

LAND FOR WILDLIFE

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND *newsletter*

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LAND
FOR
WILDLIFE
CELEBRATING
20
YEARS
1998 - 2018

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CELEBRATING
20
YEARS
1998 - 2018

I hope you enjoy this special 20-page anniversary edition celebrating 20 years of Land for Wildlife in South-east Queensland.

It's been a busy and exciting few months. Sorting through old photographs from 20 years ago seeing how quickly fashions and technologies change. Enjoying anniversary events hosted by Councils. Meeting long-term Land for Wildlife members. Catching up with former Land for Wildlife Officers. It has offered me the opportunity to reflect on my journey with this program.

I first learnt about Land for Wildlife when I was living in Alice Springs. The community wanted practical advice on how to control weeds and feral animals for the benefit of native plants and wildlife. I helped secure Federal Government funding for the Local Government through the Natural Heritage Trust and the program was launched in 2002. I worked as the Land for Wildlife Officer there for a year before I moved to the east coast.

Unbeknown to me, a similar, albeit larger-scale, process had unfolded a few years earlier here in SEQ. The community was calling out for more recognition of conservation on private land. Local Governments were already implementing voluntary conservation covenants. The state government was rolling out their Nature Refuges program. The time was perfect for an entry-level private land conservation program in SEQ.

A collective of pioneering Local Government officers and elected representatives worked together to secure Natural Heritage Trust funding and launched the program in 1998.

With four officers and a SEQ regional coordinator, the program was well-received and applications started to pour in.



For the next five years, the program ticked along nicely and became embedded in most SEQ Local Government's policies and budgets. In 2004 a new avenue of Australian Government support through the regional NRM body came along and I was appointed as regional coordinator.

Land for Wildlife is much more than just a program with a nice sign. It is a meaningful network of people who may have quite divergent views of the world, but they all care about their land. Being a custodian of land is a privilege. Learning its history, understanding its features, marvelling at diverse life forms and wanting to manage it well are all implicit.

Land for Wildlife is the brand, but its meaning lies in our personal connection with Nature. In a time where Nature is often excluded from decisions, Land for Wildlife legitimises our connection with it and provides a pathway for continuous learning and better land management. For me, when I restore an ecosystem, I am restoring part of myself.

Congratulations to all Land for Wildlife members and supporters. Thank you for this opportunity to work with you and to celebrate this 20th anniversary milestone.



Deborah Metters
Land for Wildlife
Regional Coordinator
Healthy Land and Water

LANDHOLDER registrations

Land for Wildlife SEQ 1/10/2018

Registered Properties **3,503**

Working Towards
Registration Properties **953**

Total Area Retained **63,338 ha**

Total Area Under
Restoration **7,372 ha**

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Front Cover: Cake by Melissa Walker made for the Land for Wildlife Art Exhibition opening, 8 September 2018. Photo by Leah Hattendorff.

Humble Beginnings



1998

These Local Government representatives from across SEQ and pioneering landholders paved the way for thousands of other Land for Wildlife members and supporters.

Land for Wildlife started in Victoria in 1981 and has since been adopted in most states and territories.

In 1998 the Land for Wildlife program was launched in Queensland.

Shown here are photos taken at the Land for Wildlife launch on John Sprent's property in Moggill, Brisbane. John was the first Land for Wildlife member in Queensland.

Several rehabilitated raptors were released at the launch.



Former Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley (left) presents the first Land for Wildlife sign to the late John Sprent.



2008

Tenth anniversary celebrations included an event at John Sprent's property and the first Land for Wildlife Open Property Scheme in Qld.



2018

Today's South East Queensland Land for Wildlife Team.

A collaboration of 11 Local Governments and Healthy Land & Water supporting over 7,000 Land for Wildlife members.

2018

20th Anniversary Celebration
Black Mountain, 4 September 2018

Over 40 people with speakers,
restoration equipment displays, maps
and recognition of 20-year Land for
Wildlife members.



What does being a Land for Wildlife property owner really mean?

Land for Wildlife is not just about plants, it's about habitat, and everything that habitat supports. Non-human animals do not exist for our amusement, and nor should they be conserved simply for the sake of future generations of humans. Rather, wildlife exists because millennia of evolutionary effort has given it the right to exist. That is why wildlife deserves our consideration.

Here's something to marvel at. Each of you is the product of almost unimaginable good fortune. From the days of the primordial ooze, each of your forbears managed to live just long enough to mature and procreate. A great many more, indeed the vast majority, of their kind did not. But millions of your specific ancestors actually succeeded in reaching maturity, finding a mate and giving birth to yet more of your ancestors. That's a long, long, very long list of damn fine luck. It's like winning the lottery millions of times over.

That same good fortune extends to every living thing on Earth. Of the billions of species that have ever lived, the vast majority did not survive. As we look around us today, we are witnessing the most tenacious, most adaptable and most extraordinary of life's creations – the survivors.

It behoves us then, as the dominant species, to consider not just our fate but also the fate of our fellow travellers in time. We are, after all co-existing.

Ultimately, the creatures on your private property are just as valuable as that in the national park. Indeed, every Land for Wildlife member is their own virtual national park ranger with their own little national park.

So let me thank everyone who has been involved in this grand, idealistic, but very functional dream that is the Land for Wildlife movement. You have all done the planet and its passengers an enormous service.

Excerpt from address by
Noosa Council Mayor, Tony Wellington
20th Anniversary Event



Twenty year Land for Wildlife member Doug Bettens, proudly attaching his new 20-year sign to his well-worn Land for Wildlife one.



Logan & Scenic Rim

20th Anniversary Celebration
Woodstock, Tamborine, 8 September 2018

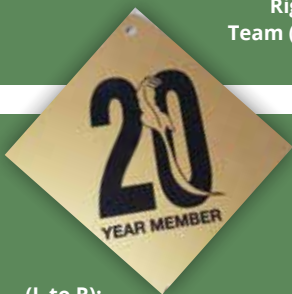
Over 130 people with speakers, wildlife displays, plant sales, recognition of 20-year Land for Wildlife members and a delicious bushtucker inspired lunch.



Scott Buchholz MP, Peter Copping, Mayor Christensen, Cr Jennie Breene, Don McDonald, Cr Laurie Koranski, Deborah Metters, Keith McCosh and Rebecca Condon.



Right: Logan & Scenic Rim Land for Wildlife Team (L to R): Peter Copping, Lyndall Rosevear, Rachel Booth and Keith McCosh.



Congratulations 20-year Land for Wildlife members

(L to R):

Cornelia Meesters with Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor, Greg Christensen.

Kathy Faldt with City of Logan Councillor, Laurie Koranski.

Margaret Gibson with City of Logan Councillor, Jennie Breene.



Sunshine Coast

**20th Anniversary Celebration
Rocky Creek Scouts Site, Landsborough
15 September 2018**

Over 200 people, concurrent workshops and speakers.

Six field days to Land for Wildlife properties during September attracting 100 attendees. Showcasing various ecosystems, land management skills, strategies, triumphs and setbacks.



Craig Hosmer and Darryl Reinke shared some of their wisdom gained from being in Land for Wildlife for 20 years and extensively revegetating their property.



Grahame and Annabel Wearne (who celebrated their 20th anniversary with Land for Wildlife) looked at maps of the Sunshine Coast region while enjoying their morning tea at the event.



Junior Land for Wildlife members Jade and Eden get up close to Bearded and Eastern Water Dragons.



Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson thanks Land for Wildlife members for their commitment to conserving biodiversity.



Michelle Gleeson (Bugs Ed.) entertains the crowd with the amazing world of invertebrates.



Field day attendees navigate the steep slopes of 'Birdwing Gully' - a site being restored by property owners Ian Webster and Dianne Lanskey.

Ipswich, Lockyer Valley & Somerset

20th Anniversary Celebration, Marburg, Ipswich 22 September 2018

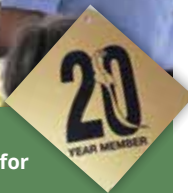
Over 100 people, speakers, recognition of 20-year Land for Wildlife members, plant sales, wildlife displays and site tour.



Martin Fingland (Geckoes Wildlife) delighted and challenged the crowd by showing live native animals including an owl, python, bettong and grumpy Channel-billed Cuckoo. The Land for Wildlife program is all about providing habitat for these fascinating animals.



Somerset Regional Council Mayor, **Graeme Lehmann**, congratulates 20-year Land for Wildlife member, Kevin Ahearn.



Below: Past and Present Land for Wildlife Team for Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset (L to R): Peter Copping, Nick Swanson, Martin Bennett, Darren McPherson, Melanie Mott, Keith McCosh, Danielle Andlemac, Bruce Tinworth and Deborah Metters.



Moreton Bay

20th Anniversary Celebration
Stony Creek & Mt Mee properties
9 and 26 September 2018

Two field days to Land for Wildlife properties attracting about 50 attendees. Guided walks, botanical tours, sharing stories and good company.



Glenn Leiper (co-author of *Mangroves to Mountains* field guide to native plants of SEQ) led a guided walk for Land for Wildlife members, introducing the world of rainforest plants and sharing tips on how to identify them in the field.



Moreton Bay Councillor Adrian Raedel and Land for Wildlife property owner, Donna Engeman, listen to Glenn explain how fruit-eating birds help rainforests naturally regenerate.



Stunning waterfalls, rocky gorges, rainforest gullies, revegetation sites, integrated grazing and delightful farm animals were just some of the field day treats.

20th Anniversary Celebration Redland IndigiScapes Centre 29 September 2018

Over 90 people attended. A photographic competition, videos of participants' journeys, rolling historical photos and canapes on the deck were enjoyed by all.



Land for Wildlife member, Jenny Anthony, spoke about her and her husband Steve's wonderful 18-year Land for Wildlife journey.



Photo competition winner, Lara Maidment, with her stunning image of her Land for Wildlife property at Sheldon.



Twenty-year Land for Wildlife family member, Lynette Shailer, received a plaque from Cr Tracey Huges in recognition of the Shailer family's work.

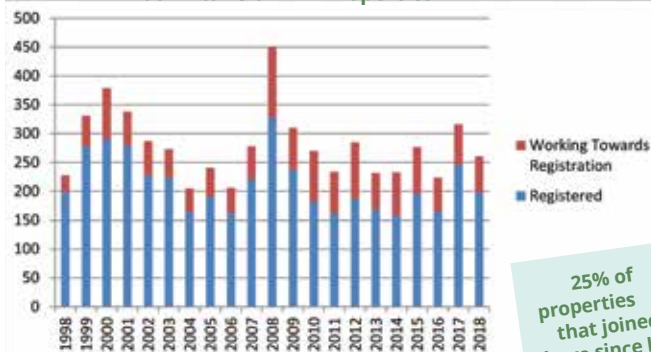


Past and Present Redland Land for Wildlife Team.

Above: Redland's Environmental Partnerships Team (L-R): Maree Manby, Mim Skelly, Dominic Al-Mudairs and Michael Maher with Cr Tracey Huges (centre).
Left: Event organiser and current Land for Wildlife Officer, Maree Manby, with former Land for Wildlife Officers, Terry Banks (left) and Gavin Hammermeister.

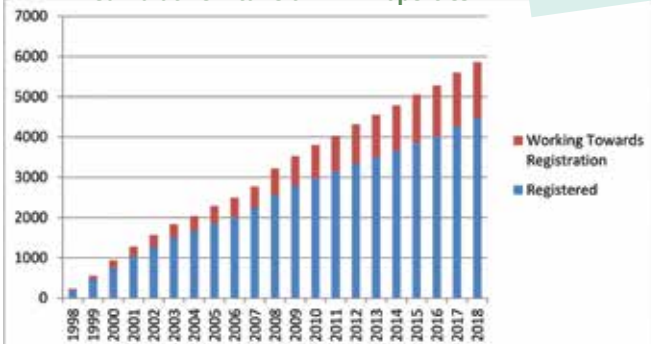
Facts & Figures

Annual intake of LfW Properties

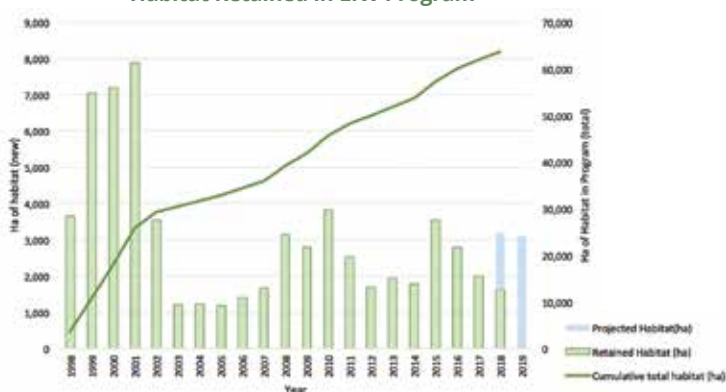


25% of properties that joined have since left the program

Cumulative intake of LfW Properties

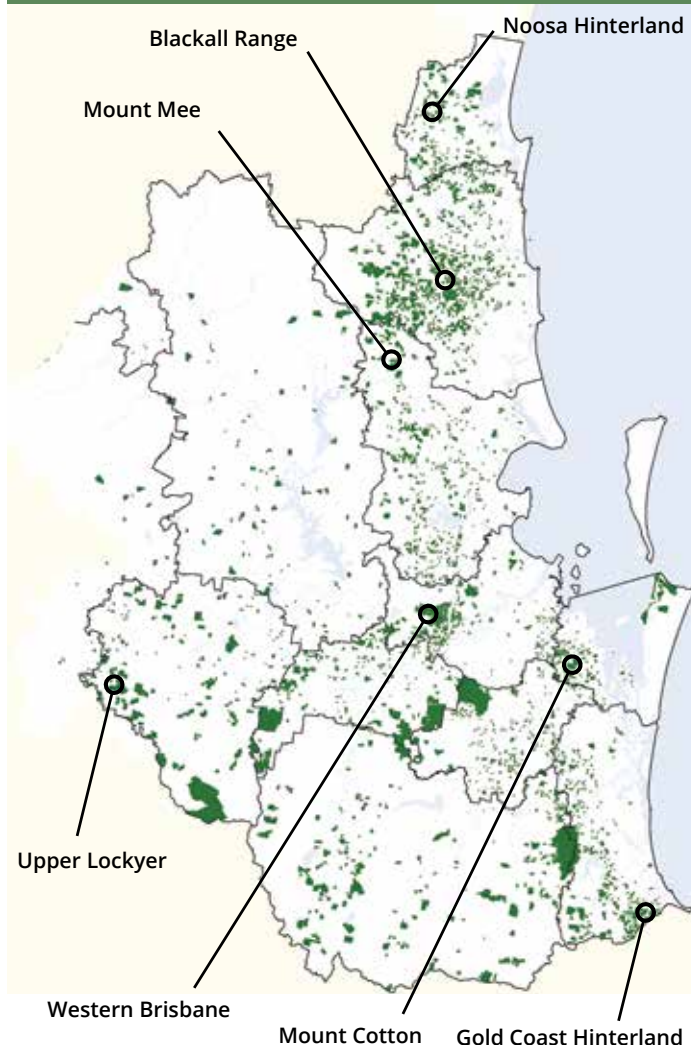


Habitat Retained in LfW Program



Land for Wildlife Hotspots

Some parts of SEQ have higher concentrations of Land for Wildlife properties than others due to a range of factors including the local environment, land uses and the interests of landholders. In some of these hotspots, Land for Wildlife members have started getting together to work on each other's properties sharing their knowledge and expertise.



Land for Wildlife SNAPSHOT

3,503 REGISTERED PROPERTIES
953 WORKING TOWARDS REGISTRATION PROPERTIES
250 NEW MEMBERS ANNUALLY

As at October 2018



63,338 HECTARES OF RETAINED HABITAT

7,372 ha OF HABITAT UNDER RESTORATION



ESTIMATED 7,000 LFW MEMBERS



71% OF ALL NATURE REFUGES IN SEQ ARE LFW PROPERTIES



165 PROPERTIES HAVE BOTH LFW & VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS



64 SCHOOLS

29 ECOTOURISM/ RECREATIONAL BUSINESSES

11 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRES

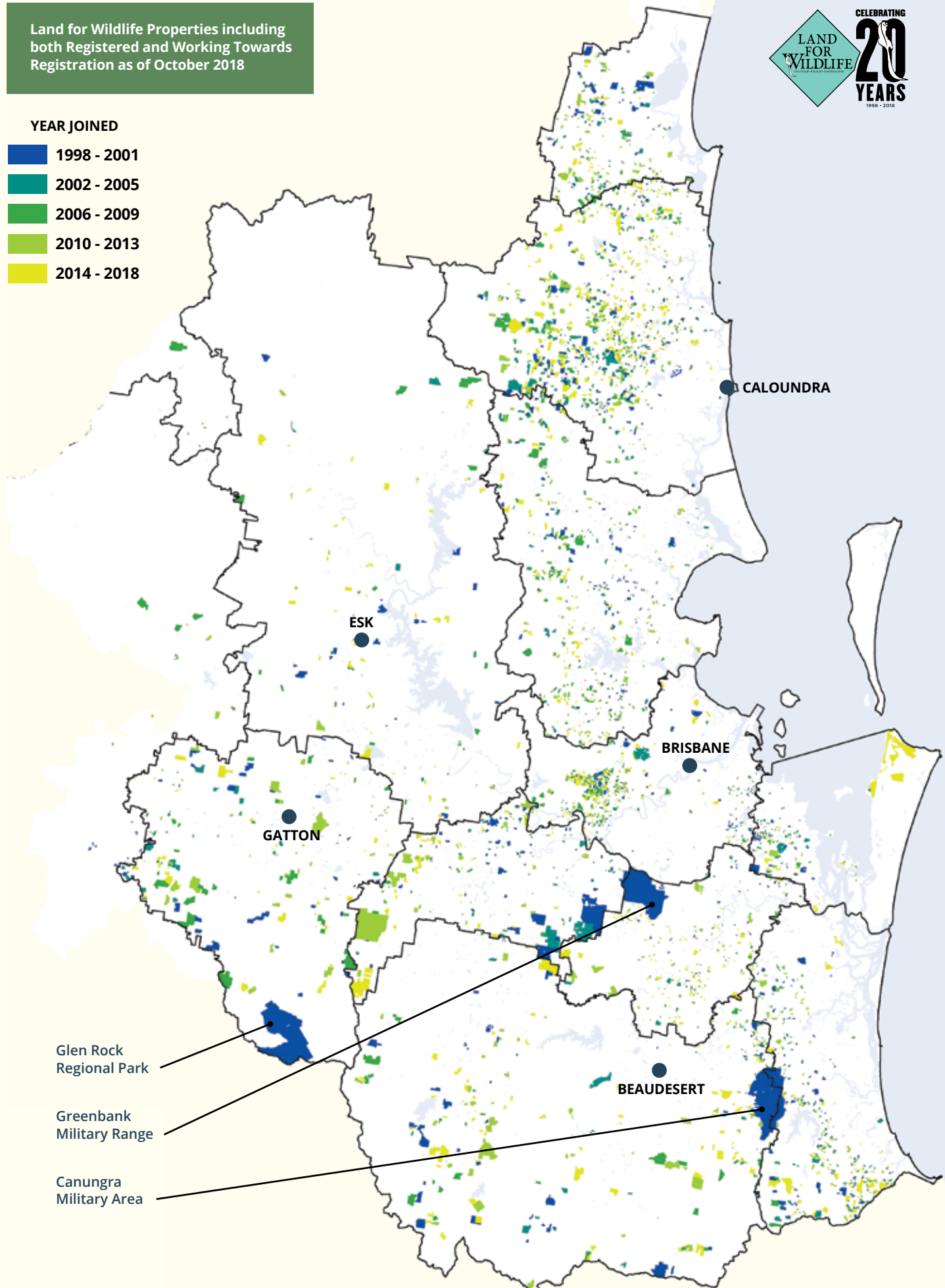
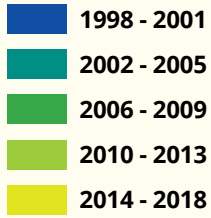
ARE MEMBERS

Land for Wildlife Properties

Land for Wildlife Properties including both Registered and Working Towards Registration as of October 2018



YEAR JOINED



20th Anniversary Celebration, John Sprent Reserve, Moggill, 14 October 2018

Over 90 people, wildlife displays, Land for Wildlife inspired artwork, speakers and recognition of 20-year members.



Congratulations 20-year Land for Wildlife members.

Cr Kate Richards (holding the cake) thanked Brisbane's long-term Land for Wildlife members for their work in protecting the city's natural environment.



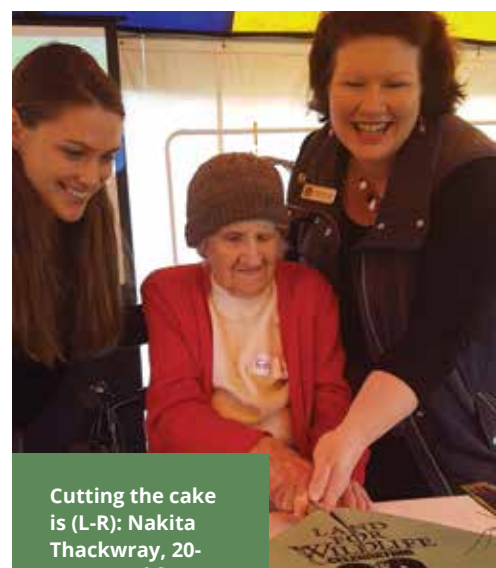
**Brisbane City Council's
Land for Wildlife Team**



Ian Hislop was instrumental in bringing the Land for Wildlife program to Queensland back in 1998.



"My property gives me a sense of purpose and a bearing in life" Nancy Cramond, artist and 20-year Land for Wildlife member.



Cutting the cake is (L-R): Nakita Thackwray, 20-year Land for Wildlife member Edie Smith and Cr Kate Richards.



There is no doubt that 2018 marks a significant milestone for Land for Wildlife across South-east Queensland. And, while we can spend time quantifying what this means in terms of ecological restoration, a lot of what has been achieved is 'priceless', and can be hard to explain through numbers.

So, we'd like to start by saying thank you. Thank you for the endless hours, hard work and commitment. Thank you for friendships, memories and life lessons that will be remembered for years to come. And, thank you for being passionate environmental warriors dedicated to protecting the Gold Coast's natural environment.

There are 424 Land for Wildlife properties on the Gold Coast, including 15 properties that have been in the program since 1998. So far, Land for Wildlife members have planted 62,675 native trees with more being supplied to properties that need planting works.

Over the twenty years, Land for Wildlife's focus has changed from planting to assisted natural regeneration through weed control. About 50% of all Land for Wildlife members on the Gold Coast have come along to one of our ecological restoration workshops where they learn practical tips on how to plan and undertake restoration work.

The City of Gold Coast is proud to support our Land for Wildlife members in many ways. A calendar of workshops allows members to meet each other and continually increase their skills and knowledge. Practical incentives are provided, including native plants, tools, herbicides, reference books, nest boxes and access to fauna monitoring cameras. Personal, on-ground training is provided to landowners when they commence a restoration project.

Land for Wildlife members are what make this program special, they are the stewards of amazing natural areas on the Gold Coast, from the heights of the Springbrook Plateau where numerous threatened species live, to the floodplain at Pimpama, protecting the waters of Moreton Bay.

The City of Gold Coast will be taking the time to thank and acknowledge Gold Coast members with a celebratory event at a Land for Wildlife property, Silkwood High School, on **Saturday 24 November**.



The Gold Coast is one of **Australia's most biodiverse cities**. Many threatened species occur on Land for Wildlife properties such as the Albert's Lyrebird (top) and Long-nosed Potoroo, both recorded on fauna monitoring cameras.



Land for Wildlife members, Mary and Andrew McNiece, receive their ecological restoration toolkits after completing the ecological restoration workshop.



Hollows are Homes workshops, provide Land for Wildlife members with the tools and materials to construct nest boxes for wildlife on their properties.

Lamington
National Park

Springbrook
National Park

Landscape Connections

These Land for Wildlife properties (shaded in light green) provide one of the most important ecological links between Lamington and Springbrook National Parks on the Gold Coast hinterland.

The City of Gold Coast has been working with these Land for Wildlife owners for nearly twenty years to encourage natural regeneration, revegetate degraded paddocks, install fencing to limit stock access to creeks and monitoring the water quality in the creeks.

The owners of two of these Land for Wildlife properties have also entered into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) with the

City of Gold Coast. This helps protect their conservation efforts into the future and enables access to annual grants and support through Council. Another neighbouring property is also in the process of entering into a VCA.

Revegetation projects over the years have spanned these properties and now there are corridors of native plants on what were once bare paddocks.

Undoubtedly, wildlife would be using these green highways to move across the valley between the two mountainous national parks.

Community Connections

Land for Wildlife Officer, Michael Mills, catches up with 20-year Land for Wildlife member, Kay Brooks, on her Burpengary property and asks some questions about her Land for Wildlife journey.

Q: How has your property changed since joining Land for Wildlife?

A: The back bush section has naturally developed into great habitat. The advice given through Land for Wildlife officers and the newsletter and the propagation group at CREEC all gave us the information we needed to help with this.

Q: Has your property had a positive impact on your local area?

A: A large housing development nearby removed a lot of vegetation and a block across the road was cleared. These actions make our small habitat become even more significant.

Q: What have you learnt through Land for Wildlife?

A: Even the smallest piece of wild space has value to local wildlife and encounters with wildlife can be so enjoyable and fascinating.

Q: What benefits have you gained from Land for Wildlife?

A: The revisits to our property are great. Assistance with weed management and plant ID is really appreciated. Free plants are also great as this could otherwise be quite expensive.

Q: What has been the most rewarding aspect of Land for Wildlife?

A: Just knowing we are, in a small way, offering our precious wildlife natural food plants, shelter and nesting opportunities on our block.



Conserving All Ecosystems

Land for Wildlife properties conserve all types of ecosystems – mangroves, rainforests, woodlands and swamps. There are 133 distinct ecosystems (defined as Regional Ecosystems) that occur in the SEQ region (i.e. within the 11 Local Governments). Of these, 108 ecosystems occur on Land for Wildlife properties.

In SEQ, there are about 35 ecosystems that are considered 'poorly-conserved'. This

means that less than 7% of the pre-clearing extent (the amount of the ecosystem that existed before clearing) is found within public protected areas*.

Luckily, this is where Land for Wildlife steps in to help.

Of those 35 poorly-conserved ecosystems in SEQ, 17 occur on Land for Wildlife properties. For some ecosystems, there are more

hectares on Land for Wildlife properties than there are in protected areas. Shown here are just three poorly-conserved ecosystems in the southern part of SEQ that Land for Wildlife members are protecting and managing.

* Public protected areas include National Parks, Forest Reserves and Council Reserves.



Brushbox open forest along gullies Regional Ecosystem 12.9-10.17a (Status: Least Concern)

Pre-clearing extent in SEQ	Current extent in SEQ	Extent in public protected areas	Extent on Land for Wildlife properties
9,620 hectares	4,329 hectares	652 hectares	290 hectares

Example: A Land for Wildlife property at Lyons contains 26 hectares of this ecosystem along the gully lines between volcanic peaks. This property has been subject to lantana management funded by Logan City Council grants for a number of years. The entire property, totalling 252 hectares, is also covered by a Voluntary Conservation Agreement and is lightly grazed to manage fuel levels.

Ironbark grassy open woodland Regional Ecosystem 12.9-10.7 (Status: Of Concern)

Pre-clearing extent in SEQ	Current extent in SEQ	Extent in protected areas in SEQ	Extent on Land for Wildlife properties
180,239 hectares	28,356 hectares	4,868 hectares	2,069 hectares

Example: A large 350 hectare Land for Wildlife property at Flagstone Creek in the Lockyer Valley protects 60 hectares of this ecosystem. This woodland ecosystem is found on dry sandstone hills on reasonably fertile soils. It can grow close to vine thickets and, in the absence of fire, vine thicket plants can encroach underneath the ironbarks. Appropriate fire regimes are important to keep the woodland open with a native grassy understorey. This property has received support from Lockyer Valley Regional Council for the past few years to do significant weed control work primarily on Madeira Vine control in the gullies.

Blackbutt open forest along the coast Regional Ecosystem 12.11.23 (Status: Endangered)

Pre-clearing extent in SEQ	Current extent in SEQ	Extent in protected areas in SEQ	Extent on Land for Wildlife properties
9,294 hectares	1,700 hectares	633 hectares	198 hectares

Example: A Land for Wildlife property in Currumbin Valley contains 20 hectares of this ecosystem. The owners also have a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the City of Gold Coast for this property granting access to annual support from Council to help with on-ground conservation work such as controlling Camphor Laurels. This ecosystem depends on occasional fire to keep the understorey grassy and open. Given the high number of neighbouring properties and infrastructure, fire management is proving difficult. Over time, this area may change to a wet sclerophyll forest.



Regional Ecosystem 12.9-10.7

Bringing Back Wildlife



Photo by Matt Cecil

Thought to be locally extinct in Brisbane's western suburbs, Greater Gliders were 'rediscovered' on a Land for Wildlife property in Upper Brookfield, Brisbane in 2012. Spotlight surveys have since found four individuals within a 20 hectare range, including a juvenile, indicating that there is a breeding population.

Greater Gliders rely on tree hollows for sleeping and breeding, but little is known about their nesting behaviour. A pilot project commenced this year with the installation of a range of nest boxes with live-feed cameras on Land for Wildlife properties. Excitingly a Greater Glider was recorded exiting one of the nest boxes only four months after installation.

This ongoing project aims to protect and improve our knowledge of these endangered animals while also supporting the landholders who are custodians of glider habitat.



Installation of a Greater Glider nest box in western Brisbane. Photo by Catherine Madden.



Although rarely seen, the **Long-nosed Potoroo** would have to be one of the cutest native animals found in SEQ.

While previously thought to only inhabit undisturbed areas with a thick understorey, properties undergoing restoration are now known to be used by Long-nosed Potoroos as well, if areas of suitable habitat occur nearby. Land for Wildlife properties on the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast hinterlands have been instrumental in discovering where these vulnerable marsupials live.

Photo above by Leo Berzins.



Photo by Todd Burrows

Invertebrates are often overlooked, but with a bit of training and persistence, it is amazing what can be found.

Land for Wildlife Officers have the privilege of visiting some stunning properties. During visits on properties in the Sunshine and Gold Coast hinterlands, the sharp eyes and botanical knowledge of officers led to the discovery of the endangered **Pink-underwing Moth**. Previously only recorded from National Parks, this nocturnal moth lives in mature subtropical rainforests where its host vine grows. Shown here is the larvae rearing up in a defensive pose.



Over the past twenty years, thousands of host vines for the **Richmond Birdwing butterfly** have been planted across SEQ on Land for Wildlife properties.

These planted vines help supplement wild remnant vines, and will become more important to the butterfly as the vines mature. In another few decades it is easy to imagine new strongholds of these vines and emerging populations of the rare butterfly, thanks to the efforts of Land for Wildlife members.

Creating a Legacy

We think we are winning. In a world where the pendulum has swung strongly towards environmental decline, locally we cling to optimism.

In our 20th year with Land for Wildlife we have eliminated the last of the weeds from our previously degraded 25 hectare Gold Coast hinterland ex-banana farm. Our rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests are attracting more birds. Mammal and reptile diversity and numbers are increasing, and a Richmond Birdwing butterfly population has even been established!

We have secured the property with conservation covenants on title through State and Local Government agreements. Our neighbour has done the same. Our Landcare group has restored the riparian zone of more than half of the creek line of our 17 km sub-catchment.

The Land for Wildlife team in Council has been incredibly helpful with both their technical and financial assistance.

Probably the biggest change we have seen is the improvement in bush restoration techniques. In the early days we wasted a lot of energy using all sorts of unproductive practices. Through Council we learnt the new techniques and our productivity skyrocketed. We have achieved far more in the last five years than we did in the previous 15.

The last 20 years have been an absolute joy. A beautiful ecosystem has built up around us. Our girls were surrounded by nature and adventure. We developed enduring friendships with like-minded people. We learnt, and continue to learn, so much.

Wal and Heather Mayr
20-Year Land for Wildlife members
Austinville, Gold Coast



2012



2014



2016

Our two hectare **Whipbird Gully** has undergone a transformation from weedy lantana hillslope to regenerating subtropical rainforest habitat without planting a single tree.



The Four R's: Remnant, Regrowth, Revegetation and Regeneration.

The Dillon's property contains all four. Shown left is a forest created after 14 years of revegetation. Above left is a forest of vines thanks to natural regeneration. Above is a remnant White Fig providing habitat for countless native animals.

John and I commenced our Land for Wildlife journey in 1998, a year after we had built our house and started a new life on our property. This is 'slip' country, steeply sloping and dissected by narrow gullies and a small spring-fed creek. The local clay soils are reasonably fertile and very easily eroded.

From our neighbours we learned the history of our land. We joined our local Landcare group, attended workshops and began to know and 'read' our landscape.

Our revegetation has focussed on enhancing opportunities for the local wildlife to forage and live with us. Several of our neighbours have embarked on similar journeys. We all do it differently and learn from each other. In the process, wide corridors have been planted and we are seeing more wildlife using these to travel up and down the valley.

Protecting our slip-prone areas with deep rooted trees and those with massive, spreading root systems is very important. Figs are key species. In 2011 we signed a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with Council to help protect our work into the future.

There are so many linkages across and within our ecosystems we need another lifetime to learn and to enjoy. Protecting and creating healthy habitat is a journey I strongly recommend. The wildlife will love you for it too.

Joan Dillon
20-year Land for Wildlife member
Hunchy, Sunshine Coast





Definitely time for an upgrade! Handing over a new Land for Wildlife sign to replace a well-worn one.

Long-term Land for Wildlife member, Paul Cusack (left), with long-term Land for Wildlife Officer, Nick Clancy.

Building the conservation jig-saw

Land for Wildlife members are a surprisingly diverse bunch, however one thing they do tend to have in common, is the desire to leave their property in a better condition than when they found it. But there's more to Land for Wildlife than just the on-ground outcomes. In my experience the program can speak to the core of a person's relationship with the land, it's about striving to be a good 'custodian' and taking on a quest to better understand the land we live on and the critters we share it with.

For many people buying their property is part of fulfilling a lifelong dream and Land for Wildlife can help facilitate a very rewarding journey of stewardship and learning how we can tread more lightly on the land.

Over the last two decades I have seen numerous properties transformed by devoted custodians and watched as, like a jig-saw puzzle, these properties have gradually formed buffers around reserves and joined-up to create wildlife corridors across the landscape. Seeing these on-ground changes is very rewarding, but so too are the shared journeys with the landholders.

Having the opportunity to revisit landholders time and again over many years you soon learn if your advice has worked! You also get to know some people pretty well and while I am supposed to be the one dishing out the advice, most of what I have learned during this time I have learnt from the landholders themselves.

Successional land management across generations and the knowledge transfer that goes with it is a rarity these days. I've visited numerous properties across three or four different owners and still the properties remain registered as Land for Wildlife - not bad for a program of which its effectiveness is sometimes questioned because of its non-legally binding nature. The information we've gathered over that time, such as the location of a rare plant, a problematic weed infestation or what wildlife has been previously recorded are safely stored ready to be handed on to the next owners.

Land for Wildlife is one of the few extension services remaining today that still provides landholders with one-on-one property management advice, going some of the way to filling this knowledge transfer gap. It also offers an invaluable platform for people to share their skills and experiences through peer-to-peer learning.

The majority of South-east Queensland (SEQ) is privately owned; therefore, supporting private land owners to undertake conservation activities on their own land is the most cost-effective way to deliver nature conservation outcomes at a landscape level. From very humble beginnings Land for Wildlife SEQ has grown to deliver an extremely successful voluntary nature conservation program that continues to experience high levels of growth.

Many new members hear about the program through word of mouth from a neighbour or friend, reflecting the fact that Land for Wildlife is as much about people as it is about conserving plants and animals. This growing network of land managers are not only committed to leaving their bit of the conservation jig-saw puzzle better than when they found it, but collectively there's a desire to see all the pieces join-up to create a bigger, brighter and better picture for nature conservation in SEQ.

Nick Clancy
Conservation Partnerships Officer
Sunshine Coast Council

"Land for Wildlife is one of the few extension services remaining today that still provides landholders with one-on-one property management advice."



Intact waterways like this one (left) on a Land for Wildlife property at Eudlo are more resilient to climate change and act as a refugia for wildlife. Surprisingly, only 20 years ago, this creek was totally denuded of vegetation and was heavily grazed by cattle. Thanks to the committed efforts of the owners, this creek now looks and functions like a remnant ecosystem.

The owners of this Land for Wildlife property at Nambour (above) can take comfort in knowing that their restoration efforts will one day also create a functioning healthy ecosystem. These seedlings will become mature trees holding creek banks together, reducing erosion and providing habitat for wildlife.

Future Conservation

Having been involved with Land for Wildlife for the last 19 years, I have seen the program move from its fledgling steps of being accepted by the first landowners to being core business of Local Government and championed by landowners. The last 20 years has seen phenomenal growth in the program; it's a great feeling to drive down a rural road and see so many Land for Wildlife signs! So what will the next 20 years bring for Land for Wildlife?

The future will bring a range of opportunities and challenges for landowners across South-east Queensland (SEQ). On the challenge side, we will face continued population growth with associated infrastructure, roads and demands on our green spaces. As climate change sets in, we will have more extreme weather. We will see more environmental weeds and potentially new pests.

On the opportunity side, new technologies will help landholders with property management. Drones and acoustic monitors will be used to monitor wildlife and habitats, including threatened species. Satellite technology and mapping products will also continue to help property managers. Robots are already being used to plant trees, how will they go with maintenance of revegetation areas where natural regeneration is also important?

Scent detection dogs will continue to be trained to detect a range of threatened species. New pest management techniques will better control feral species through traditional means like trapping but also through genetic pest management.

Hopefully more research into the importance of refugia and the design of wildlife corridors will lead to resources being better invested in these areas.

Most excitingly, works that have been undertaken over the last two decades will bear fruit. For example Richmond Birdwing Vines planted in the last two decades will continue to mature and will help increase populations of this vulnerable butterfly.

Land for Wildlife's strength is in its members, and they will continue to educate, upskill and support their local communities while improving the environment.

Many landowners will take the step of others before them and protect their properties into the future through binding Voluntary Conservation Agreements including conservation covenants and Nature Refuges.

Grants and incentives from Local Governments will continue to deliver many onground outcomes with landowners

matching and exceeding Council's contributions many times over.

While the future is full of opportunities and challenges we will make the most of them – the people of SEQ and the environment will be the winners.

Land for Wildlife will continue to build a larger network of landowners with similar values working towards common conservation goals. The program will be integral for Local Governments to achieve their conservation targets in SEQ.

I have seen Land for Wildlife properties that are better managed than many national parks. The amount of time, resources and money that landowners invest into their properties for nature conservation is truly remarkable. That won't change in the next 20 years.

Congratulations to all Land for Wildlife members old and new for their contributions to nature conservation in SEQ and here's to another 20 years of success!

Stephanie Reif
Conservation Partnerships Officer
Sunshine Coast Council



**Land for Wildlife 20th Anniversary
Art Exhibition**
The Old Friary, Kenmore Hills
8-16 September 2018

Thanks to all contributing artists.
Shown here (top left anti-clockwise):

Red-backed Wren by Zoe Hayes
Fungi II by Pam Kalisch-Smith
Fire Snake by Alec Vickerman
Kingfishers by Lyn Farrell
Peekaboo by Carolyn Parsons
Nestboxes by Susan Nolan
The Process by Nancy Cramond



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