



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

New South Wales

"The National Program run by Locals"



Number 6 - May 2012

Hello Land for Wildlifers,

On 15th and 16th March, the National Land for Wildlife conference was held near Melbourne to celebrate 30 years since LFW was established in Victoria. All participating states attended, with NSW represented by John Asquith and Rob Suesse from CEN, and Dr Lynn Webber from the NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage. A paper on LFW in NSW was presented by the NSW team. It demonstrated that NSW has a very co-ordinated approach across the private lands conservation programs. Useful resources and networking were also obtained for use in NSW.

Full proceedings of the conference are to be available on the web, watch the website: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/plants-and-animals/native-plants-and-animals/land-for-wildlife>.



2011 - Celebrating 30 years of Land For Wildlife

Land for Wildlife - is a voluntary program that assists landholders to value, protect and enhance biodiversity on their property. Around 6000 properties consisting of more than half a million hectares of private land have become members of the program since 1981.

LFW takes off in Wamboin & Bywong

Wamboin and Bywong are rural and rural-residential areas sitting on the Southern Tablelands just south of Lake George. In 2011 a pilot scheme was initiated and LFW managed to get a foothold. 15 landowners were signed up, assessed and presented with their signs. The Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability has recently taken on the role as regional provider and is starting to organise the roll out of LFW in Palerang.



New Land for Wildlife members in the Southern Tablelands

Stop Press: CEN has received funding from the NSW Environmental Trust to build Land for Wildlife along the Great Eastern Ranges corridor. This welcome support will provide a boost over the next 2 years.





Land for Wildlife welcomes Richmond Landcare Inc, including Ballina & Lismore local government areas



Land for Wildlife NSW is very pleased to welcome a new Regional Provider, Richmond Landcare Incorporated (RLI). Members of RLI will receive training on Wednesday 13th June, at Wollongbar, and will then be ready to assess properties in the area that wish to join LFW.

Richmond Landcare Inc. is an incorporated non-profit group formed to support community Landcare groups and natural resource management projects on the far north coast of NSW. RLI represents Dunecare, Rivercare, Landcare, Coastcare and farming groups, and is managed by volunteers.

RLI acts as an umbrella and lobby group for regional Landcare groups, provides information on natural resource management issues, and provides environmental training and educational opportunities. There are 106 member groups within Richmond Landcare, representing in excess of 3,000 individual landcarers.

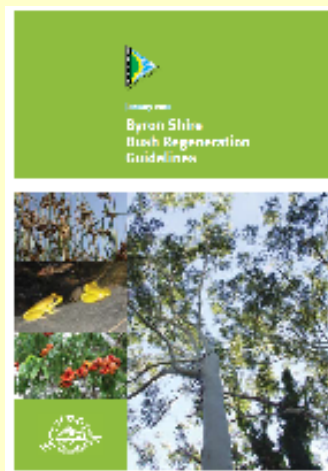


RLI School Member Group

For more information contact:
Richmond Landcare Incorporated, PO Box 525,
Alstonville, NSW 2477, mobile: 0427 485 910
email: info@richmondlandcare.org

Around the NSW Regions

Far North Coast: Byron Council have produced an excellent publication titled 'Bush Regeneration Guidelines' it contains excellent photos and is clearly laid out. The material is relevant to most coastal areas north of Sydney.



Central West: LFW attended the Bathurst Lifestyle Expo in March, where 10 Expressions of Interest were received from locals. These total over 1,000 hectares and assessments are being organized.

South West: The first property in the Riverina is being assessed for Land for Wildlife in co-operation with Wagga Wagga Council.

North Coast: Hastings Landcare have received a grant to build Land for Wildlife over the next 3 years.

First Time Support: The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife has offered small grants for on ground workshops which support Land for Wildlife. The results are expected to be announced in June.

Volunteer Assessors are needed in several areas where there is no Regional Provider. Please contact CEN on lfwnsw@cen.org.au if you have some time to donate and the vegetation skills to help out. Training and petrol money is available.



Biological control of mistflower

Mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*: Asteraceae) is a perennial herbaceous plant that invades wet habitats, particularly along waterways and moist cliff faces in eastern Australia. It is primarily a problem in mid-high elevation rainforest areas where it creates a canopy over headwater streams and displaces native riparian plant species. It is also a problem in wet meadows where it reduces forage quality for livestock.



Mistflower infestation along the Hacking River in the Royal National Park, Sydney

In 2010, the white-smut fungus *Entyloma ageratinae*, which has been used for the biological control of mistflower overseas, was found near Lamington National Park, Queensland.

Keep an eye out for the white-smut fungus on mistflower in 2012 and let us know if it occurs in your area.

The first clue that the fungus is present is a die-off of the leaves and stems of mistflower, usually starting at the bottom of the plant and moving upwards. On closer inspection the upper surface of leaves have brown spots and some leaves may be brown at the tips. The key trait indicating that the damage is caused by the white-smut fungus are white patches on the underside of the leaves.



Spores produced on the underside of a mistflower leaf infected by the white-smut fungus

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Waterbirds Flock back to the Gwydir Wetlands

Thousands of waterbirds are breeding in the Gwydir Wetlands, in North West NSW, in numbers not seen since the late 1990s.

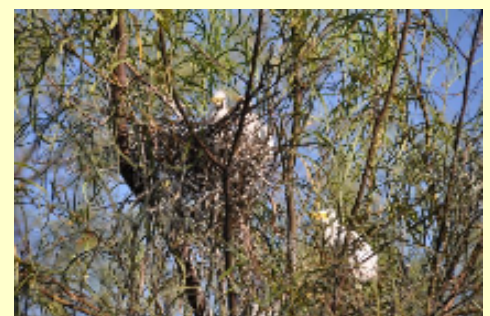
The Gwydir Wetlands are known to support at least 75 species of waterbirds, and are recognised as a

significant breeding site for colonial nesting waterbirds.

Approximately 10,000 straw-necked ibis nests, 15,000 intermediate egret nests and smaller numbers of white ibis, royal spoonbills, night herons, magpie geese and great egrets were recorded nesting in the Gingham Watercourse.

The waterbirds were attracted to the Gwydir to breed, after significant local rainfall resulted in the wider Moree floodplain and wetlands system being inundated from November 2011 through to February this year. Once flooding receded and river flows dropped, the NSW Government commenced the strategic delivery of environmental water to maintain water levels targeting the key breeding sites.

The delivery of water started in March and will be completed shortly. The environmental water is also providing feeding areas for the waterbirds feeding hungry chicks and is benefiting vegetation across the wetlands, including common reeds, lignum, water couch and marsh club-rush tall sedgeland



Egrets nesting in the Eucalypts



How Does Land for Wildlife Work?

Anyone with a rural landholding may now apply to join LFW. This is due to two models now being used to make the program available in a wider number of local government areas in NSW, namely:

- a. Regional Provider Model which involves an organization signing an agreement to conduct LFW locally. The agreement is a licence to operate to the LFW Protocols and standards. It gives local organizations the freedom to conduct the program in the way they want. Usually this means the LFW members receives local information, invitations to workshops and involvement with the organization.
- b. Partner Model, this involves CEN working with a local organization or group to provide Land for Wildlife assessments locally. CEN works with the organization or group to promote the program through the media, websites, brochures or networks. When an Expression of Interest is received, arrangements are made through the local organization or group to conduct the assessment and register the property.

The CEN Land for Wildlife program has now been accepted as an affiliate organization of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. This means the program will be concentrating on building memberships in the nearly 80 local government areas covered by the GER. In addition, over the past two years CEN has been working to build up LFW west of the dividing range, there are currently 71 properties registered and hopefully

this will reach 100 within the next 6 months.

Lastly, if you have local vegetation or habitat assessment skills we need volunteer assessors. CEN will provide training, support and some resources.

What does Land for wildlife do?

The key feature of the land for wildlife program is the signage and environmental property assessments the organization provides free to land holders. In addition to environmental property assessments, LfW gives landholders the opportunity to participate in workshops, meet like minded people and receive up to date information via fact sheets and regular newsletters.

Does my property qualify?

The program is available to landholders who:

- Have properties with half a hectare or more of native bush land
- Are willing to manage all or part of their property in an environmentally sustainable way

The Land for Wildlife program is available to private landholders who own properties ranging from small bush blocks up to large farming and grazing operations.

Schools and council managed public land may also qualify for Land for Wildlife.

After reading, please pass this newsletter on to a friend who may be interested in Land for Wildlife.



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LfW State Coordination is supported by the NSW
Office of Environment and Heritage.
We thank them for their assistance.

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