

# Red-tail NEWS

## Waving the Red-tail flag protecting far more than just a bird

A flagship species is an iconic species selected to act as an ambassador or symbol to highlight an environmental cause or issue that affects a defined habitat. With a range of 18,000km<sup>2</sup>, the Red-tail truly deserves this status as it takes in areas of south west Victoria and south east South Australia that have been extensively cleared in the past. The remnant stands of buloke and red gum woodland, stringybark forest and scattered trees on farms are critical, not just for the survival of Red-tails, but also to a number of other species including the Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot and the Heath Mouse. But being a highly visible species, any significant variations to the Red-tail population are more immediately obvious and alert us to issues affecting these vital vegetation habitats.

The project recovery team then, by focusing its conservation activity around the Red-tail, is truly working at a landscape-scale and consequently our efforts make a difference for every living thing in that range.

We know that protecting habitat via on-ground works is one of the most effective tasks for achieving best-practice landscape-wide outcomes. The team is directly involved in projects to plant and protect buloke and stringybark trees on properties throughout the area. Among others these include:

- A partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, which saw 25,000 buloke, stringybark and associated species seedlings planted

last year, and will see a further 25,000 seedlings planted this year.

- One of the regions most successful on-farm habitat restoration projects in the Lucindale area. Red-tail Recovery Team member Kerry Gilkes (employed by Zoos SA) has worked with 45 properties to date, resulting in the planting of 6,200 stringybark seedlings and associated species, and direct seeding over a total of 80 hectares. In addition, over 170 hectares of habitat has been fenced off to protect existing remnant areas of stringybark on these properties.

The research that underpins our efforts also drives government decision-making and policy for the region. This has a positive flow-on effect for many types of flora and fauna. Nesting hollows are of critical importance to the Red-tail and the team works actively to protect such trees. Due to the Recovery Team's expert advice, local councils in the Red-tail's range now protect dead trees as nesting sites and government agencies take such sites into account when planning fuel reduction burns. Incredibly, our research work and the involvement of post-graduate students in it has resulted in a number of other doctoral studies including, the effect of fire on stringybark seed production, buloke woodlands, reptiles, mammals, flora and frogs in stringybark woodlands. This has greatly increased our knowledge

about this region and its environmental health.

We provide education resources to other agencies and directly involve the community in environment activities. We produce pamphlets, posters, a newsletter, a website and various other promotional tools to increase community awareness of regional environmental needs. We conduct the annual count involving over

150 volunteers and we run a 1800 phone line for the community to report sightings. We talk to NRM managers, schools, Landcare groups, other agencies and farmers about how to protect and improve Red-tail habitat.

**to secure the funding needed for essential on-ground activities is an ongoing task that requires dedication and perseverance.**

The information gathered through our research is freely available. It forms the basis of the resources and tools we use to educate the wider community and increase awareness about the Red-tail and its habitat. It also assists the conservation efforts of various other stakeholders in the area such as, Trust for Nature, Zoos SA, Habitat 141, Conservation Volunteers Australia, mecu Ltd, Conservation Foundation (SA), and the Kowree Tree Group.

Although Birds Australia manages the Recovery project, the flagship status of the Red-tail is used by many organisations to achieve a number of goals. Protecting this iconic bird helps plants and animals of all shapes and sizes, as well as communities.



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# Red-tail NEWS

## Falling Short

Anyone working in conservation knows that to secure the funding needed for essential on-ground activities is an ongoing task that requires dedication and perseverance. The Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery project team has worked hard to generate good levels of support for Red-tails and is particularly grateful for the funding received from the Glenelg Hopkins and Wimmera Catchment Management Authorities. This year however, while we will continue to receive funding from the Glenelg Hopkins and Wimmera CMAs, there is no dedicated funding for Red-tail recovery activities committed at this stage from South Australia.. This leaves us with a big gap to fill.

Rest assured we're working hard to find the money needed so that we can implement the full range of activities to protect and

preserve this iconic flagship species. We also have some new initiatives that we would like to trial, the funding of which will enable us to more accurately assess Red-tail numbers on private property. Currently we are talking with a group of people that have shown some interest in supporting the project but we can always do with more help.

If you would like to help, or know of any organisations that would like to support our work for the Red-tails, please let us know by contacting Tim Burnard, rtbc@birdsaustralia.com.au or 1800 262 062.



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## New online publications

Take a look at some of the recent publications on our website: "Guidelines to growing buloke" describes how to get this hard to grow plant going and "10 amazing things about Red-tails" has a fascinating look at the curious behaviour of Red-tails and other little known facts. <http://www.redtail.com.au/media/fact-sheets.html>



# Red-tail NEWS

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## Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of Red-tail News.

I'm filling in for Bronwyn Perryman while she is on maternity leave. On 2nd June Bron had a baby boy weighing in at 8lb 4 oz (in her words "a real porker"). Bron and new son Chase are fit and well.

Some people may recall that I've been involved with Red-tails a couple of times

before. It's great to be back in the chair for a few months and I'm really enjoying catching up with so many people from the 'old days'.

*Tim Burnard*



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*Volunteers planting trees near Edenhope*

## CVA Partnership

Last year Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) announced that Red-tails would be included in their 'Wild Futures' program with funding for volunteers to revegetate Red-tail habitat over three years.

CVA's Jonathon Lees said that by August this year, CVA will have planted 25,000 seedlings within the range of the Red-tail. Many of the seedlings are important Red-tail food trees (stringybark and buloke) along with a mix of other local species to attempt to return the habitat to its original condition. Trees were planted at Edenhope

(6000), Casterton (3000), Dartmoor (6000) and Mt Richmond (10,000). There is also a planned weed control project coming up near Naracoorte.

CVA have committed to continue Red-tail habitat improvement works for 2011-2012 financial year with 10 weeks work already confirmed for the Lower Glenelg National Park.

Contact Jonathan Lees if you have ideas for any future improvement works at [jlee@cva.org.au](mailto:jlee@cva.org.au) or 03 5551 3331.

