

# Red-tail NEWS

## Update: SeRtBC Desert Stringybark ‘Cockies helping cockies helping cockies Project’

The endangered SeRtBC Stringybark Habitat Project has just received funding of \$19,300 through the latest round of Community NRM grants. This money will be used to assist landholders fund on-ground works for fencing and revegetation on 3 targeted private properties in the Lucindale-Naracoorte area ensuring a critical food resource for the Red-tails.

The project continues to engage and work with landholders with the key objectives over the next three months focusing on:

- approaching landholders with priority area for stringybark protection & revegetation;
- developing property management plans and assisting landholders to seek funding for completion of on-ground works;
- developing and funding two demonstration sites for future best management practice;
- supporting and maintaining contact with landholders already engaged in the project;
- mentoring a group of landholders to gain greater knowledge on Red-tails and their protection; and
- repeating a training needs audit.

Many landholders in the Lucindale-Naracoorte area have benefited from funding received to revegetate and protect stringybark on private properties. The past two years have seen extremely favourable conditions for establishing shelter belts/wildlife corridors as shown in the image below at the “Omar” property near Lucindale.

To talk about what can be done on your property or be involved in the mentor group please contact Kerry Gilkes on 08 87660027 or [bullisland@bigpond.com](mailto:bullisland@bigpond.com)

Kerry Gilkes



*This site was planted in August 2010  
photo: Kerry Gilkes*

## Farm Planning Day

The South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team will be teaming up with Kerry Gilkes, local facilitator for the ‘SeRtBC Desert Stringybark Cockies helping cockies helping cockies Project’ in June 2011 to bring to you a farm planning field day event, which will focus on how farmers can incorporate conservation and habitat protection into their farm-property planning using Red-tails as a case study species. Participants will hear from a range of local farm planners and landholders who have successfully achieved a balance between farm productivity and conservation.

We are also planning a short field trip to visit a couple of demonstration sites to show participants what can be achieved as part of this process. More information in relation to this event (i.e. date/venue/time) will be available in May 2011.

If you are interested in learning more or attending this event contact the Project Coordinator on 1800 262 062 or [rtbc@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:rtbc@birdsaustralia.com.au); or Kerry Gilkes on 08 8766 0027 or [bullisland@bigpond.com](mailto:bullisland@bigpond.com).



PO Box 392, Port MacDonnell, SA 5291

# Red-tail NEWS

## Red-tail Reminders

### Report all Red-tail Sightings

The 2011 South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count is fast approaching and as such we are asking everyone to report all sightings of Red-tails, no matter big or small, to the Project Coordinator on freecall 1800 262 062 or via the website [www.redtail.com.au](http://www.redtail.com.au). By reporting all Red-tail sightings we can be very strategic about

where we locate our count volunteers to maximise the number of birds counted on the day. When reporting a sighting, please include: Date and time, Place (CFS/CFA map reference is appreciated), How many birds and a Contact number. If you need more sighting bumper stickers for friends or interested observers please call the Project Coordinator.



*Female Red-tail Black Cockatoo in full flight  
photo: Wayne Bigg*



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# Red-tail NEWS

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## Welcome

Welcome to Edition 31 of Red-tail News for 2011. We focus on the 2011 South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count Saturday 7th May 2011 in this issue. In addition, we have several project updates including the ‘Cockies helping cockies helping cockies Project’, ‘Kalangadoo School SeRtBC Habitat Propagation Project’ and more information on the innovative ‘SeRtBC Nest Incentive Trial Project’ which will be launched in June 2011. You will also be introduced to our newest Recovery Team chairs, Martine Maron and Vicki-Jo Russell.

Many of you will be unaware that I will be heading off on maternity leave as of early May 2011, but will be back on board sometime early next year. We are currently finalising my replacement who will introduce themselves in our next edition of Red-tail News. I hope you all enjoy reading about our wonderful Red-tails and look forward to bringing you all the latest news in 2012.

Cheers,  
*Bronwyn*

## Launch of New Innovative Nest Incentive Trial Project

An innovative Nest Incentive Trial Project to locate new nest sites for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo across the species range in SA and Victoria has been finalised and will be launched in June 2011. Landholders and members of the public will be eligible to receive a ‘one-of’ incentive payment for the identification and location of each ‘**new**’ nest site of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo reported, that is unknown to the Recovery Team. The number of ‘new’ nest sites eligible for reimbursement will be capped at 20 during the 2011/12 breeding season, with possible reimbursement of additional nest sites reported being subject to further funding. All new nest reports will be investigated by either the Project Coordinator or Project Officer to confirm

nesting activity by Red-tails. All recorded known nest sites of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo are confidential and kept in a secure database that will be not be made available to the public.

While we encourage people to report all nesting activity there is to be NO inference or disturbance to nest trees or nesting birds when investigating potential nesting activity. Disturbing birds during nesting may result in the cockatoos abandoning the nest site.

The SeRtBC Recovery Team is currently in the process of finalising promotional material and the terms and guidelines for reimbursement, which will be available to the public in early June 2011 via the Project Coordinator and Red-tail website [www.redtail.com.au](http://www.redtail.com.au). There will be strict conditions in relation to reimbursement and any reimbursement will be at the discretion of the Recovery Team. For more information please contact the Project Coordinator.

*This project is possible as a result of a grant obtained from the Nature Foundation of South Australia.*

Bronwyn Perryman



*‘A female South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo at the entrance of a nest site’. Photo: Bob McPherson*



## 2011 South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count

The 2011 **South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count** will be held on **Saturday 7th May 2011** across the species' range in the South-east of South Australia and South-west Victoria. Volunteers are encouraged to grab their binoculars, jump in their 4WDs and join in the search for the region's most colourful local, the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

Volunteer groups will be allocated one of around sixty sites in stringybark forest which they will cover by vehicle, stopping every 500m to listen for the Red-tail's distinctive call. Participants are encouraged to organise their own search group (i.e. family, friends etc), however there will be several places available for single participants to join in volunteer search groups. The only recommendation is to travel in a 4WD as many of the tracks to be searched are located in sandy soil.

The annual count helps us to determine where the birds are feeding across the range from year to year, and enables us to locate large flocks so that we can conduct our all important annual flock counts, which provide us with an indication of

breeding success. It also promotes awareness of the specialised needs of Red-tails within the local communities.

This year the SeRtBC Recovery Team will be holding an Annual Count training session on Saturday **30th April 2011** in Casterton at the Department for Sustainability and Environment Office along Bahgallah Rd, between 2pm – 4:30pm (VIC TIME) for those who want to learn more about the visual and vocal identification of Red-tails, and what is required on the day. This will include a field-based activity in which participants will go into stringybark forest to search for birds. To attend please register your interest with the Project Coordinator.

We are also organising a social campout at Bailey's Rocks (Dergholm State Park) after the count, and would love for you to join us. Please indicate whether you think you'll be attending the campout when you register for the count.

**Saturday  
7th May  
2011**

The campout is very informal (byo camping gear, food and drinks) and provides a great opportunity to catch up with others.

To register for the 2011 Annual Count please contact me as soon as possible as to secure a site in your preferred area. Once you have registered I will send out an information kit which includes a map, recording sheet, details of what you need to do on the day, Birds Australia Volunteer Registration form to fill in and Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines for volunteers conducting field surveys to ensure your safety. Volunteers not familiar with the Red-tail call will also receive a CD of calls from the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

If you know of anyone who has an interest in birds, conservation or spending time in stringybark woodland, please pass this information on. We are always on the lookout for volunteers, young and old, to participate on the day.

The success of the count relies on sighting information received in the weeks leading up to the count. If you see Red-tails from now on report all sightings to freecall 1800 262 062 or on our website [www.redtail.com.au](http://www.redtail.com.au).

Join in the fun and register for the 2011 Annual Count by contacting Project Coordinator, Bronwyn Perryman on freecall 1800 262 062 or [rtbc@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:rtbc@birdsaustralia.com.au). Although we cannot guarantee you'll see a Red-tail, we know you'll enjoy a fantastic day out in the bush.

Cheers, Bronwyn Perryman

## Introducing our new SeRtBC Recovery Team Chairs: Martine Maron & Vicki-Jo Russell

MARTINE MARON



I am one-half of the new Chairing team for the Recovery Team. Many of you might already have come across me – I have been a member of the Recovery Team since the end of 1999, when I first attended a Recovery Team meeting in anticipation of doing some cockatoo research for my Honours year at university during 2000. I have since learned that once you get involved with these birds and the people of the region who work so hard to conserve them, it is hard to walk away!

I finished that honours project, which looked at what sort of Buloke trees the cockies like (answer: big ones) and then

a PhD (on birds in Buloke woodland, although not specifically Red-tails), and moved to Queensland, but continue to be involved in research and conservation of Red-tails. My current position as a lecturer at The University of Queensland gives me freedom to continue working with the Recovery Team, and I still get to spend a couple of months each year in the region.

One of the reasons I believe the Red-tail is so important is its enormous value as a flagship species. As a beautiful and charismatic but endangered bird, it has raised the profile of the woodland habitat and scattered trees it depends on for survival. The improved protection of these woodlands and the enormous restoration efforts of many individuals and community groups across the region are helping not just the Red-tail, but many other species which share its habitat – such as Diamond Firetails, Bush Stone-curlews, and Brown Treecreepers (you can tell I'm a bit bird-biased).

As part of the new chairing team, I am keen to take the opportunity to collate and review the scientific knowledge that the Recovery Team has amassed during fifteen years of research and volunteer involvement in monitoring of the species.

VICKI-JO RUSSELL



Hi, I am the other half of the new chairing team. I am an inaugural member of the Recovery Team but have taken brief "holidays" from the team's activities over the last 10 years while having my two children - who both, as you would expect have Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo figurines as part of their farm animal sets.

I bring to the co-chair role 20 years experience in the environmental sector with a strong focus on ecological and community health and I am very passionate about lots of "P's" such as policy, program and partnership development, good processes and engaging people. I also have a bird-bias like Martine, but in this role it can only be a good thing.

I have the privilege of sitting on a number of national and South Australian statutory boards and although I am a city chick I have had a long history of involvement in Recovery Teams as the former Threatened Species Network Coordinator for South Australia. I now have a part-time day-job at the South Australian Zoo as a conservation policy and advocacy coordinator and run a small facilitation consultancy.

I remember the first time I saw a large flock of Red-tails, not during an annual

We rely so heavily on community involvement to learn about such a rare and nomadic species, so one of our tasks in the coming year is to see what additional knowledge we can glean from all the records and information we've received from the community over the years.

It's great to be joined by Vicki-Jo Russell in this role, as I think we have very complementary approaches and backgrounds. We do have enormous shoes to fill, considering David Baker-Gabb's stupendous contribution to the Recovery Team and the conservation of the Red-tail over the past fifteen years. I suppose that's why it'll take two of us!

Finally, if you're interested to see a bit about some of the other work I do, my profile is at: <http://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/martine-maron> and slightly more interesting information about the research centre I'm in is at <http://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/lec>.

Thanks to everyone in the Red-tail community for your ongoing support for the south-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo – this is truly a bird whose future depends on it!

Martine Maron

count obviously I have never had any luck on those, but driving around as a tourist in Naracoorte. There is something so dynamic yet ancient about these birds as they filled the sky with their crazy wing beat and guttural calls it made us change our plans at once to follow them for more.

I want to see healthy landscapes supporting happy and healthy people and species conservation is at the heart of this so it is a delight to be able to support the Red-tail Team with its very good ongoing work.

Vicki-Jo Russell AM

## Community Grant for the 'Kalangadoo Primary School SeRtBC Habitat Propagation Project'

The Kalangadoo Primary School SeRtBC Habitat Propagation Project has received a much needed boost from funds obtained through the 2010-11 round of the South Australian NRM Community Grants Program. A total of \$5,150 was received to go towards the project for the purchase of materials for the construction/repair of the Kalangadoo Primary School shade-house, purchase of propagation materials, tree guards and stakes, and travel costs to sites selected for revegetation.

The project has a key focus on the engagement of local Kalangadoo Primary School students to propagate and replant key food and nest tree species of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo at three locations across the bird's range in the South East of South Australia. Last year students

from all year levels participated in a field trip to Reedy Lagoon (a site targeted for re-vegetation) and the collection and planting of local native seed into seedling trays. These were maintained by Peter Feast over the school holidays, with many of the seeds germinating successfully over the summer period.

On the 23rd February 2011, all year levels (approx. 35 students ranging from reception to year 7 and four teachers) participated in the removal and transfer of juvenile seedlings grown to tubes. The students enjoyed their afternoon and did a fantastic job to transfer almost 600 seedlings to tubes during the session. Great effort kids! The tubes were then placed in the school's temporary shade-house (soon to receive a much needed makeover) and will continue to be cared for

and monitored by the students until planting in autumn/winter.

For more information on this project or if you are interested in becoming involved or adopting some of the school's seedlings for revegetation on your property please contact the Project Coordinator.

Bronwyn Perryman



Kalangadoo Primary School Students hard at work transferring seedlings, grown from seed, to tubes as part of the 'Kalangadoo Primary School SeRtBC Habitat Propagation Project'. photo: Graham Slarks



Bronwyn Perryman assisting one of the students to transfer a seedling, grown from seed, to a tube as part of the 'Kalangadoo Primary School SeRtBC Habitat Propagation Project'. photo: Graham Slarks