



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

New South Wales

"The National Program run by Locals"



Number 10 – May 2014

Hello Land for Wildlifers, Thank you for your continued support.

Recently, I listened to Harvey Locke a Canadian Ecologist talking about wildlife corridors around the world.

There were 4 significant international corridors; The Great Eastern Ranges was probably the largest and Land for Wildlife is a key partner.

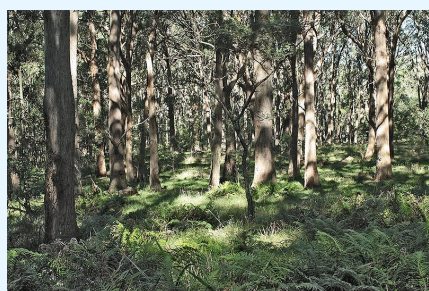
These corridors allow native wildlife to roam and connect.

Harvey said: "We need to share the planet with Nature 50/50 if humans are to survive".

Cheers
John

'The Gib' is Land for Wildlife

The Mount Gibraltar Reserve has been officially registered with *Land for Wildlife*, a voluntary and free conservation program coordinated by Council and the Community Environment Network.



Inner Bowl picnic area, Mount Gibraltar NSW, showing density of trees and undergrowth. Photo credit Bluedawe



Council's Bushland Projects Officer, Karen Guymer said the registration was a first for council-managed land in the Shire.

"Despite its proximity to urban land and the pressures from feral and domesticated animals, this important reserve is home to many native animals," Ms Guymer said.

Jane Lemann, from the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group said, "It's great that this agreement recognises The Gib as an important wildlife habitat."

John Asquith, from the Community Environment Network, said he was pleased that Council had joined other local governments in NSW in registering land with the program.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program which aims to encourage and assist landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes.

Its goals are to promote continuity of habitat across landscapes, community participation in nature conservation, and to contribute to the ecologically sustainable long-term viability of agricultural systems.

Across the Wingecarribee Shire 57 landholders have registered their patch of bush with the *Land for Wildlife* program.

Friendly Farming on the Mountain

A beautiful day but no time for golf as around ten participants arrived for the Land for Wildlife Seminar at Mangrove Mountain Memorial Golf Club on 22nd March.

Friendly Farming and Hanging Swamps were par for the course with local speakers ready to impart their knowledge.

John Asquith (Chair CEN) gave an overview of the Land for Wildlife Program for those unacquainted. Followed by Tony Wells of Youth Connections giving us a bit of insight into the farming culture around Somersby and Mangrove Mountain areas.

Rebecca Mooy from Local Land Services completed the seminar with the importance of preserving hanging swamps



Tony Wells provided an informative talk at Mangrove Mountain.

on your property and how to maintain a sustainable property while caring for the environment.

It was a successful morning with new registrations to follow.

Next up, Merriwa Friendly Farming on 14th June at Merriwa RSL Club. Call 4349 4752 for booking information.



Breaking new ground in Grafton

The Grafton based Clarence Environment Centre (CEC) has taken the Land for Wildlife program to a whole new level by incorporating bush regeneration into their busy workload of environmental protection.

A successful application for funding through the State Government's Community Conservation grants in 2012 helped to equip and train a team of volunteers to help Land for Wildlife property owners deal with weed problems and revegetation projects they couldn't hope to deal with alone.



Attacking the camphor

The initial training project saw a 500m x 10m strip of previously cleared paddock planted with locally sourced native tree, shrub and ground cover species, with the aim of extending habitat for a local koala population.

An application for a second round of funding to continue the work in 2013 was also successful, and the team started as per plan with an attack on a bad infestations of groundsel bush, camphor laurel and lantana on two separate Land for Wildlife properties. But then a further application made jointly by the CEC and the NSW Nature Conservation Council for major grant under the Federal Biodiversity Fund was also successful.

The impressive growing chain of Land for Wildlife properties along the Clarence Valley's coastal strip became the focus for a 5 year project to control and eradicate feral animal pests and dense infestations of Lantana, with an aim to protect and restore habitat for the struggling endangered population of emu.

This meant that several of the CEC's trainee bush regeneration team moved to the big time, and while work with the smaller grant's funding continued as far as possible in accordance with conditions, it became a struggle. It was clear that the initial goal of cleaning up weeds from 8 to 10 properties was unrealistic.



Planting begins

The CEC's staff and skeleton team were spread too thin, and work already underway stretched out to double the planned time. This has meant that currently, at the end of the funding project time, just 3 problem properties have been addressed. One of these was opportunistically slotted into the plan when a dense infestation of the serious pest Corky Passion flower (*Passiflora suberosa*) was discovered on a Land for Wildlife property among the main project chain.

With the paid team unable to be moved off their work sites the remnant Land for Wildlife team moved in. After four visits the vines are giving up the fight, and the stripped site already shows a flourish of carefully exposed native vines and ground layer species. Meanwhile the Clarence Valley Council added their support to the earlier daunting battle with the groundsel bush, and brought in the heavy artillery to deal with the neighbouring property that was spreading the weeds. An aerial check by Council this week has shown the weed, which should now be flowering, to be well under control.

Another working bee saw the planting of over 300 tree, shrub and ground layer plants in a previously cleared, mown gully on a Land for Wildlife property in the heart of the big project chain.



Yet another smaller grant from the Nature Conservation Council has since been allocated to help landscape and restore this gully, dubbed Emu Gully, back to its former condition, with a series of shallow semi-permanent ponds among mainly wet sclerophyll and riparian vegetation. As its title suggests, this project is also aimed at replacing an important foraging corridor for the emu.



Attacking corky passion flower

We could never have achieved all we have without our supportive funding partners, and while the deviation from the projected game plan could be a concern, we are excited by the progress made in just 2 years since the bush regeneration team was set up by the initial grant. Five of our members are now in paid work, doing what they enjoy doing.

The Emu Gully is powering away, already hardly recognisable, and seedlings in our now established Land for Wildlife nursery are potted up in readiness for the second and third stages to start in spring. Another of our members has successfully achieved her Land Management Certificate; two other members have their chemical handling certification, and over 100 tube stock from our nursery are in the ground on another property, adding preferred food trees for the depleted local koala population.

Finally a kilometer of disused barbwire fencing has been removed, clipped and bagged from another Land for Wildlife property, without needing the cost of replacement wildlife-friendly wire.

We can only do what we can do, and hope it's enough. Given approval by our funding partners the planned work will

continue and be completed, however it will just take a little longer than planned. And also maybe one or two more keen volunteer replacement bush-regeneration team members.

Patricia Edwards

Clarence Valley Land for Wildlife Regional Coordinator

Does your region have a story to share?

Please email your stories and images to

Carolyn at lfw@cen.org.au

Nambucca Expression Session

The 10th of May saw Land for Wildlife members from the Nambucca Valley area get together for a meet and greet at the Entertainment Centre, Nambucca Heads.

Local LFW Assessor Tien Pham spoke about on the topic 'Improving your Habitat' and many members spoke about their trials and tribulations on their properties.

There was also a session on the benefits to wildlife in adopting the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) approach over traditional weed control methods, understanding ecological resilience, developing an effective action plan for your restoration project.

Local LFW members, the Fannings shared their bush recovery success story and lessons learned and how they received funding.

The day ended with lunch in the park.

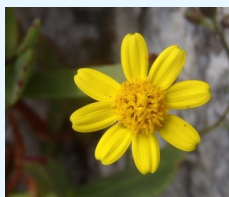


There is much pride in displaying the Land for Wildlife sign in the Nambucca Valley.



The Sins of Cineraria

Cineraria or African marigold as it is commonly known, is a highly invasive weed of roadsides, pastures, riparian areas and moist gullies. It is dominating the Mudgee/Rylstone region and will take over pastures and bushland within a few years.



Carmel Sparks and Jorgen Anderson received a Private Land Conservation Grant three years ago to undertake trials on eradicating/treating the weed on their property Wombat Gully and hold an information sharing Field Day. The Field Day was held on 27th May at Wombat Gully, Coxs Creek, Rylstone .

Many thanks to Julia Imrie and Adair Imrie for producing a brilliant fact sheet on this noxious weed.

For a fact sheet on cineraria visit this page on the CEN website:

<http://www.cen.org.au/Land-for-Wildlife/Regional-Provider-News/>



Support from the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

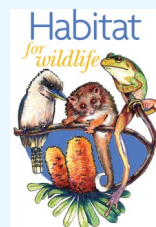
Community Environment Network (CEN) has now been accepted as a partner of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. This means the program will be concentrating on building memberships in the nearly 80 local government areas covered by the GER.

Bridging the Urban –Rural Divide with Land for Wildlife & Habitat for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme for rural landholders with half a hectare of native bushland or more and that aims to assist landholders to maintain wildlife habitats on their land. Registration is free and non-binding. The good faith agreement between the CEN and land holders does not change the legal status of the properties, and information is confidential.



Habitat for Wildlife Online is a program available for urban or rural landholders and renters who are interested in wildlife conservation but who may not have a large bushland remnant on their property. Smaller holdings can provide safe havens for wildlife moving between larger bushland areas.



For a small fee, registrants will receive a membership certificate, a small HFW sign, a resource kit and a newsletter for two years.

Links

<http://www.cen.org.au/CEN-Projects/Habitat-for-Wildlife™/>
Information resources available to download are found at:
<http://cen.org.au/Habitat-for-Wildlife™/fact-sheets7.html>

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

<http://cen.org.au/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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