



PHILLIP ISLAND (MILLOWL) AN ISLAND HAVEN FOR THREATENED SPECIES

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

ANNUAL UPDATE 2024

penguins.org.au

We acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work, and learn. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise their role in caring for Country over thousands of years. We also acknowledge their continuous connection to the land, water, sea, and sky on Millowl.



Creating a lasting legacy for our threatened species

Our efforts over the past year have centred on maintaining the fox-free status of Phillip Island (Millowl), a cornerstone of our conservation achievements. In parallel, we have intensified measures to control feral cats, which continue to pose a significant threat to native wildlife despite utilising all available tools in Victoria. This update highlights the passion, dedication, and breadth of projects undertaken by our team and the community to protect threatened species and contribute significantly to the nation's threatened species targets.

We are thrilled to share some incredible conservation milestones that have been achieved on Phillip Island (Millowl), marking a year of extraordinary progress in safeguarding threatened species and restoring biodiversity.

Among these achievements, the reintroduction of 12 Critically Endangered bush stone-curlews stands out as a historic milestone. With the species absent from the island since the 1970s, this remarkable effort was made possible through collaboration with Odonata Foundation, the Australian National University, and the Penguin Foundation. Witnessing their return to the wild was an emotional and inspiring experience, highlighting the transformative power of teamwork and dedication.

Additionally, this year has been a monumental year for the Critically Endangered fairy terns at Observation Point, a designated Ramsar site. Following years of unsuccessful nesting attempts, we refocused our efforts on habitat restoration and rabbit control, which proved to be environmentally transformative. Over

100 individuals returned to the site in 2024, displaying strong breeding behaviours. Targeted measures, including the removal of 5.2 hectares of invasive marram grass and sea spurge in collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's Strong Country Team, have significantly improved nesting conditions. This season, 136 eggs across 69 nests were recorded, along with the successful hatching of chicks, a promising outcome that reflects the effectiveness of these biodiversity measures.

The strength of community connection is integral to the success of our programs. This year, two impactful community campaigns took centre stage in our threatened species programs: the 'Sharing our Shores' campaign to protect nesting shorebirds and the 'Keep It Wild' revegetation projects for bandicoots, held in celebration of National Threatened Species Day. These initiatives inspired positive community action and fostered direct involvement, strengthening



Jessica McKelson assisting with the bush stone-curlew translocation.

support for our signature conservation programs and driving meaningful progress for wildlife protection. Furthermore, the contribution of 10,977 hours of assistance from student intern placements, volunteers and community groups have supported our threatened species targets. Together, these efforts demonstrate what can be achieved when we come together for a shared thriving and biodiverse future. We thank all our supporters who contribute and enable success in our commitments.

JESSICA MCKELSON
General Manager Conservation
Phillip Island Nature Parks



Fairy terns nesting.



A Strong Country ranger installing a camera for monitoring.

Threatened fauna

A season of growth and resilience. Fairy tern conservation success for Phillip Island (Mollw).

The first season sightings of the fairy terns were in early November along the Phillip Island Ramsar coast at Observation Point, where 25 individuals were roosting by the water's edge, showing early signs of courting and prospecting the site.

Early-stage management was deployed in the form of signage and rope fences to reduce the impact of disturbance while the birds began to establish nest sites.

The number of fairy terns at the site gradually increased to over 100 as they continued to recruit more individuals. Increased courting behaviour, mating and aerial displays were recorded as well as bringing fish back to the dunes.

Mid-December brought exciting news, with the first confirmation of eggs for the season. There were two confirmed nesting sites within the colony, one on the

edge of the dunes and the other on the nearby open sandy spit, which was the unsuccessful breeding site for the 2023-24 season.

Due to high tides, this season, eight eggs across six nests were washed away on the sandy spit nesting site. The dune nesting site continues to grow, recording 78 eggs over 40 nests, including one unusual nest with four eggs. In total, 136 eggs across 69 nests were recorded this season.

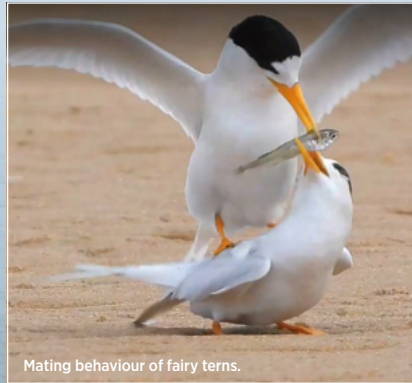
With great anticipation, the Nature Parks is thrilled to report the fledging of at least 65 fairy terns, a testament to the collaborative efforts of everyone involved.

This conservation project is supported by the Nature Fund of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and the Penguin Foundation.

A TEAM EFFORT

In collaboration, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Strong Country team and the Nature Parks staff have completed the following on-ground works over the past 12 months:

- 31 days of habitat, weed control and monitoring.
- A fairy tern monitoring induction hosted by Birdlife Australia.
- 5.2 hectares of weed control of marram grass and sea spurge conducted over 131 hours.
- Installation of 30 x 4G cat monitoring cameras.
- Three cats removed from the site in response to camera sightings.
- Rabbit management to reduce impacts on the spinifex grass along the sand dunes.



Mating behaviour of fairy terns.



Fairy tern chick.



PARTNERS



Energy, Environment and Climate Action

COLLABORATORS



Birdlife Australia, the Nature Parks and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Strong Country team undertaking monitoring.

Releasing the bush stone-curlew

FORGING A FUTURE TOGETHER

In a monumental effort for conservation, the first groups of bush stone-curlews from Mt Rothwell's sanctuary were successfully released on Phillip Island (Millow) in August 2024, marking the commencement of a landmark study in collaboration between the Nature Parks, Odonata Foundation and the Australian National University. The long-term goal is to improve the viability of the Critically Endangered bush stone-curlew in south-eastern Australia.



Bush stone-curlews on their way to their new home on Phillip Island.

Before being translocated and released, the birds were checked for body condition, assessed for anti-predator behaviour and fitted with a unique leg flag and highly sophisticated custom GPS backpack to allow researchers to track and monitor their habitat use and movements after release. A total of 12 'founder' birds were released.

Much consideration was given to the initial release sites, such as suitable habitat requirements, including canopy cover, as well as a mix of ground cover and fallen timber to provide cover but also allow birds to see potential predators approaching. Other considerations were adequate food availability, existing predator control, separation from roads and accessibility for the Research team.

In November 2024, health checks were conducted, including measuring body weight and condition, presence of external parasites, a visual assessment of general health, and a check of the leg bands and GPS devices. The birds have settled into two different zones around Oswin Roberts and Koala Conservation Reserve.



Shoshana Rapley, PhD candidate, Australian National University, weighs a curlew prior to translocation.

A research study to test and evaluate the reintroduction strategies is being undertaken by a PhD Candidate Paula Wasiak, through the Species Coexistence Lab at the Australian National University.

The research will assess the trial and refine the tactics for future releases over a three-year period. The progress of the birds will be assessed by their survival rates, habitat use, movement patterns and reproductive success. The ongoing monitoring is also supported by two internship students from Deakin University, providing positive outcomes for both the Nature Parks and the students.



GPS backpack being fitted onto a curlew.

'As a university intern I learned so many new skills and had some unique and invaluable experiences on Phillip Island. Seeing the hard work and dedication to conservation from everyone across the organisation was inspiring. I'm grateful to be a part of what I'm sure will be a successful reintroduction of bush stone-curlews'

Aimee Patching, Deakin University Intern

CURLEW CUSTODIANS

The Curlew Custodian volunteers continue to help our team provide activities for the captive bush stone-curlews, including daily feeding, recording behavioural observations, and providing vital support for this priority threatened species.

Following the successful release of birds to the wild in August, the volunteers have provided valuable assistance with the regular health checks and in supporting the Conservation team to monitor the birds. They have dedicated 361 volunteer hours in 2024 to caring for the bush stone-curlews. We gratefully acknowledge the commitment and support from this team.

PARTNERS



Two birds from the first release.

Observation Point

CRITICAL RAMSAR HABITAT WITHIN WESTERN PORT FOR THREATENED SPECIES

Western Port is an internationally significant Ramsar site, providing crucial habitat for numerous resident and migratory shorebirds.

Within this network, Observation Point and Rhyll Inlet, situated on the northern coast of Phillip Island (Millowl), serve as vital areas for high-tide roosting and foraging. These areas support a diverse array of species, including the Critically Endangered Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), Critically Endangered curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Endangered bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), and Endangered common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

The Nature Parks, in collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, conducts regular seasonal surveys to monitor shorebird populations at Observation Point. These efforts are enhanced by the use of remote cameras, conservation dogs, surveys and compliance patrols. Such measures are integral to mitigating threats posed by invasive weeds, introduced predators and human disturbance.

Quarterly coastal bird surveys on Phillip Island (Millowl) document key species such as the Eastern curlew and bar-tailed godwit at Observation Point. These surveys provide critical data on habitat use and population trends; however, the numbers observed at the site can vary significantly year-to-

year as shown in Figure 1 and 2. This variability is influenced by factors such as:

- Shorebirds utilising multiple roosting sites across the broader Western Port region.
- Changes in food availability and weather conditions.
- Global disturbances at other roosting or foraging sites.

These findings underscore the interconnected nature of habitats within the Western Port Ramsar network and highlight the importance of maintaining Observation Point as a secure and thriving environment for these threatened species.

'Western Port, listed by both UNESCO and Ramsar, is a globally significant area for biodiversity conservation. As a vital part of the Ramsar wetland network, it provides critical habitat for numerous threatened species, including the Eastern curlew and curlew sandpiper. The value of this region is amplified through the power of partnerships, such as our ongoing collaboration with the Nature Parks. These partnerships are essential in advancing our shared goals of habitat protection, research, and sustainable development. Together, we are committed to safeguarding these critical areas, ensuring they remain secure and thriving environments for migratory and resident species. Our collective efforts are not only vital for the health of Western Port's ecosystems but also for the long-term resilience of its threatened species.'



Curlew sandpipers wading for food.

Western Port Biosphere Foundation



Eastern curlew feeding on the shoreline.

Figure 1: Eastern curlew counts (February) at Observation Point 2009–2024.

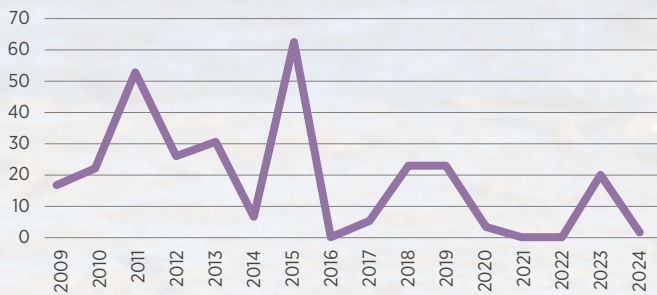
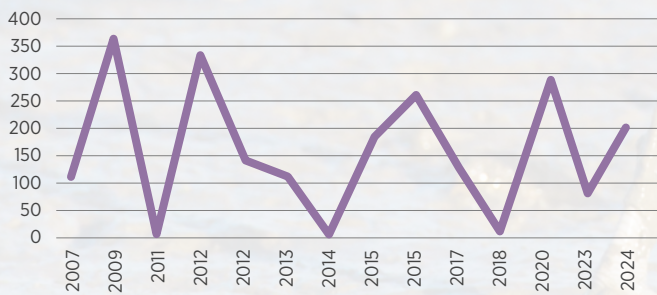


Figure 2: Bar-tailed godwit counts (February) at Observation Point 2007–2024.



The Nature Parks partners with the Western Port Biosphere Foundation on projects such as the Western Port Ramsar Awareness Project by providing research-led advice to promote sustainable development and conservation.

PARTNER

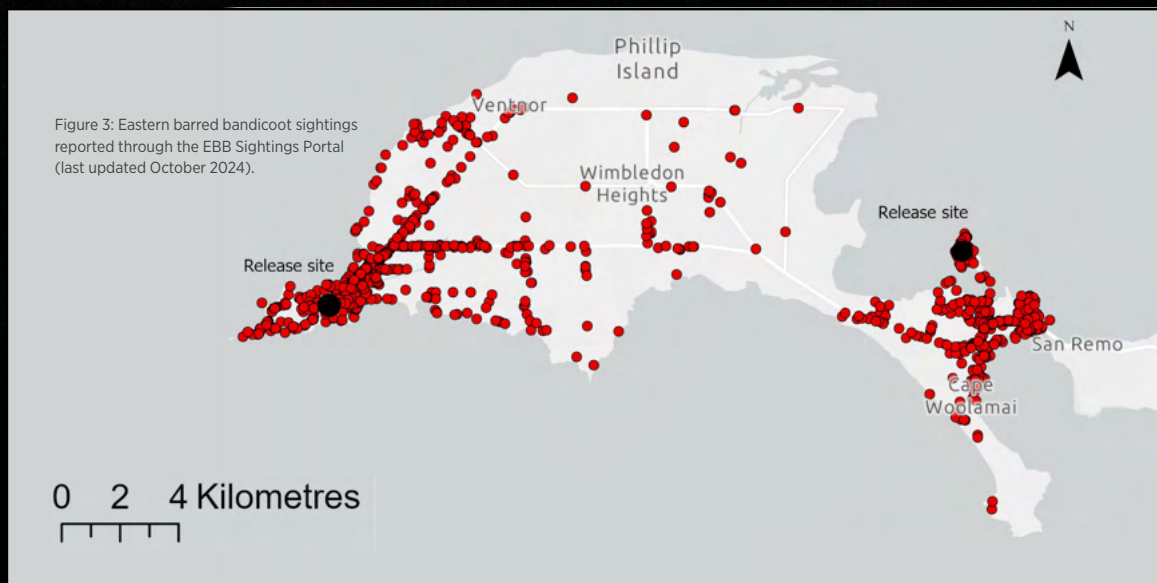


COLLABORATOR





Eastern barred bandicoot monitoring on Churchill Island.



Eastern barred bandicoots

MAINTAINING A STRONGHOLD POPULATION

The Endangered Eastern barred bandicoot continues to thrive on Phillip Island (Millowl), safe from the threat of fox predation.

As the population continues to spread across the island, recent research has focused on investigating the impact of feral cats on the population. Studies on feral cat diet have indicated that Eastern barred bandicoots are not as common in the diet of cats, whereas mice and rabbits feature prominently. This suggests that feral cat predation does not limit Eastern barred bandicoot establishment. However, feral cats continue to negatively impact Eastern barred bandicoots by transmitting *Toxoplasma gondii*, a protozoan parasite spread into the environment by felines.

During routine monitoring in 2024, 143 live Eastern barred bandicoots were tested for antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii*, with all indicating negative results. In contrast, almost 20% of deceased Eastern barred bandicoots that were recovered for testing returned positive results for this disease. This suggests that Eastern barred bandicoots are highly likely to die within two weeks of exposure to the disease, before any antibodies are formed, demonstrating the significant impact this disease could be having on the population.

BANDICOOT VOLUNTEERS

During spring 2024, ongoing population monitoring of the Eastern barred bandicoot was conducted at Churchill Island, Fishers Wetland and the Summerland Peninsula.

This monitoring involved regular trapping sessions to gather critical data on the population and the results included:

- **Churchill Island:** Over three nights, the Nature Parks staff and volunteers recorded 102 captures of 67 individuals, with 37% captured for the first time. Breeding activity was robust, with 61 pouch young observed.
- **Fishers Wetland:** Monitoring efforts recorded 15 captures of 15 individuals, with 47% captured for the first time.
- **Summerland Peninsula:** Over three nights, the team documented 37 captures of 24 individuals, with 38% captured for the first time. A total of 14 pouch young were observed, generally younger than those at Churchill Island.

Across these trapping sessions, 31 volunteers contributed 357 hours over seven days, assisting with trap setting, pre-trap free feeding, research assistance and animal handling.

Volunteers have played a crucial role in bandicoot monitoring for several years. Their expertise in handling animals and recording data is instrumental in the ongoing success of population surveys. The dedication and support of these volunteers are highly valued and greatly appreciated.

Our citizen science 'EBB Sightings Portal' provides a platform for our community to report wild bandicoot sightings and help us understand the spread of the species across Phillip Island (Millow). Portal sightings have indicated Eastern barred bandicoots continue to expand through the centre of the island towards Rhyll and Cowes.



Volunteers have played a crucial role in bandicoot monitoring for several years.

PARTNER



COLLABORATORS

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team has members from Conservation Volunteers Australia, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, The University of Melbourne, Tiverton Rothwell Partnering and Zoos Victoria.



Hooded plovers



Hooded plover at shoreline.

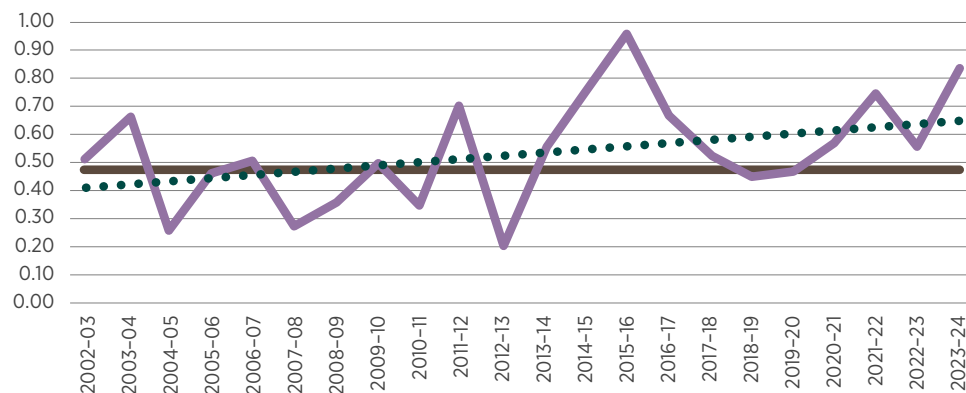
HIGH AND MIGHTY

Hooded plovers (*Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus*) are recognised as one of the priority species listed in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action *Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2022-2032*. Hooded plovers are categorised as Threatened in Australia under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and Vulnerable in Victoria under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

The 2023-24 hooded plover breeding season resulted in 12 pairs successfully raising 10 fledglings, achieving a fledging rate of 0.83 per pair. This rate surpasses BirdLife Australia's benchmark of 0.5 fledglings per pair and is among the highest in Victoria.

Ongoing monitoring by the Nature Parks staff and volunteers showed the following key results:

- 21 nests, 51 eggs and 21 chicks, which is below the five-year (2017-2022) average of 40.4 nests, 94.6 eggs and 31.8 chicks.



Hooded plover eggs are laid in a scrape on the sand.

A current study aims to identify the causes of nest failures. Reducing unknown causes and confirming predation is the focus of an ongoing camera trap study being undertaken by the Nature Parks.

Nest failures

- 33% were caused by high tides.
- 20% were attributed to suspected raven predation.
- 40% were due to unknown causes.

- Fledged per pair
- Target fledged per pair (0.47)
- Linear (fledged per pair)

Figure 4: Hooded plover fledged per pair rate with a linear trendline against the target of 0.5 fledged per pair as provided by Birdlife Australia.

POPULATION TRENDS

The Coastal Bird Survey conducted in November 2024, which contributes to BirdLife Australia's biennial hooded plover count, recorded 38 birds, marking an increase from the previous two years (33 birds in each year) and nearing the stable average of 44 birds recorded in 2010 and 2019.

Despite a later start to the 2024-25 season, 15 breeding pairs were recorded, exceeding the 12 pairs recorded in 2023-24 and 14 in 2022-23 and early results of monitoring include two fledged chicks, five chicks currently on beaches, and six nests have yet to hatch, with ample time remaining for more eggs to be laid.



Deakin University Internship student sets up a camera for monitoring of hooded plovers.



Ranger Jon Fallow and volunteer Peter Wagstaff raising awareness about hooded plovers at Cleeland Bight as part of the 'Sharing our Shores' campaign.

HOODED PLOVER INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Over the peak breeding season two internship students are assisting with beach monitoring and installing wildlife refuges and will contribute to our current research on hooded plovers. The study aims to determine the cause of nest failures, as often the eggs are gone with no evidence as to what happened. During the 2023-24 season five remote cameras were set up on nests and captured images over 154 days and the results indicated that two nests failed due to high tides, confirmed by camera footage and field observations. For the 2024-25

season, the number of cameras will increase from five to ten, improving the ability to identify nest failure causes.

Volunteers are integral to the hooded plover program's success, through the dedication of over 350 hours to activities like monitoring nesting pairs and participating in the regular Phillip Island (Mallowl) coastal bird surveys. They contributed 33% of total local records on the Birdlife Australia 'MyBeachBird' citizen science portal, significantly supporting the overall conservation efforts for hooded plovers.

COLLABORATORS



Energy, Environment and Climate Action

'SHARING OUR SHORES' CAMPAIGN

From 1 December 2024 to 30 April 2025, the Nature Parks together with Birdlife Australia, Bass Coast Shire Council and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Conservation Regulator, implement the 'Sharing our Shores' campaign. This campaign engages local residents and visitors to ensure everyone enjoys the beaches and helps protect wildlife by communicating beach safety messages alongside a call to action to protect wildlife and habitat.

The campaign is supported by regular beach patrols conducted by compliance officers from the Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council and the Conservation Regulator's 'Operation Soho'. These patrols aim to ensure beach users are adhering to regulations and are a great opportunity to raise awareness of important nesting shorebird species on our shores.



Conservation canines

Australia's threatened species are at risk due to the impacts of introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats. On Phillip Island (Millowl), the absence of foxes provides a unique opportunity to create a safe haven for the recovery of species like the Eastern barred bandicoot and bush stone-curlew.

Conservation dogs, Flash and Macey, are specially trained to detect evidence of foxes in the landscape and play a critical role in keeping Phillip Island (Millowl) fox-free. They have been deployed to undertake systematic surveys across the island, as well as a first response

investigation tool for any reported fox sightings. No physical evidence of foxes was detected on the island during 2024.

A new addition to the team, Blaze, is currently undergoing training to assist Flash and Macey. This will provide greater flexibility and help share the growing workload of the pest management team.

Feral cats pose a significant threat to native species through predation and disease transmission. To address this, the Nature Parks has ramped up efforts to manage feral cat populations on Phillip Island (Millowl) utilising conservation dogs and targeted management strategies. Conservation dogs, Marbee and Milly, are trained to detect evidence of feral cats in the landscape and are used as another monitoring tool to help inform control programs. They have been busy searching for evidence of feral cats at key locations including Observation Point, Oswin Roberts Reserve and the Summerland Peninsula. These efforts have yielded promising results, helping to inform and enhance our feral cat control programs which continues to support the recovery of threatened species.



Conservation dog 'Blaze'.



Nursery Supervisor, James Anderson talking to community about Barb Martin Bushbank nursery operations.

National Threatened Species Day 2024

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In 2024, the focus of National Threatened Species Day was to inspire collective action for wildlife.

The Nature Parks collaborated with the Phillip Island Land Alliance and Bass Coast Shire Council to 'Keep it Wild' through a series of planting days led by local Coastcare groups in Ventnor, Cowes, Rhyll, Sunderland Bay and Cape Woolamai. The Council provided native plants to support habitats for species like the Eastern barred bandicoot, while the Nature Parks shared educational resources on creating wildlife-friendly gardens.

A community event on 7 September 2024 featured presentations from threatened species experts, including the Nature Parks, Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach Biodiversity Project and South Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group. Forty attendees learnt about regional conservation projects and visited the Barb Martin Bushbank Nursery where Supervisor James Anderson shared insights on Phillip Island's endemic flora. Attendees also received a complimentary native plant to start their own wildlife-friendly gardens.

Threatened flora

CRIMSON BERRY

(*Leptecophylla oxycedrus*)

Crimson berry genetic study

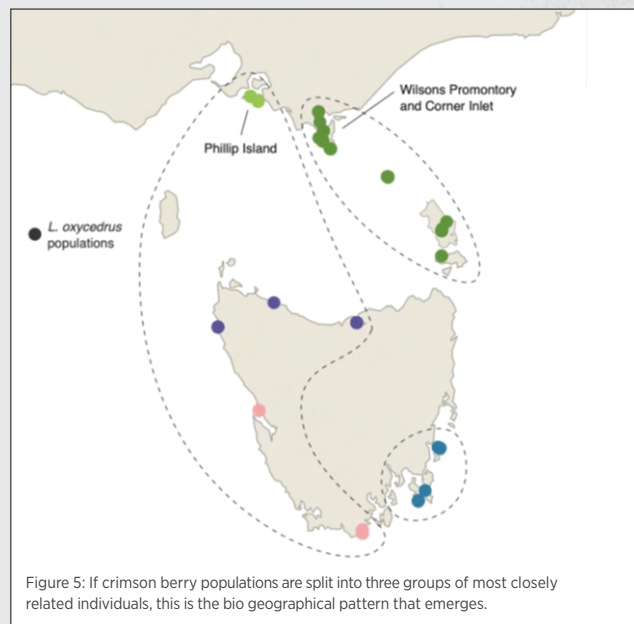
The Nature Parks, together with the Penguin Foundation, has supported a genetic investigation into crimson berry by Melbourne University Master's student Molly Bloomfield.

This Critically Endangered species is only found in restricted coastal habitats on Phillip Island (Millowl), Wilsons Promontory National Park, Corner Inlet and coastal habitats in Tasmania, ranging from the Bass Strait islands to the southernmost point of Tasmania.

The populations at Phillip Island (Millowl) are threatened by a range of biological and ecological factors. The three main findings of the genetic research into Phillip Island's plant populations included:

- **Genetic diversity:** The populations displayed more genetic diversity than expected, indicating a recent reduction in population size likely due to colonial land clearing.
- **Population age:** The populations consist primarily of older plants, with no evidence of recent seedling recruitment.
- **Biogeographical insights:** The populations are more closely related to those in northwestern Tasmania than nearby Victorian populations.

Uncovering these bio-geographical patterns informs and guides conservation strategies for the Nature Parks and other land managers to support and protect Critically Endangered populations of crimson berry into the future.



'As the crimson berry is notoriously difficult to propagate in a nursery and given that there is no natural reproduction happening in the wild, I am pleased to report that the Bushbank grown plants that were planted out into their habitat are doing well, and we are hoping they will grow to maturity and further expand the population.'

Reserves Ranger Susan Spicer, Phillip Island Nature Parks

Crimson berry translocations

The hot and dry conditions throughout February and March 2024 had an impact on the habitat enrichment plants installed at both Cape Woolamai and YCW-the Gap populations, with only a 30–33% survival rate. However, the translocated crimson berry plants in the coop at Cape Woolamai achieved a 65% survival rate thanks to regular maintenance, including watering and mulching.

Eight of the failed crimson berry plants were replaced with new stock of Phillip Island origin from the Barb Martin Bushbank Nursery, with monitoring indicating all plants looking healthy and sprouting new growth.

Four of the ten crimson berry plants salvaged from Wilsons Promontory in 2023 have survived and remain at Barb Martin Bushbank Nursery. With the genetic study results indicating that they are of a different clade to Phillip Island plants, it is anticipated that they will be translocated to a location of suitable habitat, isolated from our indigenous populations to create a distinct population of ex-situ Wilsons Promontory crimson berry.

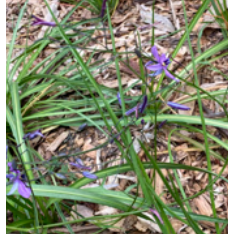


Woodland flora

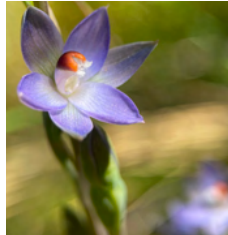
The protection of woodland plants against the threat of heavy browsing from herbivorous animals is an ongoing challenge.

For currant wood (*Monotoca glauca*), constructing a fenced coop is more effective than installing nursery grown plants and applying individual tree guards. In 2024, 22% of the currant wood plants installed with tree guards survived and in contrast, over 700 currant wood plants have naturally emerged and thrived within a 680 square metre fenced area created in 2022. Some of these plants are now several years old and have reached heights of 120 cm.

After two years, the populations of common heath (*Epacris impressa*), common aotus (*Aotus ericoides*), grey parrot peas (*Dillwynia cinerascens*), various orchid species and grass triggerplants (*Stylidium graminifolium*) within the coop are now in the hundreds, and a noteworthy observation in 2024 was the discovery of a population of pepper top sun orchids (*Thelymitra brevifolia*).



Chocolate lilies.



Pepper top sun orchid.



Young currant wood.

Coastal biodiversity sites

In spring, monitoring of herbivore exclusion zones along the coast revealed that many locally rare ground-flora species successfully completed their life cycles.

Cages placed at Summerland Peninsula and the decommissioned Rhyll landfill site protected sun orchids and onion orchids, allowing them to flower and produce seeds. In contrast, very few orchids were observed flowering outside these cages.

Notable orchid sightings this spring included twisted sun orchids (*Thelymitra flexuosa*) reappearing on the Summerland Peninsula, pale yellow slender sun orchids (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) emerging at the Rhyll landfill site, pepper top sun orchids at Rhyll Wetland, and an estimated thousand of pink fairy orchids (*Caladenia latifolia*) at Cape Woolamai.

The cages at Pyramid Rock, which have been in place for several years, are showing good vegetation coverage, featuring species such as everlasting daisies (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), grass triggerplants, coast flax-lily (*Dianella brevicaulis*) and running postman (*Kennedia prostrata*).

The rabbit exclusion zone at Surf Beach is showing signs of recovery, with promising growth of grass triggerplants. However, as they are small and slow-growing, it may take a few years before their numbers can be accurately assessed. Additionally, the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coastcare Group has constructed and installed cages to protect sun orchids and pink fairy orchids at a small wildfire site in Sunderland Bay.

SALT LAWRENCIA (*Lawrenia spicata*)

In Fishers Wetland, 90% of the translocated salt lawrenia plants in the coop have survived during 2024, while there is a 40% survival rate for those planted within individual tree guards. Notably, three salt lawrenia plants have germinated naturally outside the coop, and two of them have produced flower spikes. These plants are being closely monitored for any signs of browsing, but so far, they remain untouched. Historically, this location has seen salt lawrenia, but previous populations were eaten by rabbits. Meanwhile, the naturally occurring salt lawrenia population at Rhyll Inlet has doubled in size, with at least 50 flower spikes emerging from an estimated 75 to 100 plants.



Slender sun orchid



Twisted sun orchid.



Salt lawrenia.

Barb Martin Bushbank Nursery

THREATENED FLORA PRODUCTION

The Barb Martin Bushbank nursery successfully propagated a range of locally rare ground-flora including chocolate lily (*Arthropodium strictum*), pale vanilla lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*), yam daisy (*Microseris walteri*) and bulbine lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*).

A trial planting of 40 of these species at the Koala Conservation Reserve, under the protection of a cage, has seen them grow well to maturity.

After a few successful years of research and trials, our threatened species production abilities have moved to a stronger position where we are producing our own seed and germplasm material for production and storage. Species in production at the Barb Martin Bushbank are listed in the below table.

Common Name	Botanical Name
River swamp wallaby grass	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>
Wavy swamp wallaby grass	<i>Amphibromus sinuatus</i>
Marsh saltbush	<i>Atriplex paludosa subsp paludosa</i>
Southern blue gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus subsp globulus</i>
Coast ballart	<i>Exocarpus syrticola</i>
Salt lawrencia	<i>Lawrencia spicata</i>
Yellow sea-lavender	<i>Limonium australe var. australe</i>
Currant wood	<i>Monotoca glauca</i>
Peninsula daisy bush	<i>Olearia sp2</i>
Dune wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis rubens</i>
Coastal dwarf poa	<i>Poa halmaturina</i>
Dune poa	<i>Poa poiformis var. ramifer</i>
Bassian pomaderris	<i>Pomaderris oraria</i>

Our collaborators and supporters

Bass Coast Shire Council

Birdlife Australia

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team

Melbourne Water

Odonata Foundation

Penguin Foundation

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

The Australian National University

Threatened Species Commission

Westernport Biosphere



Five bush stone-curlews in the wild.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
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