



Pobblebonks, not Toads

Rainy days bring out a variety of frogs calling from our gutters and our gardens, one of the most distinctive being from our Pobblebonks. The Pobblebonk or Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) and the Northern Banjo Frog or Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*) are strikingly similar and are commonly found in wetlands and rivers. Both species are burrowing frogs and are often dug up by gardeners. They spend most of the dry periods underground and emerge to feed and breed after rain. Their common name is derived from their loud 'bonk' call similar to the sound of a rubber thong hitting a PVC pipe.

Both species of pobblebonks are commonly confused with the Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*). Pobblebonks and Cane Toads both sit upright and have shortish limbs. Both pobblebonks have large glands on their upper jaw and legs and are similar in colour to the Cane Toad. Pobblebonks can reach up to 8 cms in size, again similar to Cane Toads.

Limnodynastes terraereginae can be identified by red markings on its thighs and groin area and can be found north along the Queensland coast to Cape York. It is the most commonly found pobblebonk in SEQ.

Limnodynastes dumerilii is found more in inland regions of SEQ, on farms and



Top: The Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk derives its name from the red markings on its groin and hind legs. Photo by Todd Burrows.

Above: The Pobblebonk or Eastern Banjo Frog is highly variable in colour and sometimes has this yellow side band as shown. Photo by Grant Webster.

woodlands and its range extends into the southern states of Australia.

Making a frog friendly backyard is easy. Planting native species is essential when attracting native frogs. Recommended plant species include dianellas, lomandras, mat rushes, native ginger and native lilies. These species provide multi-layered habitat and attract insects, spiders and other small invertebrates which are eaten by frogs.

There are lots of good websites, books and smart phone apps to help you correctly identify any toad-like native frogs before you start Cane Toad control. Alternatively, you can send a photo of your unknown frog to your local Land for Wildlife Officer for identification.

Article by Stephani Grove

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Report Card

editorial

Land for Wildlife Officers from across SEQ meet at least six times a year to work together on regional projects and provide strategic direction to the regional Land for Wildlife program. Sometimes we meet at Land for Wildlife properties with our most recent meeting held at the tucked-away location of Mt Byron on the western side of the D'Aguilar Range. This part of the Somerset region is predominantly grazing land with scattered paddock trees and some areas of contiguous bushland on the hills. I have been to Mt Byron three times and each time I have seen at least three Koalas. This time, I saw five, and that was just from the roadside and the gardens of the Land for Wildlife property.

Our landscapes in SEQ used to be like this – full of Koalas and other wildlife. We all know that things have changed in our lifetimes and that there are simply less species and less numbers of animals than there once was.

For me, visiting Mt Byron and seeing abundant Koalas brings hope. Visiting restored bushland areas brings hope. Seeing butterflies lay their eggs on trees I have planted brings hope. Meeting landholders who do the hard yards of restoration brings inspiration.

Many Land for Wildlife members are doing what they can on their properties to restore habitats and provide

opportunities for wildlife. This edition showcases some of these efforts whether it is rehabilitating injured wildlife, planting trees or removing weeds. Every bit counts.

An interesting outcome of actively restoring an area, apart from seeing wildlife return, is developing sound botanical knowledge. Bush regenerators with self-taught knowledge of our native plants are motivating to be around. Each species and genus has a story to tell. This edition profiles the genus *Boronia*. When not in flower, these shrubby plants can be overlooked, like so many native plants, but they all provide habitat whether it be for tiny invertebrates or iconic species like Koalas.

I extend my thanks to all Land for Wildlife members for your efforts in 2012 to make our ecosystems healthy and full of wildlife. I wish all readers a safe summer and a cheerful start to 2013.

As always, I welcome all contributions to this newsletter. We will be giving away some great books in 2013 (starting with the *Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland*) to select newsletter contributions, so I hope this provides the encouragement you need to send me a story or photo.



Deborah Metters
Land for Wildlife
Regional Coordinator
SEQ Catchments

Landholder Registrations, Land for Wildlife SEQ - 1/12/2012

Registered Properties	Working Towards Registration	Total Area Retained	Total Area under Restoration
2995	732	54,427 ha	4,574 ha

Forward all Letters to the Editor, Fauna Vignettes and My Little Corner contributions to:

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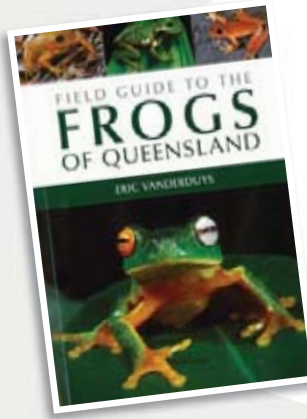
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North & South Burnett,
Bundaberg and
Baffle Creek Regions**

For all regions contact the Burnett Mary
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fauna vignettes



FREE BOOKS

SEQ Catchments is giving away free copies of *Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland* (released November 2012) RRP \$45 to selected Land for Wildlife members who contribute published articles in 2013. Limit of three free books per newsletter edition. Please send your article and/or photographs to the Editor (details pg. 2)



Owlet Nightjar Delight

This Owlet Nightjar has moved in permanently and made the nest hollow home. 9 out of 10 times we check the box, he/she is there, sitting in the doorway.

Connie Clune
Land for Wildlife member
Jimboomba, Logan

Monitoring for Conservation

I have been surprised with some of the sightings and data I have collected on my motion-sensor fauna camera to date, and I am excited about what I might discover. I am finding a lot more activity occurring in the daylight hours than anticipated.

When I first started using the cameras, I would put the camera along a track for a month or so and hoped that I would get a variety of animals. As time has past, this technique has been a great way to capture wild dogs, foxes, deer, cats, possums, bandicoots, wallaby's and brush turkeys but not much else. Of course there was the occasional bird and reptile and it got me thinking that I need to diversify my monitoring techniques.

I have experimented with using road kill, bird seed, peanut paste/honey and oats balls (my mum really likes these), fruit (banana's seem to be the most luring), chicken necks and setting the camera up near the last remaining water in a creek.

At the moment I am searching for button-quails on my property. I know they are there as I see the platelets on the ground and get an occasion glimpse of one, but I am not able to get a positive identification. So with a bit of luck and patience I should know soon which species it is with the help of a fauna camera.

The Noisy Pitta shown in the photo was attracted to some banana that I put out in front of the camera as an attractant.



I believe that monitoring is such an important part of conservation. It indicates that what you are doing on the ground is having a positive effect for species protection, or on the flipside, if land management activities need to be altered.

Catherine Madden
Land for Wildlife member
Guanaba, Gold Coast



Nesting Cockatoos

When I was out at a Land for Wildlife property at Kenmore Hills in August last year, the landholders and I spotted a pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos investigating a hollow branch.

The bird-chap was checking out the hollow and having a chew while his bird-lady was perched on a nearby branch. He kept turning around after a short chewing session, to keep an eye

on us even though we were 25 metres away. Bird-lady then flew over to join him after about 30 mins to make sure he was doing it right. Maybe she wanted to be close to her mate since we were hanging around watching. It was so cute to witness such nesting behaviour.

Fflur Collier
Land for Wildlife Officer
Brisbane City Council



flora profile

Boronias of Southern Queensland

As the name suggests, this delightful plant, Wallum Boronia (*Boronia falcifolia*), grows on coastal sand plains from Bundaberg to the NSW border.

There are approximately 100 species of Boronias in Australia and they occur in every state. Except for one species found in New Caledonia, all Boronias are endemic to Australia. They are members of the large plant family Rutaceae, which also contains the genus *Citrus*. The genus *Boronia* was first described by English botanist James Edward Smith in 1798 in honour of Italian naturalist Francesco Borone (1769 – 1794), who had impressed Smith with his enthusiasm and ability.

Of the 100 or so *Boronia* species in Australia, about 28 occur south from Rockhampton to the Queensland/NSW border. Boronias are usually shrubs or rarely small trees or herbs. Leaves are opposite, simple or compound, glandular and often aromatic. The flowers of all Queensland species are white through to deep pink with 4 petals and a 4 lobed calyx. Fruit is a capsule of 4 parts, which explosively releases small black, grey or brown seeds. Seeds of most *Boronia* species are relatively long lived in the soil.

Boronias inhabit a variety of habitats including shrubby open forests, woodlands, wet and dry heaths (shrublands) and occasionally marshlands. Soils in these habitats are usually acidic, relatively low in nutrients and mostly derived from coarse-grained sedimentary (sandstones), rhyolitic or granitic type rocks or from alluvial siliceous sands. Boronias can be very sensitive to various disturbances. Threats to their survival in the wild include: intensive wildfires and too frequent controlled burning, increases to soil nutrients, exotic weed invasion (particularly regarding displacement by introduced African grasses), vegetation clearing and modification (i.e. urban and industrial development, domestic grazing etc.), changes to soil hydrology (drainage) and flower and plant material collecting.

In undisturbed situations, wild Boronias are able to compete with and survive quite ably alongside numerous other native shrub and low growing plant species. In such

rare situations where Boronias are growing prolifically the effects of massed flowering can be absolutely stunning. When most *Boronia* species are in full flower, their cheery pink blossoms shine like beacons, in otherwise drab surroundings. In this regard I consider Boronias as being very special and iconic. Most Boronias flower from July through to February. However they can have flowers at other times, but this can be influenced by unusual weather events and seasonal variation.

Two *Boronia* species that you are most likely to see in South East Queensland (SEQ) are Wallum Boronia (*Boronia falcifolia*) and Forest Boronia (*Boronia rosmarinifolia*). However due to urban expansion in coastal and sub-coastal SEQ these two species are rapidly disappearing from their usual habitats.

Other harder to locate or rarer species in SEQ to keep a watchful eye out for are Key's Boronia (*Boronia keysii*), Rock Boronia (*Boronia occidentalis*), Swamp Boronia (*Boronia parviflora*), Dwarf Boronia (*Boronia polygalifolia*), Wide Bay Boronia (*Boronia rivularis*), Safrole Boronia (*Boronia saffrolifera*), *Boronia grimshawii*, Border Boronia (*Boronia repanda*) and Splendid Boronia (*Boronia splendida*).

Some *Boronia* species have been grown in horticulture. However these have usually been southern species grown in southern States. Some Boronias are fussy growers and can be short lived unless given specific growing conditions. Germination of *Boronia* seed requires some pre-sowing treatment such as scarification, pouring boiling water over the seed, then immersion in water for long periods. Most *Boronia* species can be struck readily from cuttings of firm young growth. The application of root promoting hormones to cuttings can be beneficial.

The ideal growing situations for growing Boronias are in containers or on mounds of friable sandy soil mixed with fine humus. Use of fertilisers with high phosphorous

levels will kill Boronias. As a cautionary note, quite a few Boronias are listed as threatened species and as such are protected by law. Therefore permits are required to collect seed or cutting material and to grow and sell them. Also some of the rarer *Boronia* species occur only within National Parks or other classes of conservation reserves and as such collection of plant material is not permitted. Wholesale collecting of *Boronia* plant material could place some rare species under further threat.

If you have naturally occurring *Boronia* species growing on your property you should consider yourself extremely fortunate and you should feel very proud. This is because the presence of a *Boronia* species is a sign of good land management and usually indicates excellent health and condition of the plant communities and the ecosystems they are found in.

In October 1996 during a botanical survey in the Gayndah district, I had the good fortune of finding an attractive *Boronia* growing on low but rugged ridge. At the time I suspected that this different looking *Boronia* could possibly be a new undescribed species. It was flowering prolifically at the time and I was struck by its variably coloured deep pink to almost white flowers. Even though it is common on this one ridge, so far this *Boronia* hasn't been found in any other location. Eventually the *Boronia* taxonomist, Marco Duretto, described it as a new species after examining my collected specimen. I was amazed when he chose to name it *Boronia grimshawii*, a rare honour. It is amazing that new *Boronia* species can still be discovered in this modern day and age and some species, which have not been seen for decades, have been recently rediscovered. However time is running out for finding new species or rediscovering lost species of this iconic genus of plants due to continuing vegetation clearing and widespread land degradation.

Article continues on page 6



Boronia grimshawii in flower with both white and pink flowers on one plant. The small white egg on the top petal of the flower shown on the right is the egg of the Satin Opal (*Nesolycaena albosericea*) butterfly. The Satin Opal is one of four species of butterfly, all in the genus *Nesolycaena*, that rely solely on *Boronias* for their existence.



The Satin Opal adult butterfly lays its eggs on the flowers of *Boronias*. When the larvae emerge they feed almost entirely on the *Boronia* flowers. While this butterfly species is not currently listed as a threatened species its total reliance on a few *Boronia* species as host food plants for its larvae make it uncommon and difficult to locate and see.

Photographs of the Satin Opal generously provided by Geoff Walker. Visit Geoff's website with impressive images of nearly every species of Australian butterfly at www.australianbutterfliesphotographed.com



Sandstone *Boronia* (*Boronia glabra*) is mostly found in scattered populations on sandstones of Central Queensland, Burnett district and the Darling Downs.



Border *Boronia* (*Boronia repanda*) is found just north of Stanthorpe and is listed as Endangered under both NSW and Commonwealth legislation.



Forest *Boronia* (*Boronia rosmarinifolia*) can be found in heathland across SEQ. This photo was taken from a site at Moggill that was needlessly destroyed for a housing development, with non-local native species planted in their place.



Wide Bay *Boronia* (*Boronia rivularis*) is found on sandy soils and heathland in northern coastal regions of SEQ.

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Article and photographs by Paul Grimshaw
Land for Wildlife member
Mt Crosby, Brisbane



Key's Boronia (*Boronia keysii*) is listed as Vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation and is found around Noosa, Kin Kin and Lake Cootharaba.

book review

Butterflies of Coastal SEQ

Trevor Ford completed the third of his Identification Guides in 2012 entitled *Butterflies of Coastal SEQ*. This is in addition to his previous booklets *Waterbirds & Raptors of Coastal SEQ* (2011) and *Shorebirds, Gulls & Terns of Coastal SEQ* (2010). All three booklets are the same size and follow the same format. They are excellent resources for anyone with an interest in birds or butterflies.

All images in the booklets are high quality colour photographs often showing both male and female plumage or breeding / juvenile forms. I find photographs of live butterflies (in contrast to pinned specimens) particularly useful when trying to identify species.

These booklets are clearly a work of love and although funding was received to print the booklets, I know that there would have been countless hours of voluntary work by contributing authors and photographers to make these booklets a reality.

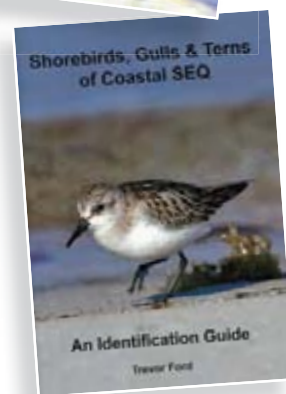
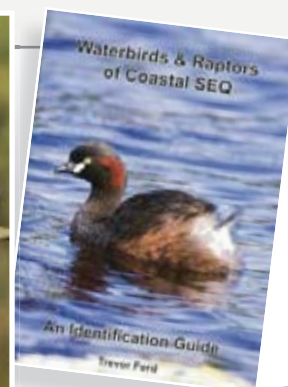
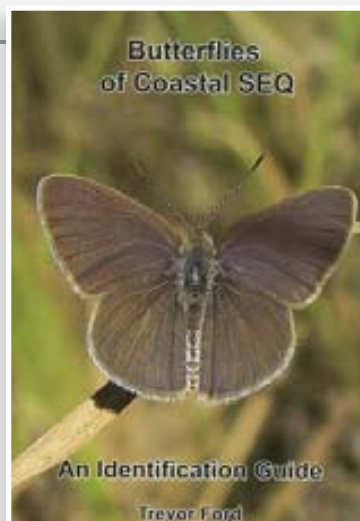
The information in the booklets is primarily to assist correct identification and thus is concise and relevant to SEQ. However there are also snippets of information that could only be gleaned from years of keen observation of these animals.

The small size (A6) of these booklets means that each page opening suits the comparative display of closely related or similar-looking species such as Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits (very similar shorebirds) or the often-confused Meadow Argus and Australian Painted Lady butterflies.

Some of the images in the first two books are almost too small, but this issue has been resolved in the latest butterfly booklet with all images at reasonable sizes. The text is quite crowded but probably unavoidable when trying to fit in descriptions and multiple images of nearly 100 butterfly species into 62 small pages.

These Identification Guides focus on species found in coastal regions of SEQ from Noosa to the NSW border as the booklets were collaboratively funded by coastal Councils and SEQ Catchments. However, most bird and butterfly species found on the coast can also be seen in inland parts of SEQ.

Most coastal Councils will have free



copies of these booklets to giveaway to Land for Wildlife members, so SEQ Catchments is giving away 50 copies of *Butterflies of Coastal SEQ* to Land for Wildlife members in the Scenic Rim, Lockyer, Ipswich, Logan, Toowoomba and Somerset regions. Contact Deborah Metters on 07 3503 1423 or dmetters@seqcatchments.com.au to receive your free copy.

Alternatively, all three booklets can be downloaded for free from www.sunbittern.com (click on the Publications tab).

Review by Deborah Metters



fauna profile

Snake Sense and Sensibility

Yellow-faced Whip Snakes feed on small lizards and are potentially dangerous to humans. Photo by Sarah Bennett.

Although we all try to encourage wildlife into our backyards, sometimes snakes are left off our guest list. We don't need to be rolling out the red carpet and inviting them into our homes but with a few tips and some common sense, we can learn to live harmoniously with snakes in the areas around our home.

Snakes are an important part of our environment but are often misunderstood. Not every animal that looks like a snake is a snake. Burrowing skinks and legless lizards are often mistaken for snakes. Like all native wildlife, snakes are protected under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and intentionally harming a snake is an offence under this legislation. Under this same legislation, snakes can only be removed from their habitat, including your home or yard, by trained and authorised persons.

This time of year is when we generally see an increase in snake activity. The warmer weather also finds us humans being more active and doing more jobs around the home. Some of these handyman adventures find us turning over building materials or moving junk around in the shed which increases our chances of uncovering a surprise visitor such as a snake. It is important to remember that unless a snake is provoked, it presents little or no danger to us.

Snakes are particularly fond of hanging around our houses because there are more opportunities for them here: more food, more shelter and fewer predators. A favourite food item of snakes is rats. Rats also love to hang around our houses to take opportunity of our compost gardens as well as excess chook food and bird seed.

A few tips to decrease your chance of a surprise visit from our slithery friends around the immediate house area include:

- Maintaining your lawn.
- Locating gardens and sheds away from the house.
- Ensuring timber, building and rubbish piles are neatly stacked.
- Placing food scraps in closed compost bins to avoid attracting rodents to the yard.
- Making your bird aviaries and chook sheds rodent and snake-proof.
- Storing bird seed in rodent-proof containers.

It's important to remember that not all snakes are venomous, and not all venomous snakes are dangerous, with most only having enough toxin to stun small prey such as frogs and lizards. However, Australia's venomous snakes are some of the most lethal in the world, and so any snake bite should be regarded as serious and immediate first aid should be administered. Most snake bites occur as a result of trying to move or kill a snake, so never try to corner, capture or harm a snake.

If you encounter a snake, stay calm, and if possible, walk away. Most snakes, even the venomous ones will retreat if given the chance. If you have a snake inside your house the most important thing is to leave it alone, which gives the snake a chance to leave on its own. If possible, close all your internal doors and open the external doors and keep everyone including pets away from snake. If this doesn't work, call Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on 1300 130 372 for contact details of a local snake catcher who can relocate the snake.

Get more tips on how to live safely with snakes from the Living with Wildlife section of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website or <http://tinyurl.com/bykacpe>

The recommended first aid for Australian snake bites is:

- ✓ Keep the patient very still and calm - the more agitated and mobile the patient is, the more the toxin will flow through their body.
- ✓ Call an ambulance, ring 000.
- ✗ DO NOT cut, clean or wash the wound.
- ✓ Immediately apply a broad, elastic bandage to the bite area. If you do not have a bandage, torn clothing or stockings will do the job if nothing else is available.
- ✗ DO NOT apply a tourniquet or disrupt blood flow to the limb.
- ✓ Bind the entire limb with even pressure and bandage thickness (e.g. from the bite area, down to the fingertips and back up to the armpit or from the bite area, down to the toes and back up to the groin).
- ✓ Immobilise the limb with a splint - any fairly straight, hard material can be used (e.g. a broom handle, a tree branch etc) this splint needs to be loosely bandaged on.
- ✓ Mark the bite area on the outside of the bandage.
- ✓ For bites on the body or face, maintain firm pressure over the bite area as the above 'immobilisation' method cannot be applied to these areas.
- ✗ DO NOT attempt to kill or catch the snake.
- ✓ Take the patient immediately to medical aid.

Coastal Taipans are considered Australia's most dangerous snake and can become aggressive if cornered or harassed. Their preferred prey is rats.



Article by Rebecca Condon
Land for Wildlife Officer
Logan City Council



property profile

Releasing Rehabilitated Wildlife on Land for Wildlife Properties

My property at Jimboomba is a 14 acre natural bush block (with about 3 acres cleared for the house area). It backs onto a corridor to the Birnam Range and is surrounded by other large bush blocks making it an ideal release site for many species. It has two very large dams with year-round water. In the wet, they form part of a creek system and thus, are cleaned during wet times.

My property also contains rehabilitation enclosures for native animals, mainly reptiles. My facilities include 30 indoor enclosures and various outdoor enclosures and this year alone I have had 320 plus reptiles and amphibians through my door

with the majority successfully being released.

I have had extensive rehabilitation experience of all native wildlife for over 25 years through my ex-vet nursing days. I have only recently gotten back into wildlife rehabilitation and joined Wildcare Australia as their reptile coordinator and trauma carer two years ago. I joined Wildcare Australia for a number of reasons: their education program is unsurpassed, with species-specific training, first aid and beginning



Inside and outside enclosures on Annette's property provide a safe place for injured reptiles to rehabilitate.

and advanced rescue workshops. Additionally, Wildcare boasts dedicated species coordinators meaning that each species has a 'gatekeeper' with specialist knowledge ensuring the workload is spread with appropriate people coordinating the rescue and rehabilitation placements. There is always someone to contact for advice, direction and mentorship.

"Desperately seeking.... Family of four seeks suitable long-term accommodation, preferably close to shops and transport"

Don't worry - Land for Wildlife hasn't commercialised into wanted ads. By 'shops' I mean eucalypts and by 'transport' I mean connected corridors. That's right, our family of four is a group of Ringtail Possums who have been rehabilitated and are now ready to find a home.

Wildcare Australia is desperately seeking suitable release sites for all kinds of wildlife who have either come into care as a result of being sick, injured or orphaned. Whilst every attempt is made to release adult animals that come into care back into the territory where they came from, sometimes this isn't possible (e.g. the habitat has been cleared for development). For orphans, they never had a territory to begin with and so now require a place to call 'home'. Wildcare Australia is hoping to work with Land for Wildlife members who may be interested in releasing animals on their properties.

You do not need to possess advanced skills to be a vital part of the rescue and rehabilitation process. There are many different ways that you can become involved in native animal rehabilitation, even if you work full-time.

If you are interested in your property becoming a release site for rehabilitated animals, or if you would like to find out more about supporting Wildcare Australia, please visit the Wildcare Australia website at www.wildcare.org.au or email enquiries@wildcare.org.au

What to do if you find sick or injured wildlife?

1. Observe the animal for signs of injury or illness and approach carefully. Always ensure the safety of yourself and others. If it is an injured or sick koala, bat, snake or adult kangaroo or wallaby, please call a registered wildlife care organisation and do not handle the animal as they can cause serious injury.
2. Remove the immediate threat and check if the animal is still alive. If it is a bird, small mammal or small non-venomous reptile pick the animal up using a towel or blanket and place in a ventilated box and keep warm, dark and quiet whilst transferring it to a vet.
3. If you find a healthy uninjured baby bird that has fallen from the nest, you can attempt to re-nest the chick. Visit Wildcare Australia website for more information on how to do this.
4. Remember to check the pouches of dead kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, echidnas, possums and bandicoots for young. If you find pouch young, do not pull them off the teat, but seek advice from a wildlife care group.
5. Seek advice from a vet (several vets are open 24 hours) or call a wildlife care group listed on facing page.

Brodie's Story

Brodie (pictured right) is a young female Eastern Water Dragon who came into care after being attacked by a cat. Brodie suffered bite wounds all over her body and was unable to move either hind leg. She required pain relief, antibiotics and hand feeding. Brodie rested for the first month and then started physiotherapy, including hydro-therapy as she regained use of her rear legs.

Over the next few weeks, it became apparent that Brodie had another surprise in store for me: she was also pregnant. A short while later, Brodie began laying her eggs but not normally. She was given medication to help her deliver the eggs and assisted further by warm soaks in water and belly massages.

I am pleased to report that all 11 of Brodie's eggs hatched. Also on the same day, Brodie stood unassisted for the first time in months. I can't describe the joy of seeing her progress. Brodie's babies will be released after a week of care and I hope that sometime in the near future, Brodie herself may join them back in the wild. She still has a long way to go but things are looking up – she is now actively hunting her own crickets and is using both rear legs. Brodie is one of the reasons we fight so hard – she has never given up, and she is always a delight to treat.



Amber's Story

Amber (pictured above) is the most delightful Blue Tongue Skink who met foul play one evening with a large Doberman. Her injuries were unspeakable. She was clearly in severe distress and could barely breathe. The kindest thing for her would be immediate euthanasia but while I was contemplating my decision, she went into labour and began delivering the first of her 12 babies. I immediately placed a dressing over her open chest wound and made a mad dash for home. I set her up in a suitable heated enclosure and in between babies, I gave her some pain relief, fluids and antibiotics. After baby number 12 was born, I could no longer contemplate euthanasing her and so I kept her as comfortable as possible overnight and got her to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital the next morning where she underwent immediate emergency surgery.

She came back to me a few days later and despite her poor prognosis has never looked back. Amber's babies were released a week later (at a site away from the dog) and Amber is still with me but now enjoying life. She has no breathing difficulty but will stay a few more months to fully recuperate. Amber has taught me a valuable lesson and highlights what we already knew – reptiles are very tough and can often survive the unthinkable. While we can, we will always give them our full attention and the best care possible: that's my pledge to our native reps.



Article by Annette Bird
Land for Wildlife member
Jimboomba, Logan City

Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups in SEQ

All regions	
RSPCA	1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
Wildcare Australia	5527 2444
North (including Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast)	
Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital	1300 369 652
Bribie and District Wildlife Rescue Inc	0400 836 592
Pine Rivers Koala Care	0401 350 799
Moreton Bay Koala Rescue	0401 080 333
WILVO's	5441 6200
South (including Logan)	
Daisy Hill Koala Ambulance	3299 1032 or 0412 429 898
Logan City RSPCA Animal Ambulance (all hours)	1300 ANIMAL

Central/Greater Brisbane (including Redlands and Logan)	
BARN (Brisbane Area Rescue Network)	0405 056 066
Bat Conservation and Rescue	0488 228 134
Brisbane City Council Wildlife Ambulance	3403 8888
Pelican and Seabird Rescue	0404 118 301
Redland City Council After-hours Wildlife Ambulance	3833 4031
West (including Ipswich and Lockyer Valley)	
FAUNA	1300 FAUNA1 (1300 328 621)
Ipswich Koala Protection Society Wildlife Ambulances	0419 760 127 or 0417 604 761
Bats Qld (Lockyer Valley)	4697 5122
Australian Rescue and Rehabilitation of Wildlife Association (ARROW)	0430 904 415




Article by Nicole Walters
Land for Wildlife Officer
Logan City Council



revegetation profile

Tree Planting on Land for Wildlife Properties



Images left and centre:
Before revegetation at the Two Million
Trees project site on a Land for Wildlife
property at Upper Brookfield.

When one thinks about tree planting on a Land for Wildlife property, the tree numbers are usually only in the tens, hundreds or perhaps a few thousands. However, over 32,000 trees have been planted on several Land for Wildlife properties participating in Brisbane City Council's 2 Million Trees Project.

In 2008, then Lord Mayor Campbell Newman initiated the 2 Million Trees Project (2MT) in Brisbane City Council, with the goal of planting 2 million native trees in Brisbane City by 2012. The tree planting project would support Brisbane City Council's Vision 2026 goal to have 40% coverage of native habitat across the city by the year 2026.

The restored native forests were also intended to enhance and expand existing natural areas, provide forest linkages and fauna corridors, create wildlife habitat, restore degraded lands and prevent land degradation. On 5 February 2012, Lord Mayor Graham Quirk planted the two millionth tree at the Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve, ending phase one of this project.

Over 75 sites (mainly Council and State-owned land) were selected on which to plant the two million trees. Tree species were determined by an analysis of the pre-clearing native vegetation and regional ecosystems occurring on or adjacent to each site. The aim was to create a structural framework of trees of canopy and understorey (primary and secondary) species suited to each site's geology, soils, aspect, topography and other site conditions.

After planting and initial establishment, each 2MT site was inspected for compliance and signed off. Two years of maintenance would then commence according to defined performance specifications. Sites

were regularly monitored for progress to ensure maximum growth, tree health and an overall survival rate of over 90%. The objective was to achieve site-capture and a high level of site resilience by the end of the two year maintenance period.

While the majority of land for the two million trees was a mixture of state and council ownership, all Land for Wildlife property owners in the Brisbane local government area were invited to participate. Four Land for Wildlife properties, which met the program's goals and objectives, were selected.

Property 1 - Upper Brookfield

John and Edith's Land for Wildlife property in Upper Brookfield, approximately 28 hectares in total area, contains 6.5 ha of lowland rainforest - this area is known as Smith's Rainforest Nature Refuge. John also grows fruit trees on the property. Approximately 16 hectares were placed under covenant and 4.2 hectares selected for planting under the 2MT Project.

"I'm very pleased that the Council has selected my property to plant these trees. The property has been in my family for three generations and I had no hesitancy in agreeing to a covenant being placed on the property title to protect these trees from being cleared forever," John said.

The 2MT area is very steep and a lot of time was spent planning the safest way to plant and maintain the trees. 22,000 trees were planted at this site. Council will maintain them for two years, after which time John will be responsible with some assistance from Council. The initial plant list consisted of about 90 species, of which 58 were able to be sourced from local nurseries in line with the required timing and quality standards.

Trees were planted just before Christmas 2011 and maintenance has since commenced. The rainfall experienced over summer has been both a blessing and a curse. It has helped the trees grow but the weed grasses have grown just as quickly too, requiring the 2MT team to keep a tight rein on the site. During winter, the weed growth settled down, allowing the trees to become established unhindered.

Property 2 - Kholo

Jan and 'Pop' were one of the first Land for Wildlife members to apply to be part of the 2MT Project. They have a small level property at Kholo and were keen to have it planted with native trees.

Like the Smiths' property, the area was inspected, rows sprayed with glyphosate to kill the exotic grasses and 3,080 trees were planted over 0.766 ha in September 2011.

"So far, the trees are growing well and we don't have any problems with herbivores. The native hibiscus is growing exceptionally well and if some plants inadvertently die, they would be replaced by dry rainforest species. Whilst we may only be 0.154% of the total 2MT project, we feel very happy with our contribution." Pop said.

Property 3 - Moggill

Gavin and Cate bought a property in Moggill several years ago with the express purpose of re-treesing it. It already has a big patch of bushland on it, the result of a planting in the 1950s and they wanted to extend this planting across the property.

"One potential problem was the occurrence of coal seams near the land surface that may affect future tree selection and growing", Gavin said. With careful planning, a species list which was suited to the site was selected and site preparation started in September 2011.



Image above and below. Upper Brookfield site after planting.

"So far, the plants have grown very well. The main issue has been keeping the quick growing grasses under control to give the trees a greater chance of survival", Gavin said.

Property 4 - Pullenvale

Tree planting has just been completed at the time of writing this article. Although it seems a simple procedure, it has taken several months to develop covenants, licence agreements as well as the tree management plans and site specifications for each property. One of the main issues in this area is the marauding feral deer population, which threaten the planted trees as they mature. Planning has already begun to minimise this potential impact.

It is envisaged that the thousands of trees planted on these Land for Wildlife properties will provide suitable shelter, nesting sites and food for many types of wildlife. Eventually, fully functioning ecosystems will develop based on the framework structure provided. Insects and birds have already been recorded on the sites and reptiles and mammals are moving through them. It is the intention to establish fauna monitoring on these properties to collect data on fauna use over time.

When mature, the 2MT Project will have provided a significant positive environmental benefit to the city by increasing our level of native tree cover and total habitat area by over 470 hectares, thanks in part to these generous and passionate landowners.



A Two Million Trees planting site on a Land for Wildlife property at Kholo.



Article and photos by
Greg Siepen
2 Million Trees Officer
Brisbane City Council

practicalities

Give Lantana the forks!

There would be very few rural properties in South East Queensland that could honestly claim a Lantana free status. I can't think of another weed that is as prevalent in our landscape as *Lantana camara*. In my role as a Land for Wildlife Extension Officer one of the most commonly asked question I receive would have to be "so what is the best way to get rid of lantana?" Unfortunately there is no short answer (and there is no silver bullet), but what is clear is that many landholders are looking for ways to make the task easier.

Lantana is an extremely adaptable plant; it occupies a diversity of habitats and takes on varying growth forms to meet specific local environmental conditions. To successfully control such a versatile weed you generally require an equally diverse set of tools, techniques and strategies.

Recently I was shown an innovative new tool that has been designed specifically for manually removing lantana bushes. Over the last few years the 'Lantana Fork' has been a work in progress for Cape York Nature Refuge Officer, Simon Thompson.

Simon initially asked a colleague to make a big version of the garden weed puller. The first version did not have a foot which sort of worked, but it weighed about 20 kg so it was easier to pull out plants by hand. Together they worked on improving the design and added a 'foot' in order to increase the lift potential but mindful of not compromising strength they used very thick (but heavy) steel. Simon explained that they gave this prototype a reasonably adequate field trial using the original design to pullout more than 250,000 lantana plants from 40 Mile Scrub National Park!

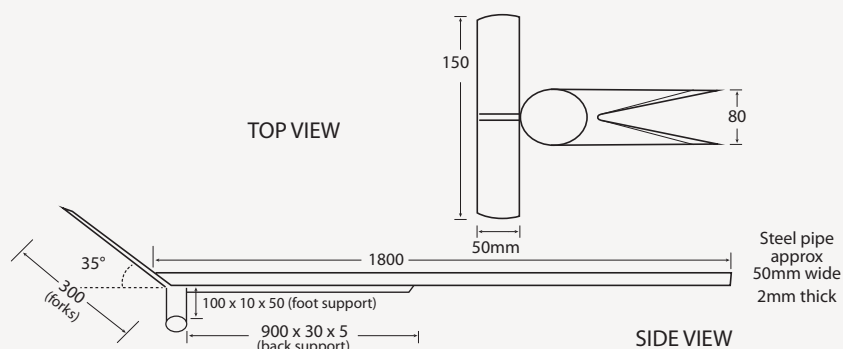
The Lantana Fork works by firmly clasp the base of the Lantana plant's trunk (a prong on each side of the main stem) and then applying downward pressure on the

long handle. The plant is then levered out of the ground, roots and all. Lantana Forks are now used all over Queensland from Cape York to south of Brisbane. Each time they have a new batch of forks made at a local engineering workshop they tweak the design in an attempt to make it lighter without compromising the strength. Some of the advances have been shortening the fork to increase lift power and reduce the stress on the handle, adding supports to the back of the pole to stop it bending and adjusting the angle of the fork to make it easier to thrust into the base of plants.

The latest version (see design below) uses lighter Bisalloy for the fork section, the pole and foot are made from steel pipe (2 mm thick), the support for the foot is 10 mm thick and the support along the back of the pole is 5 mm thick steel. Simon says, "It costs me \$150 per fork to have made at a local engineering workshop, but there is nothing that couldn't be done elsewhere. If someone finds a way to make it lighter without weakening it I'd love to know. Mine now weighs under 10 kgs. From our calculations it can produce between 350-700 kgs of lift, easily enough to unearth the roots of the toughest Lantana plant."

The Lantana Fork offers a great alternative for landholders that are looking for a non-herbicide option of controlling Lantana. I have also trialled it on saplings of other woody weeds such as Groundsel Bush, Camphor Laurel and Small-leaved Privet and it is effective when there is good soil moisture. The tool is probably best suited to Lantana bushes that have a shrub like growth form (usually in drier more open forests) than in areas where the plant has long runners at ground level.

The Lantana Fork is not available commercially but Simon says he is happy if anyone wants to use the design to make their own so they too can give Lantana the forks!



Article and photos by
Nick Clancy
Land for Wildlife Officer
Sunshine Coast Council

book reviews

Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland

By Eric Vanderduys

It has been quite a few years since a photographic field guide to Australian frogs was published making this book is a welcome new release. Although I suspect this book will not be as popular as chocolates under the Christmas tree, it is a great gift for those with an interest in our summertime noisy amphibious neighbours.

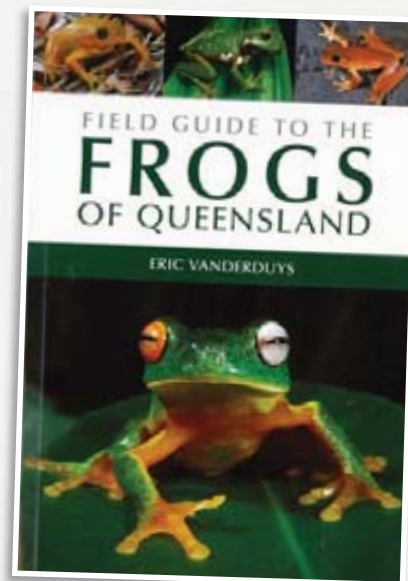
It is a compact book, full of colour photographs and is easy to follow with one species described per page. Each of the 132 species described has one or more photographs, a distribution map, detailed descriptions and a list of similar species.

Like all good frog field guides, the five Families of native frogs and one introduced Family (Bufonidae - Cane Toads) are introduced separately with dichotomous keys presented for each Family. To help decipher technical terms

in the keys, excellent anatomical diagrams are shown in the introduction.

The author clearly has a passion for frogs and their conservation over many decades. The short introduction gives the reader an insight into some of his travels and how frogs have evolved to live in both the dry deserts and wet tropics of Queensland. Eric's concerns about the survival of some of our native frogs and their habitats is unequivocal; particularly frogs in highly populated areas such as SEQ as their habitats are being filled in and drained for humans, as well as frogs that live on remote cool mountain tops and will have nowhere to go as global temperatures rise.

This book is easy to read, enjoyable to flick through, and will be useful in the field. A great addition to any wildlife enthusiast's library.



Published by CSIRO Publishing, 2012
Paperback, colour photos, 208 pages.
ISBN: 9780643106307
Price: \$45
Available from CSIRO Publishing
and all good bookshops.

Australian Lizards: A Natural History

By Steve K Wilson

The author admits up front that he has been "completely enraptured by the charm of lizards" since he was a toddler. This book represents a lifetime of enjoying lizards and is a remarkable synthesis of such knowledge. We are very lucky to be able to access such knowledge and the incredible photographs throughout this book.

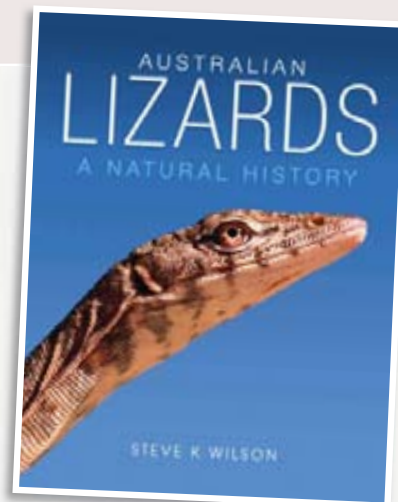
This book showcases lizards based on what lizards do, such as what they eat, how they regulate their temperature, how they breed and how they survive the extremes of Australia. The photographs are remarkable showing lizards shedding their skins, eating spiders, sipping nectar, keeping cool in the desert, laying eggs, displaying breeding plumage and camouflaging themselves. The images alone tell countless stories about the often secret lives of our lizards.

Lizards are divided into four main groups - skinks, dragons, monitors and geckos. Australia has half of the world's total number of monitors with 27 species found in every state except Tasmania. With over

420 species, Australia has the greatest diversity and abundance of skinks anywhere on Earth. There are over 70 species of dragons in Australia and provide fascinating examples of convergent evolution whereby unrelated, but incredibly similar looking, species inhabit similar ecological niches. Finally, geckos, of which Australia has 30 named species including the introduced Asian House Gecko, considered the world's most invasive lizard.

The Perentie is Australia's largest lizard reaching 2 metres in length and is a member of the Family Varanidae (monitors). Monitors are comparably quite intelligent and are known to memorise tracks and features in a landscape and are able to recognise individual humans.

Packed full of facts and amazing stories, this is a book to pick up and enjoy over and over again. It does not try to be a field guide but is more of a personal tribute to our amazing lizards. Thank you Steve for writing this.



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and all good bookshops.

Reviews by Deborah Metters

my little corner

A Landholder's Perspective

Land for Wildlife to us means community. You become part of a community that shares the same values – repairing past environmental mistakes and at the same time ensuring a continued and increasing diversity of wildlife and flora.

Community also means revealing to the wider population what has been lost, what can be achieved and the transformation that can take place. Through such means others in the community are encouraged to become members of the Land for Wildlife community. A win-win scenario.

Although at first you think you know it all and have all the answers you soon realise you don't. That is where being part of Land for Wildlife is essential. Property visits, advice and encouragement from Council Conservation Partnerships Officers, and the realisation that one size does not fit all, contribute to picking you up when it all seems too much.

Everyone responds to encouragement. The annual Land for Wildlife tubestock grant not only encourages you to keep on planting but also forces you to plan for a particular area to be revegetated. It also helps you to prioritise those areas at most risk. Let's face it, revegetation on larger properties is expensive. Tubestock grants, together with

Landholder Environmental Grants has certainly enabled us to revegetate and restore major areas that we would never have been able to.

After about eight years of being weekend Land for Wildlife warriors and 18 months full time (retired) we can now see the benefits of the grants and the activities. For some time the benefits were slow to see, but now they seem to have suddenly become obvious: more animals are seen around the house (more protection) and elsewhere; areas cleared of lantana and other feral flora have suddenly regenerated with native pioneer and other species; areas cleared and replanted are attracting birds which then provide seeds of diverse flora and are now growing; and (hopefully) areas subject to landslip which have been replanted with tubestock from Land for Wildlife grants will become more stable.

The journey from property purchase, to the Land for Wildlife community, to receiving Landholder Environmental Grant, to seeing the obvious beneficial results led us to the next logical step – progressing to a Voluntary Conservation Agreement.

**Articles by Ian Webster
Land for Wildlife member
Flaxton, Sunshine Coast**

Mind numbing activities such as pulling Cobbler's Pegs and lantana, allow one to think outside the square. It keeps me going when the going gets tough! Here some examples of my mental musings.

1. IQ and Property Size. After speaking to and observing those in the revegetation game, I worked out a simple mathematical relationship between a person's IQ and the size of the property purchased for reveg. The relationship is: a person's IQ is inversely proportional to the size of their property! We have 32 rugged acres and our neighbour has 60. This means he is twice as silly as we are! But we are three times as silly as someone who has bought 10 acres. On reflection, there is a flaw with my formula. Taken to its logical extension the brainiest people would be those who buy a unit in a city. I don't know about you, but I would rather be dumb and live on 30 acres and work my guts out than be smart and live in a highrise unit.

2. Learning. You never cease to learn once you start the reveg caper. Take my experience. Prior to being involved in reveg I did not swear. However, being bitten by jumping ants on one's 'sensitive parts', impaled by cockspur thorns, putting your hand within six inches of a red-bellied black snake, sliding uncontrollably down slippery slopes, having a leech attached to your eyeball, having near death experiences on your tractor, or discovering that the brush turkeys have dug up all of your carefully planted trees provide you with a very fast learning curve in the fine art of swearing. Somehow, 'oops', 'dash it', 'oh dear', 'fancy that', or 'darn' just don't seem to cut it. You have to vent to the primordial utterances that would make a bullocky blush. And guess what? It makes you feel good! It somehow decreases the pain, fear or exasperation that you are experiencing.

So the next time you feel depressed or overwhelmed with your reveg project look on the light side and enjoy yourself. It works for me.

Ian Webster and Dianne Lanskey purchased 32 acres in 2002 at Flaxton. It consisted of remnant forest, large areas of lantana and every other feral and noxious weed as well as grass paddocks (for grazing purposes). During that time they have hand cleared acres of lantana, glycine, desmodium, camphor laurel etc. and planted 17,000 trees. They continue to find hidden pockets of remnant forest. - Ed Surman, Land for Wildlife Officer, Sunshine Coast Council.





letters to the editor

Ragamuffin Earth

In response to Spencer Shaw's weed profile (October 2012), you may be familiar with the term 'novel ecosystem'. This is defined as an ecosystem that has been influenced by humans, but is not under human management.

An article entitled 'Ragamuffin Earth' in *Nature Collections* (March 2010) defines novel ecosystems as "land without agricultural or urban use, embedded with agricultural or urban regions". This, I believe, is what most of we Land for Wildlife / conservationists / regenerationists have to work with – ecosystems that we can make habitable for flora and fauna and provide some ecosystem services, but which will also contain introduced species of varying degrees of benefit. Property profiles in the Land for Wildlife newsletters are mostly about such ecosystems. (Is it reasonable to suggest that the introduction of *Mus musculus* [house mouse] has been beneficial? After all, brown snakes like them).

And Spencer Shaw points out that not all weeds are bad – or not 'all bad'.

Cobbler's Pegs are vigorous and annoying pioneer plants. I can successfully grow them to a greater than head height in a good season on new ground. Native

bees like them and dead plants are good kindling. But as my largely native garden develops, the Cobbler's Pegs are diminishing and my socks are becoming less uncomfortable.

Lantana? Hmm... Well after the 2010/11 severe torrents that raged down my little creek, if it had not been for *Lantana camara* plants on the banks, erosion would have been much worse. I only wish we had as vigorous a native replacement. Native Cockspur (*Maclura cochinchinensis*) might qualify, but with comparable discomfort and inconvenience.

At present, my favourite weed is Ink Weed (*Phytolacca octandra*) which was well established before we bought here four years ago. It grows quickly into a quite attractive shrub, is reasonably easy to remove when necessary, makes good mulch, shades new plants and attracts a wide range of birds. In addition to the many LBBs (little brown birds) and LGBs (little grey birds) that I have yet to identify, visitors include Koels, Silvereyes by the dozen, three kinds of wren (Superb, Variegated and Red-winged Fairy-wrens), Brown Cuckoo-doves, Pale-headed Rosellas, Lewin's Honeyeater, Red-browed Finches and others.

Above left: The orange fruit of Cockspur. Would this prickly native plant work as a replacement for lantana?

Above right: Inkweed fruit attracts a wide range of birds. Photos by Rob Whyte.

Surprisingly, despite there being a resident population, I have yet to see Pied Currawongs eating the fruit or going into the Ink Weed after small birds.

Past experience with such weeds as Lime Bush (*Eremocitrus glauca*) and Galvanised Burr, leads me to believe that they are the dominant remnant species on over-used land because they are relatively inedible. I suspect this also applies to *Bursaria spinosa*. Anything is better than bare ground - even Prickly Pear has very attractive flowers. I confess to finding complimentary things to say about Noogoora and Bathurst Burrs difficult. Perhaps some readers could assist me here.

Having said all this, my proof-reader has now advised that I am only seeking to justify the fact that I am a lazy, disorganised gardener / landscaper who hates weeding.

Peter Darvall
Land for Wildlife member
Stockyard, Lockyer Valley

Multiple Bowers

Re Satin Bowerbird High Density Bowers in Fauna Vignettes (*Land for Wildlife SEQ Newsletter* October 2012) there are several explanations.

1. There appears to be only one functioning bower although the display material covers the other bower. There would seem no evolutionary advantage in constructing two bowers other than practice. The picture may even show three bowers! Younger birds improve construction over time. The cost of maintaining (constructing, decorating, painting, defending) two bowers in working order at the same time would surely outweigh the small advantage of giving a female a choice.

2. The resident failed to attract mates to the original bower and so built another. There appears adequate construction material on the floor nearby obviating the necessity of using old bower material.

3. The original occupier died or was displaced. The new occupier chose to build a new bower because, (a) the old bower contained saliva and/or scent of the previous occupier, or (b) there was adequate building material.

There appears little in the literature on this matter but the following paper may be of help: Bravery BD & Goldizen AW (2007) Male satin bowerbirds compensation for sexual signal loss by enhancing multiple display features. *Naturwissenschaften* 94(6), pp 473-476.



Gordon Wilkinson
Land for Wildlife member
Brookfield, Brisbane



2012 Healthy Waterways Report Card

Every year since 2000 Healthy Waterways has been monitoring our waterways and marine areas in SEQ and producing a 'report card' of the results. These Ecosystem Health Report Cards tell us a story about our landscapes. Unsurprisingly, the story is roughly the same year to year with differences largely attributed to varying rainfall. The Mid-Brisbane, Lower-Brisbane, Lockyer and Oxley Catchments have never fared well in report cards showing little habitat values and poor ecological processes. On the other hand, the Noosa, Tallebudgera and Stanley Catchments are quite healthy with aquatic animals and little pollution. This is science backing up logic as most of us can see the difference between creeks in the Noosa or Oxley catchments.

The 2012 report card shows a return to typical conditions after the heavy rains and floods of recent years. Highly urbanised catchments such as Lower Brisbane and Redlands slightly improved to a D+ whereas the Mid-Brisbane declined to a F due probably to riverbank slumping as a result of floods in this region.

While these report cards are useful and environmental monitoring is essential, over time, it is understandable that we all want to see our waterways receiving As, Bs or Cs, not the current suite of Ds and Fs. For this to occur, there would need to be political will, community support plus lots and lots of revegetation and ecological restoration, on a scale not currently seen in SEQ.

Many landholders and agencies are doing great work to protect our waterways and prevent erosion, sedimentation and pollution. However, the scale of the degradation in some catchments needs a monumental response to improve these report card grades and provide positive reinforcement to those landholders who are already doing the hard yards of restoration.

All report cards can be found on the Healthy Waterways website or contact your local Land for Wildlife Officer for a copy of the 2012 report card.

Freshwater Report Card 2012



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