



# LAND FOR WILDLIFE

## SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

AUGUST 2024 VOL. 18 NO. 3

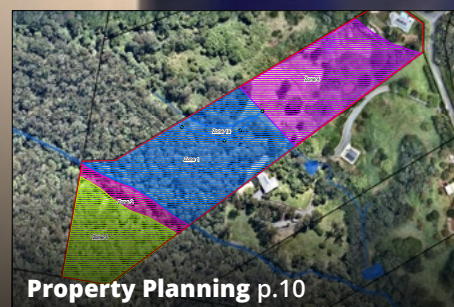


### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Land for Wildlife Team
- 3 Editorial
- 3 Climate & Weather Outlook
- 3 Weeds to Watch
- 4 Silver Lining to February Floods
- 5 20 Years of Rewilding
- 6 My Prickly Patch
- 7 Tree Troffs
- 8 Protecting Young Plants from Hares and Rabbits
- 9 Helping Heal the Land
- 10-11 Beginning a Land for Wildlife Journey
- 12 Tips on Controlling Yucca
- 13 Book and App Reviews
- 14 Love, Loss and Legacy
- 15 Threatened Species Comeback
- 16 Congratulations



Long-stem Tree Guards, p.8



Property Planning p.10

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Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Team,  
December 2023

## Land for Wildlife SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

**5,633**  
**TOTAL**  
**PROPERTIES**

**4,481**  
**REGISTERED**  
**PROPERTIES**

**1,152**  
**PROPERTIES**  
working towards  
**RESTORATION**

**81,747<sup>ha</sup>**  
**RETAINED HABITAT**

**9,551<sup>ha</sup>**  
**Habitat Under**  
**RESTORATION**

**60,266**  
**iNaturalist**  
**OBSERVATIONS**

**12,867**  
**Facebook Followers**

[www.inaturalist.org/projects/lfwseq](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/lfwseq)

To join contact your local LfW Officer

*Land for Wildlife South East Queensland acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow. May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.*

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary conservation program that encourages and assists landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their properties.

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Front Cover: LGMA Award for Land for Wildlife South East Queensland. Photo by Deborah Metters.

Front Cover Inset Photos: Long-stem tree guard, photo by Martin Bennett; Aerial photo with management zones of Ian and Lynda Hannam's property.

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You have come to the right place if you want to top-up on some good news stories.

Landholders across SEQ are doing their bit to restore nature and provide habitat for our wildlife. They are providing habitat for secretive bush-hens that live in dense native grasses at Samford. They are transforming degraded paddocks into flourishing forests at Cooroy. At Palmwoods, a bird bath and years of planting prickly plants have made homes for small birds to nest within. At Palen Creek, the landholder is undoing years of poor management to encourage wildlife on a regenerative agricultural farm. Landholders at Mt Nathan are bringing a property management plan to life by doing weed control, restoring waterways and controlling erosion across four distinct management zones on their property. In the western regions of SEQ, landholders have been installing drinking troughs high up in the trees to provide water for wildlife, which will be especially valuable in times of drought and high-fire risk.

To top this all off, the inspirational author Annette Hendersen shares her heartfelt story of making the tough decision (instigated by a natural disaster) to leave her property after 45 years of restoration, care and connection at Greenbank. I had the privilege of meeting Annette and her late-husband Win and saw the love that they have for their property and how they have helped protect and care for wildlife around the world. Thank you Annette.

Showcasing these stories from Noosa in the north, to Toowoomba in the west and Gold Coast in the south illustrates the extent of the Land for Wildlife program in SEQ. Collectively celebrating, acknowledging and learning from each other's stories is core to the program. This collaboration by 13 Local Governments and thousands of landholders is what was recognised recently by the Local Government Managers Australia awards. I hope you can all feel proud of this award. It recognises that individual actions on our own properties contribute to a much bigger picture and that there is strength in collaboration.

Finally, I want to say thanks and goodluck to Kylie Gordon who is stepping down from her role at Sunshine Coast Council to pursue a PhD on private land conservation. What a perfect fit. I have valued working closely with Kylie over the past eight years and want to acknowledge her significant contribution to LfWSEQ. She has helped move the program forward, always looking to expand and improve services offered to members within a robust and enduring policy framework. She leaves an impressive legacy with enduring friendships, and I wish her all the best.

Thank you to all the landholders who contributed to this edition. I know that your stories will be valued by hundreds of others who hopefully take heart and tips from your experiences. As always, I welcome all contributions. Please be in touch if you want to.

**Deborah Metters**

**Land for Wildlife Regional Coordinator**

**We welcome all contributions.**

**Please send them to:**

The Editor

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## Climate & Weather

### REGIONAL OUTLOOK Jul - Sep 2024



#### Daytime and Night-time Temperatures.

Above average daytime and night-time temperatures are very likely with an increased chance of unusually warm days and nights.



**Rainfall.** Average rainfall is likely.



**Streamflow.** Near-median streamflows are likely.

#### Climate Influences

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral.
- ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch meaning that there is an equal chance of ENSO neutral or La Niña developing.
- Global sea surface temperatures were highest on record for each month between Apr 2023 and May 2024.

#### Sources

[www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/) and [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/)

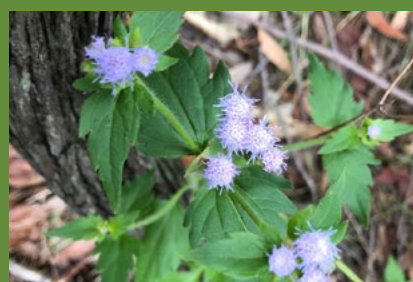
## Weeds to Watch

Jul - Sep 2024

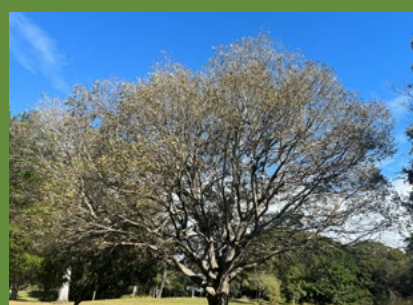
**Colombian Waxweed** (*Cuphea carthagenensis*) is a small plant with waxy leaves, densely hairy stems and mauve coloured flowers. Its sticky seeds are readily carried by mowers/ slashers and clothing. Manual control is difficult as its vigorous taproot is hard to pull out. Foliar spray with herbicide and surfactant.



**Praxelis** (*Praxelis clematidea*) is an upright herb that closely resembles Blue Billygoat Weed. Its leaves are sharply toothed and emit a pungent odour when crushed. The purple/ bluish flowers yield white-tufted wind dispersed seeds. Manual control or foliar spray with herbicide.



**Celtis** (*Celtis sinensis*) is a large tree that usually loses its leaves in winter, making it somewhat easier to spot within a forest. It is a good time to mark the tree and come back in spring when its leaves are actively growing to control it by using the cut stump or stem injection methods with herbicide.



**Photos by Martin Bennett and Cody Hochen.**





**I**n the early hours of 30 January 2024, the remnants of ex-tropical cyclone Kirilly lay over Samford and dumped a staggering 350 mm of rain in just over 2 hours. As a result, the South Pine River rose to 7.4 metres (almost a metre higher than the February 2022 flood) in a couple of hours. The waters smashed the revegetation at the Samford Eco-Corridor and flooded the nearby bowls club causing havoc throughout Samford Valley. The ramifications were to affect my property a couple of kilometres away from the river.

Back in December 2020, I began planting a former mown lawn near my front gate with a mix of local native grasses, wattles, she-oaks and eucalypts, funded by a Land for Wildlife grant.

However, I hadn't fully anticipated how rampant Blady Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) would become over the subsequent wet summers: it smothered almost all the other grasses, except for a few Scented Top (*Capillipedium spicigerum*) and Barbed-wire Grasses (*Cymbopogon refractus*). My wife hates the area because it is almost impenetrable and hard to weed. I quipped "but this is perfect habitat for skulking wildlife. Quails and rails would love it".

Early on 3 February 2024, a few days after the flood, I was birdwatching at my front gate when I heard 'whoop whoop whoop' and contact clicks behind me. Out of context, the bird calls didn't register immediately, but I soon realised I had Pale-vented Bush-hens in the front yard! I dashed to the house as quietly as I could to grab my camera and returned much more cautiously. I used very brief playback to try to pinpoint the birds, which elicited the territorial call immediately.

I surmised that the pair of bush-hens had been displaced from the South Pine River by the flood and had probably followed an ephemeral creek gully as far as the dam in my neighbour's yard to the east, which is surrounded by rank grasses.



I realised that they would have to cross the track through my eucalypt woodland to get back to the dam, so I walked around and lay motionless on the ground hoping that they would show. Within minutes, one popped out of the dense understorey, but too close to focus with my 500 mm lens (less than 2.5 metres), giving us both a big shock, then it disappeared in an instant. They remained in the Blady Grass for about 40 minutes, occasionally poking their heads out, seemingly trying to determine how to get back to the dam without crossing an open area. Eventually they crossed the track, and I was able to get a few clear photographs at (bush-hen) eye level. This marvellous and very unexpected close encounter demonstrates the adage, 'plant the habitat and they shall come'.

The pair hung around for a few weeks during the continued wet conditions (they were calling most days) and I last heard them near my neighbour's dam on 18 March. A month later, I was removing some Cadaghi saplings from the Blady Grass area and came across an abandoned nest with 4 brown-speckled white eggs measuring 40x27 mm. The cup-shaped structure measuring 180 mm wide and 120 mm deep was made of grass and sat about 400 mm off the ground near a she-oak. It seems that conditions had been so good in February that the bush-hens had attempted to breed.

It is a great pity that they weren't successful in raising a brood but I was thrilled to have a rare 'breeding' record on my own property. My wife conceded that this was very special and has developed a new-found admiration for Blady Grass (although she isn't as enthusiastic about it as my Land for Wildlife Officer, Stefan Hattingh, was!).

**Article and photos by Peter Storer**  
Land for Wildlife member  
Samford, Moreton Bay



# 20 YEARS OF *Rewilding*



BEFORE



AFTER

**L**ate in 2003 we purchased small acreage on Happy Jack Creek in the hills behind Cooroy. After “and so now what do we do”, we embraced stewardship and got to work in 2004, for eight years as weekenders from Brisbane.

Truthfully, we started out clueless and rudderless, blessed with a narrow strip of beautiful remnant rainforest along the creek edges, but lots of bare damaged paddock, lots of weeds and a run-down house. We set out to leave one little bit of the planet in better condition than we found it.

Twenty years, lots of research and many thousands of hours and plantings later, our block is transformed and largely reforested. As with all worthwhile journeys, there have been many trials and tribulations enroute; floods, hail, drought, frost and trespassing cattle. For me personally it has been a rewarding and spiritually life-fulfilling parallel journey of growing, healing and transcending the weeds of life.

Dave Burrows was the Noosa Land for Wildlife Officer who came to do our initial property assessment, and guess what, we didn't technically qualify! We were under the official Land for Wildlife one hectare minimum size limit.

The main ecosystem on our property is classified as Regional Ecosystem 12.3.1, which essentially means riparian (watercourse) rainforest. It is a wonderfully rich biodiverse ecosystem and is listed as Endangered under Queensland legislation. This ecosystem is almost entirely found on private land and has been extensively cleared as it is also perfect dairy country.

Thankfully Dave wisely saw potential in both our rudderless enthusiasm and our degraded bit of paradise, and we were in with a grin! [Note to readers: Land for Wildlife Officers can use their discretion

based on their ecological expertise and the condition of the property at the time of assessment as to whether a property is eligible to join the program].

There is a great factsheet about this ecosystem, and many other threatened ecosystems, on the Land for Wildlife website at [www.lfwseq.org.au/ecosystem-factsheets/](http://www.lfwseq.org.au/ecosystem-factsheets/)

Dave's assessment included doing a plant species list. At that point I had identified White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*) and that was about it. So, in preparation for Dave's visit, I cut old venetian blind slats into sections, punched holes and attached strings. We toured, Dave identified, and we name-tagged as we went, and I took pictures. A few months ago, I discovered a Dave autographed tag from deep in the mulch.

My photos also sadly reveal how incredibly unexpected and swift the process of species decline can be. Amongst the species Dave identified were Native Guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*) and Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) both then common, but now classified as Critically Endangered.

Around 2011 Myrtle Rust, a serious fungal disease, arrived in Australia and quickly spread, affecting plants within the myrtle (Myrtaceae) family. I was surprised to find just how many native species are members of the myrtle family including lilly-pillies and even eucalypts. The rust attacks new growth and flowering parts, and over-time, the species that are particularly susceptible to Myrtle Rust are unable to produce seeds. In parts of the nursery industry the disease was known as Guava Rust. It is bad news for our Native Guava, which appears to be nearly functionally extinct in the wild.

I have been successfully growing Native Guava from root suckers and they are

fast growing and easy to cultivate. A project to locate more genetically rust-resistant specimens has a leaf from one of our plants in Canberra for DNA testing, so hopefully our local plants will have a future. I was also heartened by an article in the LfWSEQ February 2024 magazine about potentially rust-resistant Native Guava plants found on a Land for Wildlife property in Logan. Maybe there is hope for our Native Guavas yet.

**Article and photos by Lesley Pantlin and Judy Bowey  
Land for Wildlife members  
Cooroy, Noosa**







The Prickly Patch in June 2019 (left) and now (above).

## MY PRICKLY Patch

**I**n late 2015 we moved from a small block in an inner Brisbane suburb to 4.5 acres in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Quite the tree change!

A wet sclerophyll forest takes up about 2 acres and the rest was mainly grass, exotic plants and weeds of all sizes and descriptions.

One of the first things I did was set up several bird baths, including one at the edge of the forest. This one was immensely popular with many small birds. I set up a wildlife camera that recorded the great variety of birds that visited. But they only came for a drink and a bath and to socialise, then they disappeared around the corner into the neighbours' property.

We joined Land for Wildlife soon after. When selecting the seedlings we received with the yearly grant, I always read the descriptions of the plants as I had no knowledge of native plants at that stage. It struck me that some plants were described as being "good habitat for small birds" or "dense prickly habitat makes it a useful nesting site for small rainforest birds", "provides shelter for small birds" and so on. This gave me the idea of creating what I call my "Prickly Patch".

Adjoining the forest and the aforementioned bird bath I planted many of these prickly plants reasonably close together. Every year I added more plants. A few died, but most did very well. Imagine my excitement when after seven years of planting I have just spotted the first nests being built in two *Citrus australis* shrubs! One belongs to Double-barred Finches and the other to Silvereyes (see photos below).

It is so rewarding to see these birds making my Prickly Patch their home, and I'm hoping I will get to see many more of them in years to come. And by the way, I am still adding prickly plants to the patch.



### Plants in the Prickly Patch

<i>Acacia hubbardiana</i>	Yellow Prickly Moses
<i>Alchornea ilicifolia</i>	Native Holly
<i>Alyxia ruscifolia</i>	Chainberry
<i>Bursaria incana</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Citrus australasica</i>	Finger Lime
<i>Citrus australis</i>	Native Lime
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter Pea
<i>Hakea actites</i>	Wallum Hakea
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Silky Hakea
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	Tick Bush
<i>Pittosporum lancifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Orange Thorn
<i>Pittosporum multiflorum</i>	Orange Thorn
<i>Pittosporum spinescens</i>	Wallaby Apple
<i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i>	Shrubby Pine
<i>Podolobium ilicifolium</i>	Holly-leaved Pea
<i>Wilkiea huegeliana</i>	Veiny Wilkiea
<i>Wilkiea macrophylla</i>	Large-leaved Wilkiea



Article and photos by Maria Rosenfelder  
Land for Wildlife member  
Palmwoods, Sunshine Coast



# TREE Troffs

Shown here are 77 TREE TROFFS® that were recently distributed to landholders in the Lockyer Valley, Toowoomba and Southern Downs regions by Lockyer Valley Regional Council in partnership with Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc (LUCI). Tree Troffs were developed by WIRES, Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation, in the wake of the 2019-20 wildfires. They are used to provide supplementary water for arboreal wildlife.

This initiative forms part of the Bunya to Border Koala Climate Corridor project, a partnership between the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and is designed to help wildlife adapt and build resilience to climate change. These Tree Troffs have been installed on properties that were affected by the 2019 wildfires or drought, including many Land for Wildlife properties.

Tree Troffs take about two hours for two people to install. Refilling the Tree Troff water tank requires a vehicle that can carry a water tank (minimum 220 litres) and a water pump, so the location of the Tree Troff will be dependent on vehicle access and a suitably large tree.

Shown right is a Tree Troff installed on a Land for Wildlife property and various wildlife drinking from a Tree Troff including a Koala, Rainbow Lorikeets and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

**Martin Bennett**  
Land for Wildlife Officer  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council





## PROTECTING YOUNG PLANTS FROM

# Hares and Rabbits

These trees shown here and below left were planted in October 2022 - the hose guards were pushed aside by July 2023.

**H**ares and rabbits can present a real problem when doing revegetation. They just love to eat the fresh, healthy stems and leaves of newly planted trees.

Over the years, I have been experimenting with different size plant pots and stock including plants in regular tubestock pots, long-stemmed plants in tubestock pots and mature plants in large round 6 inch pots.

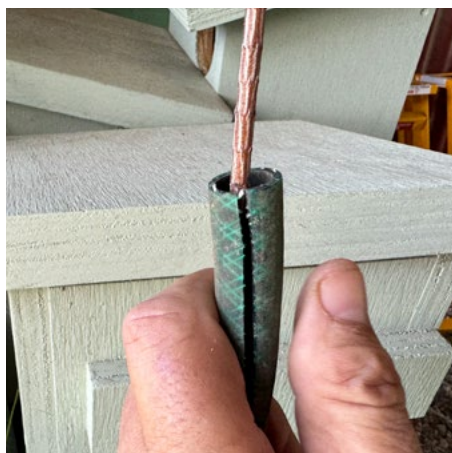
Long-stemmed plants in tubes work really well in low rainfall areas like the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions where I work and live. The trouble is that hares and rabbits will inevitably chew through the narrow, long stems.

To protect the long stems, I cut up old garden hoses into short pieces - the same length as the bare stems. I use secateurs to cut up the length of the hose the whole way, open it up and feed the stem in. Make sure that the hose is slightly into the ground when planting.

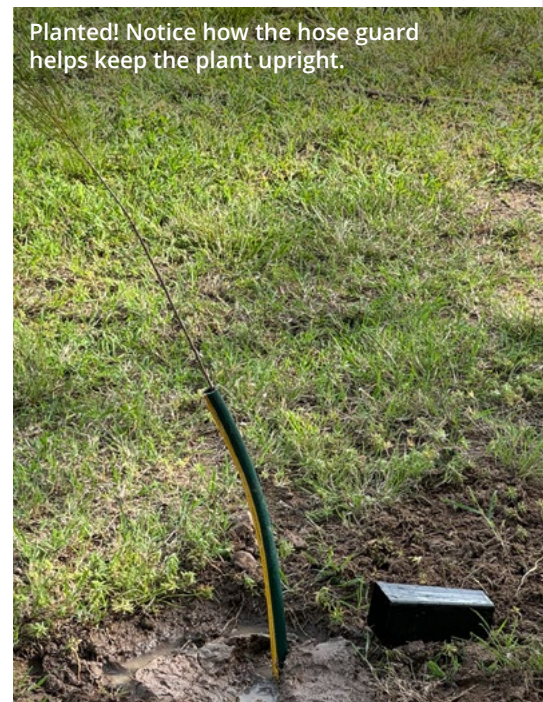
I have had 100% success rate using this method. The hose guards simply shed as the stem thickens up. By the time this happens, the stems are too thick for the hares and rabbits to chew through. The hose guards fall away from the trees and are then ready to be collected and used again. An added feature is that the hose guard helps to hold the plant upright.

There are many different types of tree guards on the market to protect young plants from being eaten by pest animals, like hares and deer, and from wildlife like wallabies, and from livestock. The types of guards you will need will depend on what sort of plants you are planting and the animals that you have on your property. If you are dealing with rabbits and hares, this relatively simple, cheap and effective method of using hose guards with long-stemmed tubestock might just work. Goodluck!

**Article and photos by Martin Bennett  
Land for Wildlife Officer  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council**



Long-stemmed tubestock fitted with hose guards prior to planting.



Planted! Notice how the hose guard helps keep the plant upright.



Bruce with Ollie his dog next to a recent planting that expands the creekline vegetation.

## HELPING *Heal the Land*



Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies and Koalas were captured on fauna cameras.



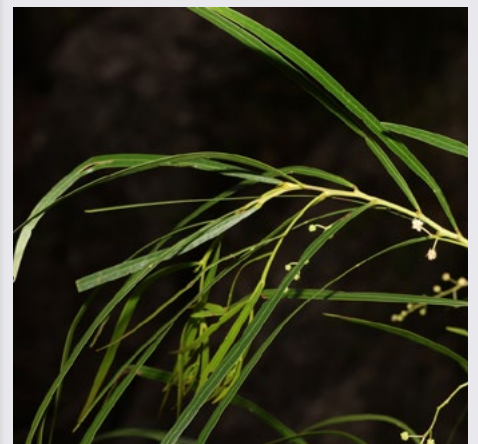
When I first met Bruce Patterson, I was instantly fascinated by his clear vision of what he wanted to achieve on his property. Unfortunately, the previous owner removed wildlife and mature vegetation throughout the property. Bruce noticed that lack of wildlife on the property when he purchased it and immediately wanted to heal the land.

Regenerative agriculture has many forms, and in my eyes, Bruce's property is what it is all about. In such a short timeframe (within two years) Bruce has achieved so much on his property.

You would be surprised how many times I hear Land for Wildlife members say that they have never seen a Koala on their property and that seeing a Koala on their property would be an ultimate goal. When I mentioned this to Bruce, he accepted this as a challenge. So, Bruce and I set up multiple fauna monitoring cameras throughout the property to see what species were on the property. Setting up cameras will not show you everything and with a bit of luck and sieving through thousands of images you may come across some great finds. Bruce and I were delighted by what the cameras showed on his property, including Koalas and Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies.

**Article by Catherine Madden  
Land for Wildlife Officer  
Scenic Rim Regional Council**

**Right: Strap-leaf Wattle (*Acacia  
acronastes*) and Slender Milkvine  
(*Leichhardtia coronata*) were found  
on Bruce's property - both are listed  
threatened species.**



Late last year, I was contracted by Scenic Rim Regional Council to complete a one-day survey on Bruce's Land for Wildlife property at Palen Creek. Bruce is working hard on his property with an objective to restore native vegetation that will provide a corridor and buffer for fauna living in the adjacent National Park. He is currently revegetating the bare banks of his creek with local native plant species.

The survey was a good opportunity to ground-truth what plants are growing in the creek and to add them to Bruce's planting list. Bruce wants to add diversity to the creek line and plant the species naturally occurring there.

The 12-hour survey recorded over 410 species of fauna and flora, including nearly 300 species of native plants, highlighting the diversity of this property. Due to the hot conditions (35 degrees) fauna was hard to come by during the day but we were lucky to get a picture of a female Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and her joey. After dark, the nocturnal animals came alive with Eastern Barn Owls, Sugar and Feathertail Gliders observed. Bruce is an inspiring example of how a landholder can make positive environmental impacts in a short amount of time, and how there is always much to learn from each other.

**Greg Tasney, Consultant Ecologist**



# Beginning

## A LAND FOR WILDLIFE JOURNEY

Soon after purchasing our property at Mount Nathan we began discussing what conservation measures might be applicable for this area. By the time of occupancy, three months later, we had prepared a preliminary plan from information off air photos, websites and plant and animal species lists from the Queensland Museum.

About 60% (5.5ha) of our property is open eucalypt forest and is protected under state environmental legislation as Koala Priority Area. Although there have been some minor natural disturbances, like wind damage and a cool ground fire years ago, there are old growth trees with hollows, juvenile canopy trees, shrubs and a grassy understory. Rainforest plants occur in the drainage line corridor that flows from Mount Nathan and crosses our forest, providing specialised habitat. The southern part of our forest borders with Mount Nathan Reserve, providing an important wildlife corridor to and from our property.

### The Journey Begins

Soon after arriving in August 2022, we contacted Gold Coast council about their Community Conservation Partnership program and had our first visit by an officer soon after. We received our Land for Wildlife Property Assessment Report by late September 2022 and our property officially became part of Land for Wildlife.

The four management zones in the report formed the basis of our conservation plan. Zones 1-3 comprise forest and are classified as 'Retained Habitat'. It provides habitat suitable for threatened fauna and Koalas are regularly sighted in this area. These zones show evidence of extensive natural regeneration and we recognise these saplings will be our large trees of the future with the potential to develop hollows and provide further habitat. It also indicates the forest system has a good level of resilience with the ability to recover from disturbances such as weed invasion. Native understorey species include wattle and native hibiscus. Groundcover comprises leaf litter, logs and branches, mosses, fungi and lichens.

Zone 4 (30% of property) was cleared for grazing many years ago. Significant remnants include a Crows Ash (*Flindersia australis*), Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) and a community of Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) trees. It is classified as

'Habitat Under Restoration'. Currently, it is largely exotic grass, predominantly South African Pigeon Grass (*Setaria sphacelata*) with sporadic woody weeds including Wild Tobacco (*Solanum mauritanium*) and Giant Devil's Fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*). Our long-term goal for Zone 4 is revegetation and re-establishment of native vegetation.

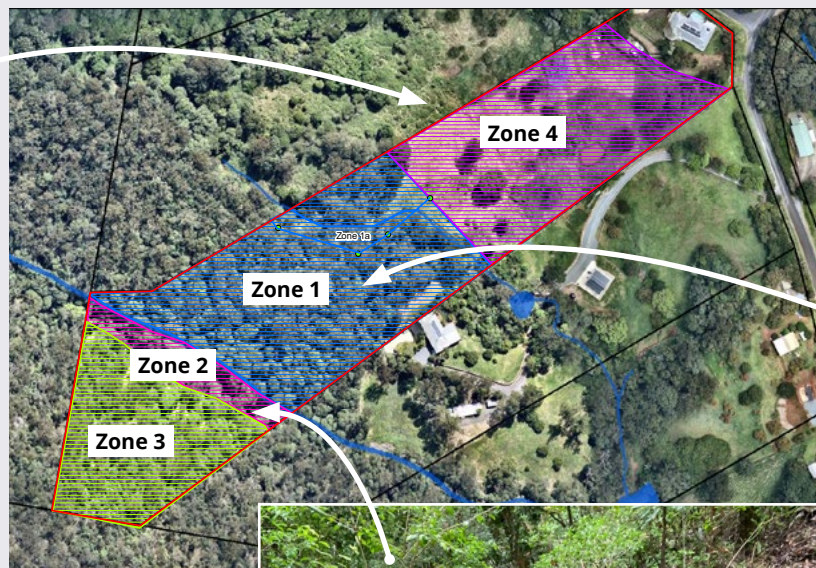
The Land for Wildlife Property Assessment process has given us a very valuable insight into the benefits of developing and maintaining a close connection with the Community Conservation Partnership program, and to draw on the valuable expertise of its team and the workshops and field days they hold. Whilst it is essential to understand the conservation values of our property we recognise that it is vitally important to view these within our local and regional ecological framework.

### Getting To Work

Our initial work focussed on:

- 1. Weed removal** - By the end of 2022 we had commenced weed removal mainly by hand pulling, with a focus on Zone 1. The main species removed include Lantana, Corky Passionfruit, Brazilian Nightshade, Molasses Grass, Wild Tobacco, Chinese Burr, Broad-leaf Paspalum and Ground Asparagus. The cut Lantana was spread as mulch, which has proved very effective for soil surface protection and moisture holding. Our weed control methods follow the natural regeneration methodology based on the *South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework*. We have done primary and maintenance sweeps to reduce the spread of weeds downstream.
- 2. Waterway restoration** - The drainage line which crosses the northern part of Zone 1 was deeply incised and actively eroding at the time we arrived. Vegetation cover was sparse, dominated by Molasses Grass, Wild Tobacco, Chinese Burr and Devil's Fig. We worked hard to stabilise this area by removing the weeds and constructing rock barriers and sediment traps to reduce the channel gradient and lower the velocity of flow. We rock-lined the bed and side walls to increase the channel roughness which reduces the erosive force of the water.
- 3. Soil erosion control** - Logs and rocks have been placed along the contours on the side-slopes in Zones 1 and 2 to reduce the length and velocity of overland flow.





Erosion control in Zone 1.



Waterway in Zone 2.



Weeded area in Zone 1.

### Nature Conservation Assistance

Every year, the City of Gold Coast offers funding opportunities to help landholders restore and protect environmental values through the Nature Conservation Assistance Program (NCAP). In September 2023 our NCAP application was approved. It has enabled us to continue restoration of the open eucalypt forest by employing a bush regenerator, with us providing in-kind hours. The NCAP work expands on our initial restoration activities.

This period has also seen an increase in feral deer activity. They track down from Mount Nathan Reserve in the daytime and retreat at night. To date vegetation damage has been minor but their repeated tracking is causing soil erosion.

### Koala Habitat Management

Since mid-2023 we have recorded over 40 daytime sightings of Koalas in Zone 1. Field monitoring cameras at three sites have recorded substantial Koala activity. In addition, two rescue Koalas have been released by Wildcare, a male and a female, on separate occasions. The strong presence of Koalas in our patch of forest puts further weight on ensuring the forest ecosystem values are maintained in good condition and regular restoration activities will have to be carried out.

### Observations and Lessons Learned

Although we have been actively involved in conserving and improving the ecological quality of our forest for a relatively short period, many valuable observations have been made and lessons learned which might benefit others, such as:

- **Planning.** It is imperative to establish early goals and objectives in the planning phase. In our case, it has been logical and practical to start by implementing the recommendations in the Land for Wildlife Property Assessment Report and then looking for further assistance through the NCAP. Whilst the control of Lantana has been very effective so far, the high density of Lantana and Molasses Grass on neighbouring private and public land may provide continuous problems on our land. Because we are working with nature there has to be flexibility.
- **Effect of rainfall and soil conditions.** Monitoring changing moisture and ground conditions is vital to planning the timing of weed removal, and planning and undertaking soil erosion control and waterway restoration works.
- **Feral deer.** Visual observation and camera monitoring confirms a significant feral deer presence. This is an area where we require more knowledge and assistance on control options.
- **Continue to build knowledge.** The many excellent workshops and field days have helped in building a firm partnership with council, meeting like-minded people in Land for Wildlife and acquiring the specialised knowledge on vegetation and land restoration and maintenance techniques.

We gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance and expertise of Melanie Mott, our Conservation Partnership Officer from the City of Gold Coast.

**Article and photos by Ian & Lynda Hannam**  
**Land for Wildlife members**  
**Mount Nathan, Gold Coast**



Fauna monitoring cameras images of Rusa Deer and Koala (left), with Wildcare releasing a rehabilitated Koala (above).





The Yucca before (above) and after (below) treatment.



There was a small population of Yucca (*Yucca aloifolia*) plants on Ian and Lynda Hannam's property, which was featured on the preceding pages. As a bush regenerator, I was engaged by Ian and Lynda (thanks to funding via the City of Gold Coast's Nature Conservation Assistance Program) to help the Hannams control these weeds before the Yuccas spread further.

Yuccas are extremely hardy, fibrous, strong and have sharp leaf tips. They have an extensive root system and produce saponins that can be toxic to humans.

There are a number of ways to treat Yuccas including sheet mulching, digging up the plant including the entire root system and the cut-stump method. Due to the extensive root system, if you do decide to dig up the plant, you must continue to treat the re-shoots.

I decided to use the cut-stump method with herbicide application on the Hannam's property.

Before I started tackling the Yuccas, I made sure I was wearing the appropriate clothing including long-sleeved shirt, long pants and thick gloves. I also made sure that my ears and eyes were protected as Yucca leaf tips are quite dangerous and I did not want to injure myself.

I carefully cut the sharp leaf tips off the plants and trimmed the leaves using a handsaw. I then cut the main trunk down to the base and applied approved herbicide as per the label. Seek advice from your Land for Wildlife Officer on the best method to control Yuccas if you have them on your property.

Cut Yucca leaves and stems do not tolerate prolonged heat, so by using the cut-stump method with herbicide, the herbicide absorbed quickly into the plant and the summer heat also helped breakdown the plant quickly. I was able to see that the plants were breaking down and dying after about a month. I will continue to monitor this area and watch for any regrowth and treat the re-shoots if necessary.

**Article and photos by Clare Gray**  
**Lower Beechmont Restoration Specialist**



One month after initial treatment



## Rainforest Plants of Australia – Rockhampton to Victoria (2nd Edition)

BY GWEN HARDEN, HUGH NICHOLSON, BILL MCDONALD, NAN NICHOLSON, TERRY TAME AND JOHN WILLIAMS

For those interested in conserving and appreciating the biodiversity found in rainforests, the recently updated Rainforest Plants of Australia (2nd Edition) is now available as a downloadable desktop app for your computer.

The updated version describes 1156 species of rainforest trees, shrubs, mistletoes and climbing plants, an increase of 16 species since the first edition in 2014. It includes over 70 name changes for species, as well as family name changes. More than 14,000 high-quality images, with many new additions, will provide confidence to emerging or professional botanists in their recognition and identification of rainforest species. Illustrations of each species are comprehensive and include a range of detailed, high-resolution images of rainforest identification essentials: leaf, flower, fruit, seed, and bark.

Other sections describe the rainforest types and habitats covering mainland eastern Australia, south of Rockhampton through to NSW and Victoria, and ranging from coastal rainforest right through to drier inland vine thickets. Informative descriptions and illustrations of the various rainforest types further enhance the user's

appreciation and knowledge that can be gained through using this incredible resource.

Other highlights of this app are the 206 rare and threatened rainforest species described (including 48 critically endangered taxa), as well as 106 naturalised rainforest species and noxious weeds. All essential information for managing these valuable ecosystems. New sections have also been added to address emerging concerns and increase the user's knowledge and awareness, such as the impacts of Myrtle Rust on rainforest species.

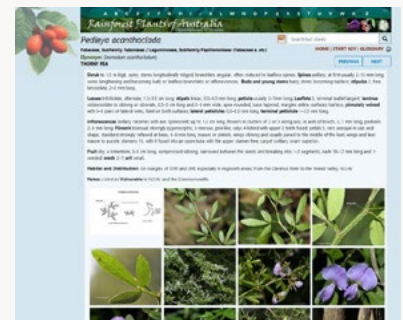
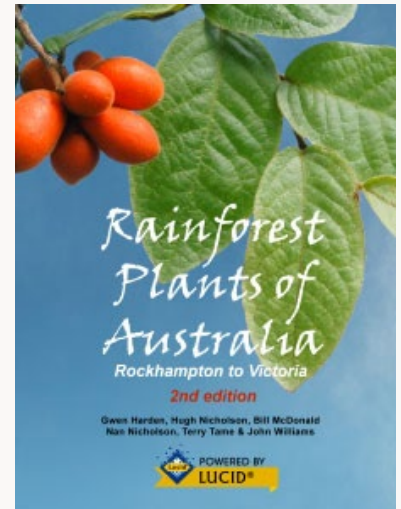
This updated desktop app is a must for identifying rainforest species and expanding your knowledge of these unique ecosystems.

To download this app, go to:

- Gwen Harden Publishing at [www.rainforests.net.au](http://www.rainforests.net.au)
- Terania Rainforest Publishing at [www.rainforestpublishing.com.au](http://www.rainforestpublishing.com.au)

Cost: \$30 – Allows for three downloads to same email over a 12-month period.

Released March 2024



Review by Kylie Gordon

## Wattles of Toowoomba and the Condamine Catchment

BY THE CONDAMINE COUNTRY PLANT GROUP

(Lisa Churchward, Patricia Gardner, Steve Plant and Greg Spearritt)

I have to say that this is a great book with quality photos and detailed descriptive text. It covers 85 species of wattle from the Toowoomba and Condamine regions, which is an amazingly diverse area. The layout is well done and presents itself well to the reader. It builds on from a previous book written by Grace Lithgow, which covered 60 species of wattle from the Chinchilla and Murilla Shires and contained mostly line drawings, some colour photos and a similar key system.

Although written for the Condamine Catchment, there are at least 28 species of wattle shown in this book that occur within the Lockyer Valley and a number of species that occur within the coastal regions in SEQ.

I really like the simplistic key in this book as it is based on eight features in four groups: 1) thorny or prickly or neither, 2) flowerheads in spikes or balls, 3) adult

leaves (phyllodes) are ferny (bipinnate) or simple, 4) phyllodes with or without one obvious main vein.

Impressive descriptions are provided for each species including distribution, branchlets, phyllodes (leaves), presence/absence of glands, distance of glands to phyllode/petiole, veins, flowers, aril colour and seeds.

There is also a very handy section at the bottom of each page explaining similar species and how they differ. The authors have arranged the book so that similar looking species are shown together, which makes it easier to find species and understand differences between similar species. Included is a glossary, index to botanical and common names, further reading recommendations and useful online resources. Overall, this is a great book for anyone in SEQ who wants to know more about our local wattles.



Paperback | 2024 | \$25 +\$5 postage  
103 pages | A5

Published by Condamine Country Plant Group  
[www.condaminecountry.com/publications](http://www.condaminecountry.com/publications)

Review by Martin Bennett





## LOVE, LOSS AND *Legacy*

It is May 29th – a sparkling autumn morning. I have just come inside from my early morning walk. The Eastern Whipbirds are calling from somewhere through the forest, cutting through the silence like a knife; the Grey Shrike Thrush is declaring its exuberance with a call that never fails to exhilarate; the pardalotes' repeating call from a muddy bank somewhere assures me that they are alright. The Southern Boobook is not roosting in the carport today, but I know it will be back. It always is. I hope it is busy breeding somewhere safe. This is who I am, who I have been for 45 years.

I am gulping in these sounds more intensely than ever, because now I know I will have to leave. It is not what I had planned, even less what I would have wanted or hoped, but my hand has been forced.

My late husband, Win and I found our 10 acres of forest at Greenbank in December, 1977. Fresh from years overseas, and having lived and worked in remote Equatorial Africa, we could not face living in suburbia. We wanted forest, we craved an ongoing relationship with wildlife. It had to be possible. The block had never been settled before. It was without power, water or sewerage, but the moment we saw it we knew we had found home. It was bisected by a creek that flows into Oxley Creek. The evidence of old logging lay strewn around the ground. The forest rang with bird calls, and a Swamp Wallaby propped and looked at us from the creek bank. A surge of excitement and almost disbelief punched through me: could this really become ours?

We moved in to our partly finished first home Win had spent almost a year building from recycled materials in May 1980. At night we would hear dingoes calling from the CSR timber concession up on Spring Mountain. There were only four other dwellings in the road we fronted, and the Army Base at Greenbank apparently still had not twigged to the fact that this was now private property, as patrols of soldiers, fully armed and in combat fatigues played jungle games around the creek.

From the outset, Win had a vision. We would keep as much of the forest as we possibly could, only clearing enough for a fire break and the house site. "We have to keep the forest for the wildlife", he said. "Where else will they have to go?" I was new to all this, but I had a wonderful teacher.

Although the forest had been logged in the decades prior, it had never been destroyed. On the riparian zone, rainforest species were abundant and large. Platypus played in the creek. Away from the creek, open eucalypt woodland consisted of a dazzling array of species; abundant understorey vegetation provided perfect habitat for birds, insects and small reptiles. And in the far back corner, a patch of old growth paperbark forest on swampy ground was home to roosting Boobook Owls.

As a keen amateur photographer, I was captivated by the small and exquisite treasures that grew in open areas: fringed violets, ground orchids, dozens of types of fungi, and the tiny succulents that devoured flies. It was a wonderland, and it was ours to care for and protect.

I cut out David Fleay's weekly wildlife articles from the Courier-Mail and put them in a scrapbook. What he wrote about would never form a part of the lives of people in suburbia, but we were living it. I was in a perpetual state of excitement – what would we see or hear next?

It did not take long for that question to be answered. One night after dinner, we heard a call we had never heard before: a deep sonorous 'Woo-Hoo', close to the house and moving around through the forest. Win quickly got out the bird book, turned to the section on owls, and made the announcement: "That's a Powerful Owl! Look, here's the photo. It's enormous!" We sat at the dining room table and a little breathlessly read all about it. It was a defining moment. Could we really be living with this majestic bird whose numbers were critically declining due to habitat loss and felling of old growth trees that provided nest sites? I knew from David Fleay's article about them that he had been the first person in the world to breed them in captivity at Currumbin.

The days, weeks and years passed. In time, Win built a second house, tucked away in the middle of the back seven acres, and we sold the first one on three acres.

Win's vision for the property never wavered. We lived in a private sanctuary others could only dream of. It became part of me, not just as an add on to everything else I was doing, but resided at my very core. This was who we both were. It was what we talked about between us, to others, and anyone who was interested. The presence of the Powerful Owls was something we eagerly awaited every year – they did not nest here, but they roosted and hunted and called. I photographed them, I proudly took visiting friends and family to see one if it happened to be roosting with the remains of a meal in its talons, and I wrote about them and had my articles and photos published.



**Left: Some of the wonderful nocturnal wildlife on our property - the Southern Boobook, Powerful Owl and Tawny Frogmouth.**

Win's passion led him to become President of the West Logan Environment Group for several years in the 1990s. He lobbied developers to keep trees, he campaigned for the retention of the creek that once ran under what is now the Grand Plaza at Browns Plains, and he took children from Greenbank State School for walks along Oxley Creek, teaching them about the wildlife and the forest. He lived to 91. Then I had to adjust to being here by myself and trying with all I had to honour his legacy. That was six years ago. With help, I have done alright, little has changed, until that is, on the night of 3rd April, 2024, it did.

At 8pm on that night, the torrential rain started. It continued until around 10.15pm. I had no idea what was happening until I took a torch and went out on the balcony. Swirling, fast-flowing muddy water was all around. I looked down the 14 internal stairs to see it pouring through the downstairs level of the house, and the lights on my car parked in the carport were flashing continually. 135mls of rain fell in that time. The next morning the tragic news was broadcast of the drowning of an elderly local resident right opposite my next door neighbour's front fence. At 10.45pm I rang the SES, but they were not able to do anything unless I faced a life-threatening situation. I phoned family and friends, waking them up with the news.

I was thankfully insured adequately. But possessions were of a lower order of importance. Love, help, support and transport have been showered on me since then, and I am alright. But in my late 70s and living alone, it is time to go. The inevitable grief at this departure, whenever it happens, will be profound. But the forest remains, the wildlife remain. This event has been dubbed 'catastrophic' by the Insurance Council of Australia. I guess it is some comfort to reflect that it took an event of this magnitude to separate me from this place that has nurtured me for two-thirds of my life. Win's vision and his legacy remain intact. I just hope and pray that whoever comes after me will protect this paradise as we have.

**Article and photos by Annette Henderson**  
**Land for Wildlife member**  
**Greenbank, Logan**



**P**rograms like Land for Wildlife help provide landholders with the tools and support to restore and protect habitat values for a diverse array of species and habitats. That protection can apply to threatened species like Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) and Native Guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*). These species are heavily impacted by Myrtle Rust, a South American fungal disease that impacts plants in the Myrtaceae family.

The rust attacks new growth and flower buds preventing the plant from being able to reproduce, which is why these two species are now listed as Critically Endangered. The shining light is that plants from both species are being found on Land for Wildlife properties in the Sunshine Coast and Logan regions with minimal to no effects from Myrtle Rust. This is giving hope that these plants may have genetic resistance to the rust, and that a future for these species is possible. Private landholders may hold the key to saving these threatened species in their own backyards.

**Article and photos by Michael Mills**  
**Land for Wildlife Officer**  
**Sunshine Coast Council**



Yellow spots on the leaves of Scrub Turpentine indicate the presence of Myrtle Rust.



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**C**ongratulations to the hundreds of officers and thousands of landholders who have collectively created the Land for Wildlife South East Queensland program. In May, the collaborative nature of the program was recognised through the Local Government Managers Australia Awards. Thirteen Local Governments work together to create products and services to support the conservation work of LfWSEQ members. It is an extraordinary partnership spanning 25 years.

Some of you, like myself, have been involved for 20+ years, which is a testament to the program's longevity and ability to grow and adapt. I am delighted with this recognition, and I genuinely hope that all Land for Wildlife members and those who have helped the program succeed over the years also feel proud. The other nominees for this award category were equally impressive and are improving

their communities in notable ways.

With two billion more people on the planet now than when the program started, the efforts of thousands of landholders to restore and protect the incredible wildlife and ecosystems of SEQ cannot be undervalued. We are working together to create a brighter, greener future where the Australian environment is valued for its uniqueness. We are custodians of this country, responsible for its health, and the more we make it healthy, the better our health becomes. We will continue to learn collaboratively about caring for country from the First Nations People and we will continue to lean into science and technology for more effective and efficient techniques.

I often say that ecological restoration is an emerging science, and that Land for Wildlife members and officers are at the forefront of this sector. The journey

of managing country, learning about nature and restoring degraded land is a wonderfully rich endless path, full of challenges and rewards. Thank you for walking with us and learning together.

**Deborah Metters**  
Regional Coordinator

