

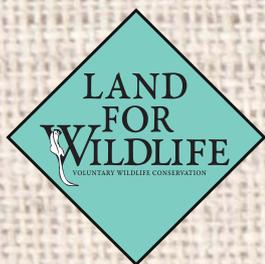


Annual Report

2014 - 2015

Land for Wildlife
South East
Queensland





 www.lfwseq.org.au

 facebook.com/lfwseq

 **Photos via Flickr (SEQ Catchments page)**

 **Newsletters via Issuu (SEQ Catchments page)**

2014 - 2015

207 Land for Wildlife properties joined

(144 Registered + 63 Working Towards Registration)

2,146 hectares added to Land for Wildlife network

(1824 hectares of Retained Habitat + 322 hectares Under Restoration)

3,946 Land for Wildlife properties in SEQ

(as of 30 June 2015)

9 TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR OFFICERS

6 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10 Local Governments and SEQ Catchments collaboratively fund an ONLINE DATABASE SYSTEM

31,445

unique visitors to lfwseq.org.au

4 regional newsletters

WITH 6,500 READERS PER EDITION

900 Facebook followers (as of 30 June 2015)

99% OF MEMBERS READ THE NEWSLETTER

122 unique Facebook posts
Average reach to **1165** people

SEQ CATCHMENTS delivered

regional coordination, newsletters, website & social media, secretariat, workshops, strategic governance & data management

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS delivered

extension services, incentives, workshops, landholder resources, local coordination & contribution to regional initiatives

For every

\$1

INVESTED BY agencies



\$18



IS INVESTED BY landholders

Working with Landholders is the Most Efficient form of Conservation.

Landholders care about their land and are motivated to keep it healthy. They are best placed to do conservation work, and Land for Wildlife is designed to encourage and support them to do so. For every \$1 invested in the Land for Wildlife SEQ program by 11 Councils and SEQ Catchments, Land for Wildlife members return \$18 in their conservation efforts. Thank you landholders!

ECONOMICAL



Above: Bob and Sylvia Whiting (right) with Sunshine Coast Council Mayor, Cr Mark Jamieson (left) on their Land for Wildlife property at Cooloolabin.



Above: The Vickerman family gratefully receives nest boxes from Cr Matthew Bourke on their Land for Wildlife property in Brisbane.

Landholders appreciate Councils more because of Land for Wildlife.

Communication between Council Officers and landholders is core to the Land for Wildlife program. Property visits, workshops, phone calls, emails, social media and newsletter articles are avenues by which Land for Wildlife Officers and Land for Wildlife members connect. The 2013 membership survey found that Land for Wildlife members have improved relationships with their Council and a greater appreciation of the role of Council due to their membership.

HELPS RELATIONSHIPS between landholders AND COUNCILS



MY COUNCIL



NETWORKS

LEARNING

Land for Wildlife is first and foremost a social program.

The role of Land for Wildlife is to connect, educate, inspire and support landholders to do conservation on their properties.

"The best part of this event was meeting other people and sharing ideas and stories."

Open Property participant, 17/5/14

The more contact a Land for Wildlife member has with the program, the more assured they are of their conservation skills.

The greater the level of involvement of Land for Wildlife members in the program, the greater their confidence, skills and knowledge in land management.

Land for Wildlife members who are actively engaged with the program control more weeds and plant more trees.

As their confidence and skills grow, Land for Wildlife members put these into action through controlling weeds, planting native trees and other conservation works. The 2013 membership survey found that long-term Land for Wildlife members do comparatively more weed control, and have planted more trees than newer members, because they are more assured of their skills.

Social Media Thumbs Up

A huge thumbs up was given to the Land for Wildlife SEQ Facebook page, launched in January 2015. The page was created in response to membership survey recommendations that called for greater social networking opportunities for Land for Wildlife members. Created by SEQ Catchments and administered by SEQ Catchments, Sunshine Coast Council and Brisbane City Council Officers, the page continues to grow.

Examples posts:

- Keelback vs toad (3,400 reach, 15% engagement)
- Phascogales (2,500 reach, 15% engagement).
- Weed of week (1000 reach, 10% engagement).
- Fox baiting (808 reach, 14% engagement).
- Spiny crayfish video (48,900 reach, 31% engagement).



SOCIAL



Bringing together Land for Wildlife Officers.

Six times a year, the Land for Wildlife Steering Committee meets to share ideas and direct the regional program. The Committee is comprised of representatives from:

Brisbane City Council
City of Gold Coast
Ipswich City Council
Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Logan City Council
Moreton Bay Regional Council
Noosa Council
Redland City Council
Scenic Rim Regional Council
SEQ Catchments
Somerset Regional Council
Sunshine Coast Council

Above: Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Steering Committee, December 2014.

Front L to R: Scott Sumner, BCC; Rebecca Condon, LCC; Fflur Collier, BCC; Darryl Larsen, CoGC; Deborah Metters, SEQC; Melanie Mott, LCC; Alan Wynn, SCC and Liz Gould, SEQC.

Middle L to R: Lyndall Rosevear, LCC; Danielle Crawford, SCC; Stephanie Reif, SCC; Ainslie Wyer, MBRC; Maree Manby, RCC; Darren McPherson, SRC; Shannon Mooney, SEQC (Chairperson); Zoe Samson, MBRC; Todd Burrows, CoGC; Keith McCosh, SRRC; Tony Mlynarik, BCC; Nick Clancy, SCC (Deputy Chair); Cody Hochen, BCC and Dave Burrows, SCC.

Back L to R: Peter Copping, LCC and Catherine Madden, BCC.

Apologies: Peter Hayes, BCC; Kaori van Baalen, LVRC; Saul Hondow, CoGC; Julie O'Connor, SCC and Marc Russell, SCC.

GOVERNANCE

2014-2015 ACTIONS:

- Collaborative investment in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Land for Wildlife online database, creating new functionality to capture a wider range of data and generate more detailed reports. This database manages client and property data for the Land for Wildlife SEQ program.
- Setting visions for the *Land for Wildlife Strategic Action Plan 2013- 2016*.
- Problem solving property assessment processes.
- Sharing resources and brokering knowledge between agencies.
- Discussing emerging technologies such as camera and acoustic fauna monitoring, and relevant apps for field work.
- Developing a Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- Discussing threatened species – their ecology, threat management and recovery actions.



Officers need training too.

While most Land for Wildlife Officers have impressive skills in native plant identification, weed management and wildlife ecology, they also benefit from learning new skills, which can then be passed on to landholders.

In 2014/15, four workshops were delivered for Land for Wildlife Officers on a range of topics. Workshops are designed to maximise collaboration between Land for Wildlife Officers and develop their skills in emerging technologies.

88% of rainforest plant workshop attendees found it valuable to work together with others, and 100% indicated that they felt more confident using the rainforest interactive key because of the workshop.

"The use of the rainforest key will be of significant assistance to me a LfW Officer [and] will increase my ability to accurately identify plants and specimens for LfW members"

Workshop attendee 26/5/2015

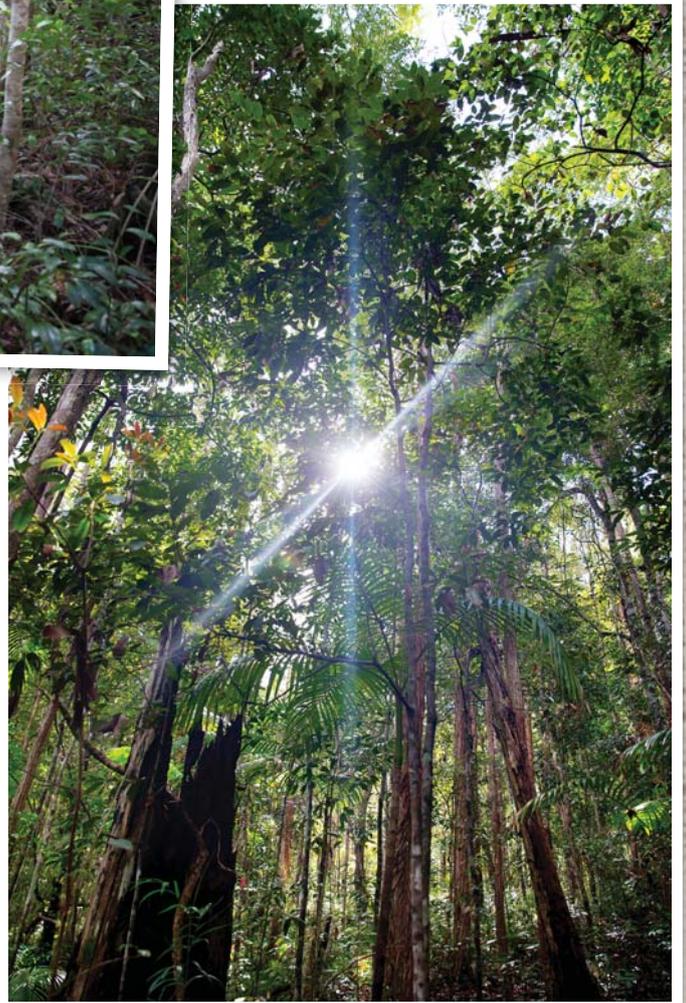


UPSKILLING





Left: Sunshine Coast Council Officers leads a workshop into a patch of lowland subtropical rainforest on a Land for Wildlife property.



New Land for Wildlife properties for 2014-2015

8 Corporate members including a **State Shool, Religious Institute, Retirement Village and an Environmental Education Centre.**

1 Group membership

A collective of landholders at Mount Mellum worked together to register their properties. Individually, their properties are too small to join Land for Wildlife, but collectively they have joined and can now access the support and assistance offered by Sunshine Coast Council. They are tackling a range of weeds to restore their lands and to protect the neighbouring reserve.

3 Threatened ecological communities

Listed under the national *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, including:

135 hectares of remnant Lowland Rainforests of Subtropical Australia – listed as Critically Endangered.

244 hectares of regrowth Lowland Rainforests of Subtropical Australia.

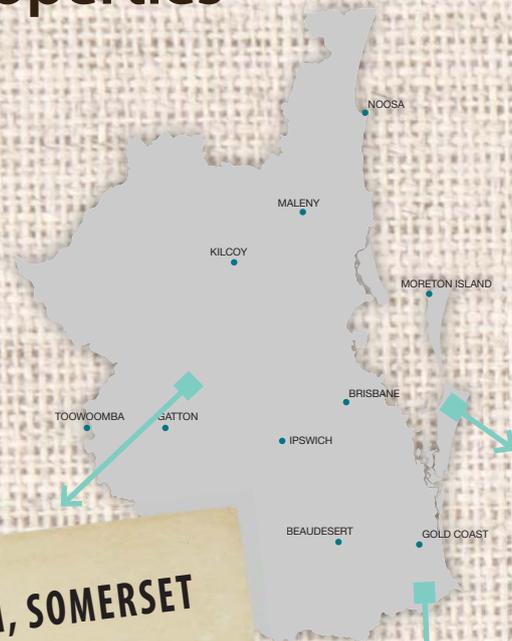
12 hectares of Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) Forest – listed as Endangered.

2 hectares of Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*) Forest – listed as Critically Endangered.

Largest



new Land for Wildlife properties



ATKINSONS DAM, SOMERSET

258 hectares
Registered on 20/4/2015

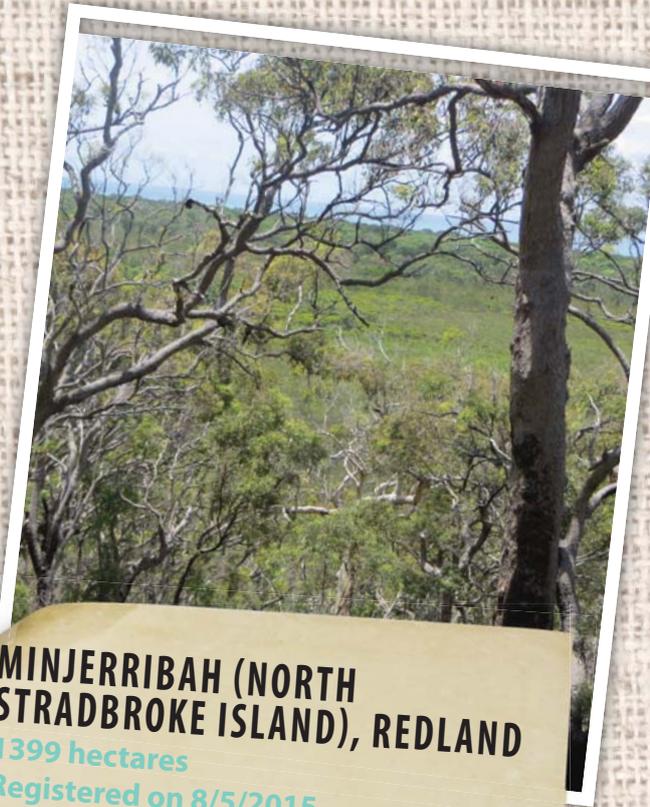
This property borders Atkinsons Dam and combines both grazing and conservation. It contains many large, old habitat trees with hollows providing habitat for a range of wildlife, including Koalas. The property potentially has unmapped areas of the endangered regional ecosystem 12.3.3 (Blue Gums on alluvial flats). The notable Coastal Cypress Pine (*Callitris columellaris*) also occurs here.



MINJERRIBAH (NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND), REDLAND

1399 hectares
Registered on 8/5/2015

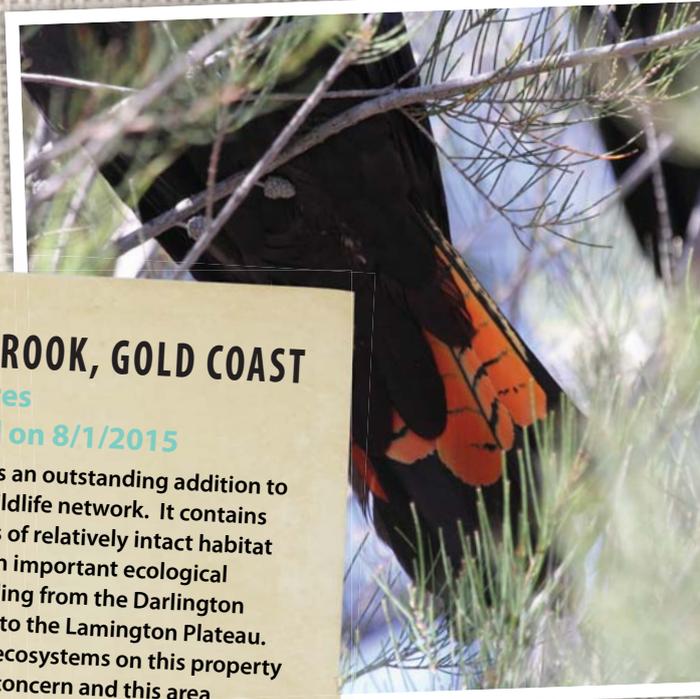
Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation registered their exclusive native title lands with the program to help promote their leadership and commitment to land and sea management. It is a historic partnership between the Quandamooka People, Redland City Council and SEQ Catchments that offers a unique opportunity to promote the significant natural and cultural values of Minjerribah. Quandamooka are actively controlling weeds, protecting cultural artefacts and restoring country.



SPRINGBROOK, GOLD COAST

207 hectares
Registered on 8/1/2015

This property is an outstanding addition to the Land for Wildlife network. It contains extensive areas of relatively intact habitat and is part of an important ecological corridor extending from the Darlington Range through to the Lamington Plateau. Three regional ecosystems on this property are listed as of-concern and this area provides habitat for a range of threatened species such as Glossy Black Cockatoos.

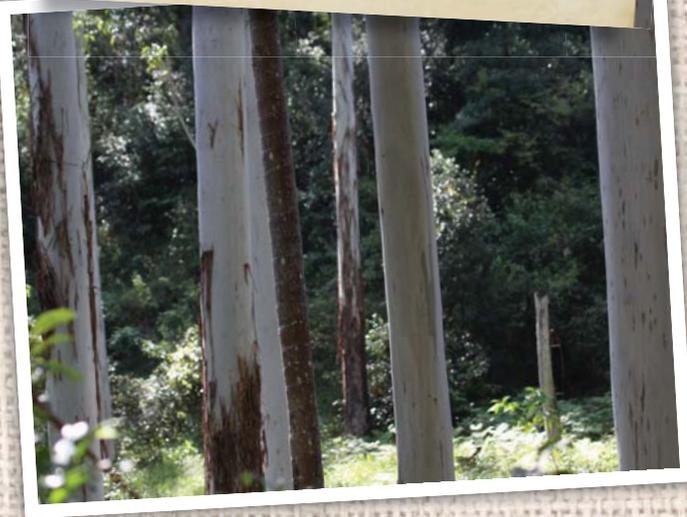


EUDLO, SUNSHINE COAST

0.88 hectares

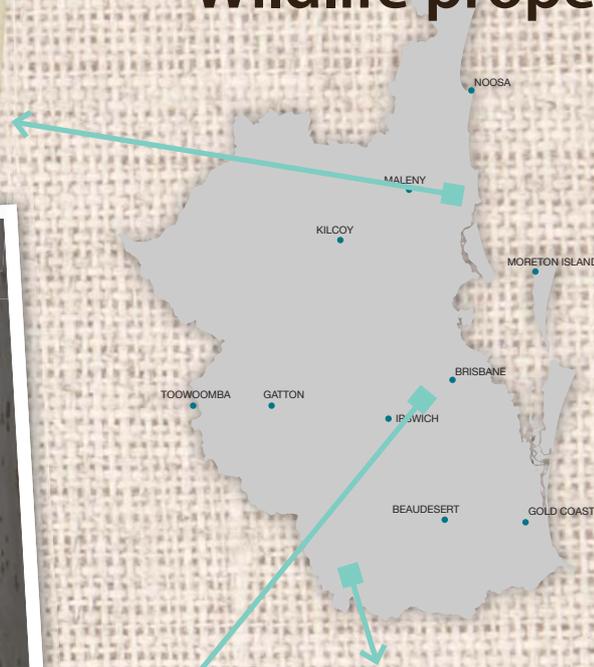
Registered on 16/6/2015

A diversity of eucalypt species can be found on this property with a delightful native grass understorey - perfect habitat for a range of wildlife. The invasive Crab's Eye Creeper is a priority threat and the landholders are now ready to control this weed with assistance and advice offered by Sunshine Coast Council.



Smallest

new Land for Wildlife properties



MOGGILL, BRISBANE

0.59 hectares

Registered on 24/4/2015

Although small in size, this property displays impressive natural regeneration of Spotted Gums and open eucalypt forest species. There is good structural diversity offering important habitat for ground-dwelling wildlife and species requiring mid-storey vegetation such as thornbills. The landholders are keen to manage weeds and improve their small patch of land for wildlife, with the assistance of Brisbane City Council.



CROFTBY, SCENIC RIM

0.9 hectares

Registered on 28/5/2015

Backing onto Flagstone Creek, this property contains a diversity of riparian vegetation including a few mature Blue Gum trees providing important habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, the creek suffers from bank and bed erosion and the landholders are keen to tackle this issue with the support of Scenic Rim Regional Council.



NORTHERN SEQ



Left: Land for Wildlife members participating in a Sunshine Coast Council weed control workshop showing a selection of weed control tools available for loan from Council for use on their properties.

Below: Land for Wildlife members enjoying a Moreton Bay Regional Council property management planning and restoration workshop.

Sunshine Coast

This year the Land for Wildlife team at Sunshine Coast Council registered 74 new properties covering 851 hectares. Dozens of previously unrecorded populations of rare and threatened flora and fauna were identified on Land for Wildlife properties. Highlights included Long-nosed Potoroos, Nambour Zieria (*Zieria bifida*), *Plectranthus torrenticola* and the newly described *Endiandra lowiana*.

A total of 21 workshops and field days were organised by Council covering a variety of conservation and property management topics. These workshops were attended by nearly 370 Land for Wildlife members. The annual Incentive Program provided 16,000 native plants, installed 110 nest boxes and offered 20 herbicides tool kits (with training) to landholders from over 100 Land for Wildlife properties. In addition, the Landholder Environment Grants delivered over \$340,000 to 118 properties to conduct creek rehabilitation, revegetation and other conservation works.

Eight new Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCA) with perpetual covenants were finalised, all on Land for Wildlife properties, protecting 143 hectares of habitat. The total area of habitat protected through the VCA program on the Sunshine Coast now exceeds 1000 hectares.

"We love to show others the progress we have made with rehabilitating our property with the assistance of the Council's incentives and their brilliant and supportive staff."

Land for Wildlife member, Yandina.

Moreton Bay

The Land for Wildlife program has been steadily growing in Moreton Bay over the last year with an additional 60 properties joining the program in 2014/2015. The new properties collectively manage 163 hectares of retained habitat and 45 hectares of habitat under restoration.

Council have supported Land for Wildlife members through the annual Voluntary Conservation Grants, funding 20 projects throughout the region and organising 7 workshops and field days. A property management workshop held at a property at Stanmore was enjoyed by those who attended. The workshop included a walk through the 16 hectare property, stopping along the way to discuss restoration techniques and property management planning.

Moreton Bay Regional Council now has 489 Land for Wildlife properties throughout the region.

"We enjoyed all aspects of the workshop, what a great opportunity to share stories and meet other like-minded people."

Land for Wildlife member, Draper.





CENTRAL SEQ

Redland

Land for Wildlife continues to grow in the Redlands with the celebrated signing of Quandamooka exclusive native title lands on North Stradbroke Island to the program.

Connect to Your Creek in March 2015 offered a wealth of activities for Redland landholders including workshops, creek clean ups and kayaking – all designed to connect residents with their local creeks and to raise awareness of waterways.

The Karringal Scout Association Land for Wildlife property hosted a workshop at the top of the Eprapah Creek catchment. Attendees, mostly Land for Wildlife members, were treated to kayaking, macroinvertebrate and fish identification training, and practical tips for controlling the declared weed Giant Rat's Tail Grass. Redland City Council Land for Wildlife members are able to access a range of support services from Council such as biocontrol weevils for Salvinia weed control, revegetation, Koala food trees and workshops such as fire management planning and floating wetlands.



Logan

The Land for Wildlife program in Logan has seen a steady increase in membership and excellent attendance at workshops during 2014/15. Two properties were upgraded to the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program with another one to Voluntary Conservation Covenant status. These properties help protect Koala habitat, and all have recent Koala sightings. One also protects an area of locally significant vine forest, part of Bahrs Scrub, an area known for its rare plants.

Five Land for Wildlife properties successfully obtained support for weed control and assisted regeneration projects through Council's EnviroGrants program. In 2015, Council undertook an in depth review of the Conservation Incentives Program with two objectives. First, to ensure a fairer distribution of funds across more than 250 properties, and second, to broaden the eligibility criteria to include rural properties that are strategically suitable for large scale corridor plantings, particularly along waterways. Water quality and wildlife movement will benefit, and there is also a complementary link to Council's offsets program.

Top: *Connect to Your Creek kayaking.*

Left: *Macroinvertebrate testing as part of Connect to Your Creek in Redlands.*

Right: *Students of Bald Hills State School Land for Wildlife property with teacher John Kahl. Photo by Louise Brannan.*

Brisbane

Bald Hills State School joined Land for Wildlife in 2003 and has been fortunate to have a committed member of staff, Louise Brennan, to inspire and organise the school community to get involved in the restoration of the school's Land for Wildlife area. The habitat area has the unique features of a 100 year old Hoop Pine plantation as well as a wetland area that attracts diverse wildlife including Bush Stone-curlews, crakes, rails and frogs.

Taking a whole-of-school approach with the aim of including bushcare activities into the curriculum, the school has conducted many working bees, involving students, teachers, groundsman and parents working together to restore the area over the years. One of the first tasks was to remove a large infestation of Madeira Vine and the school is now conducting follow-up treatments of Madeira Vine regrowth. Another ongoing challenge is the re-infestation of aquatic weeds into the wetland area that occurs with seasonal inundation of the flood plain. Salvinia and Water Hyacinth bio-controls have been used to manage this problem.

Through officer visits, native flora and weed management advice, supply of native tube stock, and linking the school to access aquatic weed bio-control agents, the Brisbane City Council Land for Wildlife Program has supported Bald Hills State School community in their commitment to protect and restore this unique part of Brisbane's heritage and natural environment.





Gold Coast

The City of Gold Coast's Conservation Partnerships Program continued its steady growth this year with 23 new Land for Wildlife registrations. Council offers wide ranging support services to members resulting in impressive on-ground outcomes such as 22 hectares being restored through the City's Nature Conservation Assistance Program (NCAP). A further 3,920 native plants were provided to revegetate areas unable to naturally regenerate.

Council Officers visited 120 properties to discuss restoration projects, demonstrate weed control techniques,

identify native and exotic flora and/or monitor fauna. Over a quarter of the Land for Wildlife membership has attended Council's restoration workshops, and they have been rewarded with their own leather tool belt, tools and herbicide, equipping them to undertake ecological restoration.

Fifteen Land for Wildlife properties had fauna monitoring cameras installed to collect data that feeds into the City's Pest Management and Flora and Fauna Databases. Whilst pest animals are regularly seen, some rare species were also recorded such as Albert's Lyrebird, Whiptail Wallaby, Regent Bowerbird, Red-legged Pademelon and Long-nosed Potoroo.

In total, the City of Gold Coast boasts 436 Land for Wildlife properties covering 4,700 hectares, with 19 of these properties also securing a legally binding Voluntary Conservation Covenant that protects invaluable wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

Top: Field day on a Land for Wildlife property at Carney's Creek, Scenic Rim.

Left: Land for Wildlife member, Michelle Benson, proudly wears a useful restoration tool belt provided by the City of Gold Coast at one of their restoration workshops. Michelle's property has successfully received three years of NCAP funding.

Scenic Rim

The Scenic Rim is known for its spectacular mountain vistas with its Land for Wildlife properties being both visually stunning and important havens for wildlife.

During 2014/15, several large properties joined the program including a notable 57 hectare property at the headwaters of Burnett Creek and a 65 hectare property on the slopes of Mt French. The Burnett Creek property contains a variety of habitat with good regeneration in historically ring-barked areas. It supports significant Glossy Black Cockatoo habitat and the owners have been rewarded with sightings of Albert's Lyrebirds and Powerful Owls.

The Mt French property is part of the old Fassifern Scrub and contains a diversity of plants, including the nationally threatened Boonah Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis tomentella*). Unfortunately, the owners also have to manage a serious incursion of Cat's Claw Creeper and Asparagus Vine weed. This weed control was one of 20 successful projects funded through Council's Habitat Protection Program, of which half of all recipients are Land for Wildlife members. The Scenic Rim now has 232 Land for Wildlife properties including 16 with Voluntary Conservation Agreements, five with conservation covenants and five with Nature Refuge status.



WESTERN SEQ



Left: Ted Mitchel, Ipswich City Council Pest Management Officer, demonstrating the correct placement of a foothold trap for feral animal control with a Land for Wildlife landholder on his property at Mt Forbes.

Ipswich

In April 2015, Ipswich City Council Land for Wildlife members were invited to a feral animal workshop, which included demonstrations of various pest animal trapping techniques. Interested landholders were provided with trapping kits and camera traps to independently undertake pest animal management on their properties. Follow-up training sessions were also offered to landholders. Overall, this initiative has been a great success for both landholders and Council with a range of pest animals, including foxes and hares, trapped. This initiative was made possible through the Australian Government's Drought Assistance Pest Animal Management Program coordinated through SEQ Catchments.

Lockyer Valley

The largest gathering of Land for Wildlife members in western SEQ occurred in May 2015 with the Lockyer Valley Land for Wildlife Forum. Over 130 Land for Wildlife members from the Lockyer, Somerset, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba regions enjoyed a day of learning, sharing and creativity. All participants said that they enjoyed meeting other attendees and learnt something new, with 80% reported learning practical tips that would help them manage their properties. View 90 photos of the Forum on the SEQ Catchments Flickr site. The Forum was organised by Lockyer Valley Regional Council with support from SEQ Catchments.

Forums are important for networking.

"[I was] stimulated and motivated [by] knowing that there were many more people than I had realised with similar interests and concerns to my own."

Participants left the Forum feeling:

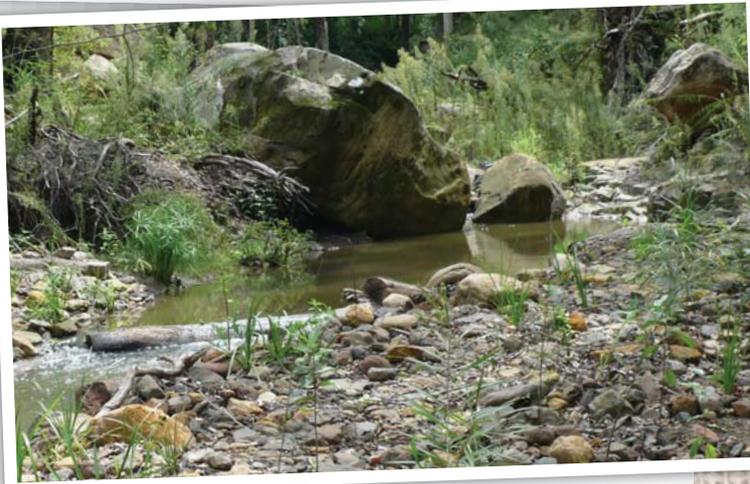
*"inspired" "motivated" "abuzz with new ideas"
"pleased I belong to LfW"
"what I do does make a difference"*



Somerset

The Somerset Regional Council Land for Wildlife program moved forward this year with the appointment of a new officer and subsequent registration of 8 properties – the greatest rate of Land for Wildlife registrations for Somerset in many years.

Somerset is the largest Council area involved in the SEQ Land for Wildlife program and consequently covers a diversity of ecosystems with grazing being the dominant land use. Many Land for Wildlife members integrate nature conservation with grazing through use of exclusion fencing, appropriate stocking rates and strategic weed control. The interest in the Land for Wildlife program continues to grow gradually from both established landholders and new residents to the region.



HEALTHY SOILS

When we think 'land for wildlife' we often think about koalas, kangaroos or parrots. In reality, 'land for wildlife' starts with healthy soils. Soil is essential for life; and together with air and water, they are our most important natural resources. Soil supports the majority of all terrestrial biodiversity as well as enormous stores of carbon and water.

The soils of SEQ have taken a battering in the last 150 years with huge quantities of fertile land washed away in the floods of the 1800s due primarily to the extensive land clearing that took place after European colonisation. Unfortunately, soil erosion is still very active today across SEQ with an estimated 315,000 tonnes of sediment discharged into Moreton Bay each year – a rate that is 30 times higher than pre-European settlement (Olley et al. 2006). Of this sediment, 80% comes from non-urban areas particularly in the Lockyer, Upper Brisbane and Logan catchments.

Some Land for Wildlife property owners have been tackling the difficult issue of soil erosion with various

mitigation strategies including installing course woody debris into creek beds, fencing waterways to exclude stock, planting native vegetation in riparian areas and ensuring a healthy groundcover at all times. Some Land for Wildlife properties are leading the way in catchment stewardship such as slowing water movement, decreasing creekbank erosion and increasing water infiltration – activities that all improve the health of Moreton Bay and dependent economies of fisheries and tourism.

Land for Wildlife Note S1: Healthy Soil and Leaf Litter Layers was the most popular downloaded file from lfwseq.org.au in 2014-15

1958 downloads

Top Left: *Land for Wildlife members at Armstrong Creek have fenced their waterways and provided off-stream watering points for their cattle and horses.*

Top Right: *Land for Wildlife members near Bellthorpe National Park have installed bed logs and fish passageways to slow water and help aquatic wildlife.*

Lower Right: *Land for Wildlife members at Murphy's Creek have installed bed logs and planted native riparian trees to slow water flow and stabilise the creek bed.*

Reference

Olley J, Wilkinson S, Caitcheon G & Read A (2006) Protecting Moreton Bay: Reducing Sediment and Nutrient Loads by 50%. Presentation to River Symposium, Brisbane 2006. In: Campbell A (2008) *Managing Australia's Soils: A Policy Discussion Paper*. Prepared for the National Committee on Soil and Terrain (NCST) through the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMCC).

Land for Wildlife (Lfw) properties per Council

Based on GIS analysis conducted by SEQ Catchments, August 2015

COUNCIL	Total Council Area (hectares)	All Public Land (hectares)	Total Registered Lfw Property Size (hectares)	Mean Average Size of Registered Lfw Properties (ha)	% of Council Area as a Registered Lfw Property
Brisbane City Council	134,646	45,122	2,707	6.37	2.01
City of Gold Coast	130,883	33,295	4,909	14.65	3.75
Ipswich City Council	108,656	6,609	10,660	101.19	9.81
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	226,746	27,489	14,335	102.19	6.32
Logan City Council	95,658	7,231	6,214	9.58	6.50
Moreton Bay Regional Council	202,722	51,828	4,472	12.67	2.21
Noosa Council	86,979	n/a	4,011	14.98	4.61
Redland City Council	52,280	17,329	1,242*	9.34	2.38
Scenic Rim Regional Council	424,648	61,735	13,905	68.60	3.27
Somerset Regional Council	536,929	128,884	3,891	49.25	0.72
Sunshine Coast Council	228,477	101,089	10,762	16.25	4.71
TOTAL	2,228,624	480,611	77,108	-	3.46

* Excludes Land for Wildlife registration of exclusive native title lands on Minjerribah.





IMPROVES
land management
skills and
KNOWLEDGE



MEMBERS PLANT
1 TREE
FOR EVERY
3 people in SEQ



Contributes to improved
PHYSICAL
HEALTH



Each member
HAS REMOVED

NO. 1
ACTIVITY

5 football fields
of weeds

Land for Wildlife South East Queensland is proudly supported by:



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