

## Enabling Woodland Birds to Thrive in the Mount Alexander Region 2012-13

The aim of this program, which ran from July 2012 to June 2013, was to improve habitat for the threatened Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community. This bird community comprises many rare and declining species known to occur in the local area (e.g., Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail). The program was able to provide financial and technical support to nine landholders for habitat restoration covering more than 300ha. Weed control, rabbit control, direct seeding, tube-stock planting and the installation of fencing to control grazing activity were the main activities undertaken. A number of associated activities were also undertaken, including:

- More than 50 participants attended an introductory bird-watching workshop.
- Dr Andrew Silcocks from BirdLife Australia gave a presentation on the National Bird Atlas Project.
- Support was provided to the Newstead Landcare group for hosting a talk on 'Bird Photography' by renowned bird ecologist Chris Tzaros.
- The development of an identification guide to woodland birds and their habitats in the local area was commenced (which is due to be completed and launched by the end of 2014).
- Working with the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club (CFNC) to develop a database for displaying the CFNC's Photopoint Project results. More than 1600 archive quality photos were also lodged with the Castlemaine Historical Society for safe-keeping.

