

Wildlife Lands



Humane World
for Animals.

Wildlife Land Trust



Welcome to the 30th edition of *Wildlife Lands*! Since our previous edition our Wildlife Land Trust program has welcomed 35 new sanctuaries to a total of 3,462 hectares, strengthening the protection of wildlife and their habitats across 963 sanctuaries nationwide covering some 91,079 hectares.



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Front cover: Cairns birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera euphorion*). Image: Tony Young, Licuala Rainforest Refuge and Wildlife Rescue Centre

All uncredited images in this newsletter have been generously provided by our Wildlife Land Trust members as a homage to their wildlife sanctuaries.

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 World for Animals, an animal welfare and conservation organisation working to create a better world for animals in Australia and across the world.

Learn more about the program on our website:
wildlifelandtrust.org.au or email our Program Officer Louisa Bartels at: lbartels@humaneworld.org

Message from the Program Officer

This edition of *Wildlife Lands* marks our first under our new brand name **Humane World for Animals**. Our commitment to the protection of native Australian wildlife and habitat is unwavering and our Wildlife Land Trust program continues to grow with a steady flow of new members.

We're also fresh from hosting our first in-person event in several years, a 'Private Land Conservation Field Day' at Wildlife Land Trust member-owned sanctuary Meringo Point Sanctuary in the scenic Eurobodalla region of New South Wales. It was excellent to meet Wildlife Land Trust members and form greater connections with local landholders and conservation organisations operating in the Eurobodalla, and we're looking forward to more events around the country going forward. Thank you for being a part of our program and for all that you do to protect our vast landscapes and unique native wildlife.



Letter from the Executive Director



By now you would have seen that in February this year Humane Society International changed our name to *Humane World for Animals*.

In Australia, we are the same people, working on the same campaigns and programs, and you continue to be valued members of our wonderful Wildlife Land Trust—all that remains unchanged.

However, we felt it was time to unite under one unifying name giving us even greater access to global expertise and experience which will result in even great impact for animals and nature.

Under our old name we frequently had to explain to people that we were not a humanitarian organisation. Being an animal welfare and conservation charity was not clearly reflected in our name. So, it was important to have a name that included 'animals'—which are the heart and soul across all our campaigns and programs.

And in the Unites States, the charity was often confused with being the umbrella group for state-based dog and cat shelters which are called humane societies, so we needed to move away from the word society.

The new name really works to capture our vision—to create a more humane world where humans and animals live in harmony and no animal suffers from the actions of people.

As part of the rebrand we have also formally aligned with the global brand which will bring increased visibility to the issues facing our Australian wildlife to new audiences around the world.

While we do have a new name, I want you to know that you can still count on us to tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering; advocate for stronger animal protection laws; rescue and care for animals in need; and grow the network of committed individuals like yourselves dedicated to protecting wildlife on their property.

Thank you for being such an important part of commitment to protecting our unique Australian wildlife and the places they call home.

Warmest regards

Erica Martin
Executive Director



KOALA AT BERRINBA SANCTUARY. IMAGE: BARBARA ROBINSON



Red flowering gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*), an endemic species to southwest WA.
Inset: Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*).

Esperance Wildlife Sanctuary Inc

Western Australia • CHADWICK

In 2021 we purchased our 12-acre property that was part of a 1980s subdivision, partly cleared to run livestock, but luckily had remnant native vegetation, notably Australian Christmas trees.

Our property overlooks Lake Warden, part of the RAMSAR-listed Lake Warden Complex, a string of internationally important freshwater lakes that are critical feeding sites for migratory birds such as greenshanks, curlew and sandpipers. Local birds such as stilts, avocets, pelicans, gulls, herons, ducks and egrets are frequent visitors.

Since acquiring the property, we have restored the endemic native bushland by planting *Banksia speciosa* and *Eucalyptus incrassata* and are using patch burning to regenerate *Nuytsia floribunda* and *Xanthorrhoea*. We have put in over 3,000 plants of *Hakea*, *Melaleuca*, *Templetonia*, *Lambertia*, and *Calothamnus* and created a small nursery, using locally gathered seed to propagate seedlings allowing prospective areas to regenerate. After three years bluebell creeper, sedges, *Adenanthos*, *Acacia* and eight orchid species are flourishing. Our goal is to broaden and strengthen this corridor for connecting Lake Warden to Pink Lake.

We are actively eliminating invasive flora species like *Freesias*, *Gazania*, bridal creeper, Victorian tea tree and non-endemic wattles. Feral cats, rats and foxes are the

largest threat to our fauna rehabilitation efforts, so we conduct an ongoing removal program. To assist wildlife, we have built and installed nesting boxes, reptile refuges, insect hotels and frog ponds.

Our efforts are being rewarded as we have seen an increase in the numbers of Western brown bandicoots, Western pygmy possums, lizards, frogs and birds. Using iNaturalist and Frog ID apps we have identified over 85 bird species, 15 reptiles, five frog species, three marsupials and an abundance of insects. We also operate a seabird and water bird rescue centre as members of Western Australian Seabird Rescue. Our temporary feathered guests have included Pacific gulls, Cape Barren geese, petrels, penguins, shearwaters, ducks and raptors.

Income from our small Airbnb helps offset some of the wildlife rehabilitation and restoration project costs. We love sharing our environment with guests who continually express their amazement of the biodiversity and projects of our small block. We feel privileged to be part of the Wildlife Land Trust. The program demonstrates that the collective participation of individual landholders makes the sum greater than the parts.

Lori-Ann Shibish and Colin Ingram
Members since 2023



Steep ridges of the surrounding Shannon Creek wilderness and *Xanthorrhoea* sp.
Inset: Hill's velvet leaf (*Keraudrenia hillii*).

Shannon Creek Wildlife Conservancy

New South Wales • SOUTH GRAFTON

Our adventurous family of four moved to a 100-acre sanctuary in the Clarence Valley in the 1970s. Before long we had a little brick veneer home, a functioning horse stud and a growing list of over 260 native fauna species, several threatened.

As an early member of our local WIRES branch our property became a rehabilitation and release site. Aviaries and release pens became nestled among re-establishing native trees.

We registered our property as Land for Wildlife and my husband and I took over joint management of the local environment centre. We taught ourselves botany, leading to explorations of the wild forests and steep sandstone ridges around Shannon Creek. We were supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coffs Harbour Herbarium and Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens Herbarium, who helped to identify and collect our contributions of plants for their national collections.

We progressed to delivering the Land for Wildlife program for the Clarence Valley in 2020 and gazetted our property under a permanent conservation agreement in 2018.

Meanwhile, my WIRES membership stimulated two passions: koalas and rufous bettongs. In collaboration with our northern Lismore Friends of Koala group seven mainly hand-raised young koalas were rehabilitated

and released onto our property. As Threatened Species Recording Officer for our WIRES branch, I raised bettong joeys, and 13 young bettongs safely joined our population.

In 2011 and 2016 illegally lit fires tore across our property. The second devastating blaze took out over 80 hollow-bearing trees, yellow-bellied and greater glider habitat, old-growth glossy black-cockatoo *Allocaeusuarina* feed groves and koala feed. Our once rowdy night-shift bushland fell eerily silent. After this, motion sensor camera surveys picked up many creatures thought lost and brush turkeys and squirrel gliders we didn't know we had. The healing process started.

In 2018, the Clarence Valley was recognised as potentially supporting good koala populations. In 2021 a koala detector dog found koala scats within the Areas of Regional Koala Significance. Together with my historical records, this proved a resilient koala population.

It has been a long trudge back to normality from the lows. But frogs are starting up at the creek, koala scats are appearing on our property again, and little rufous bettongs are arriving nightly at our garden after years of absence.

Patricia and John Edwards
Members since 2010





Lumholtz's tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*) high in the trees.
Inset: Rufous owl (*Ninox rufa*).

Dendrolagus Nature Refuge

Queensland • WONDECLA

“Dendrolagus” is the scientific name for the genus of tree kangaroos. The reason we chose this name for our refuge is to honour the tree kangaroos that sometimes visit us.

We were fortunate to watch a wild Lumholtz's tree kangaroo joey from the time her tiny head looked out from her mother's pouch until she had a joey of her own. We named her Mabi, one of several local Aboriginal names for tree kangaroos.

The story of Mabi's younger years was the subject of a film we did for several broadcasters including National Geographic Wild and was streamed on SBS and screened on National Indigenous Television (NITV) in February 2025.

From the moment we first looked at this 6.7-hectare property, we knew it was where we would spend our future. Here at 1,100 metres in altitude and towards the western slopes of the Atherton Tablelands, rainforest has faded to Tropical Wet Sclerophyll Forest, an Endangered forest type in Australia. The three dominant tree species are red mahogany, turpentine and rose gum, which provide shelter and food for an incredible number of mammal species besides tree kangaroos. Green and lemuroid possums, greater, sugar and feathertail gliders, echidnas and pademelons as well as many small mouse-like creatures have all been spotted here.

But possibly our most renowned species is the Northern yellow-bellied glider whose screaming call occasionally punctuates the night. Across a narrow dirt track, lies a scientific reserve set up primarily for the conservation of this remarkable species. Red mahoganies grow in abundance here as a valuable food source for them, while huge old growth rose gums shelter them during the day. The rich mammal fauna in turn attracts rufous and lesser sooty owls.

While nocturnal mammals snooze, the forest of Dendrolagus Nature Refuge provides for many bird species including riflebirds, bowerbirds, king parrots, rosellas, golden whistlers and several honeyeater species. We have even had a singular visit from a curious cassowary who left obvious calling cards along the tracks.

In the six years since we acquired our beautiful home, Rosemarie has removed all the lantana and other weeds, and we have removed fencing wire. We have also planted indigenous plants to fill a few small gaps left over from farming in the past. What remains is proof that small properties can be important conservation areas.

Geoff Spanner and Rosemarie Roger
Members since 2021



The rugged terrain of this sanctuary is in the process of being restored.
Inset: Western pygmy possum (*Cercartetus concinnus*).

Eba

South Australia • ANCHORAGE

“Eba” (meaning life or living one) is a 152-hectare Wild Land Trust property within two kilometres of shore frontage situated in Eba Anchorage, Western Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

Nadia has always had a passion for conservation. She studied biology at UC Santa Cruz and worked in Hawaii and Australia on cetacean research projects covering population distribution, communication and behaviour, and was part of the team that developed the boat-whale interaction guidelines for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

We purchased Eba in 2022 with the dream of rehabilitating and conserving this ecologically significant section of coastline.

Eba is presently in an ecologically degraded, disturbed state. Previously used for sheep grazing and wheat farming, the property features a range of ecological community areas: samphire shrublands, remnant coastal dune scrublands, mallee, coastal grasslands as well as large areas of cleared pasture. Lens wells on the property have historically provided a freshwater source for camel trains and livestock. The coastline has been used for unmanaged free camping for generations with caravans lined up during holiday periods. Recreational four-wheel driving, dirt bike riding, illegal camping, and dumping have caused ecological damage.

We started with studies, taking three years to complete, to form an ecological rehabilitation and management plan. They included a geological survey, a native vegetation assessment and a white-bellied sea eagle study. Greening Australia helped with a corporate-funded carbon offset, an interconnected native species planting proposal for the cleared 37 hectares. We are applying for a Heritage Area Agreement to protect all remnant habitats, assisting us with funds to set up a public historical/ecological information display.

Our proposed dwelling site has been placed strategically to allow visual governance and direct access to the high-impact coastline tourist area. Cat and fox predation are threatening the property's wildlife as well as Pigface Island, which adjoins the property via a land bridge on low tides. Dealing with these feral species is a priority as they are decimating our precious fauna.

A wide range of wildlife is present at Eba including Western grey kangaroos, Western pygmy possums, short-beaked echidnas, emus, white-bellied sea eagles and Eastern ospreys.

Nadia and Paul Bellerby
Members since 2022



TOM HUNT/NATURALIST

Threatened ecological community profile

Safeguarding a critical island habitat

On an offshore island in the Bass Strait between Victoria and Tasmania, an ecological community forms a haven for endemic bird subspecies.

The King Island Scrub Complex (KISC) is an Endangered ecological community that occurs primarily on King Island. The complex typically occurs on acidic sandy soils with three characteristic structural and compositional forms.

Varied forms

The **sedgeland** form of the KISC is dominated by cords, rushes, lilies, sedges, grasses and shrubs like necklace she-oak, manuka tea-tree and pink swamp heath with ferns, bladderworts, mitreworts and even orchids covering the ground. Comparatively, the **heathland** features similar tree and shrub species ranging 2–4m and heath species of Fabaceae and Ericaceae. Lastly, the **scrub** reaches 15–20m with a closed canopy of sclerophyllous shrubs and heaths, including manuka tea-tree and scented paperbark, with sub-dominant species like sallow wattle, prickly Moses, necklace she-oak, silver banksia, and swamp paperbark, and a sparse ground layer.

Diverse habitat

With its varied forms and richness of plant species, the KISC provides attractive nectar and habitat for bat and marsupial species such as lesser long-eared bats, Gould's wattled bats, swamp antechinus, Eastern pygmy possums, Bennett's wallabies, long-nosed potoroos and Tasmanian pademelons.



The KISC also supports snakes, skinks, frogs, and invertebrates.

KISC remnants are essential refuges for threatened endemic island bird subspecies such as Critically Endangered King Island brown thornbills, scrubtits, black currawongs and Endangered yellow wattlebirds and green rosellas. The community also offers essential breeding and foraging habitat for fan-tailed cuckoos, shining bronze cuckoos, King Island superb fairy-wrens and honeyeater species, while its understory supports ground-nesting painted button-quails and Bassian thrushes.

Threats

Since European colonisation, the KISC has experienced substantial decline (48–60%) due to land clearing. Other ongoing threats include climate change, altered fire regimes and hydrological changes. The remaining fragments of KISC are often isolated, fragmented and small, increasing vulnerability to invasion and degradation by invasive plants and animals.

Conservation actions

In September 2024, the King Island Scrub Complex was classified Endangered under the national environment law. Conserving the KISC involves sustainable management of agricultural and private land. As well as wildlife habitat, the KISC can provide ecosystem services such as carbon retention and shelter breaks for livestock and pastures, and with the assistance of farmers, remnant patches of the KISC are being maintained. Expanding and eventually reconnecting isolated areas of the KISC to nearby vegetation communities will also be essential to ensure the long-term survival of threatened bird subspecies on King Island.

Humane World for Animals

Two Wildlife Land Trust member-owned sanctuaries help protect patches of the King Island Scrub Complex. Both sanctuaries are safeguarded by a conservation covenant with the Tasmanian government, ensuring the long-term preservation of the community on these properties.

Threatened species profile

The 'Goldilocks bird'

The plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) is a unique and enigmatic native Australian bird. As the only species of the 'Pedionomidae' family, despite its quail-like appearance, these birds are believed to be more closely related to a group of South American shorebirds.

Standing 15–19cm tall, with a slender neck, yellow beak and long legs, plains-wanderers have mostly fawn-coloured plumage decorated with fine black swirls on their upperparts and black crescents on their underparts. Females have a rufous bib with a black and white diamond collar while males are comparatively plainer and more uniformly brown.

Plains-wanderers were once widely distributed throughout eastern Australian grasslands. The species have been impacted by degradation of native grasslands because of cultivation, overgrazing and introduced grasses. Unfortunately, the species is now classified as Critically Endangered in the Northern Territory, Victoria and Queensland, and Endangered in South Australia and New South Wales. In 2020 the numbers of mature plains-wanderers were estimated to be as low as 250, with strongholds located in the northern plains of Victoria and the Riverina region of New South Wales.

Nomadic wanderers

Plains-wanderers are typically solitary and nomadic. With a cryptic nature, they are rarely sighted. When moving they can be seen tiptoeing, running crouched through grass or scanning for predators over vegetation, elongating themselves by stretching their necks. As well as eating grass seeds, they forage on insects and can survive with minimal water by pecking at dew and raindrops from leaves.

The 'Goldilocks bird'

Plains-wanderers have been nicknamed the 'Goldilocks bird' due to their specific habitat requirements. The fussiness of the species means the grasslands they inhabit can be neither too sparse nor too dense, they have to be "just right". Their preferred grassland structure is 50 per cent



JJ HARRISON/WIKIPEDIA

bare ground, 40 per cent vegetation (primarily grasses, herbs and forbs less than 5cm in height, tussocks spaced 10–20cm apart and taller plants of 30cm for concealment) and 10 per cent leaf litter.

Private land conservation

While captive-breeding and release programs in zoos in Victoria and New South Wales are contributing to recovery, protecting private land is also a key to the longevity of the species. Incentives by Local Land Services and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust in New South Wales and Trust for Nature in Victoria have been assisting landholders to strike a balance between farm management and conservation. Since 2017 the 'Paddocks for Plains-wanderer project' in the New South Wales Riverina region has assisted 30 landholders in managing nearly 16,000 hectares of primary habitat through strategic grazing and pest control.

By managing paddocks and grazing practices, the removal of weeds, invasive animal management and construction of fenced exclusion zones landholders can establish suitable habitat for plains-wanderers. Conservation covenants can also help to protect plains-wanderer habitat for the long term, even after the current landholder ceases to own the land.

Contribution assistance from Shanna Rogers, Senior Land Services Officer, Murray Local Land Services

The WLT welcomes these new member sanctuaries

35
new members
added


963
sanctuaries
nationwide

91,079
hectares
preserved


New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)
NEW SOUTH WALES 23 new sanctuaries (2,746 ha) • Total: 433 sanctuaries (34,269 ha)			
No.6 Habitat	Peter and Kiri Theoctistou	Bundook	188
Forest Farm	Brian and Carmel Herington	Tintenbar	112
Wombat Lodge	Tania Clancy	Mittagong	0.1
Elstead	Wombatised Inc	Mittagong	1.2
Waterloo Station	Donald and Deborah Anderson	Matheson	1,520
Carrmar	Phillip Holden and Halina Kaufman	Terreel	46
Ned's Forest	Connecting Wildlife Ltd	Meringo	28
Meringo Point Sanctuary	Julie and Mark Mills	Meringo	12
Gypsy Grace Cottage	Rachel Pullen and Lisa Kelly	Nimbin	1
Tinkle	Lindy Duncombe	Smiths Creek	3
Sunset Creek	Julie-Anne and Jonathon England	Stannifer	80
Nethercote Sanctuary	Mark Adams and Lynette Egglestone	Nethercote	98
Nunyara	Steven and Yvette Ardern	Tenterfield	8
Murrumbooe	Alicia Gauld	Bemboka	46
Yarrabimbi	Ana Falerio and Andrew Thompson	Leeton	214
Kangoo	Toni Barnes	Mount View	3
Eungaia	Catherine Nelson	Eungai Creek	16
Coolangubra Sanctuary	Mark Adams and Lynette Egglestone	Rocky Hall	200
Wallaby Hill	Andrew Kelly and Susan Johnson	Nimbin	0.5
Brindabella Wildlife and Wilderness Reserve	Melissa Pearce	Brindabella	116
Brick Kiln Creek	Ben Bradey and Andre Poidomani	Bendoura	46
Marsupial Manor	Alison McCarthy Phillips, Alexander and Albert Phillips	Bilpin	8
QUEENSLAND 6 new sanctuaries (78 ha) • Total: 271 sanctuaries (39,793 ha)			
Magh Meall	Harry, Hugo and Kristian Wells	Glan Devon	5
Mount Monty Rainforest Nature Reserve	Alan Pountney	Scrubby Creek	14
Gilmore Nature Reserve	Dana and Debra Gilmore	The Dawn	2
Pinbarren Heights	Gary Francis	Pinbarren	28
Woorinyan Fiadhaich	The Shepherds	Moogerah	30
Outrageous Fortune	Amy Bruhn	Peregian Beach	0.5

New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)
TASMANIA 3 new sanctuaries (46 ha) • Total: 50 sanctuaries (3,478 ha)			
ΓΑΡΔΑΨΩ	Jennifer Lavers and Andrew Fidler	Underwood	42
Sanctuary 10 Taylor	Robyn Weeding	Westbury	0.5
Mountain Pepper	Phil Wise and Jane Dermer	Neika	3
VICTORIA 1 new sanctuary (322 ha) • Total 87 sanctuaries (4,034 ha)			
Banksia Ridge	Wendy Klason	Giffard	322
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1 new sanctuary (5 ha) • Total 53 sanctuaries (5,381 ha)			
Esperance Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc	Lynn and Andy Kidd	Monjingup	5.5
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1 new sanctuary (225 ha) • Total 52 sanctuaries (3,657 ha)			
Central Park	Rebecca Lee and Martin Squire	Streaky Bay	225


605
with
HABITAT
REGENERATION




320
with
NATURAL
WATERWAYS




119
PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED
SANCTUARIES




497
with
THREATENED
SPECIES



481
with
WILDLIFE
CORRIDORS



244
with
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION



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:

humaneworld.org.au/wltstay



Murrumbooe

NEW SOUTH WALES

Waterfall Paradise. 100 acres of a private, bushland retreat, bordered by South East Forest National Park on two sides.

Enjoy a two-day intimate immersion in nature at its best! Take a peaceful break to reconnect and bathe in the natural surroundings. Murrumbooe offers a sauna/sweat and cold plunge package, as well as myriad of opportunities, all at your own pace, such as wildlife watching/photography, star-gazing, hiking, trail running, rock hopping, swimming, or just sitting around your campfire relaxing and unwinding.

Camping is unique and the first of its kind in Australia, offering a three-person tree tent, tree hammock or campsite to pitch your own tent. A brunch food hamper is also available.

Owner: Alicia Gauld

Website: hipcamp.com

('Murrumbooe' ~ Waterfall Paradise!)



Yelverton Brook Conservation Sanctuary

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Yelverton Brook is a peaceful 100-acre Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary nestled in the Margaret River region of Western Australia. Offering fully self-contained Lodges and Studios, this hidden gem provides a private nature escape just minutes from beaches and world-class wineries.

Guests are welcomed by friendly native wildlife—kangaroos, bandicoots, and possums often visit the doorstep. With no through-traffic and abundant forest, it's ideal for those seeking space, serenity, and a chance to reconnect with nature.

Explore nearby walking trails, stargaze from your private outdoor hot tub, or simply unwind in the tranquil bushland setting. *"My only regret is that I didn't find it sooner..."*

Owners: Joy and Simon Ensor

Website: yelvertonbrook.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