

# Mt Rothwell Landcare Volunteers (MRLV)

## Newsletter



VOLUME: 2

DATE: OCTOBER 2024



### Upcoming Events

#### Creatures of the Night Spotlight Tours

- Saturday 30 November  
8.30 pm
- Saturday 28 December  
9.00pm



### Celebrates 100!

(Meetings)

At our August MRLV Committee Meeting, we celebrated our milestone 100th gathering.

The very first meeting took place on 20th February 2014, with some of the original attendees present at the 100th Meeting!

It was fitting for one of the initial Committee members Neil, to have the honor of cutting the cake.



### A Day in the Life.....Animal Pest Management

Bookings [Click Here](#)

Next MRLV Committee  
Meeting

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(Left)

The crew working in Zone 1 (Woodlands).  
An area comprising of 170Ha, where an offset  
report was due.



(Right)

The canine conservation dogs identifying  
where the bunnies are.



(Left)

Then the system is  
dug out and the pest  
species is removed.

(Right)

It is important that the  
hole is then filled.

This minimises the  
footprint as much as  
possible, to allow the  
native vegetation to  
recover.

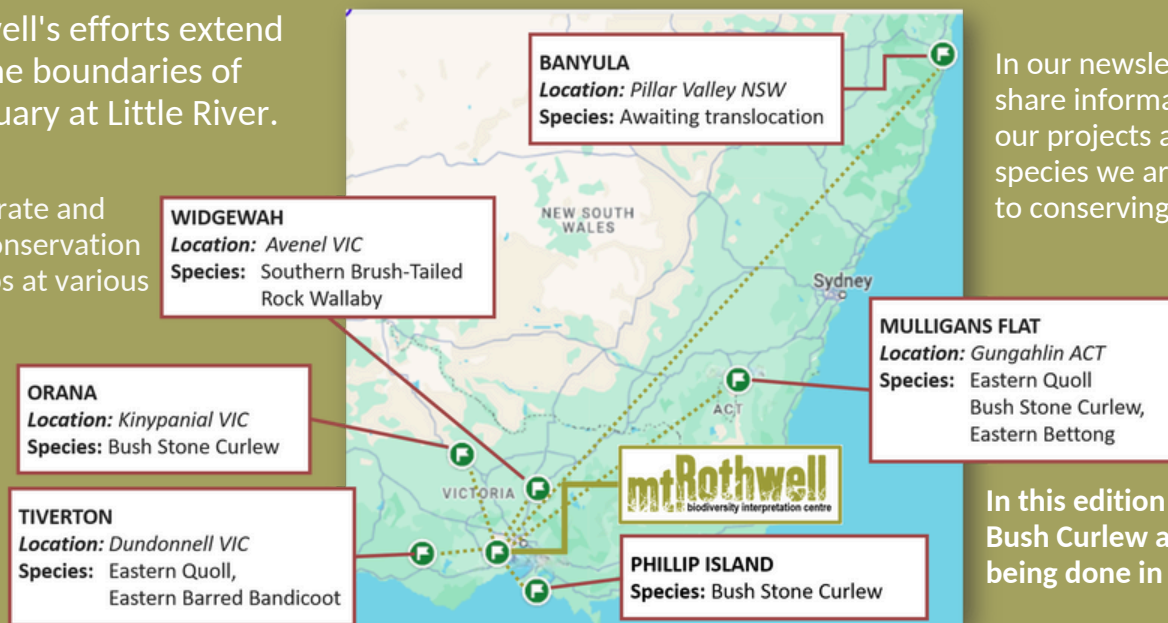






Mt Rothwell's efforts extend beyond the boundaries of the Sanctuary at Little River.

We collaborate and maintain conservation partnerships at various sites.



In our newsletters, we will share information about our projects and the species we are dedicated to conserving in Australia.

In this edition it's the Stone Bush Curlew and the work being done in Phillip Island.



## Stone Bush Curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Odonata staff member **Damian Jones** shares the following insight.

Recently I visited Phillip Island as part of my university course. While getting a coffee, I noticed a picture of a Bush Stone-Curlew on the front of a free local paper. Then, I noticed the caption explaining that Mt Rothwell was supplying these Curlews to be reintroduced to Phillip Island this August!

Some of Mt Rothwell's babies had grown up, were travelling, and had made it into the newspapers!

Phillip Island Nature Parks is collaborating with Odonata Foundation and Australian National University to improve the long-term future of the Curlew in south-eastern Australia.

The initial study involves 12 Curlews fitted with GPS backpacks. If successful, another 60 Curlews will be released over the next 3 years.

This is only possible because Phillip Island is a fox-free ecosystem, the largest island in the world to have had foxes eradicated. It is also home to a healthy population of Eastern Barred Bandicoots and many other species that can only exist in the absence of foxes.

Read the full article [here](#).

Further information on the work being done for the Stone Bush Curlew on Phillip Island is available via the **Phillip Island Nature Park's** page:

<https://www.penguins.org.au/conservation/education/nature-notes/bush-stone-curlew/>

## Meanwhile, closer to home.....

July to January is Curlew breeding season. As a mainly ground dweller, Curlews will lay their eggs in small scrapes on the ground.

So it is tread lightly and carefully around the Sanctuary. We have already discovered the first of hopefully many more eggs (right).







An article penned by **Michael Smith**, a member of the MRLV Committee, has been featured in **The Westsider** newspaper recently.

Michael provides an overview of some of the activities here at Mt Rothwell.

[Click here](#) to read Michael's article.

## It's not just the animals.....



### **Spiny Rice Flower** *Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens*

The Spiny Rice Flower is a critically endangered flora species that is indigenous to the Victorian Volcanic Plains grasslands. Mt Rothwell's plan is to encourage the growth of native wildflowers and grasses.

At Mt Rothwell there are 27 individual plants.

A fence was erected to provide protection and to allow the plants to thicken up within the fence and to keep our Bettongs and Bandicoots out.

Over the years the old fence was starting to fall apart with many rusted holes through it. With the help of the amazing MRLV volunteers a brand new shiny fence has been installed. Photos below.



### **Did you know.....**

The germination of the Spiny Rice flower at Mt Rothwell occurred due to a car crashing through the fence and then catching alight.

It is believed that the burning car initiated the seed to come out of dormancy and grow.

### **And....**

Pimeleas can live up to 100 years and can have a root system up to 1.5 metres long!



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LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEERS INC.

**VOLUNTEER**

*In Focus with...*

**Di**

**How long have you been volunteering at Mt Rothwell?** Since 2000 - 24 Years

**Do you have a favorite species at Mt Rothwell?** The Bettongs

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I volunteer at the Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve, I also like gardening, growing veggies, spending time with my cats and chooks and love anything to do with books and coffee.

**What's your favorite thing to do at Mt Rothwell?** It doesn't matter what you do because you learn something everyday from plants to fencing.

**Do you have a soft spot for any animal in particular at Mt Rothwell?** The baby brush-tail rock wallabies especially when they have a little piece of pumpkin in their hands eating.

**Tell us something interesting about you?** I get along well with Steve because we both don't throw anything out and I'm a biochemist by trade.

**CONSIDERING A CAREER OR VOLUNTEERING IN CONSERVATION?** Here is a course that may assist you on your journey.

[Agricultural Chemical Skill Set \(Course code AHCSS00074\)](#)

The skill set will give you a mix of hands-on training and theory in chemical use, storage and handling. You'll learn to safely transport, store, prepare and apply chemicals to control pests, weeds and disease.

Click on the course title for further information including training locations and fees.