





WILDLIFE LAND TRUST



AUSTRALIA

Wildlife Land Trust

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Head of Programs Evan Quartermain

Program Officer Louisa Bartels

Sugar glider at Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary Caspers Hideaway. Image: John McCann

About us

Australia is lucky to have some of the most unique and diverse wildlife on the planet, but our native species and the places they call home are disappearing. The Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) Australia is a national movement to help landholders save wildlife by conserving, restoring and enhancing their land.

The WLT is a network of privately-owned wildlife sanctuaries committed to preserving wildlife and habitats. Our members are found across Australia and include farmers, conservationists and any landowners who want to support native species on their land. Fill out our application form to get started. We'll create a personalised Letter of Agreement for your property which is free, non-binding and can be cancelled at any time. Joining our program will complement any current or future land protection arrangements.

The WLT is a program of Humane Society International Australia, an animal welfare and conservation organisation working to create a better world for animals in Australia and across the world.

Learn more about this incredible program at:

wildlifelandtrust.org.au

Or contact our Program Officer Louisa Bartels at:

Ibartels@hsi.org.au (email)

Message from the Head of Programs

Change is afoot at Wildlife Land Trust Australia as we approach the milestones of 1,000 sanctuaries and 100,000 hectares around the country! We were sad to say goodbye to Program Officer Helen Church who did a great job growing the program and supporting members over the last six years, but are very pleased to welcome new WLT Program Officer, Louisa Bartels to the team along with an additional Disaster Response Program

Officer, Rheanon Nichols. With this increased capacity we're looking forward to helping you all look after the plants, animals, and ecosystems under your stewardship even more. Nature remains under threat from so many angles, and we can't thank you enough for doing your bit to protect it.







Noonameena

New South Wales • MAIN CREEK

Our nine hectare property, just north of Dungog, became a member of Wildlife Land Trust in 2023 to preserve conservation values.

In the past my late husband and I had Land for Wildlife status on a section of our farm in Victoria and then gained a Voluntary Conservation Agreement for our bush property at Main Creek, New South Wales. Even as the decision was made to seek Land for Wildlife for Noonameena my partner and I did not fully understand the amazing biodiversity that was at our doorstep.

We were aware that when sandfly zieria (Zieria smithii) flowered we could find the tiny sun loving moths that favour the plant family Rutaceae. We became citizen scientists in photographing and contributing samples to a small group of dedicated scientists who are studying this species. It is rewarding being involved in such a project.

Noonameena has cleared paddocks, a beautiful riparian zone along Carowiry Creek, gully areas with good vegetation and two dams. The northwest corner of the property is bordered by two forested neighbouring properties with dense stands of lantana. Our first major aim was to free Noonameena of invasive weeds, with years of work having gone into removal.

During this past summer and into autumn we have been spending up to two hours each night, armed with spotlight and camera, monitoring a vast number and variety of invertebrates. We have been able to provide new details on the life cycle of a most beautiful moth (Donuca lanipes). Our research indicated that there was no knowledge of the food source for the caterpillar of this moth, yet we were able to identify this food plant as Acacia ulicifolia. Caterpillars were collected and kept in captivity, pupated and the beautiful moth emerged!

Our nightly forays have resulted in hundreds of photos of many invertebrates. In excess of 30 species of spiders have been found with assistance in identification being made through iNaturalist. We have concentrated on invertebrates but will soon start monitoring larger animals. A recent grant will see nest boxes installed in the riparian zone where the trees lack decent hollows. This should encourage more mammals and birds to inhabit the property. This will be a new chapter, but our passion for invertebrates is unlikely to wane!

Roslyn Runciman Member since 2023



Tasmania · CAMBRIDGE

Near Hobart Airport in Southern Tasmania is a hidden treasure: Milford Forest, comprising 40 hectares of old-growth white-gum woodland managed for conservation since 1829.

Milford's current custodian is Robyn Lewis. Her family has owned the 120 hectare farm since the original grant; Robyn became sole custodian in 2017. It is the eighth oldest family business in Australia.

Milford Forest comprised a third of the property and is regarded as the most biodiverse habitat in southern Tasmania, due to sound management, and two centuries of clearing and degradation of similar areas elsewhere. Some trees are 300-400 years old and contain many nesting hollows, making this an important bird breeding and refuge area.

The forest is home to 30 orchid species including two found nowhere else in the world, listed as Critically Endangered. Other Federally-listed species include wedge-tailed eagles, masked owls, Tasmanian devils and quolls.

Because Milford's title predates 1840 it extends to high water, which means its two kilometre shoreline plus wetlands are also protected. These are havens for nesting shorebirds and migratory birds including eastern curlews, red-necked stints, and bar-tailed godwits.

Installing 'no entry' signs on Milford's beach has reduced foot traffic by 99%. Dogs were the biggest threat, eating eggs, killing fledglings, and chasing birds. Horses and people used to trample eggs and nests. The current main threats are feral cats and climate change.

Robyn studied Economics and Botany at the University of Tasmania, then a Master's degree at Oxford University, specialising in forest ecology. She is implementing a five-year plan developing ecotourism and setting conservation objectives in place to secure Milford Forest's preservation, with a new solar-powered EcoCentre enabling people to connect with the land and interpretative tours planned from spring.

Joining HSI's Wildlife Land Trust has helped raise awareness of Milford Forest and conservation. Recently Robyn won Tasmania's Inaugural Community Biosecurity Award, Clarence Council's Environmental Sustainability Award 2022/23, and was inducted into Landcare's Honour Roll.

Learn more about Milford Forest and its unique species at https://facebook.com/groups/milfordforestttasmania and how you can support and be inspired by Milford Forest at https://landcaretas.org.au/

Robyn Lewis Member since 2023 **Babbler Cottage**

Inset: Superb collared frog (Cyclorana brevipes).

Queensland · SOUTH BURNETT

MAGES: SCOTT AND SUSAN REILLY

Babbler Cottage is a tiny 0.9 hectare bush block in Wakka Wakka country, walking distance to the town of Yarraman. Grey-crowned babblers both live and breed on this property.

Waterways of the property support diverse waterbirds and invertebrates.

The Box/Ironbark grassy woodlands were cleared in the 1950s, including all hollow bearing eucalypts, for marginal grazing. The original farm was subdivided into small blocks in the 1980s.

Unfortunately, the most recent previous owner had done absolutely nothing to either the land or the house. In 2018 we purchased a derelict home in a weed and European rabbit infested 'eyesore'. Fifty-four cubic metres of rubbish and four body trucks of weeds were removed.

We began with fencing the perimeter with galvanised star pickets and plain wire, to protect our resident, red-necked wallabies, gliders, flying-foxes, blossom bats, microbats and birds. Close encounters with barbwire can and do harm and kill. Scott constructed and installed 12 nest/roost boxes to house our hollow-dependent wildlife. Hollows are just developing in our Eucalyptus moluccana and Corymbia citriodora sub.sp. variegate. Unfortunately, remaining old eucalypts continue to be felled for horse paddocks.

We tag our locally native vegetation and chip, 'chop and drop' all weeds and then replant. We construct refuges from dead fall timber to provide safe hiding

places for our small birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Clearing weeds provides a killing field for our avian predators. No vegetation leaves the property, adding biomass to degraded soil, and slowing overland water flow. We leave large flat rocks in the grasslands to provide warm, safe habitat for our legless lizards. Floristic complexity is enhanced by the resident satin and regent bowerbirds depositing seed from the neighbouring Dry Vine Scrub and Dry Rain Forest. Our dam is a valuable fringing and aquatic habitat.

We founded and have managed 'The Friends of the Yarraman Creek Inc.' since 2012. A community volunteer riparian restoration project on the Yarraman Creek www.facebook.com/yarramancreek4614. This is our second tiny Wildlife Land Trust property in Yarraman, both "Lomandra" on the Yarraman Creek and "Babbler Cottage", a drainage catchment, are special in their important contributions to protecting and enhancing our local fauna and flora in this small rural township. Both properties provide wildlife connectivity to the surrounding State Forests.

Scott and Susan Reilly Members since 2011

4 WILDLIFE LAND TRUST · ISSUE 29 · JULY 2024 WILDLIFE LAND TRUST · ISSUE 29 · JULY 2024 5



Victoria · INGLEWOOD

Upon settlement of my parent's estate in 2018, I was left with a substantial inheritance and a dilemma on how to invest it whilst providing future security for myself, honouring my parents and also protecting part of our precious environment.

A three-and-a-half year search for a minimum 60 hectares of bushland located within a catchment where I could trade native vegetation offsets began. I eventually found Burra Djaa. This 172 hectare property is zoned farming which has few planning protections with past land uses, ranging from post-European settlement activities of blue mallee harvest for eucalyptus oil extraction, gold mining, and a 1.5 hectare area of pasture improvement, to a long pre-European history of occupation by First Nations people.

Once purchased, the property was named Burra Djaa, meaning "stony ground" in Dja Dja Wurrung language. The land is criss-crossed with ridges of exposed sandstone, while areas that have seen mallee harvest are laden with exposed ironstone pebbles and quartz.

Sandstone ridges support mallee vegetation communities and floristically diverse old-growth areas, dominated by ancient melaleuca plants and broom baeckea and with complex vegetation layering providing exceptional habitat.

Approximately 40% of the land is Box Ironbark Forest (BIB) although assessments have deemed that at least part of the mapped BIB is, in fact, Grey Box/Yellow Box dominated Grassy Woodlands—a threatened community in this region. The BIB ranges from Grey Box dominated through to a Yellow Gum dominated forest of which much is post-gold rush coppiced ancient trees and younger regrowth.

Every trip to the property has yielded new treasures, including a growing list of Victorian threatened species including Critically Endangered flora: Allocasuarina luehmannii and Grevillea micrantha as well as Endangered species of Phebalium, Grevillea, Cassinia, Choretrum, Pimelea, Pomaderris, Eucalyptus, Geranium and Vulnerable Acacia deanii paucijuga. As well as the Endangered diamond firetail and Vulnerable brown treecreeper and eastern bearded dragon.

Adding to these discoveries was identifying several ancient Dja Dja Wurrung stone tools and remnants of a eucalyptus oil distillery which appears to have ceased works around 1939 adding to the cultural richness of the land.

This land will be protected, in perpetuity, to ensure the biodiversity and cultural heritage values will never be lost. I acknowledge the Djaara people as the traditional owners and custodians of Burra Djaa.

Lynlee and Eric Tozer Members since 2022

Western Australia · CHITTERING

Millieroo Retreat, located in Chittering, Western Australia, is a hidden gem nestled on acres of protected land dedicated to preserving and nurturing the local wildlife.

As a wildlife sanctuary, Millieroo Retreat plays a crucial role in providing a safe haven for a diverse range of species that call the area home.

The land at Millieroo Retreat is under a covenant, put on there by a previous owner, that prohibits any form of agriculture use, ensuring that the natural habitat remains undisturbed and pristine for the wildlife that rely on it for survival. This commitment to conservation has been upheld for over 50 years by dedicated wildlife carers who previously owned the sanctuary. We take it as a great honour to be able to carry on their legacy to protect and rehabilitate Australia's precious wildlife.

Millieroo Retreat gives us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the beauty of the natural surroundings and observe a variety of wildlife in their natural habitat. Some of the species that can be spotted at the sanctuary include western grey kangaroos, western brush wallabies, euros (common wallaroos), western pygmy possums, honey possums, brushtail possums, chuditch (western quolls) and a stunning array of bird species. From tiny wrens, silver eyes, Carnaby's black cockatoos to majestic wedge-tailed eagles.

The sanctuary is teeming with life and offers a unique glimpse into the biodiversity of Western Australia. In addition to the land's rich fauna, Millieroo Retreat is also home to a freshwater spring, providing a vital water source for the wildlife that inhabit the area. This natural feature further enhances the sanctuary and ensures that the wildlife have access to clean water year-round.

Millieroo Retreat is not only a place of refuge for wildlife, but also a place of inspiration and tranquility for our family and friends to connect with nature. In the future we are hoping to set up a wildlife rehabilitation centre and run educational programs. A dream would also be to make the whole property self-sufficient and to provide a safe haven for endangered or threatened species, allowing them to thrive and hopefully increase in population.

We are always aiming to raise awareness about the unique ecosystems that exist within Western Australia and the importance of protecting them for future generations. We believe Millieroo Retreat will enable us to do this whilst also supporting Australia's wildlife that is struggling from habitat destruction and land development, wildfires, prescribed burning, invasive species and many other issues. Education is key.

Brian and Sonia Cooke

Members since 2016

6 WILDLIFE LAND TRUST · ISSUE 29 · JULY 2024

Threatened ecological community profile

A place of refuge and respite

When viewed from above the lush marshes and contrasting river gums of the Great Cumbung Swamp may be unsuspecting. But their slender reeds, fertile wetlands and lakes support much diversity forming rest and refuge spots for migratory birds as well as resident avifauna, amphibians and fish. But the future of this wetland is not evergreen, with the ecosystem threatened by anthropogenic impacts.

The community

The Great Cumbung Swamp (GCS) is a wetland of national importance located in the Southwest Region of New South Wales at the intersection of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers.

The GCS encompasses subtropical-temperate forested wetlands, floodplain marshes, seasonal and ephemeral freshwater lakes as well as episodic arid floodplains. When flooded, the seasonal floodplain marsh covers between 15,000 and 20,000 hectares.

The wetland supports one of the largest areas of Near Threatened river red gum (50,000 hectares) in the Riverina bioregion and the Murray-Darling Basin and extensive beds of common reeds. Reed beds provide essential areas for breeding required by threatened species such as the Endangered Australasian bittern and southern bell frog. The reeds also provide ecosystem functions such as carbon sequestration, and trap and process sediment and nutrients to maintain water quality.

The ecosystem hosts a variety of wildlife including reptiles, birds, amphibians and fish. Thirty-four recognised threatened species including eight species

listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species visit or inhabit the GCS. It is also an important site for waterbirds in the region with an average of 11,500 occurring on the wetland each year. Migratory bird species that visit the GCS are the common gull-billed tern, marsh sandpiper and glossy ibis. Other Vulnerable bird species include the blue-billed duck, common greenshank, spotted harrier, white-bellied sea-eagle and grey-crowned babbler. A Vulnerable native flora species also occurs in the ecosystem-the Mossgiel daisy.

Threats the Great Cumbung Swamp faces include changes by anthropogenic impacts such as altered flooding and flow regimes through upstream diversions, climate change, timber harvesting and invasive species such as European carp and feral pigs which affect water quality and ecosystem balance.

Conservation actions

Earlier this year HSI Australia made a nomination for the Great Cumbung Swamp to be listed as Critically Endangered due to its importance as a waterbird breeding site, refuge for migratory birds and national conservation significance. Currently it is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia but it is not a protected area and is not listed in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). With HSI's help hopefully this can change and the GSC can receive the protection it deserves to live on and support the flora and fauna that rely on it.

The Great Cumbung Swamp is a fertile wetland of national importance.



Threatened species profile

An elusive ecosystem engineer

The long-nosed potoroo (Potorous tridactylus) as described by Charles Darwin is "an animal, as big as a rabbit, but with the figure of a kangaroo". With a unique combination of features, this native marsupial may fly under most people's radar.

Long-nosed potoroos belong to the marsupial family Potoroidae, grouping them together with the bettongs. The species have fragmented populations scattered throughout the eastern states of Australia, and are distributed from southern Queensland, through New South Wales to western Victoria. They are also present across Tasmania and some Bass Strait islands. They reside in habitats of coastal heath and woodlands as well as wet and dry sclerophyll forest.

A connoisseur

The main pillar of the long-nosed potoroo's diet is fungi. With an inbuilt strong sense of smell and long curved claws they have the ability locate and excavate hypogeous (underground-fruiting) truffle-like fungi! As 'fungivores', the lesser part of potoroo diet is made up of insects, arthropods, seeds and plants, depending on what is in season.

Turning over soil in search of their favoured delicacies potoroos are 'ecosystem engineers'. During their excavations, they keep the soil aerated, allowing water to trickle down into the lower levels and transport beneficial fungi spores on their noses and claws. The dispersal of fungi spores can then facilitate underground fungi connections aiding the growth of Acacia and Eucalyptus species.

Unfortunately, these fascinating animals are listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Their smaller size makes them prey for introduced predators such as foxes and cats. Habitat loss from fragmentation, forestry practices, livestock grazing as well as large hot fires are also causing populations to decline.

Conservation

Conserving long-nosed potoroos involves firstly monitoring their populations across their fragmented range. Also further investigating fire regimes that can meet both anthropogenic needs and the ecological requirements of potoroos. This involves integrating potoroo locations into fire management schemes and practices, for instance carrying out mosaic fire reduction burns to retain refuges for potoroos and allowing them



Long-nosed potoroo

to avoid predation by introduced predators. Moreover, building community awareness and engagement of this species is important for their conservation.

Landholder protection

As a landholder, if you are aware of long-nosed potoroos on your property there are a few actions you can take to facilitate them in their habitat, including retaining different levels of habitat such as bushland understories and keeping domestic pets like dogs and cats inside at night.

The charismatic long-nosed potoroo is an interesting composite of physical characteristics of other more commonly known animals. But they are interesting in their own right. With increased public awareness, this can help contribute to ensuring their protection.

If you'd like to learn more about HSI Australia's work in improving the future of our natural spaces, look into our Extinction Fighters campaign.

hsi.org.au/australian-wildlife-and-habitats

WLT welcomes these new member sanctuaries

New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)			
NEW SOUTH WALES 16 new sanctuaries (795 ha) • Total: 410 sanctuaries (31,523 ha)						
Brook Farm	Pam and Martin Brook	McLeods Shoot	39			
Grace for Wildlife	Caroline Ceylon Bugden	Yellow Pinch	41			
Ningeegully Wildlife Sanctuary	Julie and Greg Coleman	Tomboye	8			
Jane and John's Refuge	Jane Robinson	Mount Fairy	40			
The Hermitage	Ferdinand Kotzyba	Collins Creek	41			
Holmesdale farm	Peggy McDonald and Keith Pauley	Lochiel	9			
Federal Reserve	Lorraine Briggs	Federal	27			
Somnium	Natalie Green and Christopher Pike	Bingie	18			
Dondingalong Retreat	Montana Campbell and Israel Palacios	Dondingalong	10			
Fig Rock Farm	Andrew Cameron and Rosie Brown	Upper Burringbar	20			
Banyula	Tony and Penny O'Brien	Pillar Valley	465			
Hen Puddle	Victoria Thomas	Pearces Creek	8			
Tumbling Downs	Skye Wansey	Exeter	9			
Cedarvale	Christopher and Anne McArthur	Jaspers Brush	19			
Wallaby Flat	Julie Riley	Nimbin	15			
Treetops Wildlife	Paula and Ian Paananen	MacMasters Beach	2			
Thinking Tree Farm	Nicholas Everingham and Ashleigh Barnes	Brogo	40			
Amber's Refuge	Amber Moloney	Merriwa	132			
Ouroboros	Scott Barber	Woodside	127			
Forest Park	Tristan and Natalie Davies	Binjura	19			
Liesl and Michael's Refuge	Liesl Perryman and Michael Pottinger	Reidsdale	15			
Boulder Cloud	Amanda and Sean Izzard	Wombarra	27			
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2 new sanctuaries (16 ha) • Total: 53 sanctuaries (3432 ha)						
Caledon	Molly Wakely	Willunga Hill	8			
Kooroo	Elizabeth and Norm Crittenden	Willunga Hill	8			

28 new members added

928 sanctuaries nationwide 87,977 hectares preserved

	New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)
	VICTORIA	3 new sanctuaries (1012 ha) • Total: 89 sanctu	aries (3712 ha)	
	Melrose Wildlife Sanctuary	Deborah Hurdle	Rosedale	4
	Burra Djaa	Lynlee Tozer	Inglewood	8
*	Marajon	Mat Fisher (property manager)	Meredith	1000
L S	WESTERN AUST	ALIA 2 new sanctuaries (35 ha) • Total: 54 sanctuaries (5376 ha)		
	Rivergum	David and Tracie O'Regan	Cowalla	32
	Millieroo Retreat	Brian and Sonia Cooke	Chittering	3
	QUEENSLAND	5 new sanctuaries (131 ha) • Total: 265 sanct	uaries (39,715 ha)	
Control of	Meleele	Rachael Jean Morgan	Cooktown	1
100	Wildhaven	Belinda Kleinig	Diddillibah	2
	Amber Sunset	Julia Jancic	Eumundi	7
	Bunderra	Stuart and Heather Leask	Booie	120
1	Babbler Cottage	Scott and Susan Reilly	Yarraman	1



SANCTUARIES TO STAY

Looking for a vacation off the beaten track? Our Sanctuaries You Can Stay program features some of the best wildlife and nature destinations in Australia. Check out our website for a variety of retreats to suit any holiday at:

www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au/stay





QUEENSLAND

Daintree Siesta

In the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest, Daintree Siesta provides the perfect opportunity to immerse in nature in the oldest continuous rainforest in the world.

During your stay you can take a wander around our guest exclusive rainforest walking tracks or relax and have a cuppa listening to the amazing diversity of bird and insect life in the rainforest as you sit outside your campsite or motel-style accommodation. Spot myriad creatures endemic to the area such as the musky rat kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragon, southern cassowary, spectacled flying-fox, green tree frog, Ulysses butterfly and more.

Daintree Siesta offers comfortable air-conditioned rooms and a mix of unpowered and powered camp sites as well as a licenced restaurant.

Tamara and Bruno Scenna Website: daintreesiesta.com.au WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bussells Bushland Cottages

Entering via a 600-metre eucalypt-lined avenue, Bussells Bushland Cottages is located on a 20-hectare bush block. Previous owners Greg and Mary Bussell built the eight rammed-earth cottages with the land then purchased in 2001 and the cottage interiors updated, gutted and re-equipped in 2008. The rustic accommodation offers free wi-fi and large TVs.

Guests can enjoy the wonderful bush block of old-growth jarrah, marri, peppermint, banksia, snottygobble and western woody pear that is criss-crossed by walking trails. We have kangaroos, bandicoots, possums and brushtailed phascogales and prolific birdlife of splendid and red-winged fairy-wrens, red-tailed black cockatoos, willie wagtails, new holland honeyeaters and kookaburras which join the beautiful morning birdsong.

Brian Spitteler

Website: bushlandcottages.com.au

Thank you for your continued support of the Wildlife Land Trust Australia. With every hectare dedicated to private land conservation we are working towards a better world for wildlife, and making Australia a more vibrant, diverse and beautiful home for people and animals.

wildlifelandtrust.org.au