

Red-tail NEWS



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Thanks

Thanks to everyone that has sent in Red-tail sightings. It's particularly good to have a picture of the birds' whereabouts in the weeks leading up to the annual count. We're seeing birds across the range with 46 sighted in the Clear Lake area, 8 east of Keith, 40 near Lucindale in the west of the range and several sightings from Lower Glenelg National Park. 100+ birds are regularly seen in the Chetwynd area. Several sightings have also been received from the Naracoorte area.

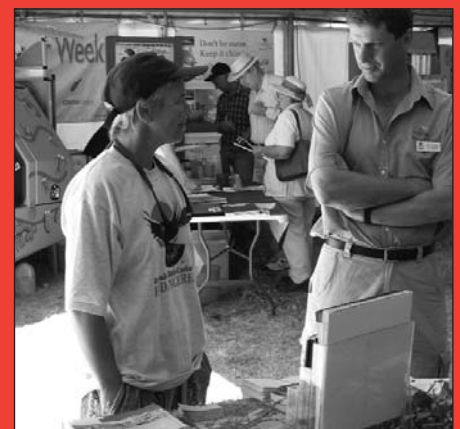
This is definitely a promotional edition of Red Tail News. Despite Karak's relatively low profile throughout the Commonwealth Games, we can report on a number of on-ground initiatives that have developed as a result of the Red-tails selection as Mascot for the Games. The United through the Games – Integrated Units CD-Rom produced by Deakin University and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority has been well received by primary school teachers. The environment units targeted year 3 and 4 students. It was great

to receive the following email from Tracey-Ann Hooley, Senior Visitor Programs Officer at the Melbourne Museum. The museum is running a school holiday activity during the Commonwealth Games, which features the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

"Just wanted to let you know that we've been really busy at the museum – there have been about 200 children doing our RTBC activities every day and I think it's going to get busier this week. We've been really impressed by the number of children who already know lots of things about RTBCs, how enthusiastic they are about the topic and how consistent the messaging seems to have been. I'd say about 80% of children at our activity area know that Karak is a RTBC, and the majority of them have been telling us that it is endangered, that there are less than 1000 left and that the birds don't have enough food trees. Lots of them also know about stringybarks and buloke as the food sources and most have been saying that it is a very special bird. Without a doubt the project to get the RTBC story into schools has been a great success."

South East Field Days

Once again the Recovery Team has had a display at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days and Lucindale Field Days. The interest from landholders and people generally makes these field days really rewarding. It is great to catch up and find out what Red-tails and other critters have been up to in your area. Wimmera CMA joined us at the Lucindale Field Days to promote the launch of Habitat Tender. Many thanks to Evan Roberts for volunteering to help out at the stand.



Louise Shepherd chats to Jon Starks at the Wimmera Machinery Field Day. Louise, based in Natimuk is funded through a Wilderness Society grant to work one day per week to build on community interest in conservation of the Red-tail generated by the Commonwealth Games mascot. More in the next newsletter.

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Habitat Tender launch

On March 6th habitat Tender was launched in Casterton by Hon David Hawker MP. Landholders across the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo range who are interested in protecting and improving habitat for the bird on their properties now have a new opportunity to tender for this work. The Federal Government has provided \$1.3m to fund this project across south-east South Australia and south-west Victoria. The project will be administered by the Wimmera CMA while the South East Natural Resource Management Board and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority are key partners. I've included some of the promotional material circulated by Wimmera CMA below. Whether you have scattered paddock trees or relatively intact vegetation it is worth considering Habitat Tender.

Why use a tender system?

Many landholders already provide ecosystems services such as wildlife habitat. Typically these services are provided at no charge, and regulations that restrict preferred management practices can have an economic cost to the landholder. In effect, landholders provide habitat for the benefit of species that are a community responsibility but they are not being paid to manage or enhance it.

Habitat Tender has been designed to address this issue, landholders now have the opportunity to manage and improve existing areas of native vegetation at a price that suits them.

How the project works

Landholders who register an expression of interest will receive an information kit and a visit from a field officer who will assess the landholder's eligible site(s) and together develop a management plan that outlines activities the landholder will need to undertake such as site preparation, fencing, grazing control, pest management and maintenance.

Landholder sets the price

Unlike traditional grant schemes the landholder calculates the price they want to receive to carry out the activities in the management plan, this price is entirely at the landholders discretion and could include the full cost of materials and labour, and the 'opportunity cost' (the cost of income foregone) of excluding grazing or other legal uses.

New market for landholders

Landholders that have existing stands of native trees and or patches of remnant vegetation could consider these areas marginal in production terms. This project offers eligible landholders the opportunity to receive an economic return from these areas by using them to supply habitat services

Interested landholders
must register an
'expression of interest'
before mid April

☎ 1800 503 504

The fine print

Registering interest does not commit you to the project and you are under no obligation to participate. You are free to withdraw from the project at any time prior to signing a management agreement and receiving the first payment. This is not a land retirement project, landholders only commit to a 5 year agreement. This project is about achieving the best value outcomes for the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Buloke woodlands.



HabitatTender

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo & Buloke Woodland



Wayne Bigg (Mt Gambier) has sent in some brilliant snaps of Red-tails he photographed at Wandilo Forest reserve. Visit the photo gallery on www.redtail.com.au to view.

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Karak Number Plates

Funds raised from the sale of the first 549 special edition Commonwealth Games 'Karak' number plates were recently donated to three environment groups.

Environment Minister John Thwaites and Commonwealth Games Minister Justin Madden handed over \$117,000 to the Australian Bush Heritage Fund, Trust for Nature and Birds Australia to help save the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. The government is aiming to sell about 1000 number plates – about the same figure as the number of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos left in Victoria.

Australian Bush Heritage Fund will use the money to support the recovery team to find new nest sites and rehabilitate existing habitat. Birds Australia will direct it's funding to the Kowree Farm Tree Group, which is coordinating a buloke enhancement/revegetation project in the West Wimmera. Funds donated to Trust for Nature from the sale of the number plates will help the Trust continue its focus of working with private land owners including those whose properties feature habitat for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

You can still place an order for the limited edition Commonwealth Games Karak number plates – they sell for \$285 a pair. Go to www.dse.vic.gov.au or phone the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



Phillip Toyne – Australian Bush Heritage Fund (left), Mike Gooley – Trust for Nature and Graeme Hamilton – CEO Birds Australia accepting their cheques from Ministers Madden and Thwaites at Parliament House in February.

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Prints available

David Edwards Framing recently approached me regarding Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo prints available for purchase. 600 newsletters have had the print inserted – unfortunately I couldn't provide everyone with a sample. The small enclosed photos don't really do justice to the detail captured in the original artwork and prints. David Edwards has generously offered to donate \$50 from each sale to the recovery effort. This is a Limited Edition Print, individually numbered to record it's status as one of only 200 copies and signed by artist Leighton Edwards. David asks that you bring in the enclosed photo or if you didn't receive one bring along your newsletter when you purchase the print. These are quality prints, beautifully framed to enhance the image and available at \$495 complete. The print is of superior lightfastness and extremely high archivability.

For more information please contact:
David Edwards Framing,
52 Brown Street,
Hamilton, Vic. 3300
☎ 03 5571 1852

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Action Group æ a new voice for Red-tails' habitat protection

The Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Action Group was formed in 2004 to raise awareness of the plight of the South Eastern RtBC. The group promoted the continuing loss of buloke feeding habitat at the recent Sustainable Living Festival held at Melbourne's Federation Square on 17, 18 & 19 February.

Helen Larkin, Convenor of the RtBC Action Group said over 600 proforma letters were signed at the Festival and delivered to John Thwaites, Minister for Environment on Friday 24 February 2006. Additional proforma letters are being progressively signed and sent to the Minister.

The letter, with a space for name, address and signature was part of a promotional brochure prepared by the Action Group.

Helen, her husband Bill, and Action Group members used the brochure to explain to visitors that while the Commonwealth Games Mascot Karak is receiving media time, feeding habitat of the magnificent RtBC continues to be cleared.

The RtBC is a 'flagship' for a suite of plants, birds and fauna that also depend on the threatened buloke woodland of the Wimmera in South-west Victoria.

Additional copies of the RtBC Action Group brochure are available from Helen at:
redtailedcockatoo@gmail.com or
from 62 Morna Road, Doncaster East 3109.

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Natural
Heritage
Trust
*Helping Communities
Helping Australia*
An Australian Government Initiative


Birds Australia

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Action Statement released

The Department of Sustainability and Environment recently finalised the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Action Statement. The action statement can be viewed on the DSE website, www.dse.vic.gov.au Type in the keyword "action statement".

Red Gum for Red-tails?

Back in February while collecting time feeding data for birds in buloke Richard watched the 2 birds below sample some red gum seed. While a flock of 14 landed in the tree, 4 fed briefly but the 2 snapped below persisted for about 10 minutes. The seed appeared to be immature. If you see any interesting or unusual behaviour among Red-tails please phone in on the 1800 number or email us.



Annual Count 2006

The annual count is just around the corner. Thanks to everyone that has responded. Sending out packages is the next item of my list of things to do so you should receive your map and record sheet in the fortnight leading up to the count. We're looking forward to meeting those that can make it to Bailey's Rocks in the evening.

New Design

Many thanks to Sharyn Hansen and the team at Hansen Print. They do an exceptional job every time our newsletter or brochures go to print. This time Sharyn has surpassed herself and has redesigned the newsletter - it's a very modern look. Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions.

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