immensely grateful for the years he has put into the property. He has left an amazing legacy for future generations to enjoy and we're sure he will continue to walk the Sanctuary's tracks for many years to come. Thank you Geoff, and all the volunteers who help make the Reserve what it is today.

If you would like to volunteer and support our reserves contact volunteer@tfn.org.au, or visit trustfornature.org.au/volunteers.



Geoff Durham (far left) and Wanderslore volunteers outside Constance Coleman's former studio



Just some of the expert volunteers helping to support landholders who have conservation covenants

VOLUNTEERS

50 visits

Our team of expert volunteers have clocked up their 50th visit to landholders who have conservation covenants, contributing the equivalent of nearly one year's full-time work!

The Expert Volunteer Program links [covenantors](#) with people who are experienced in their local landscapes and can share plant and animal knowledge, or talk about management issues. The pilot of this program has been made possible with support from the John T. Reid Charitable Trusts. Thank you to the volunteers who have made such a difference to landholders and continue to be a part of the program this year. Perhaps the best reward is in the feedback you have received from the landholders you visited:

“ We'd met Richard before so were already looking forward to his visit, but the time he spent and the information he imparted exceeded even our highest expectations. ”

“ The visit helped boost morale to keep on with the daunting tasks like weeding, and the expensive ones like the removal of the Sugar Gums. ”

“ I wanted to thank you SO much for sending us some more experts. They are compiling a list of additions to our flora list - I will not be surprised if it's more than 30 new additions! We found/identified SO many things! ”

“ One of the supportive things about the expert volunteer visits is to have someone to talk with about the implications of these changes that can assist us with keeping a spirit of hopefulness in a time of significant and somewhat unpredictable changes. ”

“ Great to have folk with deeper knowledge of fauna and fauna species walk talk and document the bush. ”

Get in touch with Doug Robinson if you would like to be involved either as a volunteer or landholder
0408 512 441, dougr@tfn.org.au.

Thank

Helping covenantors restore bushfire affected habitat

The current Victorian bushfires have so far impacted 40 properties protected with conservation covenants. Given the scale of the continuing fires, it is likely that more precious covenanted properties will be affected before the end of the season.

In the coming months and years, Trust for Nature will increase its support to affected covenantors, and work alongside them to restore their land. Thank you for helping to raise \$41,915 so far. We need much more. If you are interested in land conservation and want to support covenantors impacted by the bushfires, you can donate now via trustfornature.org.au.

Thanks for helping us protect more land

It's important that everyone who wants to place a conservation covenant on their land can, without money being a barrier. This is why Trust for Nature covers these costs for landholders. We are able to do it with the support of people like you. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Christmas appeal and helped raise \$45,236. To find out how you can support us go to trustfornature.org.au.

Endowment fund

The establishment of the Trust for Nature Endowment Fund reflects our enduring commitment to being at the frontline of conservation efforts that will help mitigate the impact of climate change. It provides an agile, responsive fund to protect and restore Victoria's natural places and it sends a powerful message to future generations that we care passionately about our planet and the beautiful corner of it we call home.

You can support it by contacting (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.

Vale Diana Snape



We are saddened by the passing of long-time Trust for Nature supporter and Snape Reserve co-founder Diana Snape. Her contribution to conservation has been enormous and Diana was involved with the Reserve's committee of management since 2002 when the property was purchased. Her guidance of the committee was greatly appreciated. Diana was interested in the Little Desert in the Wimmera region for over 50 years. Our thoughts are with her husband Brian and family.

you!

Christmas functions for supporters



Limb Family Foundation supports bays and islands

Trust for Nature has enjoyed the support of the Limb Family Foundation since it was first established and we are immensely grateful for the Foundation's support which has allowed us to carry out projects across the state. Support from the Foundation has been critical in the success of our rehabilitation and protection work on habitat in the Port Phillip Bay, including Bellarine Peninsula, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, French Island and Phillip Island (called the Bays and Islands project). Thank you for supporting phase three of our work in this region over the next three years.

It's always such a privilege to be able to thank donors for their support. We held two high teas in December to acknowledge people who have made significant contributions to Trust for Nature and for supporters who have made the Trust a beneficiary in their will, as part of our Nature's Custodians program. La Trobe University ecologist Dr John Morgan was one of our speakers and enthralled guests with information about the importance of grasslands. Valued Trust for Nature supporter, farmer and bequestor Richard Palmer also spoke to Nature's Custodian supporters about why he gets behind the Trust. To find out how you can become a Nature's Custodian please contact (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.

THANK YOU

West Gippsland Conservation Fund

A West Gippsland Conservation Fund has been seeded by a generous donor who has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500,000 to assist the Fund to reach its initial target amount of \$1,000,000. As a structured endowment, the returns will provide a consistent revenue stream for private land management in West Gippsland into the future. You can support it by contacting (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.





Thank you!

Contact us

5/379 Collins Street - Melbourne,
Victoria 3000 Australia
Phone: +61 3 8631 5888
Email: trustofornature@tfn.org.au
trustofornature.org.au
ABN: 60 292 993 543

Follow us

 [facebook.com/
trustofornaturevictoria](https://facebook.com/trustofornaturevictoria)

 [Instagram.com/
trustofornature](https://instagram.com/trustofornature)

 [twitter.com/
trustofornature](https://twitter.com/trustofornature)

 [linkedin.com/
company/trust-for-nature](https://linkedin.com/company/trust-for-nature)

 [youtube.com/
user/tfnvictoria](https://youtube.com/user/tfnvictoria)

As a not-for-profit organisation, Trust for Nature welcomes public support for its conservation work. All contributions of \$2 and more are tax deductible.

To find out more about how you can help support Trust for Nature or to make a donation towards our conservation work, call (03) 8631 5888 or fundraising@tfn.org.au.