

May 2022

# LAND FOR WILDLIFE

THE NATIONAL PROGRAM RUN BY LOCALS

NSW & ACT



## Difficult times but many positives



Thank you to everyone who supported Land for Wildlife in the last 12 months

This our newsletter for 2022. The past two years have been hard going for many people and especially people who care about their environment and want to do something to give nature a helping hand.

At times it can seem that our environmental problems are insurmountable.

Huge issues like climate change, COVID, bushfire or loss of biodiversity can leave us all feeling overwhelmed and despairing.

However, I believe that Land for Wildlife is part of the solution and part of a positive future. It enables landholders to take practical and meaningful action with the support of many organisations like CEN,

regional providers and agencies of government and councils.

There are currently over 2560 properties registered with Land for Wildlife. Together their area totals nearly 192,000ha. Within these properties natural bushland covers 94,885ha. The area being rehabilitated by planting, weeding, fencing and improved management adds up to 23,629 ha.

Thank you to all our registered property owners and their helpers.

Lastly, CEN intends to have a LFW Biennial Forum on 9th and 10th September in Sydney. Details will be emailed to Regional Providers in the near future.

Best wishes,  
John Asquith OAM



### First landholders join Cattai-Hills

Cattai Hills Environment Network has welcomed its first Land for Wildlife landholders.

Sandra and Stan joined back in November 2021 and are doing their part to look after the bushland on their property. Their work includes significant weed removal and native species planting which has significantly improved biodiversity. They have also joined the newly created Landcare group, Platypus Landcare which is undertaking a variety of bushcare activities.

As Land for Wildlife landholders, Sandra and Stan will now be able to connect to a network of people and organisations to help them, as well as funding opportunities.

Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) is a Regional provider for the Hills Shire. Residents can get involved via the contact page on CHEN's website.





**Left:** Diverse landscapes improved through expert advise and education.

**Above:** Jo Walker and Kris Nash with new Land for Wildlife member Vicki during a Land for Wildlife assessment.

# Retirement time for region's stalwarts

The Small Farms Network Capital Region bid farewell to two Land for Wildlife stalwarts during 2021.

Land for Wildlife assessors Kris Nash and Jo Walker have provided assessments for 64 properties around Bungendore since June 2017, but have decided to retire.

Jo and Kris said they were surprised at the diversity of landscapes in the region and most people were surprised to learn about the diversity on their farm.

"It was fascinating to discover the variety of landscapes existing in the area we covered, ranging from tall forests to grassy open expanses and including rocky outcrops of shale or granite, creeks, gullies and dams," Kris said.

"Identifying plants involved peering into the high branches of eucalypts, crawling through shrubbery and kneeling to get a close look at Sundews and other tiny plants," she said.

"The most common issue discussed was the identification and control of weeds including woody weeds, sifton bush, pine trees, various noxious grasses, pesky annuals and garden escapees," Jo said.

"Other issues included erosion control, the enhancement of dams,

protecting native seed stock from grazing animals, rehabilitation, salinity control and feral animal management," she said.

The main advice to property owners was to keep weeding along with keeping as much exposed or disturbed soil covered as possible through mulching, laying heavy logs, branches and rocks. The other major goal is to retain and protect remnant trees for their all-important hollows for nesting birds and animals.

Network spokesperson Alex James said the intrepid pair delivered years of experience and an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and natural resource management to the Land for Wildlife program and had made a real difference.

"Individual landholders and the broader community have benefited from the expertise and enthusiasm shown by Jo and Kris and we thank them for their generosity in sharing their knowledge."

This program was supported by the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group, National Landcare Program and the Community Environment Network.



## Plant nursery gives hope after bushfire

A \$6000 grant from the Community Environment Network and Biodiversity Conservation Trust is helping the Nymboida region recover from the devastating 2019/20 bushfires.

Fire destroyed thousands of hectares of forest, homes and infrastructure and set environmental efforts back by years.

But hope is flourishing on the 10 hectare Land For Wildlife property of Anna Patterson where a native plant nursery has been set up to help revegetate the fire ravaged hinterland.

Regional Landcare Co-ordinator Pat Edwards said despite having lost everything, including her house, Anna's passion for raising native seedlings helped her to start repairing her own small corner of the vast charred wasteland.

"By the time we met, numerous young trees were already in the ground starting to heal the damage," Ms Edwards said.

"Anna's plans and tireless enthusiasm for this work inspired me to suggest she start a native plant nursery, to help repair not only her own property but some of the many other Land for Wildlife properties that were destroyed in the fires," she said.

The animal-proof nursery is now producing its first local provenance seedlings sourced from Anna's property and the local area.

"Anna did most of the ground work, carting and fuel expenditure to fulfil the "in kind" part of the grant agreement.

"It's proving its worth by new young rainforest and dry Eucalyptus community plants now in the ground."



Plant nursery under construction





Landcare members after a successful day of busting barbs around Neville.

# Teams help reduce barbed wire threat

Wildlife-friendly fencing is at the heart of a project which aims to protect squirrel gliders in the Abercrombie Catchment of NSW.

The Barb Busters program is funded under the NSW Government's Saving our Species Program and supported by the Great Eastern Ranges Landcare Group and the Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala Link (K2W). K2W is working to establish a landscape corridor from the Greater Blue Mountains to the wheat belt in Central Tablelands to help declining glider populations.

Farmer and Great Eastern Ranges regional lead of K2W Mary Bonet said finding a squirrel glider entangled in their barb wire fence was often the very first time people found out that they had gliders living on their land.

"The distressing discovery of ensnared wildlife is inspiring farmers and others to get involved in Barb Busters. A community-led project which assists landholders to modify or replace sections of barb wire fencing on their properties," Ms Bonet said.

"The chance is that some gliders may recover from their injuries, but most don't. People genuinely don't realise how harmful barbed wire fencing is for wildlife and when they do, they are



Squirrel glider populations are declining.

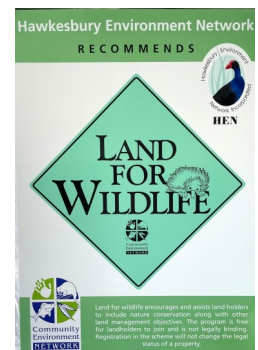
often keen to do what they can to help," she said.

Over 60 types of birds and mammals have been recorded entangled in barb wire fences across Australia.

Ms Bonet said K2W helped landholders identify key areas of their land where barbed wire could be problematic for wildlife and advised on alternative management practices.

This project is one of a number under the broader "Glideways" program. Glideways aims to conserve the gliders that live in this section of the Abercrombie Catchment.

Email [mary@k2wglideways.org.au](mailto:mary@k2wglideways.org.au) to get involved.



**TWEED**  
SHIRE COUNCIL





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## Trees planted for koalas

Tweed Shire Council has held a koala tree planting day on a property at Bilambil.

The event is part of the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management which aims to recover the local Koala population to more sustainable levels over the next two decades. This includes increasing the

total area of preferred koala habitat to at least 2,600 ha.

A study of the local Koala population completed in 2011 revealed koalas could disappear from the Tweed Coast within the next 15–20 years without action to halt population decline.



## Focus on migratory birds

Manning Coastcare and Mid-Coast2Tops Landcare have joined forces to conserve wildlife habitat and biodiversity between Crowdy Head and Halliday's Point.

The groups were approached by Transport for NSW to join community working groups working on future management of the Manning River entrances.

The area is a key destination for migratory birds from Alaska, Siberia, Korea and New Zealand who use sandspits and mudflats for resting, feeding and breeding during the Australian summer.

Transport for NSW is tasked with balancing the needs of waterway users with their impacts on habitat and the environment.

Manning Coastcare representa-



Protecting important habitat for migratory shorebirds

tive on the Transport for NSW working group, Genevieve Godwin said conserving migratory shorebird habitat was critical

"We are very aware of the fast-changing nature of the foreshore, and the vulnerability of shorebirds that visit us each year," she said.



## Two year project successful

Envite Environment has successfully completed a two year National Landcare Smart Farms project supporting Northern Rivers floodplain macadamia growers to improve productivity and biodiversity on their farms.

Envite's Bush Regeneration



teams have undertaken weed control and planted over 7000 native plants across 6.45 km of drains and waterways to protect and improve biodiversity, water quality and soil retention on properties.

Revegetation work was also undertaken in koala habitat areas.



## How to apply for your wildlife grant

A simplified two-page funding application form is helping Land for Wildlife members more easily apply for grants.

Members can apply for up to \$2,000 per year for up to 3 years with each year being a new application

Land for Wildlife co-ordinator John Asquith urged eligible landholders to apply now for funding.

"The process is quite straight forward. We assess if the proposal meets funding criteria and is value for money. Then we assess the site and the project plan and then a contract is signed."

Mr Asquith said LFW encouraged and assisted landholders to include nature conservation along with other land management objectives on their properties and the grants help offset the cost.

The program is supported by funding from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Find out more and download funding application forms on the CEN website at: <https://cen.org.au/>



Biodiversity  
Conservation  
Trust

Land for Wildlife coordination is supported by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

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