

# Annual Report 2015-2016



**Land for Wildlife**  
South East Queensland



2014 – 2017

Land for Wildlife SEQ Strategic Action Plan Vision

Nature conservation is widely accepted and effectively and enthusiastically pursued as an integral part of private land management and biodiversity conservation in SEQ.

## 2015-2016

**258** Land for Wildlife properties joined

(185 Registered + 73 Working Towards Registration)

**4,595** hectares added to Land for Wildlife network

(3581 hectares of Retained Habitat + 1014 hectares Under Restoration)

**4,057** Land for Wildlife properties in SEQ

(as of 30 June 2016)

**43,378** unique visits to website

**58,774** hectares of land under conservation management with a further **6,188** hectares under restoration

(as of 30 June 2016)

**950** iconic Land for Wildlife signs purchased to meet expected program growth for next 4 years

**4** newsletters with **6,500** readers per edition

**3,800** Facebook followers

(as of 30 June 2016)

**122** unique Facebook posts

Average reach to **5578** people

Highest reach to **650,000** people

### Matters of National Environmental Significance

on new Land for Wildlife properties include:

- **75** hectares of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
- **1.5** hectares of Brigalow
- **0.5** hectares of Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh
- **20** species of plants and animals

(see page 15 for details)

 [www.lfwseq.org.au](http://www.lfwseq.org.au)

 [facebook.com/lfwseq](https://facebook.com/lfwseq)

Front page image: *The defensive face of the Pink-underwing Moth larva. This caterpillar can grow to 5 cm with the adult moth's wingspan reaching 14-16 cm. Photo by Todd Burrows, Conservation Partnerships Officer, City of Gold Coast, taken on Bev and Laurie Geraghty's Land for Wildlife property.*

## Celebrating a Milestone

In December 2015, Bev and Laurie Geraghty's Currumbin Valley property in the Gold Coast Region became the 4000th Land for Wildlife property in South East Queensland.

Their stunning 21 hectare property contains significant biodiversity including 7.66 hectares of the critically endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia and several nationally significant threatened species, including wild macadamia trees (*Macadamia tetraphylla*) and the rarely-seen Pink Underwing Moth. This milestone was celebrated on their property in February 2016 with other local Land for Wildlife members and staff from City of Gold Coast and Healthy Waterways and Catchments. The local Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin covered the Geraghty's story and the discovery of the Pink Underwing Moth.

*"As a family, we had decided to buy a property for three generations— somewhere for myself and Laurie, the kids and our grand-kids," Bev said. "And this was, and is, perfect. We loved it so much that we didn't want to do anything to upset the natural environment. We phoned the Land for Wildlife program. They came out to our property and we were just blown away by what they found." Bev Geraghty, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin 7/5/16*



### 2014 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan Strategy Area Vision (Marketing & Promotion)

Land for Wildlife SEQ continues to welcome **150 new members annually** through positive Land for Wildlife branding and demonstrating the environmental and social success of the program in regular, effective and diverse communication avenues.



## NATIONAL LEADERS

Land for Wildlife is a practical demonstration of the 'think global act local' message. The program relies on the strong endorsement and leadership offered by 11 Local Governments and the Australian Government's investment through the National Landcare Programme delivered by Healthy Waterways & Catchments. Land for Wildlife SEQ stands out as the national flagship program as it is the largest (by number of members) and fastest growing private land conservation program in Australia, recording a steady membership growth rate of approximately 200 properties/year. This year recorded one of the highest ever new membership tallies (258 new properties), indicating the program's relevancy and the community's continued interest in private land conservation.



### Incentives for Land for Wildlife members 2015/16 included:

- \$445,000 for on-ground works
- 39,263 free plants to 400 properties
- 283 nest boxes provided
- 138 reference books
- 175 properties received herbicide
- 38 restoration toolbelts and tools
- Fauna cameras, weed mats, tree guards

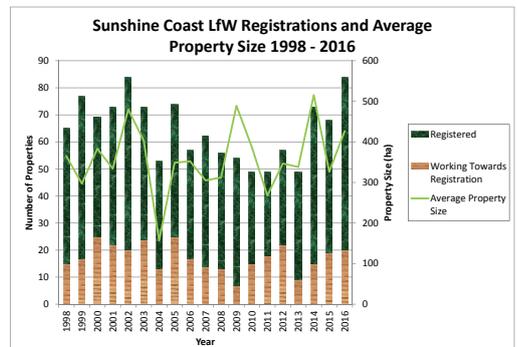
*(Data sourced from Brisbane City Council, City of Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City Council and Sunshine Coast Council)*

## SUNSHINE COAST



This year the Sunshine Coast Council continued its impressive effort of registering a high number of Land for Wildlife properties while supporting existing members too. A total of 77 new properties covering 850 hectares were registered this year, representing Council's most successful year! In addition, Sunshine Coast Council

organised 20 workshops and field days attended by 300 members. The Landholder Environmental Grants Program provided \$329,600 of funding to 115 rural properties, and five new Voluntary Conservation Agreements were finalised.





## We're all in this together

*Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Steering Committee, November 2015.*

**Backrow L to R:** Denise Lindon, SCC; Amanda Maggs, BCC; Stephanie Reif, SCC; Marc Russell, SCC; Julie O'Connor, SCC; Peter Copping, LCC; Danielle Crawford, SCC; Keith McCosh, SRRC; Nicole Walters, LCC; Kenneth McClymont, SCC; Ainslie Wyer, MBRC; Kaori van Baalen, LVRC; Scott Sumner, BCC; Tony Mlynarik, BCC; Lexie Webster, CoGC; Alan Wynn, SCC and Darren McPherson, SRC.

**Frontrow L to R:** Todd Burrows, CoGC; Deborah Metters, HWC; Peter Hayes, BCC; Stephani Grove, ICC and Cody Hochen, BCC.

**Apologies:** Shannon Mooney, HWC (Chairperson); Liz Gould, HWC; Trevor Kanapi, LCC; Rachel Booth, LCC; Maree Manby, RCC; Saul Hondow, CoGC; Catherine Madden, BCC, Clinton Heyworth, MBRC and Dave Burrows, SCC.

**Brisbane City Council (BCC)**  
**City of Gold Coast (CoGC)**  
**Ipswich City Council (ICC)**  
**Lockyer Valley Regional Council (LVRC)**  
**Logan City Council (LCC)**  
**Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC)**  
**Noosa Council (NC)**  
**Redland City Council (RCC)**  
**Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC)**  
**Healthy Waterways & Catchments (HWC)**  
**Somerset Regional Council (SRC)**  
**Sunshine Coast Council (SCC)**

### 2014 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan Strategy Area Vision (Network Operations)

Land for Wildlife SEQ is coordinated through a vibrant, securely-funded, professional network of Local Governments and Healthy Waterways & Catchments applying appropriate technologies to deliver high quality services and advance Land for Wildlife objectives.

The Land for Wildlife Steering Committee meets regularly to direct the regional program and share learnings. The Committee is comprised of representatives from 11 Local Governments and Healthy Waterways & Catchments. Five Steering Committee meetings were held in the 15/16 financial year. Topics discussed at meetings included: officer safety in the field, phase 3 of Land for Wildlife online database, Nature Refuge delivery trials, expanding the online presence of Land for Wildlife and reviewing the Land for Wildlife MOU between Healthy Waterways & Catchments and Local Governments.



## Governance

### A collective responsibility

The Land for Wildlife program is owned by the State of Victoria. They transfer the rights to Healthy Waterways & Catchments to deliver the program in South East Queensland. In turn, Healthy Waterways & Catchments passes on these rights to 11 Local Governments through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU outlines roles and responsibilities, sanctions the Land for Wildlife Steering Committee as the strategic decision making entity and allows co-investment by signatories towards regional initiatives. During 2015/16, the MOU was reviewed and will be finalised next financial year.

The Land for Wildlife program is guided by the *2014 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan*. The purpose of the Plan is to articulate the program's vision, outline major activities and prioritise investments. Four strategy areas include:

1. Network Operations (e.g. steering committee, MOU, officer workshops, strategic plan)
2. Services for Members (e.g. property visits, information, workshops, incentives)



3. Monitoring and Reporting (e.g. environmental and social outcomes)
4. Marketing and Promotion (e.g. recruiting members, website, social media, branding)

The regional online database provides a mechanism to manage Land for Wildlife property and landholder data. The database offers a consistent platform for collecting data within a secure online network and allows retrieval and analysis of data within Local Government areas.



### 2014 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan Strategy Area Vision (Monitoring & Reporting)

Land for Wildlife SEQ effectively communicates environmental and social outcomes of the program to assist local, state and federal governments to meet their nature conservation and community development goals and policies.



## Upskilling Officers need training too

Healthy Waterways & Catchments organises training workshops for Land for Wildlife Officers to increase their technical capacity, develop skills in emerging technologies and maximise sharing and collaboration between officers. Workshops for 2015/16 involved learning about bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) delivered through the Qld Herbarium and a full-day workshop on a Land for Wildlife property in the Moreton Bay Region covering creek erosion processes and mitigation actions.

### Workshop Feedback:

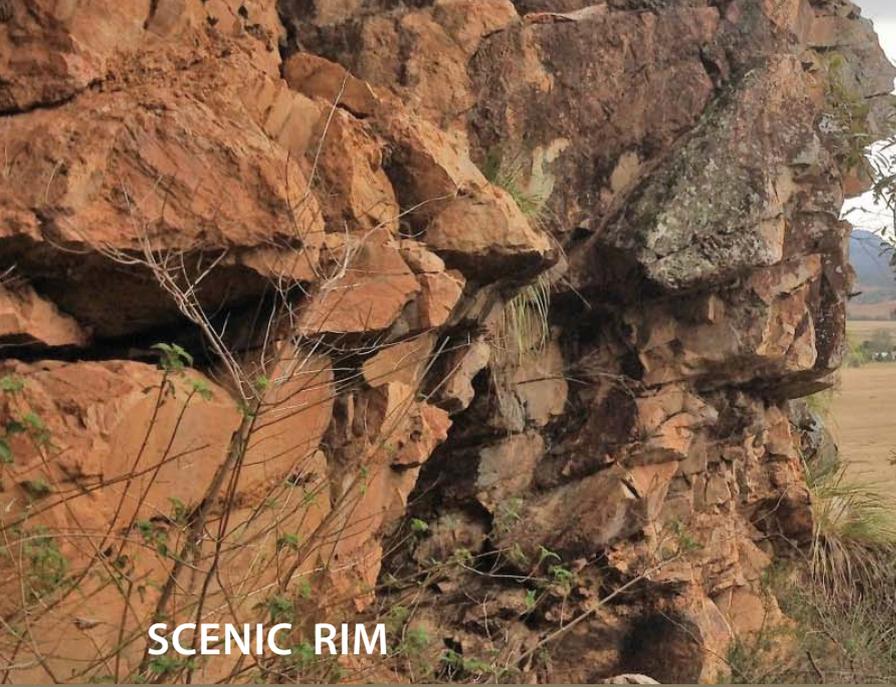
*"The entire thing, including bed lowering, hydrodynamics, plant knowledge and contacts will be helpful."*

*"I am now more confident in providing solutions for larger erosion issues."*

*"The best part of the workshops was walking the creek, looking at real case scenarios and working out relevant solutions."*

*"This is practical advice to engage and work with landholders."*





## SCENIC RIM



# Big and Small Land for Wildlife has it all

Land for Wildlife properties come in a variety of shapes and sizes, all adding value to the program.

The largest new Land for Wildlife property this year covers 574 hectares at Croftby in the Scenic Rim. This unique property includes a section of the Minto Crags, a spectacular rhyolite formation that offers habitat for a host of threatened plants and wildlife. Caves, rocky crevices and overhangs are fascinating to explore and provide shelter for wildlife. Four species of wattles (*Acacia* species) on this property are regionally significant and the nationally-threatened Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies were recently sighted.



## BRISBANE

The smallest addition to the Land for Wildlife program this year was a 0.6 hectare property at Mt Crosby in Brisbane. This property, located near the Moggill Conservation Reserve, is a good example of a small strategic piece sitting within a larger connected conservation estate. The property contains a population of Lloyd's Olive (*Notelaea lloydii*), a nationally-threatened plant. The young owners are planning to build and are keen to control priority woody weeds such as Ochna and Chinese Elm, as well as revegetate Kholo Creek and create habitat for birds.



**650,000 people reached**  
with a social media post showing wildlife nesting in a habitat tree on a Land for Wildlife property in Brisbane.



## REDLAND

### A Pinch of Salt

Given that most Land for Wildlife properties do not contain marine or estuarine ecosystems, it was rewarding to welcome a 32 hectare property at Redland Bay and a 30 hectare property on Macleay Island, both of which contain mangrove ecosystems. Mangroves provide habitat for the nationally threatened Water Mouse (*Xeromys myoides*) as well as a wide range of coastal birds and invertebrates such as crabs.

The Redland Bay property contains a nationally-threatened ecosystem called Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, which is a stunning site to walk through with crabs running everywhere and soft grass under foot. A pair of White-bellied Sea-eagles has also raised their young in a nest on this property for a number of years.

The Macleay Island property is lucky to adjoin and contain intertidal flats which are important feeding grounds for migratory waders (shorebirds). Shorebirds are truly remarkable animals as some species, such as the Bar-tailed Godwit, has been recorded flying non-stop between Alaska and Moreton Bay – a journey of over 11,000 km in a single flight over nine days.



## MORETON BAY

Moreton Bay Regional Council has been working with landholders to identify endangered species on their properties from the coast to the mountains. Similar to the property at Redland Bay, a Land for Wildlife property connected to Hays Inlet on Moreton Bay has been identified as suitable habitat for the Water Mouse. With the landholder's interest and environmental passion, and support from the Land for Wildlife program, this property will strengthen the Coastal Saltmarsh community and provide additional habitat for the Water Mouse.

# Caught on Film

## Using fauna monitoring cameras

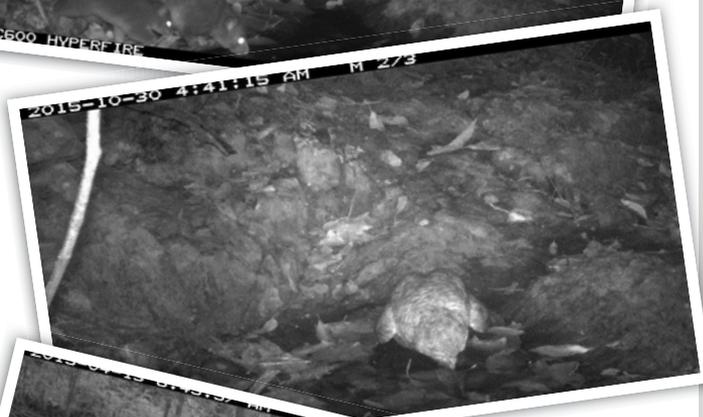
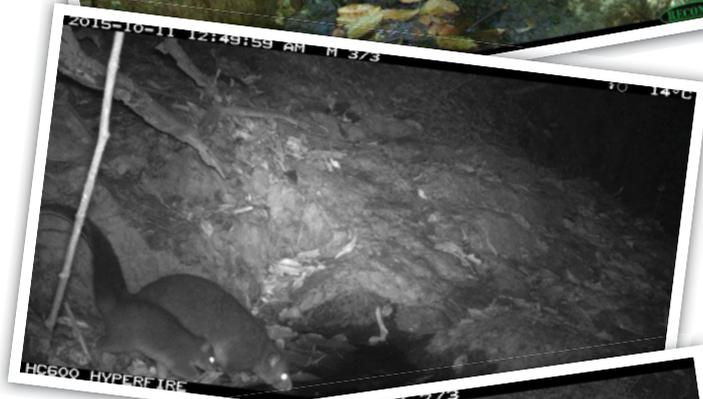
A number of Local Governments such as Brisbane City Council, Sunshine Coast Council, City of Gold Coast, Somerset Council and Ipswich City Council have been loaning fauna monitoring cameras to Land for Wildlife members to allow them to capture the movement of wildlife on their properties.

On 22 June 2016, *Quest Community Newspapers* featured an article on foxes including photographs taken by a fauna monitoring camera on a Land for Wildlife property in Burbank, Brisbane. Foxes are opportunistic animals and will eat a wide range of food including fallen fruits, pet food, compost bin contents and other human scraps. Unfortunately, they also eat small native animals and predation by foxes is listed as a national 'key threatening process'.

Land for Wildlife members have demonstrated the value of setting up a fauna camera near permanent waterholes, particularly during dry times. Many animals were photographed at waterholes in various Council areas. Animals photographed included wallabies, possums, currawongs, topknot pigeons, water dragons, brush turkeys, emerald doves, lace monitors, wild dogs and a boobook owl drinking - strange, but true! A Land for Wildlife property at Springbrook, Gold Coast, even photographed the elusive Albert's Lyrebird.

On a Land for Wildlife property at Elaman Creek, Sunshine Coast, video footage of the nationally-threatened Long-nosed Potoroo was recorded. Another threatened species, the Black-breasted Button-quail, was recorded by a fauna monitoring camera for the first time on a Land for Wildlife / Voluntary Conservation Agreement property at Belli Park, also on the Sunshine Coast.

Wildlife images from fauna monitoring cameras have provided exciting content for the Land for Wildlife SEQ social media page and recorded high engagement rates demonstrating that this is a successful way to interact with Land for Wildlife members and the general public.





## SCENIC RIM

# Workshops and Field Days Bringing landholders together

On 13 April 2016, the *Fassifern Guardian* newspaper featured an inspiring story about the transformation of Barry and Marjorie Jahnke's Land for Wildlife property at Kalbar, Scenic Rim Region, from a degraded salt scald into a thriving wetland. More than 140 different species of birds have now been recorded on the property. A field day held at Kalbar in April 2016, was profiled in the Land for Wildlife SEQ newsletter. The before and after imagery also resulted in a popular social media post reaching 8,980 people.

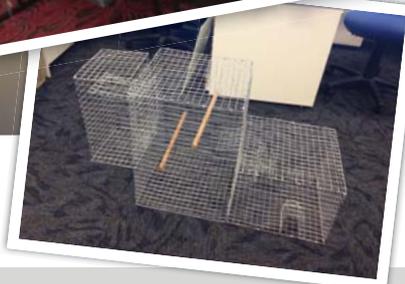
*"For Marjorie and I, the goal was to increase the biodiversity of the land by stabilising it. Yet in the process, we have improved the potential productivity and this may be of particular interest to landholders who want to turn 'terrible land' into land which can produce an income." Barry Jahnke, Land for Wildlife member.*



## IPSWICH



Indian or Common Myna.  
Photo by Koshy Koshy, Flickr (CC BY 2.0).



Ipswich City Council held a workshop for Land for Wildlife members on Indian Myna birds called 'Flying Under the Radar'. The workshop provided information on the threatening role these birds play in the environment and ways to manage them such as using a trap. The 25 landholders who attended the workshop were given nest boxes to provide homes for native birds. Since the workshop, Council has engaged the Ipswich Men's Shed to construct 3 traps that are currently on loan to Land for Wildlife members. Workshops are a great way to share knowledge, stories and experiences.

# Weeds & Weevils

Land for Wildlife members are passionate about removing weeds. It is the number one conservation activity undertaken on Land for Wildlife properties. Local Governments offer a range of services such as workshops, field days and one-on-one property visits that support Land for Wildlife members to improve knowledge and skills with regard to weed identification and control. On average, each Land for Wildlife member in SEQ has controlled 3.5 hectares of weeds.

Land for Wildlife Officer with Sunshine Coast Council, Danielle Crawford, highlighted over 30 weeds

through Weed of the Week posts on the Land for Wildlife SEQ Facebook page. These posts highlighted existing and emerging environmental weeds and tips on how to correctly identify and control them.

## BRISBANE

Brisbane City Council offers incentives to assist Land for Wildlife members who are undertaking revegetation and weed control activities. An example of this cooperative approach to weed management is a 17 hectare property at Upper Brookfield whose owners are managing a range of difficult weeds such as Cat's Claw Creeper, Glycine and Climbing Asparagus in the riparian areas along Moggill Creek.

Brisbane City Council signed-up an impressive 46 new Land for Wildlife properties during the 2015/16 period, as well as funding on-ground conservation projects on 38 Land for Wildlife properties.



## IPSWICH



Leanne Field has been battling the noxious aquatic weed *Salvinia* on her 3 hectare Land for Wildlife property in Ipswich since 2014. Her property contains a series of water bodies known as 'coffin holes' which were heavily infested. A batch of *Salvinia* weevils that were released in October 2015 have established very well and are slowly eating their way through the *Salvinia*, making long-term management of this invasive weed easier.

### 2014 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan Strategy Area Vision (Member Services)

Land for Wildlife SEQ offers our members practical information, technical support and access to an engaged and enthusiastic network of like-minded landholders to help them achieve their nature conservation objectives and share their learnings with other landholders.



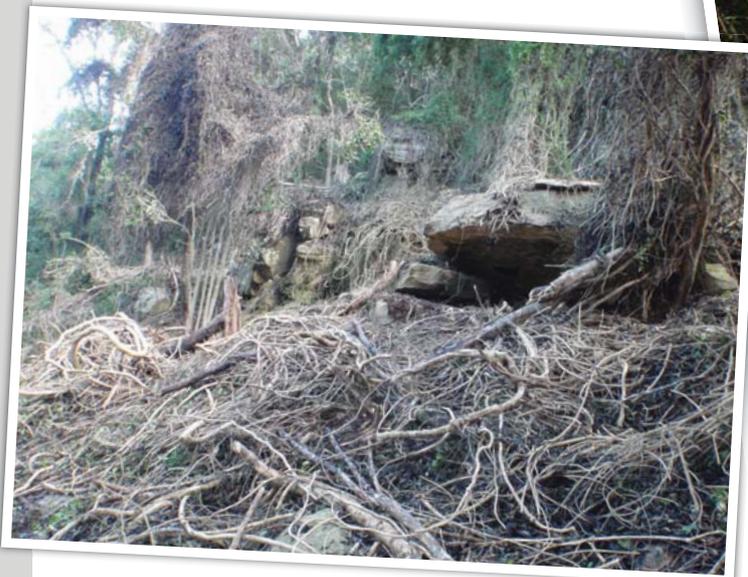
## SOMERSET & LOCKYER VALLEY

# Integrating Grazing and Conservation

Landholders of working properties play an important role in managing SEQ's natural resources. New Land for Wildlife additions in the Somerset Region included large grazing properties that run appropriate stocking rates in open ironbark woodlands. Several of these properties are home to Koalas.

A 124 hectare property at Black Duck Creek in the Lockyer Valley joined Land for Wildlife in August 2015. The property contains a small patch of Brigalow and Belah forest with some vine scrub, ironbarks and native grasses. The long standing owners have installed fire breaks around the vine scrub and control infestations of lantana. Cattle are managed sustainably by ensuring good ground cover is maintained, paddock weeds are controlled and their cattle have native vegetation for shelter.

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council continues to deliver the successful Lockyer Valley Land for Wildlife Landholder Assistance Program delivering on ground conservation work to Land for Wildlife properties, integrating nature conservation with grazing. As a result significant infestations of Cat's Claw Creeper were controlled, 4,400 native plants were planted and 300m of creek fenced off from stock. In July 2015, Lockyer Valley Regional Council created a video featuring three Land for Wildlife grazing properties in the region highlighting the many benefits of the Land for Wildlife program and their Landholder Assistance Program.



Cat's Claw Creeper control on a Land for Wildlife property, Black Duck Creek, Lockyer Valley.



## SUNSHINE COAST & LOGAN

### Sharing Discoveries

One of the great things about Land for Wildlife is the bridge the program builds between researchers and landholders. This year Healthy Waterways & Catchments and Councils provided data to two post-graduate projects researching private land conservation programs in Australia and Koalas in the mid-Brisbane River catchment.



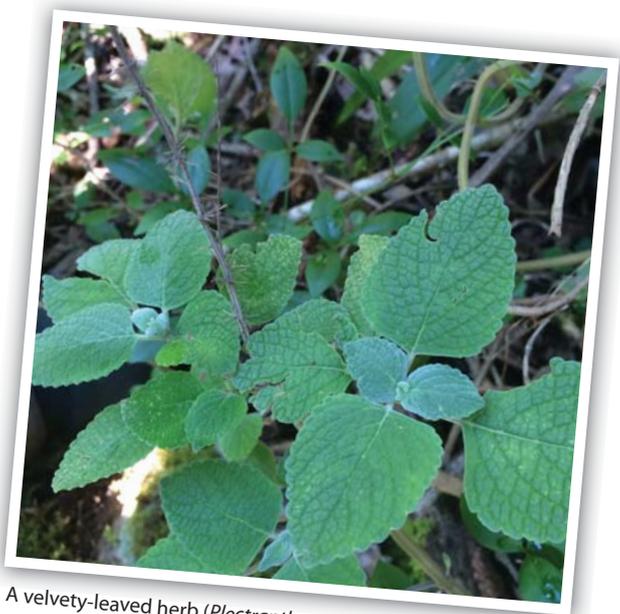
An undescribed species of Bottle Daisy (*Lagenophora* sp.) was found on a Land for Wildlife property in Logan. Photo by Glenn Leiper.

An exciting event in January 2016 was the discovery on two Logan City Council Land for Wildlife properties of an undescribed species of Bottle Daisy growing underneath Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*). Botanists from the Queensland Herbarium confirmed specimens of the daisy, referred to as *Lagenophora* sp. They also collected additional specimens from the site. The landowners are understandably proud of their block which now contains three listed plant species, one that is new to science.

This was a busy year for Land for Wildlife in the City of Logan with 16 new properties signed up to the program. This brings the total number of Land for Wildlife properties in Logan to over 250, which cover nearly 6% of the city!

Laughing Waters is a 24 hectare Land for Wildlife property next to Kondalilla National Park in the Sunshine Coast. Jane Abercrombie and Denis Wood have been custodians of the land for the past 19 years. This year, a Land for Wildlife Officer sent a sample of a velvety plant specimen collected from the top of a spectacular 20m waterfall on their property to the Queensland Herbarium. It was identified as *Plectranthus torrenticola* - listed as Endangered at State and Federal levels. A fantastic discovery!

*"Bush regeneration is rewarding, as is tree planting, but at times it is just plain hard work. So for me, Sunshine Coast Council providing contractors through their Landholder Environment Grant program is a huge psychological boost and I don't feel I'm alone anymore. And the on-ground results are really encouraging!" Denis Wood, Laughing Waters, Sunshine Coast.*



A velvety-leaved herb (*Plectranthus torrenticola*) was found on a Land for Wildlife property on the Sunshine Coast. Its discovery was exciting as this plant is only known from a handful of sites in the world!



## Matters of National Environmental Significance on new Land for Wildlife SEQ properties that joined the program during 2015-2016

77 hectares of ecological communities listed under the Commonwealth's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*, referred to as the EPBC Act:

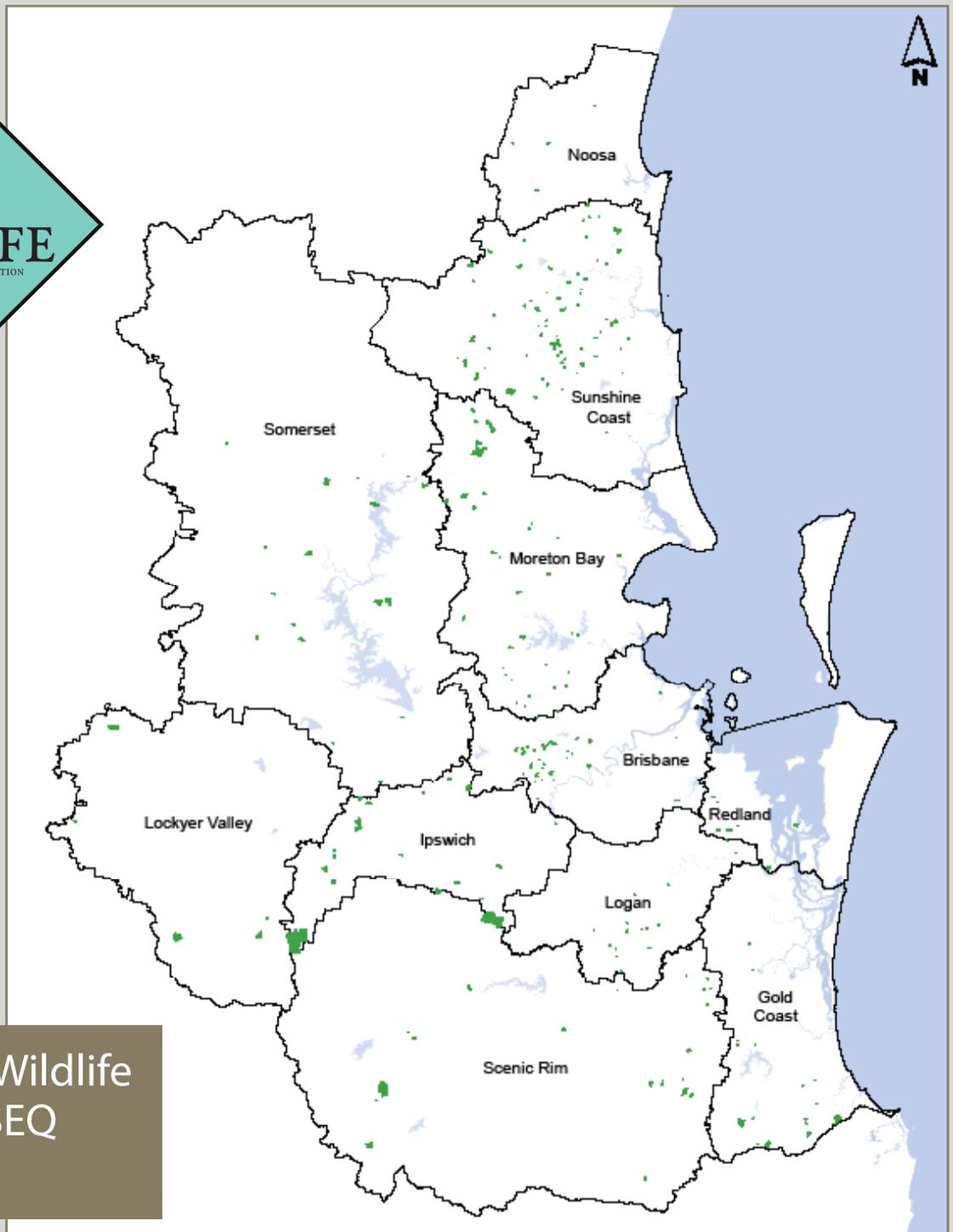
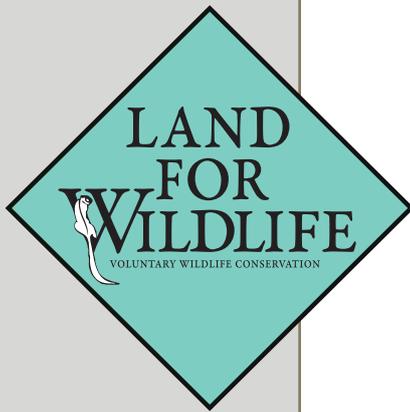
- 75 hectares of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia (Critically Endangered)
- 1.5 hectares of Brigalow (Endangered)
- 0.5 hectares of Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (Vulnerable)

20 species of EPBC-listed Plants and Animals:

- Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Vulnerable)
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, *Petrogale penicillata* (Vulnerable)
- Grey-headed Flying-fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Vulnerable)
- Giant Barred Frog, *Mixophyes iteratus* (Endangered)
- Pink Underwing Moth, *Phyllodes imperialis smithersi* (Endangered)
- Sweet Myrtle, *Gossia fragrantissima* (Endangered)
- Lloyd's Olive, *Notelaea lloydii* (Vulnerable)
- Ball Nut, *Floydia praealta* (Vulnerable)
- Macadamia Nut, *Macadamia integrifolia* (Vulnerable)



- Rose Apple, *Syzygium moorei* (Vulnerable)
- Spiny Gardenia, *Randia moorei* (Endangered)
- Jointed Baloghia, *Baloghia marmorata* (Vulnerable)
- Three-leaved Bosistoa, *Bosistoa transversa* (Vulnerable)
- Gympie Nut, *Macadamia ternifolia* (Vulnerable)
- A tufted perennial groundcover, *Romnaldia strobilacea* (Vulnerable)
- A multi-stemmed herb, *Plectranthus torrenticola* (Endangered)
- A small shrub, *Zieria bifida* (Endangered)
- Brush Sophora, *Sophora fraseri* (Vulnerable)
- Boonah Tuckeroo, *Cupaniopsis tomentella* (Vulnerable)
- Shiny-leaved Coondoo, *Planchonella eerwah* (Endangered)
- Plus habitat for several threatened species including the Queensland Lungfish, *Neoceratodus forsteri* (Vulnerable), Mary River Turtle, *Elusor macrurus* (Endangered), Mary River Cod, *Maccullochella mariensis* (Endangered), White-throated Snapping Turtle, *Eelseya albagula* (Critically Endangered) and Coxen's Fig Parrot, *Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni* (Endangered).



## New Land for Wildlife properties in SEQ 2015-2016

Land for Wildlife South East Queensland is proudly supported by:



Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Annual Report 2015-2016 is published by Healthy Waterways and Catchments (formerly SEQ Catchments) through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.