

Cost and Benefit

RNV management attracts relatively short term on-farm costs but evidence shows there are significant long term benefits:

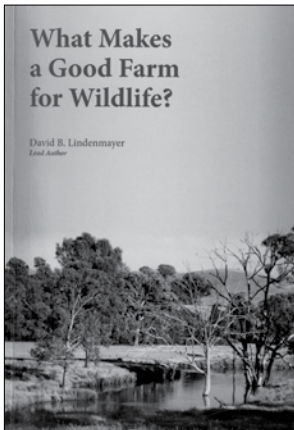
- Reduced land degradation
- Improved soils, nutrient flow and water recharge
- Control of erosion and dryland salinity
- Increases in stock and crop production
- Improved biodiversity and ecosystem function.

Research has found that under most conditions there is a net economic and social benefit in well managed RNV.

More information and help

There is assistance available to help plan and implement a RNV program. Some sources are:

- Local Land Services Hunter. Locked Bag 2010 Paterson 2421 (Planning/Implementation)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service info@environmentnsw.gov.au (Species information)
- Local Native Plant Nurseries (Indigenous plants for the local area)
- Great Eastern Ranges Initiative P.O. Box 513 Wollongong 2520 (Planning/Implementation)
- Hunter Bird Observers Club P.O. Box 24 New Lambton 2305 (Specialist bird information)



Recommended Reading

What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife?
(David Lindenmayer), CSIRO Publishing

About the Hunter Bird Observers Club

Aims of the Club

- To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.
- To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

Activities include

- Monthly evening meetings featuring informative talks and general discussion:
 - *Second Wednesday of each month (except January), 7:30 pm at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Road, Shortland*
 - *Visitors and members are most welcome, to hear interesting and informative guest speakers.*
- Monthly field outings, usually held on Tuesday and Sunday mornings, that cater for every range of expertise.
- Camps, mostly on private property, on Public Holiday long weekends.
- Regular surveys to record information about the local distribution of birds.
- These regular surveys include visits to targeted sites, counts of shorebird numbers, off-shore boat trips.
 - *Members also have opportunities to take part in occasional additional surveys.*



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

To find out how to join visit www.hboc.org.au

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
PO Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305

ABN 62 415 889 446

Remnant Native Vegetation



White-browed Woodswallow



White-naped Honeyeater



Hunter Bird Observers Club

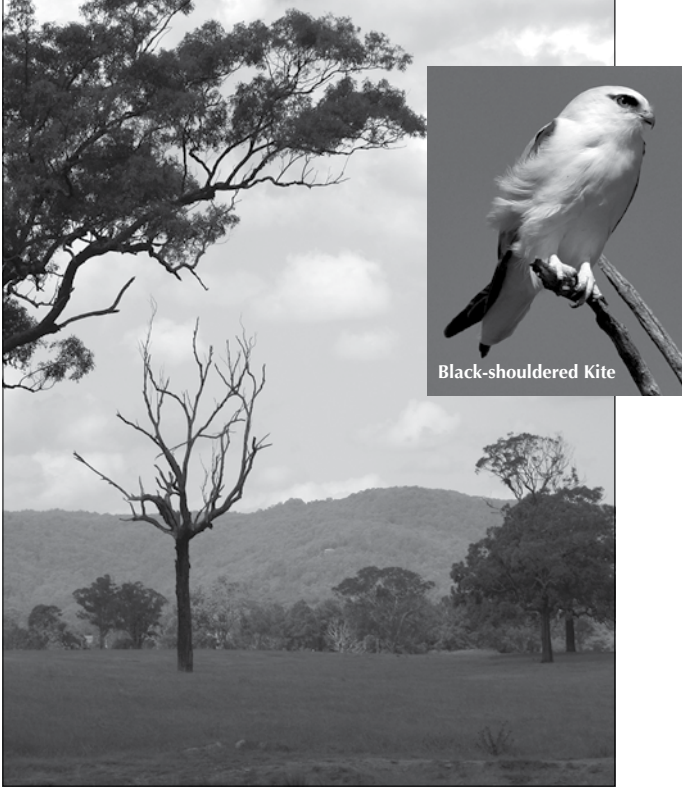
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Requirements for healthy Remnant Native Vegetation

High quality RNV should reflect the normal aspects of the natural system. Using woodland as an example these aspects may include:

- A high number of native flora and fauna species,
- A wide age distribution of trees and shrubs to ensure the replacement of habitat and provide a food source,
- Trees with hollows and standing dead trees for arboreal nesting species
- Diversity of middle storey shrub species
- Fallen timber on the ground to provide habitat
- Well developed leaf litter
- The absence of exotic weed species to prevent competition to native species
- Presence of microhabitats, e.g. rocky outcrops, water sources.



Black-shouldered Kite

Vegetation in Australia has become fragmented as a result of extensive historical land clearing. This landscape fragmentation is a major threatening process for Australian ecosystems. The importance of conserving and managing plant populations is an essential strategy in preventing further degradation and the repair of existing damage. It is readily possible to integrate productive agricultural uses with conservation of Remnant Native Vegetation (RNV).

RNV is important environmental capital as it provides:

- Essential components for the proper functioning of ecosystems and maintaining landscape health (e.g. soils, nutrient flow, water recharge, gene flow)
- Genetically diverse seed stock of indigenous species for future regeneration programs,
- Habitat for flora and fauna,
- A haven for some threatened species.

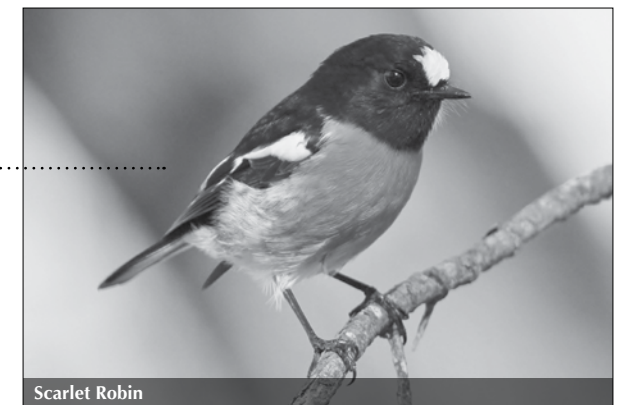


Grey-crowned Babbler

What you can do

Suggested strategies to consider when managing RNV on your property:

- Identify areas of RNV on both your property and that of your neighbours and as a priority consider ways of linking your RNV with that of your neighbours or existing wildlife corridor,
- Make an inventory of the species present and evaluate the quality of the RNV (Ideally there should be 100-200 reproductive stems to make the area viable)
- Ensure habitat quality and biodiversity by:
 - Reducing/excluding grazing from the RNV.
 - Leave fallen and dead timber on the ground or standing.
 - Control exotic weeds, especially on the edges of RNV.
 - Control predatory pests especially cats and foxes.
 - Use fire wisely especially with regard to frequency and intensity.
 - Provide microhabitats to encourage native fauna, birds, insects, small mammals which aid pollination.



Scarlet Robin