



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

New South Wales



Number 4—March 2011

What is land for wildlife?

'Land for Wildlife' is a voluntary property registration scheme that aims to assist landholders, who wish to become involved with the program, to maintain wildlife habitats on their land. Registration is free and non-binding. The good faith agreement, between the Regional Provider and landholders, does not change the legal status of the properties.

What does Land for wildlife do?

The key feature of the land for wildlife program is the signage and environmental property assessments the organization provides free to land holders.

These assessments include:

- Individual consultations to determine the environmental sustainability of their properties and assess any management issues.
- Site reports advising on how to manage environmental issues such as erosion, wildlife habitats and weed control.
- Identifying native and exotic plants that may be growing on the property
- Advise on how to integrate wildlife conservation into the properties usual farming/management practices.

In addition to environmental property assessments, LfW gives landholders the opportunity to participate in workshops, meet like minded people and receive up to date information via fact sheets and regular newsletters.

Does my property qualify?

The program is available to landholders who:

- Have properties with half a hectare or more of native bush land
- Are willing to manage all or part of their property in an environmentally sustainable way

The Land for Wildlife program is available to private landholders who own properties ranging from small bush blocks up to large farming and grazing operations.

Schools and council managed public land may also qualify for Land for Wildlife.

Why is maintaining land for wildlife so important?

Only 8.34% of the NSW's land, is currently protected as National Park, leaving the vast majority of NSW land in private ownership. This puts private landholders in a unique position to help create natural havens for wildlife on their properties and in turn form wildlife corridors that connect various habitats together. Wildlife corridors are links between animal habitats that can be formed by riparian strips, ridge lines or properties with intact bushland. These wildlife corridors are important because the remaining animal habitats in Australia are becoming increasingly fragmented, leaving bush islands that are far from one another, containing populations that are too small to survive and maintain the vast genetic diversity Australia has.

Hello Land for Wildlifers,

Hope your activities are going well, LFW is growing with over 640 properties now registered in NSW.

On 6th and 7th May the Bi-Annual Land for Wildlife Forum will be held in North Sydney. Concessions apply to LFW Members and Regional Providers so register now. Registration details are available on the LFW website, www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/.

While the floods have caused havoc for many areas, there are still regions affected as floodwaters slowly drain or evaporate. The photo below from Queensland shows the rescue of kangaroos, while the photo on the right is a cray climbing a tree to escape 'blackwater' caused by leaf litter washed into rivers.



Kangaroo rescue Central Queensland 2010

The number of Regional Providers is increasing, see detail on next page. Organisations or councils who are interested in becoming involved in Land for Wildlife are always welcome to contact me for a discussion or visit. Land for Wildlife is often provided as a local partnership between councils and Landcare or other NGO. Contact details are on the back page.

The database is now much more accurate, however, names and addresses are sometimes in error. If the name on your envelope is 'The Landholder' it means we need to hear from you to update your details. Just send me your current name and address and contact details and we will update our records.

The website has been considerably updated, it now contains contact details for all Regional Providers, forms can be downloaded and a webpage or web link to locals. Go to www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/



Murray Cray climbing out of Blackwater

I still hear about LFW properties with a sign that have not been receiving LFW or Bush Matters newsletters, if you have any questions drop me a line lfwnsw@cen.org.au

Lastly, CEN have some funding to promote Land for Wildlife in the Lachlan and Murray Catchments. These landscapes have seen clearing for agriculture in the past. CEN is looking to form partnerships with suitable local organisations to allow LFW to be offered. Local contacts who maybe interested are sought, so send me details.

Hope to see you at the LFW Forum ,Cheers John



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Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW





Land for Wildlife welcomes Coffs Harbour, Clarence and Hastings Regions



CEN is delighted to welcome new Regional Providers in Coffs Harbour, Clarence and Hastings regions:

Coffs Harbour Landcare and Council

Coffs Harbour Landcare are the Regional Providers with support from council. The strong partnership that has existed between these organizations allows them to work together to implement Land for Wildlife. Council has produced a Biodiversity Strategy, hence, LFW provides a non-threatening mechanism for landholders to be involved in conservation.



Nigel, Alistair, Damien and Craig training at Council

Clarence Environment Centre (CEC)

CEC is rebuilding LFW following the pilot program in 2002. There are now over 44 properties registered with a newsletter sent to locals and many nest boxes provided. Demand for nest boxes is high and sponsorship for timber to make them is needed.

Landholders are combining their efforts to create ridge top connections to local reserves and wetlands. The work going into this is outstanding a real credit to the landholders involved.

Hastings Landcare

Hastings Landcare are the first group to join and be trained in 2011. They will begin assessments in the Comboyne Plateau area. Comboyne is a beautiful Plateau which was once a rich dairy region it is now has a more mixed range of lifestyles.



Vanessa, Matt and Paul at the Landcare Centre in Wauchope

Land for Wildlife in Lachlan and Murray Catchments

Land for Wildlife works to promote habitat by retaining vegetation. It does not require total exclusion of stock, Grazing often occurs in woodland areas and on native pasture.

In the Lachlan and Murray catchments past clearing has left large areas with poor connectivity for birds and other wildlife. Through this project, CEN is keen to work with local organizations to promote LFW.

Please pass on our details to anyone you know who maybe interested.

Around the regions:

- Long Stem plantings are a great way to rehabilitate plants in difficult areas. The deep roots work well in riparian and other harsh environments. A booklet on Long Stem Planting is now available from the Australian Plant Society or drop me a line.
- CEN is starting an education program called 'Catiquette' around domestic cats and their impact on wildlife.
- Murrakool have problems with foxes killing Bush Stone Curlews.
- Many LFW areas send us stories of their problems with foxes and other feral predators, if you have had success, please share.
- Our volunteer graphic designer fixed the Murrakool logo.
- Staff at Hornsby Council have been trained in Land for Wildlife.
- LFW in Wingecarribee will be the focus of our Field Trip with the LFW Forum on 7th May.
- Landholders in the Wamboin and Bywong areas between Lake George and Bungendore are working to have LFW locally.
- Lake Macquarie council are funding Land for Wildlife and Habitat for Wildlife (for urban landholders) for two years.



'Land for Wildlife' around Australia

The 'Land for Wildlife' program was founded in Victoria in 1981 when it was recognized that landholders who voluntarily protected wildlife habitats on their land should be encouraged and assisted in their efforts. The program has now gone national with over 13,500 members across every state and territory. Although the program is run slightly differently in each state, they all share the same fundamental goal to 'encourage and assist landholders to provide wildlife habitats on their properties'.

Victoria

Victoria was the birthplace of Land for Wildlife. The program was initiated at a time, that 95% of the Victoria landscape had been cleared for farming and other purposes. Hear the story of how LFW came about at the NSW LFW Forum on May 6th at North Sydney.

2011 is the 30th Anniversary of Land for Wildlife, a National Conference and celebration will be run in November in Melbourne.

New South Wales

The Land for Wildlife program in NSW is coordinated by the Community Environment Network (CEN). The slogan "Land for Wildlife: The National Program run by Locals" has been adopted for NSW in recognition of the partnerships.

NSW Supporters and Sponsors

Thank you to our many Supporters and sponsors of Land for Wildlife in NSW, which now includes:

Byron Shire Council, Cessnock Council, Clarence Environment Centre, Coffs Harbour Council, Coffs Harbour Landcare, Community Environment Network, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, Gosford Council, Great Lakes Council, Hastings Landcare, Hornsby Council, Karuah Great Lakes Landcare, Lachlan CMA, Lake Macquarie Council, Manning Landcare, Murrakool Land for Wildlife, Nature Conservation Trust, North Sydney Council, Northern Landcare Support Services, Wakool Council, Wingecarribee Council, Wyong Council.

And many other supporters in the media, schools, business, councils, local groups and most of all the registered landholders.

Thank you!
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