

Yellow Box Woodlands 2009-13

From 2009 until 2013, Connecting Country delivered this innovative landscape restoration project. The aim of the project was to increase local populations of the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale (also known as the 'Tuan') by improving the condition and connectivity of their Yellow Box Woodland habitat.

The **on-ground works** component saw Connecting Country staff working with landholders and community groups to develop five-year management plans for their properties. The plans identified existing ecological values of the area of interest, the proposed management actions and timeline, and the co-funding arrangements. Over 60 stewardship agreements with landholders and groups were signed to enhance more than 7000 ha of phascogale habitat.

More than 40 **educational events** were coordinated with more than 800 participants on topics relevant to the management of Yellow Box Woodlands. Other supported activities include family fun nature day, world environment day, community biodiversity monitoring, and the development of information brochures, CDs and other resources. Further details on these past activities are soon to be made available under the 'knowledge' section of the Connecting Country website.

Local Landcare groups were supported through the development of nine **community action plans**. Many of the groups have since obtained further funding to implement parts or all of these plans.

Connecting Country commenced implementing a broad-scale, long-term **biodiversity monitoring** strategy. Developed by Professor Andrew Bennett (Deakin University), it collects data in a scientifically-rigorous manner to help understand the extent to which restoration activities undertaken across the region are leading to a healthier environment. More than 400 nest boxes were installed, with most monitored annually. Fifty bird survey sites were also established and surveyed twice during every winter and spring. These surveys are on-going ([click here for further information](#)).

The Yellow Box Woodland program was undertaken by Connecting Country in conjunction with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, and was funded through the Federal Government's Caring for our Country initiative and Victorian Government's Natural Program.

