



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

New South Wales



Number 1 - December, 2008

Hello Land for Wildlifers,

This newsletter is to bring you up to date with Land for Wildlife (LfW) in NSW.

Since the Community Environment Network (CEN) became the NSW Co-ordinators of LfW, in early 2008, we have:

- Transferred records and data across to CEN from the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) who previously coordinated the program;
- Updated manuals and processes for LfW;
- Applied for grants for on-going funding for LfW in NSW;
- Conducted a LfW Conference at Taronga Zoo in August;
- Provided information to many organisations on LfW;
- Visited many individuals, councils, not-for-profit groups and Catchment Management Authorities to discuss becoming a Regional Provider;

State Co-ordination involves establishing local or regional LfW providers and providing them with training, support, communications, newsletters and LfW registration on a central database. The local organisation then provides on-site visits to landholders, conducts field days and workshops, provides a newsletter and once registered, delivers a LfW sign for the property. Information on an individual property is treated as private and confidential.

CEN is planning to expand LfW considerably in NSW and is convinced that the program will be very attractive to landholders due to its voluntary nature and the support it offers.

Previously, LfW was co-ordinated by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (now DECC) as a non-statutory program. DECC are supporting CEN as State Coordinators with seed funding and advice to promote the program.



CEN Chairman, John Asquith, (left) with LfW members in the Murray - Nov, 2008

The priority is to establish new Regional Providers so that they can begin to sign up new LfW members as well as supporting the existing members.

Once Regional Co-ordinators are established, CEN will provide training in LfW and accredit assessors. In addition, CEN plans to work with local organisations to conduct a regional LfW workshop for landholders, groups and providers so that they may share experiences. At this stage workshops are being planned for Southern Highlands in March/April, Murray in September and Northern Rivers in April. In 2009, CEN expects to finalise agreements with many organisations on LfW.

If you know of any organisation that would be interested in becoming a regional LfW provider, let me know (Contact details are overleaf). CEN will contact them and we are able to send information, visit to discuss or conduct presentations on LfW.

Finally, thank you to all LfW members for your hospitality, patience and support. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Cheers
John

What is Land for Wildlife?

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their property, even though their property may be managed primarily for other purposes such as grazing. Landholders need to have at least 0.5 Hectares of good quality bushland to become LfW members.

Nationally there are over 10,000 members of LfW. With only 500 in NSW, there are over 260 located on the Central Coast (including Lake Macquarie and Cessnock LGAs) and the remaining LfW members in the Hornsby, Northern Rivers Region and the Murray/Wakool Region.



Land for Wildlife Conference

On the 1st August, 2008 CEN hosted a Land for Wildlife Conference at the ANZ Theatre at Taronga Zoo, Sydney. The purpose of the conference was to re-launch Land for Wildlife in NSW and to begin the marketing of LfW throughout NSW. Since that time CEN has received many inquiries and is now negotiating many agreements for Regional Providers of LfW.

Guest speakers spoke on climate change, private land conservation and there were many case studies on LfW. On the second day, many participants joined a full day bus trip to look at LfW properties north of Sydney.

There were over 90 participants in the Conference with feedback highlighting the outstanding speakers and opportunity to network and share experiences. CEN is hoping to make the State LfW conference a bi-annual event.

Case Studies

Due to their keen interest in native plants and animals, LfW members regularly report unusual flora and fauna:

- At one lifestyle property, surrounded by the lawns of a rural sub-

division, landholders have set up a closed circuit TV monitor to observe and record visiting fauna to their LfW Property. The results have been spectacular with visiting echidnas, numerous different bird species and a koala.

- On a LfW farming property wildlife corridors have attracted CMA funding support for ecological services;
- Several LfW members are also helping WIRES to rehabilitate injured or orphaned wildlife. The dedication and devotion of these LfWers is incredible with dozens of animals being released back into the environment.



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Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW

