



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

New South Wales

"The National Program run by Locals"



Number 15 – Dec 2018

Hello Land for Wildlifers,

As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to provide an update on what is happening in Land for Wildlife.

There are now 1850 registered properties in NSW. These comprise 150,123 Ha. of total area, with 73,580 Ha. of bushland and 18,941 Ha. being rehabilitated. This is a great result, with 12.5 % of total land now being rehabilitated.

This year, Land for Wildlife developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to work cooperatively. I expect that this relationship will lead to a significant expansion of private land conservation. The world of private land conservation is changing, operating to structured standards and getting bigger and more defined.

During the year, I was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for 50 years of work in environment and conservation. The award made me very proud and I thank all of the volunteers who have helped.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Cheers
John



Land for Wildlife Member Recognised at National Landcare Awards

Mary Bonet, K2W Glideways

Land for Wildlife member Garry Kadwell was a finalist in the National Landcare Awards for the Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award category, which were held in Brisbane in October.

Garry has been a great advocate for Land for Wildlife and is a fourth-generation potato farmer. He operates a 700 hectare property in Crookwell that is a model for the integration of conservation and farm management.

By dedicating 32 percent of his property to conservation areas or ecological zones, Garry has increased productivity across the board, producing an average of 2000 tons of seed potato and 1800 prime lambs annually.

Integrated pest management on Garry's property has dramatically reduced the need for chemical applications and recreated an extensive natural wetland. Fencing off remnant vegetation and planting additional shelterbelts have also assisted the preservation of this area.

Garry has secured a consistent water supply and drought-proofed the property, making it a fully functional wetlands and wildlife breeding area, as well as ensuring the farm's irrigation into the future.

*Gary Kadwell & Lesley Peden with Mary Bonet, the K2W Glideways
LfW Regional Coordinator*



If you would like to get in touch or have any stories or information to share, please email me :
lfwnsw@cen.org.au



NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) - One year on

Recently, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) released its annual report 2017-18, which showcases the BCT's achievements in its first year of operation.

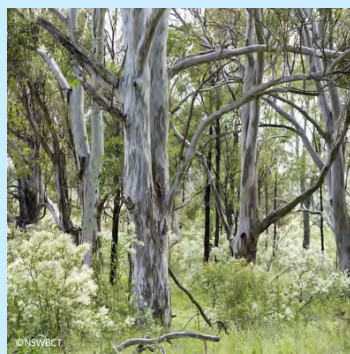
The BCT is a statutory not-for-profit body, established under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* on 25 August 2017.

The BCT is a new organisation charged with continuing the private land conservation functions of the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Nature Conservation Trust. It is within the portfolio of the NSW Minister for the Environment.

The BCT supports private landholders to carry out important conservation management on their properties and is protecting and enhancing biodiversity by promoting private land conservation.

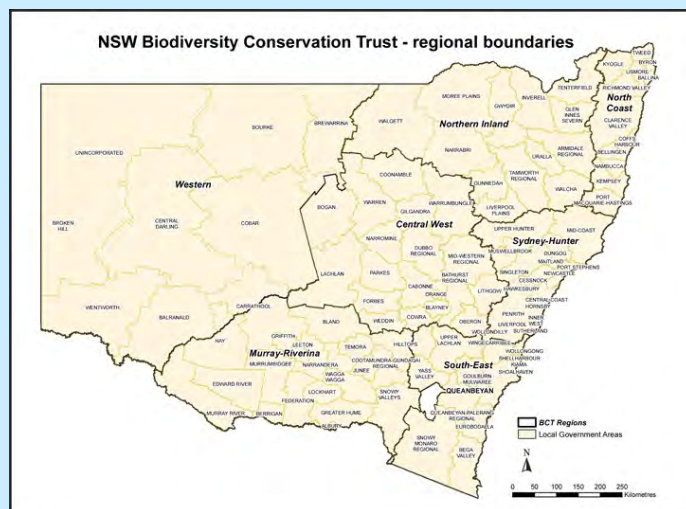
The importance of private landholders being supported to conserve and manage biodiversity on their land is being recognised in Australia and internationally.

During the 2017-18 financial year the BCT launched its first conservation tenders, fixed rate offers, grants and other programs. By 30 June 2018, the BCT had entered 18 new funded and unfunded conservation agreements with landholders covering 4,871 hectares of land with high biodiversity values.



There has been and continues to be strong landholder interest in all BCT's programs. This suggests they are being effective and that the concept of earning income to conserve biodiversity is appealing to many landholders.

BCT Investment Regions ©NSWBCT



Armidale Tree Group becomes LfW Regional Provider

Janeen Robb

LFW in the Armidale region, new England tablelands is back up and running!



The scheme was previously provided by Citizens Wildlife Corridors, a local community group of very similar ideals to the scheme. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work done by Kath Wray, the founder of CWC and the other members of CWC for the efforts they put towards biodiversity conservation over many years. Sadly, CWC dissolved leaving LFW without a regional provider.

The Armidale Tree Group have recently taken on this role and are already signing up new members.

It has been interesting touching base with the members who'd joined in CWC days. I've had some great conversations with a wide range of people who are committed to protecting and enhancing habitat for wildlife. I'm looking forward to working with the people in this network. Thank you to CEN for your support.



Busting barbs to save wildlife

Jane Baldwin – K2W Glideways

No one likes to see animals suffer, and yet everyday our native wildlife suffers from the negative impacts of domestic animals, feral predators, vehicles and barb-wired fences. Thankfully though, there is a growing movement across rural Australia to minimise at least one of these hazards from key areas in the landscape.

Barb Busters is a wildlife-friendly fencing campaign adopted as part of a NSW Environmental Trust Bushconnect Program, restoring the Glideways of Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala link (K2W).

Working with Mikla Lewis from Young and District Landcare who came up with the Barb Busters idea, K2W has been organising working bees to remove or replace barbed wire on local properties along the Abercrombie corridor.

“Our goal over the next year is to remove a further 4km of barbed wire from within the K2W corridor and replace it with wildlife friendly fencing,” says Mary Bonet, K2W Glideways Coordinator.

“While barbed-wire is important for stock control and its use is firmly entrenched in our rural community, it’s a problem for many types of native animals including kangaroos, birds, bats and gliders.

“Nocturnal animals such as the Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Tawny Frogmouth and owl are particularly at risk of entanglement as they glide along watercourses or between nesting trees and patches of habitat in which they feed.

“Encounters with barbed wired fences lead to serious injury and in many cases the animal faces a cruel death or permanent injury as they struggle to free themselves,” she says.

Given there is an estimated tens of millions of kilometres of fencing subdividing the Australian landscape with sixty five percent of these having barbed

wire on the top strand, the problem is huge. More than 75 wildlife species have been identified as occasional or regular victims of barbed wire fence injury.

“There are very good alternatives now to barbed wire fences,” says Mary.

“Multi-strand high-tensile plain wire or a combination of high-tensile plain wire and ring lock is just as effective in controlling stock, as is solar-powered electric fencing.

“Replacing the top one or two strands of an existing fence with plain wire can also make areas safer for wildlife and split poly pipe has been used to successfully conceal barbs in pathways frequented by gliders, birds, bats, kangaroos and wallabies,” she says.

Landholders who are interested in removing or replacing sections of barbed wire on their property should contact Mary at Glideways at www.glideways.org.au or mary@glideways.org.au Further information on the impact of barbed wire on wildlife and what you can do about it can also be found at www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com.au





Community Environment Network
PO Box 149
OURIMBAH NSW 2258

POSTAGE
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Turning Grass into Habitat

Ross Bray, Land for Wildlife member

A three hectare clean block of land, in real estate speak, a blank canvas, not too bad at all, but a bit too clean really. It had been kept mown, very neat, but nothing growing there save a wonderful mango tree.



So, what to do? I've reached "a certain age" where ongoing hard labour wasn't the answer, but I do like my wildlife. The plan in brief was to fence around the house and let someone put cows on the grass to save the slashing. Inside the house fence, turn most of the lawns into gardens to save mowing.

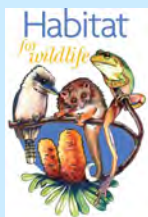
Trees, and shrubs rapidly replaced lawn. Out in the paddock we planted a row of trees, courtesy of Koala Connections, to create Koala habitat. which complemented my own eucalypt plantings. Deciding the nectar eaters had plenty around the house, I planted small fenced areas with native trees and shrubs for the seed and fruit eaters. They are also shelter and shade belts for the cows.

It took a little while, but now our property has birds everywhere! From a handful of species, I've now logged over 90 seen on or above the property! It is a visual and audio feast often commented on by our guests.

Aside from the birds, other wildlife has also crept in. People who have stayed or worked at our place have now started birdscaping their own yards and adding nest boxes and bird baths. I've become an occasional facilitator and I'm happy about this. **Plant it & they will come!**

Bridging the Urban – Rural Divide with Land for Wildlife & Habitat for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme for rural landholders with half a hectare of native bushland or more. It aims to assist landholders to maintain wildlife habitats on their land. Registration is free and non-binding. The good faith agreement between the CEN and landholders does not change the legal status of property, and information is confidential.



Habitat for Wildlife Online is a program available for urban or rural landholders and renters who are interested in wildlife conservation but who may not have a large bushland remnant on their property.

Smaller holdings can provide safe havens for wildlife moving between larger bushland areas. For a small fee, registrants will receive a membership certificate, a small HFW sign, a resource kit and a newsletter for two years.

Further Information

- www.cen.org.au/CEN-Projects/Habitat-for-Wildlife™/
- www.cen.org.au/Habitat-for-Wildlife™/fact-sheets7.html
- <http://cen.org.au/Land-for-Wildlife/>

After reading, please pass this newsletter on to a friend who may be interested in LfW.



Land for Wildlife - NSW
Community Environment Network
PO Box 149
Ourimbah NSW 2258
Ph: 4349 4756
Fax: 4349 4755
Email: lfwnsw@cen.org.au
Web: www.cen.org.au/Land-for-Wildlife
www.facebook.com/lfwhawkesburytohunter

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Biodiversity Conservation Trust.
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info@bct.nsw.gov.au



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