

Wildlife Lands



Humane World
for Animals.

Wildlife Land Trust



Welcome to the 31st edition of *Wildlife Lands*! Since our previous edition, our Wildlife Land Trust program has welcomed 36 new sanctuaries covering 1,909 hectares, strengthening the protection of wildlife and their habitats across 999 sanctuaries and a new total of 92,988 hectares, nationwide.



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Evan Quartermain
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Louisa Bartels

Front cover: King parrot (*Alisterus scapularis*).
Image: Thorondor Family Trust, Nature's Wonderland, QLD

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) is a national network of landholders who have committed to saving wildlife and preserving habitat by conserving, restoring and enhancing privately-owned land. Our members 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 Specialist Louisa Bartels at: lbartels@humaneworld.org

Message from the Wildlife Land Trust Specialist

As I write to you, the Wildlife Land Trust program is nearing a very significant milestone in our journey. What began with a single sanctuary in 2007 has grown into a thriving network of protected places and now, this network of passionate and dedicated people is nearing its 1,000th member. Since our last edition of *Wildlife Lands*, the Wildlife Land Trust team visited both Western Australia and Far North Queensland, dropping in on members along the way and seeing firsthand the incredible work being done on the ground. More recently, in January of 2026 our emergency response team deployed to the Goldfields region of Victoria supporting a dedicated kangaroo shelter on a Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary (Learn more on pages 8-9). We hope you enjoy Issue 31 of our newsletter and the inspiring stories of your fellow members. Thank you for working towards building a stronger future by providing essential refuges for our wonderful Australian native wildlife.



᠒ᠠᠷᠠᠳᠠᠨᠦᠨᠦ owners Jennifer and Andrew planting new life at Beautiful Forest. Inset: Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*).



᠒ᠠᠷᠠᠳᠠᠨᠦᠨᠦ “Beautiful Forest”

Tasmania • UNDERWOOD

Earlier in 2025, we were fortunate to purchase a large (46-hectare) block of bushland only 10 minutes north of Launceston, Tasmania.

᠒ᠠᠷᠠᠳᠠᠨᠦᠨᠦ is a fully-forested site, with most trees being 40-60 years old, due to prior logging. However, not all trees were felled, with some “big beauties” remaining, including an over 200-year-old eucalyptus that marks the midpoint of our 800-metre long driveway. This huge tree is a favourite of the birds, including a fan-tailed cuckoo that often sits at the very top, broadcasting his call down the slope.

We had always wanted a bit of Tassie forest and felt an even stronger pull after living in Western Australia with (mostly) shrubs around us. We longed for the tall trees. Being 3,000 km away, touring blocks of land for sale wasn't possible. So, we sent Andrew's family on a mission to inspect three and advise us which gave them the sense of being immersed in nature. Next thing we knew, ᠒ᠠᠷᠠᠳᠠᠨᠦᠨᠦ (the Cree word for beautiful forest) was ours.

We almost immediately found Tasmanian devil and spotted-tail quoll scats nearby. Yellow-tailed cockatoos occasionally visit too, but not as enough as we'd like! So we'll be planting *Banksias* to draw them in. Jenn is busy propagating and we've started planting smaller eucalypts to attract spotted pardalotes and flame robins down from the high canopy.

Like many landholders, we have issues with various invasive species, including cats. We also have infestations of Spanish heath, though with help from friends, we have eliminated about 500 plants from along the roadside. At this stage, control can be managed by hand-pulling, however we recently purchased the adjacent 66-hectare block of land and will need help to control the substantial Spanish heath and gorse there.

We bought this second block of land purely to protect it. Most of it is listed as conservation covenant due to hosting a Threatened Ecological Community (substantial *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. amygdalina* in a low-lying, damp area). We are excited to host local community groups, research scientists, and students who are interested in studying the area. The Tasmanian devil program will hopefully soon deploy a special new motion camera and there is also ample opportunity to study wombats. Got an idea? Feel free to get in touch with us! These blocks of land also feature extensively on our YouTube channel which documents the beauty of the place and our progress on building our new, off-grid house. Visit the Going Off Grid YouTube channel at youtube.com/@GoingOffGridAus

Jennifer Lavers and Andrew Fidler
Members since 2025



Annie Schoenberger and Bennett Walker at NightWings planting day. Inset: Spectacled flying fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*).



NightWings Rainforest Centre

Queensland • WONGA BEACH

I purchased a 38-hectare property near the Daintree Rainforest in 2014. The previous owner had already reforested part of the land, but there were still 18 hectares of sugarcane and I wanted to continue her work. I was living my dream of creating habitat and food source for the Endangered spectacled flying-fox.

In 2015, Rainforest Rescue came onboard and through the support of grants from Terrain NRM and the '20 Million Trees' project, we slowly created a wildlife corridor from the steep slopes of the range down towards the lower-lying wetlands. Rainforest Rescue's team provided immense knowledge of the area and which trees to grow in the transition between rainforest and wetland forest. All the seeds were collected in the Daintree and are specific to this environment.

For the past ten years we have held annual tree plantings with the local community, managed by Rainforest Rescue. It has been a joy to see so many people coming together with a shared goal, some had even travelled from overseas to help out. Every year, we have shouted as one, "Plant a rainforest!". Now we have exactly that.

There are eucalyptus and bottle brush as food sources for the flying-fox, as well as quandong

and cassowary plums to encourage the return of cassowaries. Now that the first fruits have fallen, we occasionally see these incredible birds in the maturing forest. Migrating birds use the trees as a place to rest on their flyover to Papua New Guinea. At night, the place is alive with the sound of frogs, insects and other wildlife.

I've named the land NightWings Rainforest Centre after my love for the flying-foxes and the dream to reforest the whole property and leave a legacy in my family's name.

I've always wanted to leave something behind that creates a positive impact. I'm very concerned about nature's welfare, our fragile ecosystems and climate change. Land clearing is a major threat to the environment and wildlife. Potentially irreversible biodiversity loss is an indicator of the damage these impacts are causing. So, every tree planted makes a difference.

If you are located in Far North Queensland and are seeking native trees for a restoration project, visit Rainforest Rescue: rainforestrescue.org.au/nursery-orders

Annie Schoenberger
Member since 2015

*Contribution assistance from Mark Cox,
Communications Manager, Rainforest Rescue*



Clockwise from top: Aerial photographs of regeneration of NightWings through time; NightWings sign; Cassowary father (*Casuaris casuaris*)



A mob of emus (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) gathering and grazing at Ellenbrae. Inset: Little pink fairy orchid (*Caladenia reptans*).



Ellenbrae

Western Australia • TALBOT

We were not always interested in native orchids, even though we always enjoyed looking at wildflowers. Then one day someone mentioned that native orchids are a barometer for biodiversity. That got our attention!

Our property “Ellenbrae” is a wildlife sanctuary of approximately 40-acres of pristine bush. It consists of granite outcrops which are inaccessible by vehicles or tractors and the area where there are no rocks can be extremely boggy during the wet season, making traditional farming not an option. So, this area was always left untouched and possibly more pristine than a National Park.

During spring we would often wander through this area and enjoy seeing the many different wildflowers growing there. We knew there were wild orchids, thinking there to be five or six different species. When we realised how important indicators of biodiversity terrestrial orchids really are we started to photograph them and to our amazement the more we looked the more we found. Every year without fail we would find several new species hiding amongst the undergrowth and as of now we have filmed or photographed close to 50 different species on our property.

After many years searching for orchids on our property, we learned a few tricks. Most terrestrial orchids in

our area have quite a small flowering window with many blooming for a short time and are often grazed by kangaroos so timing is critical to finding them. It is important to have a thorough look once a week and of course it helps if you know what to look for. Books and publications by experts such as Andrew Brown are extremely helpful and local orchid groups such as Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (WANOSCG) are an invaluable source of information.

A must-have for anyone in Western Australia interested in identifying native orchids is the “Key to Native Orchids of Western Australia”—an interactive free online and mobile app developed by members of and with the backing of WANOSCG and based on Lucidcentral technology. It provides descriptions, photos, distribution, flowering times, and conservation status for the state’s known orchids.

You can see short videos of the terrestrial orchids growing in our wildlife sanctuary on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/@wildhomevideos](https://www.youtube.com/@wildhomevideos) in the playlist “Wild Australian Native orchids growing on Ellenbrae”.

Steve and Hedy Krasevac
Members since 2018

Threatened species profile

A charismatic flagship rainforest species

Walking through the dimly lit subtropical rainforest, you stumble across an unusual caterpillar sitting on a vine. Sensing potential danger, the caterpillar tilts its head downwards, displaying its defence to dissuade you from eating it. These markings—two dark eyes and a skull-like set of teeth! You’ve found a mature larva of a southern pink underwing moth (*Phyllodes imperialis smithersi*).

After metamorphosing into an adult, southern pink underwing moths have a wingspan of 13–14 cm. While the moth’s forewings are shaped like dead leaves and appear dull, this contrasts with their striking, fuchsia patch on their hindwings that give them their name!

The southern pink underwing moth is found from northern New South Wales in Bellingen to Nambour in south-eastern Queensland. These moths favour shaded, low-light conditions and breed in the low understory. However, the species are quite particular in their needs with the host plant for caterpillars restricted to just one species—the native carronia vine (*Carronia multiseptata*) that the larvae feed on. Adult moths on the other hand feast on the juices of rotting or overripe rainforest fruits.

Threats

Threats to the species include actions which degrade and fragment subtropical habitats such as land clearing, logging, and farming. Exotic weed invasions also impact the species habitat quality, particularly when introduced vines outcompete the host plant or the understory is inundated by weed species.



Above: Southern pink underwing moth adult. Bottom: Moth larvae

Recovery actions

The southern pink underwing moth was classified as Endangered in 2002. In 2022, the southern pink underwing moth was listed as one of the 11 priority invertebrate species on the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 showcasing the federal government’s commitment to the species and recognition of their value.

Not-for profit organisations, Landcare groups, Traditional Owner groups and local councils are working with private landholders and on public land in New South Wales and Queensland to restore subtropical rainforest through weed control and establishing continuous, long-term rainforest habitat.

Considering the necessity of the carronia vine for the survival of the species, recovery actions also involve propagating the vine from collected fruit and returning grown plants to wild habitats and private properties to improve breeding sites for the moth.

The southern pink underwing species has even been a recent subject of a children’s book, ‘Luca and the Moth’, leaning on education to promote the plight of this Endangered species. As a memorable and unique species, this moth has the potential to be a flagship species for invertebrates, garnering attention and action for broader invertebrate conservation.

The winding road to recovery, Red Box Wildlife Shelter

The start of 2026 was met with heatwaves across the country. Extreme heat and high winds created conditions for catastrophic bushfires to ignite, which burned with ferocity during January and February in multiple regions of Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. Responding to calls for help, Humane World for Animals Australia deployed our emergency response team to support a growing need in the Goldfields region of Victoria.

Our response was multi-faceted, assisting with search and rescue efforts on private properties, daily wildlife shelter operations and clinical assistance to treat burn-victims.

During our deployment, our team worked closely with Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary Red Box Wildlife Shelter located in Elphinstone, Victoria. Owned by Nikki Medwell, Red Box was previously the home of 'Bed and Broccoli' an all-vegan B&B for close to a decade. Since the business' closure, the property has been operating as a dedicated shelter devoted to the care and protection of kangaroos.

Nikki, a volunteer macropod nurse, runs Red Box and is supervised by Senior Vet Surgeon Dr Mark Sayer. The sanctuary stands as a pillar of the local wildlife community. Once monthly, the clinic opens its doors for the weekend for injured and orphaned wildlife from nearby wildlife shelters and wildlife carers in the region, free of charge.

Humane World has aided in the preparedness of Red Box Wildlife Shelter to respond more readily and effectively to an influx of wildlife after natural disaster events like fires. This preparation proved essential with conveniently placed medical supplies being easily accessible when disaster struck.

The "Pod", a shipping container attached to the clinic, which stores a wealth of donated medical supplies, was established at Red Box in early 2025. During the recent fires through a social media callout, the shelter received a generous stream of deliveries, including colourful vet wrap, jelonet and other necessary triage supplies. These items were stocked in the Pod by our response team and carers were able to come and take whatever they needed for their own burnt animals in care, for free.

With fortuitous timing just weeks before the most recent fires, Humane World also funded the creation of 20 burn kits for Red Box. For some wildlife shelters,



Clockwise from top left: Eastern grey kangaroo joeys in care at Red Box Wildlife Shelter; Nikki Medwell in the Pod; Rheanon Nichols and Louisa Bartels at Red Box triage clinic; Bandaging of wounded kangaroo paws.



the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires were their first experience with burn-affected wildlife. With this in mind, each burn kit is equipped with an easy-to-follow laminated flashcard clearly outlining how to use the packaged supplies, so carers can initially treat light burns until they are able to see a vet for assessment and treatment. Only a week prior to the bushfires starting, half of these kits were distributed by Nikki and Dr Mark, with in-person demonstrations given on their use.

Burn treatment is not as simple as bandaging wounds but also involves the close management of an animal's stress and monitoring for the emergence of secondary infections, as the body fights to recover. The path to recovery can be long and at times winding. It is only

through the loving, round-the-clock care provided by wildlife carers that these animals are given the best possible chance to heal from such a hardship.

Nikki's story stands out as one of perseverance and unnerving commitment. Through her deep connection to animals and the landscape she stewards, she has transformed her Wildlife Land Trust property into not just a sanctuary but a practical clinic. Red Box is a place that offers hope and safety to the animals and strength and community to the carers working tirelessly to give these animals a second chance. It was such a pleasure being able to collaborate with a Wildlife Land Trust member on this response; we simply could not have made such an incredible impact for animals without Nikki and her sanctuary.

TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: PAUL JEFFERS; TOP RIGHT: TAMARA KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHY

The WLT welcomes these new member sanctuaries

36
new members
added

999
sanctuaries
nationwide

92,988
hectares
preserved

New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)
NEW SOUTH WALES 22 new sanctuaries (1,750 ha) • Total: 455 sanctuaries (36,019 ha)			
Blue Mountains Steiner School	Annie Cohen	Hazelbrook	3
Nuggan	Andrew and Jonathan Cleary	Bawley Point	333
Amiwya	Lyndell Bristow	East Lynne	55
Upper Collaroy Slopes	Duncan Stirling	Collaroy	0.2
Bylgara	Cressida Fforde and Scott Gorringe	Adaminaby	25
Budyan	Judith Nangala Crispin and Ben Willson	Manar	16
Wahroonga	Barry and Lara Fitzgerald	Savernake	6
Gibberagong	Saxon and Deja Ryan	Mullumbimby Creek	21
Common Grounds	Meredith and Benjamin Cowdrill	Pillar Valley	44
Kelvin Grove	Roslyn and Rey	Lacmalac	35
Slades	Ian and Romilly Slade	Dorroughby	8
Emerald Sanctuary	Xia Ping Wu and David Wei Chang Wong	Emmaville	899
Rest Easy	Jessica Bushby and Mitch Gibbons	Frog Rock	10
Yiramir	Sharon Fulcher	Braidwood	107
Totoro	Marilyn Pride and Lewis Morley	Linden	42
Salt Hill	Gabrielle Carlin and Craig Talbot	Sofala	47
Azzo's Sanctuary	Anthony Azzopardi	Belbora	9
Angkyra	Thomas Mobbs	Dunbible	42
Ngurang Wildlife Sanctuary	Ben and Irene Stocks and Nicole Scott	Harden	3
Faodail Farm	Fleur Goulding	Yarramalong	13
Narlu	Brett Vercoe	Upper Orara	30
Better Be Home Soon	Emma Jensen and Jason Parnell	Tenterfield	2
TASMANIA 2 new sanctuaries (72 ha) • Total: 52 sanctuaries (3,550 ha)			
Raptor Refuge and Eagle Ridge Retreat	Craig Webb	Kettering	7
Orana	Tonia Cochran	Taroona	65
VICTORIA 2 new sanctuary (8 ha) • Total 89 sanctuaries 4,042 ha)			
The Odd Frog	Kylie and James Smith	Bright	4
Bonnie Doon The Patch	Elizabeth Attrill	The Patch	4

New Sanctuary	Owner / Manager	Location	Size (ha)
QUEENSLAND 8 new sanctuaries (79 ha) • Total: 281 sanctuaries (39,872 ha)			
Loonsville	Ken and Shirley Attwell	South Isis	2
Hope for Joeys	Samantha Spedding and Angus Morant	Tamborine	2
Firetail Sanctuary	Rodney and Melissa Taylor	Wondecla	13
Emerald Sanctuary	Stuart and Karyn Mitchell	Mareeba	33
Rainforest Refuge	Necie	Topaz	1
Lakes Creek Nature Refuge	Alex Jones and Emma Owbridge	Lakes Creek	13
Serenity Blue	Paul and Halina Feltl	Kuranda	3
Lunara	Andrew and Kirsty Black	Ball Bay	13

596
with
**HABITAT
REGENERATION**



311
with
**NATURAL
WATERWAYS**



109
**PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED
SANCTUARIES**



485
with
**THREATENED
SPECIES**



473
with
**WILDLIFE
CORRIDORS**



238
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



Raptor Refuge and Eagle Ridge Retreat

TASMANIA

Created to help fund the ongoing care and rehabilitation of Tasmania's birds of prey, Eagleridge Retreat sits within the grounds of the Raptor Refuge in Kettering. This five-star sanctuary spans seven hectares of native bushland overlooking the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, offering eco-designed studios with king beds, gas fireplaces and sweeping views to Bruny Island.

Each stay directly supports the refuge's life-saving work, giving guests a rare chance to combine luxury with meaningful impact. Private tours provide close encounters with magnificent residents like Montgomery, the Tasmanian masked owl, and the powerful wedge-tailed eagle. At Eagleridge, indulgence becomes a force for conservation, where rest helps wings take flight again.

Owner: Craig Webb

Website: raptorrefuge.com.au/eagle-ridge-retreat



Quaalup Homestead Wilderness Retreat

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A very special place, nestled in the western side of the Fitzgerald River National Park, Western Australia. Surrounded by National Park, with its fascinating flora, ranges and white sanded beaches, the Mallee-Heathland at Quaalup is home to rare animals like honey possums and abundant birdlife. We purchased the 40-acres of Quaalup in 2004 and are still amazed by the beauty of nature on the property. Most of it is pristine bush, we continuously control weeds, maintain the walking trails and have planted natives around the accommodations, which are lovingly decorated and well equipped, to offer guests a relaxing, comfortable stay. The "resident but wild" kangaroos, bird baths and the heritage homestead add delightful experiences to your stay.

Owners: Karin Quetschke and Carsten Wagner-Richelmann

Contact: (08) 9837 4124 or email: quaalup@gmail.com

Website: whalesandwildflowers.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