LAND FOR VILDLIFE

voluntary wildlife conservation

Newsletter of The Land For Wildlife Program Autumn, Vol. 10 No. 1 2014

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> Department of Environment And Primary Industries, Victoria, Australia

Land For Wildlife Victoria Website: www.depi.vic.gov.au/landforwildlife

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to our first Online Edition of the Land For Wildlife Newsletter!

This is the first newsletter since 2012 as we did not produce a copy in 2013. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to print and distribute several thousand papercopies of the Land For Wildlife (LFW) newsletter. Instead, LFW is going digital where we are making the newsletter available online. This allows us to provide more information by communicating regularly.

As a registered Member you should have received a letter explaining the change to the online format. All future newsletters will be emailed to you and later made available from the <u>DEPI / LFW website</u>, where you will also be able to access past newsletters and technical notes. These will be uploaded gradually and we will tell you when they are available by email. You need to be subscribed to receive these updates. If you have not subscribed, you will need to <u>click here to sign</u> <u>-up</u> and receive updates from us. If you do not have a registered LFW property, you may subscribe as a <u>Friend of Land for Wildlife from this link</u>.

If you have received a copy of this newsletter and opened it on your computer, you may have missed the letter sent to the mailing address we have in our database for you, inviting you to subscribe. If so, <u>please complete the web-form by</u> <u>clicking here</u>, and you will then be able to receive future email alerts from LFW. Apart from saving resources and reducing our carbon footprint, a useful benefit of going digital is the ability to access online information from links provided in the email and PDF versions of the newsletter.

This newsletter is a continuation of the woodland theme stared in the 2012 edition. Dr. Ian Lunt has generously provided two very interesting articles on this topic. There is an update on the latest developments from the Australian Platypus Conservancy, plus two articles on the value of "*citizen scientists*", and how they (including LFW'ers) are engaging with the natural world around us.

I hope you enjoy this copy of this first online version of the LFW newsletter and are excited by the change. If you are experiencing problems or not getting an email from LFW, please contact myself using one of the forms of contact provided in this newsletter.

All the best,

Peter Johnson Statewide Coordinator Land For Wildlife Victoria <u>www.depi.vic.gov.au/landforwildlife</u>

Land for Wildlife Property Statistics, January, 2014

LFW Membership	Total Property Area	Habitat Being Retained	Habitat Under Restoration	Total Retained and Restored Habitat
5,540	533,420 ha	144,510 ha	22,426 ha	166,689 ha

Owlet Nightjars at Healesville

By, Ian, Vicki and Brett Hansen. Land For Wildlifers Since 1998.

Below is a wonderful account of Ian, Vicki and Brett Hansen's observations of Owlet Nightjars on their property. It is just one example of the contributions individual landholders are making as "citizen scientists". On pages 14 and 15, you can read more about what citizen scientists are doing and how you can contribute to understanding the world of natural science from your backyard.

We have been privileged to have a family of breeding Owlet Nightjars in our company for the past twelve years. Every year they breed successfully, with their offspring colonising the surrounding bushland. They utilise a variety of man-made and natural hollows, both of which are abundant.

Additional natural hollows taken from fallen trees have been replaced in trees.

The Nightjars seem to breed all year round. There are many juveniles sharing boxes at different times, often in company with an adult. We have observed an adult appearing at an entrance during the day with a juvenile on top of its head!



The adults frequently change boxes in daylight and we suspect it is to check on offspring, or to follow the sun for warmth and sun baking, which they do for considerable periods of time. The birds are curious, watch everything we do, and one adult in particular is very brave. It allows humans to come quite close, even when machines are being used Juveniles stay in the box opening, are visible, but do not protrude very far, unlike adults which hang right out, often sagging very low when deep asleep.

It is a daily joy to watch them in all weathers. Our first task every morning is to see which box each has moved to. We believe the adults are providing new birds to recolonise areas burnt during the Black Saturday bushfires.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas

The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) is a new, web-based information system designed to manage information about flora and fauna found in Victoria. The system allows you to contribute and view data for more than six million records of species distribution, abundance, and conservation status.

Visit the <u>Victorian Biodiversity Atlas</u> website page for more information. In the next edition of LFW News, we'll look at how you can contribute your information to various data collection projects, including the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

The Candles of Dunkeld

The woodlands of Dunkeld are among the most beautiful in the world. Stately old trees, scattered across grassy paddocks, frame the rugged Grampians Ranges in the distance. In another continent they could be oaks or olives, but in Dunkeld the trees are River Red Gums. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. Century old giants.

The woodlands don't go on forever, but peter out in the grasslands to the south and west. Sandy out-wash soils from the ranges allow trees to prosper. On the heavy clays further afield, grasses prevail.

The boundary between the woodlands and the grasslands – the edge of the treed lands – is strikingly clear on air photos. Google Earth shows a ring of woodlands to the west, south and east of the Grampians, with farmed grasslands beyond.

But how stable is this boundary? Is it moving over time? In many regions, paddock trees are gradually dying out, creating a 'tree regeneration crisis'. If this was the case at Dunkeld then the boundary would creep slowly in towards the ranges.



""The old trees of Dunkeld are like candles in a monastery, religiously kept alight. But with no new candles being lit, one by one, each flame splutters and dies. And when they go, we have a century of failed regeneration to make up for."



To check the boundaries, I studied the 1940s air photos, the earliest record I have of the region. I resized a 1948 air photo so it overlaid the latest image from Google Earth, traced the boundary on the 1948 photo and superimposed it on the Google Earth image.



Image above: The western boundary of the Dunkeld woodlands in 1948 and 2013. The blue line was drawn on the 1948 air photo and copied onto the 2013 photo. The boundary has remained surprisingly stable over 65 years. This view is 7.3 kms wide.

To be honest, I was surprised at the result. Over the past 65 years, the Dunkeld woodlands haven't shrunk. They haven't expanded either. In fact, *the boundary between the grasslands and the woodlands hasn't moved an inch*.

Not only has the boundary stayed stable, but each and every tree looks the same in both photos. This stability is more obvious if we zoom in for a closer view. The photo below shows a paddock south of Dunkeld in 1948. I selected this area because the old photo was clear and easy to examine, and most paddocks in the region show similar patterns and changes.

The roadside on the right seems to have been heavily grazed in the 1940s, as there's more bare ground on the road verge than in the paddocks. Back then, there wasn't any strip of roadside trees. There may not have been much 'roadside vegetation' to speak of.



Sixty-five years later, the landscape has changed a bit. There's a new home, shielded by planted windbreaks and gardens, plus a new road in the south. But the biggest change isn't in the paddocks, it's along the roadsides.



Strips of dense trees now line the roads to the east and south. The grasses are darker along the roadsides than in the paddocks, indicating that the roadsides (and a fenced lane-way in the north) are now grazed less heavily than the paddocks.

Inside the paddock, not much has changed beyond the homestead area. With some digital trickery, we can compare the trees across the two images. On the photo below, I've overlaid all of the trees that were present in 1948 (in red) with all of the trees that are still standing in 2013 (in blue). I've offset the two colors so they can be compared. The backdrop is the 2013 Google Earth image. The comparison is striking. The paddock trees have hardly changed over the past 65 years. But trees have regenerated densely along the roadsides during the period.



The comparison is even more striking when the colors are changed. In the photo below, the blue dots shows the old trees that were present in 1948 and 2013. Green shows the new trees that have regenerated since 1948, and the red dots show those that died since 1948. Generally, the paddock trees have been very stable; most of the old trees still survive. But not all of them. About 7% (approximately 31 of 428 trees) have died since 1948. On average, that's a death every two years in this small area. As time marches on, that death rate can only increase. The biggest worry is: *there isn't a single new tree in the big paddock*. All of the paddock trees are old. The only new trees are along the roads.



On one hand, the apparent stability of the paddock trees is a wonderful thing. With careful stewardship, the region's farmers have saved the beautiful old trees, and preserved the region's picturesque landscape. But this stability masks a deeper problem. For about 60 years before 1948, few trees regenerated in the region (or anywhere else), as hordes of rabbits ate the young plants. For over a century now, the paddocks of Dunkeld have been starved of young trees.

"Imagine a landscape where hardly a single tree regenerated in a paddock in your lifetime, in your parents' lifetime, and perhaps in your grandparents' lifetime. That's Dunkeld.

Now imagine a landscape where hardly a single tree regenerated in a paddock in your lifetime, in your children's lifetime, and in your grand-children's lifetime. Is that paddock also in Dunkeld?"

This article was provided by Dr Ian Lunt, Associate Professor, Charles Sturt University

Click here to learn more about the work of Dr. Ian Lunt

Redgum images on page 5 are by Richard Crawley. You can view more of Richard's superb photos of trees in the National Library of Australia at <u>this link</u> and at Richard's <u>personal website</u>. The copyright for all of the red gum photos is held by Richard Crawley.

Land For Wildlife Goes International

The Forest & Bird Association in New Zealand is now providing the Land For Wildlife program to help landowners become front-line conservationists. The Land for Wildlife program in New Zealand is being delivered under a voluntary agreement with Victoria.

Forest & Bird is providing the program as part of the "Kaimai Connection" – a project to restore birdsong and native wildlife to a corridor of protection linking the Tauranga Harbour in the Bay of Plenty to the Waihou River in the Waikato.

A sister program is also being launched for urban properties in the near future. The Gardens for Wildlife program encourages people in urban areas to create wildlife friendly gardens through specific gardening practices such as:

- Planting native species that are local to the area
- Providing food and habitat plants for birds, lizards and insects
- Controlling pests such as rats and mice
- Removing weeds that could spread into wild areas

The Gardens for Wildlife program in New Zealand aims to create a network of wildlife-friendly spaces throughout urban environments, both on public and privately owned land.



Colin's Merrin's Bay of Plenty property is a 240-hectare farm interspersed with patches of native bush. The forested areas are dotted around the farm and in various conditions. The fenced bushy areas are doing well, with flourishing püriri trees and resident North Island robins, kererü and fantails.

LFW blows the old farming versus conservation argument right out of the water. Colin says fencing off the bush has already made it easier to manage stock. Similarly, one of the recommended LFW strategies included planting flax on forest edges which, among other things, is "apparently good for stock to chew". LFW project manager Hamish Dean says it's not just for farmers. "It's basically for all landowners who are already doing conservation work on their properties or are aspiring to do so. They could be orchard owners, lifestyle block owners, schools, businesses, councils or sports clubs," he says.

The combined effect could be a boon for the region by linking habitats, cleaning waterways and supporting native wildlife.

Source: Al Fleming, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, New Zealand

Creature Feature

Bardi Grub, Whitchetty Grub or Witjuti - Beetle or Moth?

- Witjuti grubs are also known as Witchetty grubs or sometimes called "Bardi Grubs"
- The term Witchetty grub is used for large white larvae of moths that chew through tree trunks and roots.
- The most common type of witchetty grub is the larvae of the Cossid Moth.
- Witchetty grubs are part of the traditional diet of indigenous Australians.
- Witchetty grubs are eaten either raw or cooked and are very high in protein and have a nutty flavour.
- The word 'witchetty grub' comes from the indigenous Australian language, Adnyamathanha, from the words 'wityu' meaning hooked stick and 'vartus' meaning grub.
- The witchetty bush (Acacia kempeanas) is the main food of certain witchetty grubs.
- Witchetty grubs live in burrows that they create, up to 60 cm (23 inches) underground.
- Witchetty grub moths have a wingspan of up to 16cm (6 inches) and don't eat, but instead use stored energy from the grub form.



The distinction between Bardi and Witjuti grubs is blurred. Fishermen call them Bardi grubs as a general term for grubs collected and used as fishing bait. Bardi grubs are beetle larvae while Witjuti grubs are moth larvae. Bardis are normally in trunks, while Witjutis can be both in trunks or underground (in roots).

The image at right shows the pupal case of one of the large moths. It is probably the case of a Hepialid moth - which lives in the roots of Eucalypts and the cases are found sticking out of the ground when they emerge.

So-called "Bardi Grubs" collected for fishing bait are probably Witjuti grubs. The environmental consequences when they are collected on river banks can be severe when grubs are collected over a sustained period.

Alan Yen DEPI Invertebrate Specialist



How Do You Grow A Woodland Tree?

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Woodland trees have a distinctive shape: deep wide crown, short fat trunk, and thick low branches. They're great for wildlife and beautiful to behold. So how do you grow a woodland tree? Like good Slow Food, the recipe is simple but can't be rushed. The key ingredients are space and time: space to spread and time to sag. Without both, a woodland forms a forest.

Step 1 – Provide lots of space to spread

Dense young trees grow toward the light. That's obvious; big trees don't grow in caves. To get the maximum amount of light, they need lots of space. When a young sapling is surrounded by lots of neighbors, most light comes from straight above. Light from the sides is intercepted (and used) by neighboring trees. As a result, closely-spaced trees grow straight up towards the light, not sideways. To do this, they shed the shaded, lower branches and leaves. This leaves a long, bare trunk, and a small upper crown.





By contrast, a sapling with no neighbors receives light from the sides as well as from above. Branches low on the trunk are retained, not shed, as they capture light from the sides of the tree. This creates a wide canopy, with low branches, a short trunk, and a deep canopy with low-hanging foliage.

A picture-book woodland tree wouldn't be a picturebook woodland tree if it didn't have a short trunk and thick low branches. To grow these features, it needs space to spread sideways.

Step 2 – Add time to sag

Space alone doesn't create a majestic old tree. It also needs a liberal dollop of time; time to grow and time to sag. As branches grow older, they get thicker and heavier. It's hard to hold up all that weight, so just like us, old trees sag. New branches stretch up to the sun while the old boughs bend to the ground.

The bent boughs of an old tree didn't always bow down low. They started off perky and erect; time did the rest. Look at the upper branches of a young tree. They don't sag. They head bold upright, and the angle between each branch and the central trunk is narrow (acute). As the tree grows, each branch is over-topped by younger shoots. As you scan a tree from top to bottom, the angle between the trunk and each branch widens. The top branches head upwards while the lower branches head outwards. Every low branch was once at the top of the tree, and they all started off upright, stretching towards the sun.



As a tree grows older still, big old branches bend in the middle and bow down to the ground, weighed down by accumulating wood. Compare a young tree, growing out on its own, against an old veteran tree. The lower limbs of the young tree might spread wide, but they rarely sag down towards the ground; gravity and age does that. For an aging tree, "every asset's heading south" as Tim Rogers once sang.

Step 3: Add more time again to grow new younger branches

There's another reason why old woodland trees look like they do. An old tree is like an old house that's been added to regularly. Some bits are old and others are new. As time goes on, old boughs sprout new young shoots, not just from the end, but along the length of the branches.

The lower boughs of a mature, actively growing tree are often clean, with few side branches. Why don't new branches grow along these open boughs? Trees and shrubs don't want to invest energy to grow leaves in positions that won't receive much sun. So the foliage at the end of each branch produces hormones that inhibit buds further back along the stem. When the terminal foliage is growing actively, the buds along the branch stay suppressed, and no new side branches can grow.

When old branches die and break, less inhibitory hormones are produced. This lets the buds (that were once suppressed) along the remaining bough spring into life, and new secondary branches grow along the once-bare bough. This second wave of regrowth often creates erect, upright branches on the upper side of the older boughs.



The big upright branches in the center of the tree above probably didn't exist when the tree was younger. Instead they formed when the bough they grow on began to die. It takes a long time for a bough to grow wide, to die back, and for another big bough to grow upon it.

As time progresses, these secondary branches may bear another crop of younger branches, when they in turn start to die back. Like a renovated old house, an old tree accumulates successive generations of branches; boughs on boughs, trees in trees.



Step 4: Stand back and admire the handiwork

A woodland tree is the product of its surroundings. To grow a picture-book woodland tree – with a deep wide crown, short fat trunk, and thick low branches – you need space, time, and more time again. Like good Slow Food, the recipe is simple but can't be rushed. You just can't skimp on space nor time.

This article was provided by Dr Ian Lunt, Associate Professor, Charles Sturt University

Click here to learn more about the work of Dr. Ian Lunt

Yabby Traps and Platypus

Opera house-style yabby-nets have a well-deserved reputation for being death traps for platypus, turtles and water-rats (see photo below showing a water-rat that drowned in a trap set illegally in northern Victoria).

People often ask us why this should be so – if animals can easily swim in through the entrance, why can't they find their way out again before drowning?

To answer this question, <u>Australian Platypus Conservancy</u> (<u>APC</u>) biologists have been conducting a series of carefully controlled behavioural trials, using an opera house



trap placed underwater (at a depth of about 40 centimetres) in a natural stream. An adult platypus is introduced by hand into the trap, and the animal's subsequent efforts to escape are filmed using an underwater video recorder. If the animal fails to get out within two minutes (leaving about a 30-second safety margin before it drowns), the trap is immediately raised from the water so the animal can take a deep breath or two before being released back to the wild.

In each of the nine trials carried out to date, the platypus has failed to find its way out in time. Animals first carefully and methodically search for an opening around the bottom perimeter. Having concluded that no exit exists at the bottom, they start searching elsewhere – all around the sides and top of the trap and around the base of each of the two netting funnels connected to entry rings. No animal has ever gotten close to finding an exit because – from the platypus point of view – any escape point should logically be located around the trap's outer perimeter and not inside the trap, where the entry rings are effectively found.

These results suggest that a safer opera house design could potentially be developed by incorporating a circular escape hatch in the trap's roof (as shown left).



Tests of the platypus's ability to escape from opera house traps modified in this manner are currently being completed by <u>APC</u> staff in Victoria and Dr Tom Grant in New South Wales, with funding generously provided by the <u>Taronga Conservation Society</u>.

The <u>APC</u> is also conducting trials to determine how the addition of an escape hatch affects the performance of opera house traps (if at all) with respect to the number and size of yabbies captured. Last but certainly not least, the ability of freshwater turtles to escape from modified opera house traps in a timely manner is currently being investigated as a joint initiative of the <u>Australian Platypus Conservancy</u> and <u>Turtles Australia</u>.

Click here to read more about the Australian Platypus Conservancy's work.

What Citizen Scientists Provide

Unpaid (or volunteer) citizen scientists are collecting important data that can help discover new species and protect endangered ones. Researchers say amateur scientists could revolutionise the field.

Amateur naturalists and other unpaid "citizen scientists" are playing a huge and vital role in the ongoing 'discovery' of Australia and all that it contains.

"Citizen scientists are unrecompensed, unsung and rarely officially acknowledged – yet they are making a genuinely profound contribution to our understanding of Australian wildlife, and the state of our environment," says Professor Hugh Possingham, of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED) and The University of Queensland.

Professional science, especially field-based data collection, is expensive – but tens of thousands of amateur researchers and naturalists are helping to fill the gaps in our knowledge of our own country – and often make discoveries of scientific significance, including new species, he says.



"There are over 10,000 members of Birds Australia, many of whom take part in regular survey work that helps us to understand the state of our bird life," he says.

"The work of citizen scientists can be just as valuable and trustworthy as information gathered by professionals."

In a study carried out in South Australia's Mount Lofty Ranges, Prof. Possingham and Dr Judit Szabo of Charles Darwin University found that bird surveys carried out by professional scientists and by amateur birdwatchers yielded results that were 'surprisingly close'.

Some amateur surveys – like the Queensland Wader Study Group surveys of Moreton Bay - had been running for 20 years or more, providing a remarkable depth of information.

"In the Mt Lofty Ranges, South Australia, only about 10-18 per cent of the original vegetation remains intact, and the area has lost a large part of its original birdlife – so it is vital to know what is happening to the rest," he explains.

In further research by Dr Szabo and Ayesha Tulloch of the University of Queensland, environmental scientists are studying how amateur observers operate, so as to help them deliver more scientifically valuable data.

Join <u>Bowerbird:</u> A website where you can share and discuss biodiversity anywhere in Australia.

Prof. Possingham urges Australian governments, federal and state, to get behind 'citizen scientists', recognise their contribution to the nation's knowledge of itself – and to fund more of their activities, because they represent exceptional value for public money in addition to the sidebenefit of encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

"In Britain the Royal Society for Protection of Birds has over a million members. One Briton in every 60 is involved, in some way, in monitoring Britain's bird life, and there are similar levels of engagement by naturalists in other fields of study.

"Given the vast size of our continent, the many species that remain unknown or undocumented by science, the vast pressures of climate change and development, it is essential we build up in Australia an equal or greater enthusiasm among our citizens for recording our native wildlife."

"Citizen scientists can often spot a disturbing trend – say, species vanishing from a particular area – long before the conservation experts arrive. With all the new smart phones and handheld devices, amateurs can make a major contribution by collecting images, sound and videos using GPS, which could revolutionise this form of study."

Prof. Possingham says Australia should consider developing a national partnership scheme to help fund the activities of suitably skilled groups and citizen scientists.

"This way ordinary Australians can play an even greater role in understanding and looking after the land we love, and its unique fauna and flora."

"Like the coast watchers of World War II, citizen scientists offer us early warning of things that go wrong in our environment and how we are managing it." In the next edition of LFW News, we'll look at how you can contribute your information to various data collection projects. This will include, the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, Bowerbird, The Atlas of Living Australia, and how to get involved with Birdlife Australia's programs.



Recent Publications





The 7th Edition of Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia, By Harold Cogger, is a complete guide to Australia's rich and varied herpetofauna, including frogs, crocodiles, turtles, tortoises, lizards and snakes. For each of the 1194 species there is a description of its appearance, distribution and habits. Each species is accompanied by a distribution map and, in most cases, a colour photograph of the living animal.

This classic work, originally published in 1975, has been completely brought up to date. This seventh edition includes all species described prior to October 2013.

Available from CSIRO Publishing. <u>Click here for more information</u>. Or type the following website address into your internet browser: <u>http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6501.htm</u>

Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia, by Marion Anstis is a stunning, comprehensive, one-of-a-kind reference work on the life histories of Australian frogs. The eggs and tadpoles of Australian frogs has been a study waiting to happen for a very long time. *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia* provides us with a unique, complete coverage of the life histories of Australian frogs.



This book, with hard cover and dust jacket, with over 3060 photos and drawings, includes descriptions of all currently known adult frogs, eggs, tadpoles and metamorphs of most species.

Available from CSIRO Publishing. <u>Click here for more information</u>. Or type the following website address into your internet browser:

http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/7312.htm

Recent Publications



The *Field Guide to Mammals of Australia* is an invaluable companion to *The Mammals of Australia*. With a PVC cover it is intended to be taken out into the field and used in conjunction with the more comprehensive volume. Genuinely practical in the outdoors, the book includes accounts of 389 species and newly developed, comprehensive identification keys.

With the addition of identification keys, this book becomes more than a field guide and allows the user to to identify all mammal species.

Available from CSIRO Publishing. <u>Click here for more information</u>. Or type the following website address into your internet browser: <u>http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/7020.htm</u>

Australasian Nature Photography: ANZANG Tenth Collection presents the finest photographs submitted to the 2013 Australian Geographic ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year competition. Each photograph is accompanied by anecdotes about how the picture was taken, which will stimulate yet further interest in the flora and fauna and their conservation in the region.



In *Australian Nature Photography*, the South Australian Museum and Australian Geographic focus on enhancing a general knowledge of this extraordinary legacy by encouraging photography of the region's nature and wilderness, and promoting an annual competition to find the Australian Geographic ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year. Available from CSIRO Publishing. <u>Click here for more information</u>. Or type the following website address into your internet browser:

http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/7177.htm

LFW Properties For Sale

390 Baxter-Tooradin Road Baxter Vic

The most precious and important area of KATANDRA features approx 2ha of old remnant back bush, classified as "Damp Heathy Woodland" It is one of the very few surviving genuine bush areas of this class in the bioregion. The current owner has carried out an extensive program of indigenous tree planting, revegetation and a wetland to create wildlife corridors. The land enjoys Land for Wildlife status; the Wedge-Tailed Eagle has been observed from the property for the first time in 20 years. A family of sugar glider possums has taken up residence near the main house.

A comfortable brick family home with 3 bedrooms, dining, kitchen/family room, rumpus room, bathroom, en-suite bathroom, study, laundry and separate toilet. Also a workshop/garage of 36 square metres complete with lighting and concrete floor and a free standing insulated and lined rumpus room/office of approximately 45 square metres perfect for business or enterprise. Ideal for Organics and Permaculture Lifestyle.

<u>Click here for more information</u> Or phone: (03) 9008 5953 / 0468 489 333



LFW Properties For Sale

"Sun Valley Eco Farm" 180Acres at 6289 Portland Road Nelson

Owned and operated as Holiday Accommodation since 1998 with an extensive re-vegetation program to recreate the early land ecology so that guests may enjoy native flora and fauna. Thousands of trees have been established and permanent waterholes dug in each swamp for the use of native creatures.

The property includes two swamps, coastal hills, valleys and flats with ocean views from the hilltops and kilometers of walking trails allow guests to experience this wildlife haven, kangaroos, emus, turtles, echidnas, tiny bats etc and beautiful native birds abounding.

Our Website at <u>www.seol.net.au/stanwb</u> is packed with information showing all buildings, photos, ground and floor plans etc including owner's contact details.

We became "LFW" members in August 2002 and are keen to find buyers with a similar outlook.

Phone Marg or Stan on 08 8725-4729 or 0408-25-4729

or email Stan & Marg (email address below) \$570,000.

Website: <u>www.seol.net.au/stanwb</u> Email: <u>stan.wb@bigpond.com</u>



Land for Wildlife Contacts

Land For Wildlife Extension Officers and Contacts are at the following Department of Environment and Primary Industries Offices:

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Resources & Events

Statewide Integrated Flora and Fauna Team (SWIFFT)

<u>SWIFFT</u> aims to maintain and develop knowledge and skills in relation to the protection of threatened species and biodiversity across Victoria.

<u>SWIFFT</u> is open to anyone with an interest in threatened species and communities. You can be part of <u>SWIFFT</u> by reading, contributing, or attending one of the regular video conference events.

Recent Topics included:

Marine Wildlife - The Bonney Upwelling and Blue Whales, Hair Loss in Australian Fur Seals & Leatherback Turtles.

Raptors - Overview of Species, Threats & Conservation.

Reptiles - Research & Conservation, including Striped Legless Lizards & Carpet Python.

How to Participate:

You can attend video conferences held quarterly in DEPI regions around Victoria. Contact your local LFW Extension Officer for your nearest centre to participate. Book early as seating is limited.

Next <u>SWIFFT</u> Theme:

Wildlife and Private land - 31st July 2014

2011 – 2020: The Decade On Biodiversity



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation is everybody's business, we all need to take an interest in the biodiversity around us and help to protect, conserve and improve biodiversity.

<u>Click here</u> to find out more about <u>The Decade on Biodiversity</u>.

Phone the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on the following freecall number if you have any questions relating to natural resources and the environment: **136 186**