



## EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



# jarrahmond plant corridors

## BIODIVERSITY

**A desire to see the return of native birds to farmland near Orbest prompted an ambitious project which aims to reconnect biodiversity-rich areas isolated by land clearing.**

contact: Penny Gray

email: [penny.gray@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:penny.gray@dpi.vic.gov.au)



For close to 20 years members of the Jarrahmond Landcare Group have worked slowly and steadily to protect and improve native vegetation on the river flats bordering the Snowy River. By fencing out livestock and restoring native plants, vital wildlife habitat has been conserved. These habitats support threatened birds such as the Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl as well as endangered animals like the Long-footed Potoroo and the solitary Spot-tailed Quoll.

A few years ago the group developed a plan to reconnect these restored and native remnant areas and to create a native plant corridor between the Yalmy State Forest and the Snowy River. It became known locally as the 'Linkages project'.

Various sources of funding has not only supported the planting of trees, fencing materials and some off-stream watering infrastructure it has also been used to take aerial photos of the group's 4,800 hectare region to help prioritise replanting activities and measure the group's progress over time.

More recently Jarrahmond Landcare group members decided to monitor birds in the area to ascertain if their environmental works were seeing a return of different bird species. Community members were invited to contribute to a bird species list for the area. The group decided to put together a brochure on Birds of the area. They sourced over 120 photos, all donated by people from Gippsland which is a huge achievement. The 'Birds of Jarrahmond' bird identification brochure is a credit to the volunteers who pulled it together.

The Landcare group also formed a partnership with the Orbost Mens Shed who are making boxes specifically tailored for use by Barn Owls. The boxes will soon be seen scattered across the Snowy River flats in an attempt to encourage the birds to nest in the area. Anecdotally these birds are known to visit the area but have not been recorded as breeding in the area.

The Group deservedly won the Victorian Protection of the Environment Award at the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards in 2009.

