



# Land for Wildlife South East Queensland

2023-2024



# ANNUAL REPORT



# OUR VISION

Landholders are supported as stewards of the land to achieve nature conservation across the Local Government network in South East Queensland.



Land for Wildlife South East Queensland acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow. May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.



# OUTCOMES 2023-2024



**265**

TOTAL NEW LFWSEQ PROPERTIES  
(183 REGISTERED AND 82 WORKING  
TOWARDS REGISTRATION)

**67**



CHANGE OF OWNERSHIPS  
(PROPERTIES SOLD WITH  
NEW OWNERS JOINING LFW)



**472ha**

OF HABITAT UNDER  
RESTORATION



**1502**

REVISITS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
OFFICERS TO LFWSEQ PROPERTIES



**3,119ha**

OF RETAINED HABITAT



LFWSEQ REGIONAL  
COORDINATION  
PROUDLY DELIVERED BY  
DEBORAH METTERS,  
SECOND NATURE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## LAND FOR WILDLIFE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND PROUDLY DELIVERED BY:



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



[WWW.LFWSEQ.COM.AU](http://WWW.LFWSEQ.COM.AU)

[FACEBOOK.COM/LFWSEQ](https://FACEBOOK.COM/LFWSEQ)



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**This year was an award-winning year for the LfWSEQ program.** The collaboration between 13 Local Governments and thousands of landholders over 25 years is worthy of celebration. This was recognised through winning the Collaboration category of the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence.

Working collaboratively is a cost-effective way for Local Governments to meet their business needs while ensuring that high-quality services are delivered to Land for Wildlife members across SEQ.

Local Governments continued to activate their communities by building the skills and confidence of Land for Wildlife members to achieve environmental outcomes. This was done through one-on-one personalised property visits, workshops, field days, community building events and providing a diverse range of incentives and funding opportunities.

Local Government officers from the 13 councils made over 1740 visits to hundreds of new and existing Land for Wildlife properties to engage directly with landholders to offer practical advice and support. There is no other comparable environmental extension service offered anywhere in Australia. Local Governments are committed to

their partnerships with landholders as they not only achieve on-ground environmental improvements, but they also build community capacity and deliver strategic goals for Local Governments.

Program growth for the 2023-24 year returned to the long-term average, with 265 new properties joining LfWSEQ. This is a departure from the unprecedented recent high growth since 2020, which was arguably initiated by lockdowns associated with the Covid pandemic.

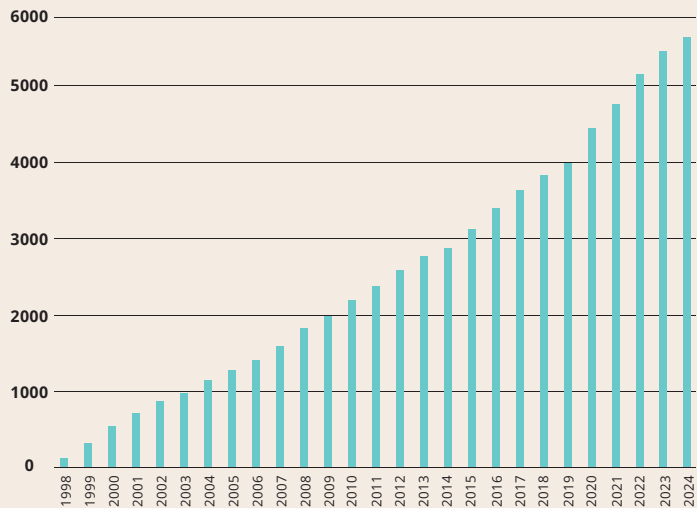
LfWSEQ remains in a strong position with good governance, stable regional coordination and high levels of participation by Local Governments. Going forward, all frameworks are in-place for continuing partnerships with universities, First Nations groups and other agencies to communicate and build-on the outstanding achievements of LfWSEQ champions galvanised by their partnerships with Local Governments.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024



## CUMULATIVE GROWTH CHART

ACTIVE (REGISTERED AND WORKING  
TOWARDS REGISTRATION) PROPERTIES  
IN LFWSEQ 1998-2024



AS OF 30 JUNE 2024



**5,633**  
LFWSEQ properties

**4,481** Registered properties

**1,152** Properties Working  
Towards Registration



**81,747ha**  
of Retained Habitat

**9,551ha**  
of Habitat Under Restoration



**12,867** Facebook  
Followers

**60,266** observations and  
species recorded on  
**4,841** LFWSEQ iNaturalist project

# 25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

In May this year, the 13 Local Governments that deliver the LfWSEQ program were delighted and humbled to win the Collaboration category of the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence.

This award recognises the work of hundreds of Local Government officers and thousands of landholders who have collectively created the LfWSEQ program. It is an extraordinary collaborative partnership spanning 25 years.

Together, Local Governments and Land for Wildlife landholders are restoring and managing land to make the diverse ecosystems of SEQ more resilient and to strengthen rural communities. It is an ongoing partnership that is worthy of recognition and celebration. Congratulations to everyone involved in the LfWSEQ program.



## OUR VALUES

We are collaborative and transparent



# BUILDING RESILIENCE OF OUR RIVERS



## OUR VALUES

We are building ecological resilience

This year, LfWSEQ Officers participated in workshops to build their skills and capacity in a range of conservation issues, which will in turn, build the capacity of LfWSEQ members. A workshop on fluvial geomorphology and erosion control showed practical examples in the field of erosion processes and steps that landholders could take to slow or prevent erosion.

*“I am glad I made the time to attend yesterday’s workshop. The range of examples from across the region was great and should equip all the officers that attended with a good foundation for helping landholders with advice”.*

*Nick Clancy, Conservation Partnerships Officer,  
Sunshine Coast Council*



# OUR VALUES

We are dedicated to service delivery



## CREATING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

One of the longest running community land restoration projects in the Noosa hinterland is the Pinbarren Falls Creek wildlife corridor. Multiple landowners have worked together to revegetate open pasture to establish a viable wildlife corridor linking Mt Pinbarren to Falls Creek and Woondum National Park.

Mt Pinbarren protects a patch of old growth rainforest on basalt (a threatened ecological community) and one of the rarest plants in Noosa Shire, the Jointed Baloghia (*Baloghia marmorata*).

Many landowners in this corridor have joined Land for Wildlife and some have entered into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with Noosa Council.

This year, long term Land for Wildlife members, Geraldine and George Hillier, decided to place a Voluntary Conservation Agreement over a large portion of their property, which directly adjoins Mt Pinbarren National Park. Their decision, supported by Noosa Council, ensures further long-term protection to this valuable corridor.

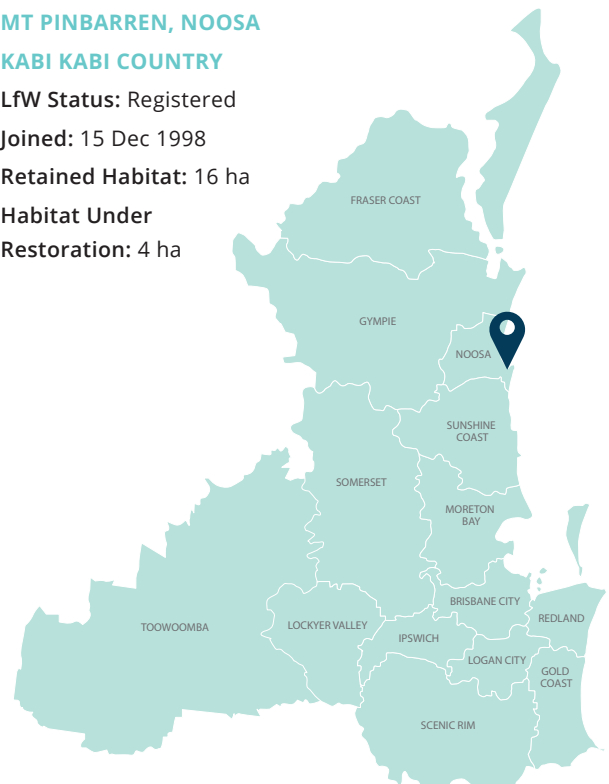
### MT PINBARREN, NOOSA KABI KABI COUNTRY

LfW Status: Registered

Joined: 15 Dec 1998

Retained Habitat: 16 ha

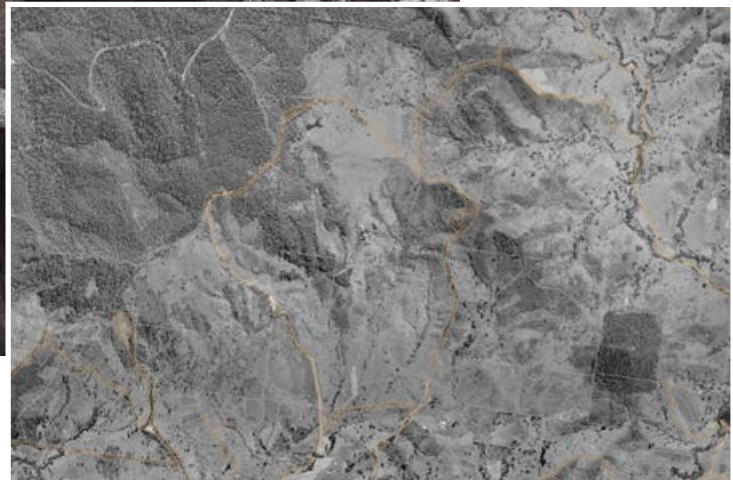
Habitat Under  
Restoration: 4 ha







*Jointed Baloghia - one of the rarest plants in Noosa Shire.*



*1958 Aerial of Pinbarren Falls Creek Wildlife Corridor*



*2023 Aerial of Pinbarren Falls Creek Wildlife Corridor*

# CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE SCENIC RIM

This year, Scenic Rim Regional Council's Environment Team made great headway in recording the flora, fauna and fungi of the region. Landholders were invited and trained to use various citizen science platforms, such as iNaturalist, QWildlife and FrogID. In addition, council encouraged landholders to send in samples to contribute to scientific research on threatened species, notably Koalas and Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies. Council officers installed fauna monitoring cameras on numerous Land for Wildlife properties and conducted detailed flora and fauna surveys for targeted properties with high conservation values.

To date, over 7300 observations of flora, fauna and fungi have been recorded through the Scenic Rim's Land for Wildlife iNaturalist project. iNaturalist offers a platform for Land for Wildlife members to showcase their sightings of the natural world and to receive advice on species identification.

Based on the surveys undertaken this year, several new populations of threatened plants and animals have been found such as Giant Water Lilies (*Nymphaea gigantea*) at Harrisville, Greater Gliders at Tamborine Mountain and an incredible record

of the Critically Endangered Jagara Hairy Crayfish (*Euastacus jagara*) on a Land for Wildlife property. This crayfish is possibly the rarest of all Australian crayfish with only a handful of records in existence. An incredible find!

**SCENIC RIM  
YUGAMBEH COUNTRY**  
Multiple Land for  
Wildlife properties



# OUR VALUES

We are translating science into practice



*Tyler's Tree Frog (Litoria tyleri) on Scenic Rim Land for Wildlife properties. Photo by Greg Tasney.*



*The Critically Endangered Jagara Hairy Crayfish. Photo by Indra Bone.*



# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Every year, Local Governments recognise their long-term LfWSEQ members and community champions.

To celebrate those Land for Wildlife members who have worked with Redland City Council for over 20 years, an event was held to showcase

their environmental achievements. It was an uplifting event at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre, also a Land for Wildlife property, where members shared their stories and were proud of their partnerships with council.

*“We put the [20 year] sign up on Saturday afternoon. Thanks for everything that you and the team do to help everyone look after the environment and our precious wildlife. You play such an important role in facilitating the process.”*

Kerry Harley and Allan Withers,  
Land for Wildlife members, Redland

*“Thanks so much for inviting us along to the 20 year LFW celebration. We had a such a great time today and you did such a great job organising the day. It was good to catch up with fellow LFW holders. You and the Team do such a great job and we thank you for all the hard work you put into the program.”*

Debbie and Matthew Twinn,  
Land for Wildlife members, Redland



# CREATING COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND RESILIENCE IN WESTERN BRISBANE

The first Friday of the month is a busy time for Land for Wildlife members in the western suburbs of Brisbane. For the past five years, many have gathered with other like-minded people over a morning coffee at what is known as 'Bruce's Coffee Cart' at the Upper Brookfield Community Hall. These forums have become a valuable event for many Land for Wildlife and non-Land for Wildlife community members. They are able to chat with Brisbane City Council Conservation Partnerships Officers, neighbours, a friend or a stranger about the restoration activities they are doing on their property.

There has always been a core group of 15-20 people that come every month rain, hail or shine. Some have known each-other for 50+ years. There are plenty of stories told about the changes to their properties and the local catchment over those years.

As well as the regulars, there are many people who pop in on their way to work or school drop offs to have a plant identified or to collect materials and/or equipment offered through the Brisbane City Council Land for Wildlife program. It is also a great place for new residents to come and talk to council officers about their property. These forums have resulted in many people choosing to join Land for Wildlife and lifelong friendships with other local landholders.

Guest speakers from the local Rural Fire Brigade and

Brisbane City Council's Invasive Species Team come along to talk to the community and field questions. These are always well received and help build positive relationships with council and other agencies.

"It is a welcoming event that landholders and council officers look forward to. It has not only helped the Land for Wildlife program grow stronger in Brisbane, but has also improved landholder wellbeing,

connection and community resilience. Collectively, everyone knows that they aren't alone in the fight against weeds and other threatening processes." Cody Hochen, Conservation Partnerships Officer, Brisbane City Council.

## UPPER BROOKFIELD, BRISBANE TURRBAL/JAGERA COUNTRY

Multiple Land for Wildlife properties

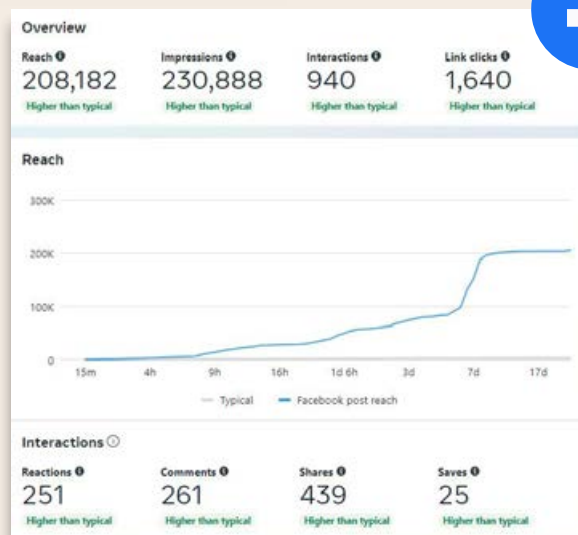
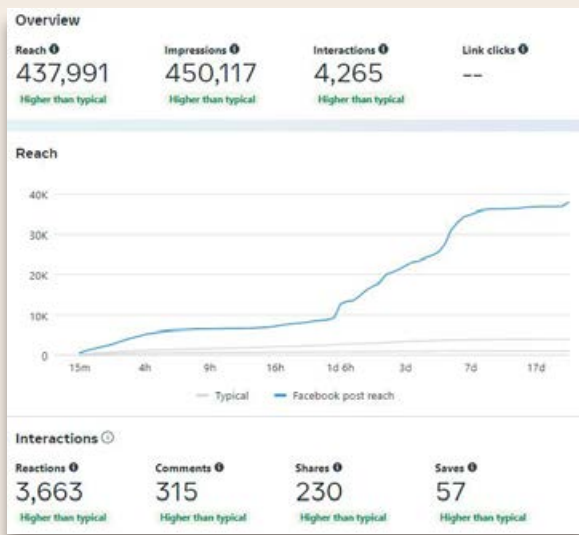
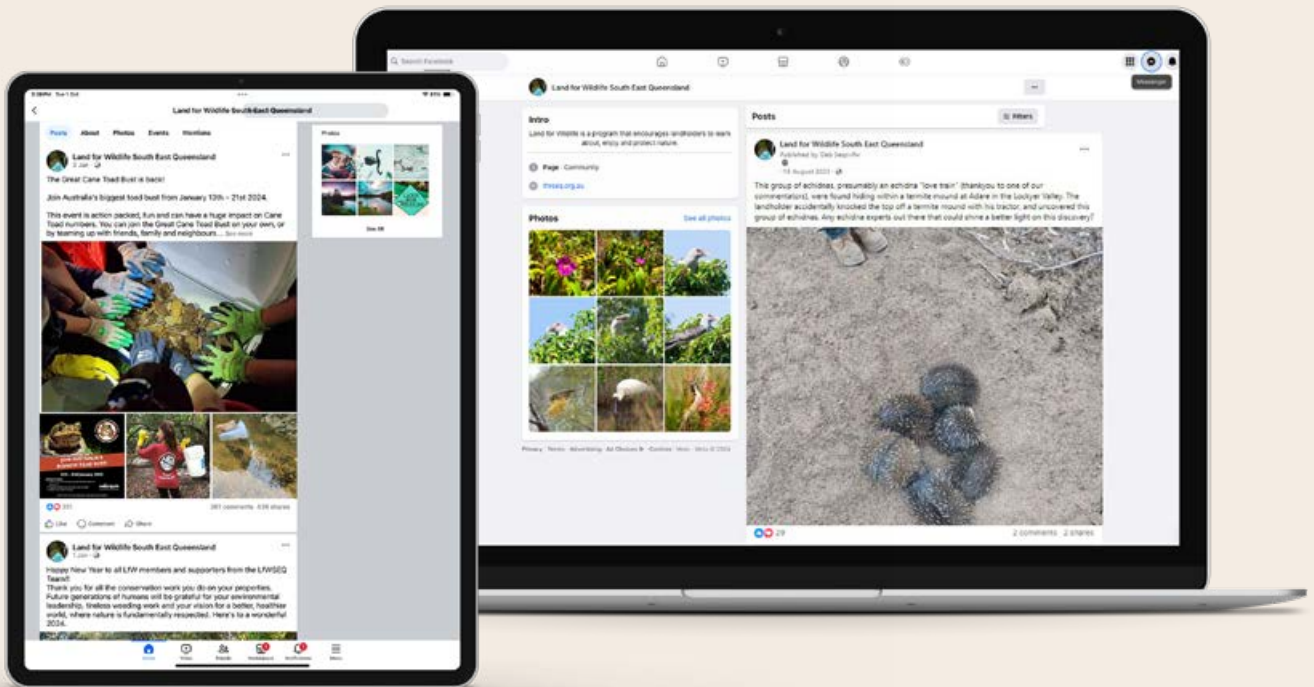


# ECHIDNAS, TOADS, QUOLLS AND MORE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The LfWSEQ program uses one social media channel, Facebook. Commencing in 2015, the LfWSEQ Page has now over 12,000 Followers with consistently high levels of positive engagement. It offers a platform for Local

Governments to communicate with Land for Wildlife members and the public about relevant and emerging conservation matters. Nearly all content is unique and is created by the collective of LfWSEQ Officers and the LfWSEQ

Regional Coordinator, ensuring a diversity of topics from across the SEQ region. Shown here are the top two posts for this year based on the highest number of comments.





# ACTIVATING CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT

Local Governments provide a range of incentives and grants to activate conservation land management by Land for Wildlife members. Incentives are delivered with advice and support to ensure that they are used or installed efficiently and effectively.

## In 2023-2024, Local Governments provided Land for Wildlife members with:

- 27,230 native plants
- 318 reference books
- 111 nest boxes

## Access to weed management tools including:

- Registered herbicides
- Splatter guns
- Restoration tool belts
- Weed tree removal tools like the Tree Popper

Grants supported the work of bush regeneration contractors, fire practitioners, fencing contractors and arborists to remove weeds, install nest boxes, conduct ecological burns and install stock-exclusion fencing on hundreds of Land for Wildlife properties.

Through LfWSEQ services, Local Governments are supporting sustainable local businesses and contributing to the economic growth of SEQ.



**27,230**  
NATIVE PLANTS

**318**

REFERENCE BOOKS



**111**  
NEST BOXES

# SMALL PROPERTIES ARE ALSO PROTECTING THREATENED SPECIES

Richard and Kerrie purchased their property at Bald Knob near Maleny in 2016. Their property had been sub-divided from a much larger grazing property and was more than 80% pasture. Richard and Kerrie applied to join the Land for Wildlife program later in the same year. During the initial Land for Wildlife assessment, Sunshine Coast Council Conservation Partnerships Officers found a high diversity of native rainforest plants including the Endangered Maroochy Nut (*Macadamia ternifolia*).

Richard and Kerrie were keen to get started on tree planting to re-establish forest-cover

over the cleared areas. With the advice and grants received through Sunshine Coast Council, and an incredible amount of hard work and dedication, they set about revegetating their property in a staged approach.

Even the smallest rainforest remnants, such as the one remaining on the Richard and Kerrie's property, are incredibly valuable. Of course, not every species can be bought at a nursery, and the plethora of other organisms that inhabit rainforests are not included when we simply plant out rows of trees. Rainforest remnants, such as this one, provide a source of genetic

material from which plant seeds, fungi and fern spores, invertebrates and wildlife can disperse from. As such, this important remnant assists the newly planted areas and helps to re-establish the incredible biodiversity that Land for Wildlife landholders, like Richard and Kerrie, are working so hard to restore.

"Starting out as beginners, Richard and Kerrie have now planted over 8,600 trees in the past 8 years and are now seasoned veterans when it comes to rainforest revegetation." Nick Clancy, Conservation Partnerships Officer, Sunshine Coast Council



# OUR VALUES

We are committed to habitat conservation and restoration



*“Starting out as beginners, Richard and Kerrie have now planted over 8,600 trees in the past 8 years and are now seasoned veterans when it comes to rainforest revegetation.”*

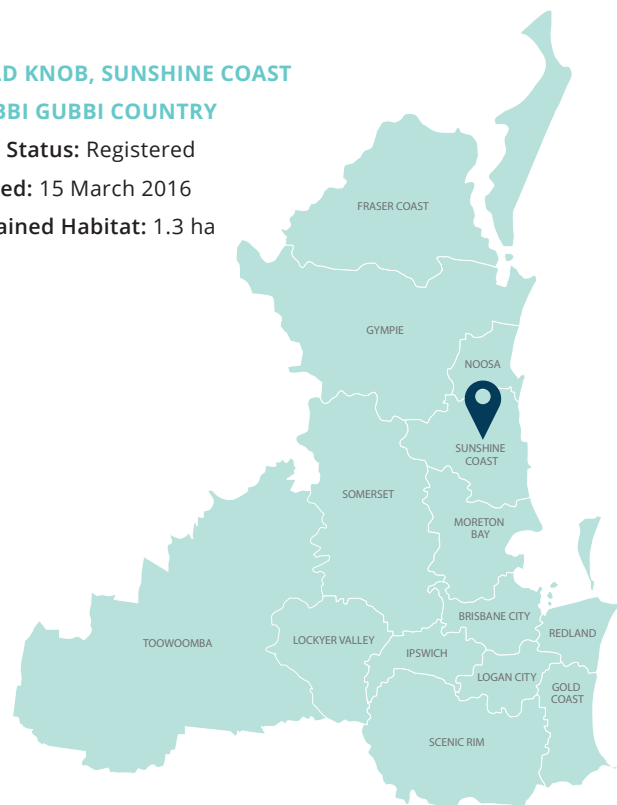
*Nick Clancy, Conservation Partnerships Officer, Sunshine Coast Council*

## BALD KNOB, SUNSHINE COAST GUBBI GUBBI COUNTRY

LfW Status: Registered

Joined: 15 March 2016

Retained Habitat: 1.3 ha



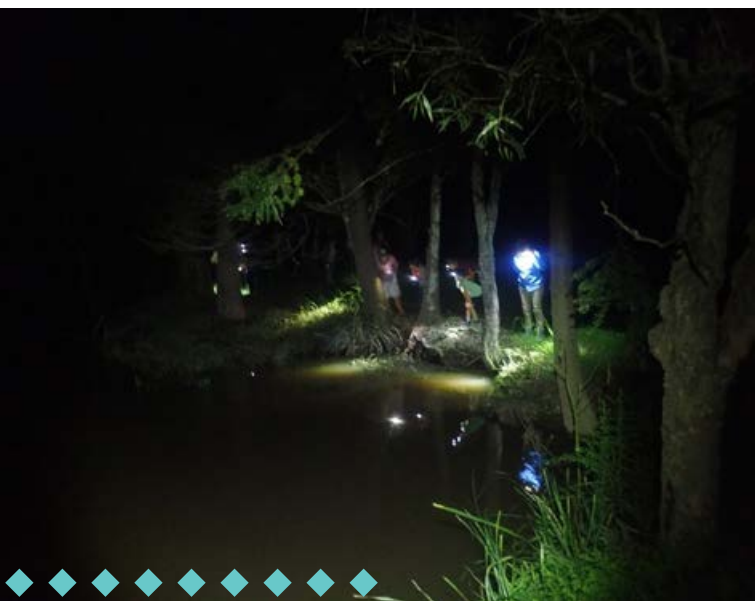


# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE WITH CONSERVATION

Land for Wildlife members on the Sunshine Coast were treated to an evening of information and adventures as part of Find a Frog in February workshop. Delivered by Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, attendees learnt about the frogs of the Sunshine Coast including threatened species and practical solutions to help minimise the many threats that frogs are facing.

After the presentations, attendees travelled to the nearby Land for Wildlife property owned by Tracy and David Henderson. Their 117 hectare cattle farm integrates grazing, regenerative agriculture and nature conservation. It also contains over a hectare of creek frontage – the perfect location for a frog workshop. Frogs did not disappoint the crowd with a handful of species found including the threatened Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*).

Sunshine Coast Council has supported Tracy and David's conservation management through the Landholder Environment Grants. This property successfully demonstrates how agriculture and conservation can be effectively combined for the benefit of the environment and native wildlife, whilst also supporting livelihoods.



## BELLI PARK, SUNSHINE COAST GUBBI GUBBI COUNTRY

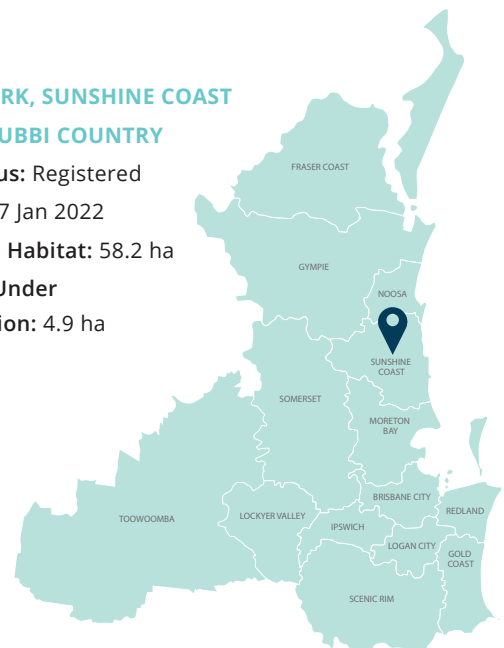
LfW Status: Registered

Joined: 17 Jan 2022

Retained Habitat: 58.2 ha

Habitat Under

Restoration: 4.9 ha





*“From a farming point of view, working with the Land for Wildlife program makes sense – we all want the same outcome, to be sustainable. It’s about being kind to country and working with mother nature not against her. Without the assistance from Land for Wildlife seedling incentives and Landholder Environment Grants for these projects, such outcomes are unlikely to have been achieved due to competing priorities that come with managing a property like this”*

*Tracy and David Henderson, Land for Wildlife members.*

# MAKING A CHANGE ONE STEP AT A TIME

Changes to nature can sometimes be dramatic, such as with a storm or bushfire, but generally they are slow. It can be difficult for landholders to see the changes on their land because they are looking at their property daily. It can be helpful to have an objective lens. This is where revisits by council Conservation Partnerships Officers can be valuable. They can provide the owners with advice about how far they have come and the most efficient steps to take next. Officers also provide landholders with aerial imagery showing changes to a property over time and can advise them on any grants or other incentives that council may provide to help them meet their conservation goals.

In 2015 when James and Simone Lane purchased their land at Cornubia, it was in poor

conditions. The previous owners had allowed horses to overgraze, creating bare ground that was susceptible to erosion, weeds, ringbarked trees and little wildlife. James and Simone joined Land for Wildlife with Working Towards Registration status. With lots of hard work planting trees and controlling weeds, they were upgraded to Registered status only two years later and were grateful to receive their Land for Wildlife sign.

## CORNUBIA, LOGAN JAGERA/YUGAMBEH COUNTRY

LfW Status: Registered

Joined: 8 Oct 2015

Retained Habitat: 1.3ha

Habitat Under

Restoration: 1.8 ha



*“Wow the difference is dramatic even from 2017. I was feeling like nothing much has happened in that time as I see it every day but boy was I wrong. Wow it is huge. I was looking around the other day a little disillusioned that the forest was not as thick as I would like but this has bought me back to life.”*

*Thank you so much for the trouble of getting them [aerial images] together for me, it has made all the many hours of unloading logs, mulching and pulling weeds worth the while. Thanks again for the visit and pics, nearly bought a tear to the eye.”*

*James and Simone Lane, Land for Wildlife members, Logan.*

# OUR VALUES

We are passionate about landholder stewardship

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



# RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION WORK

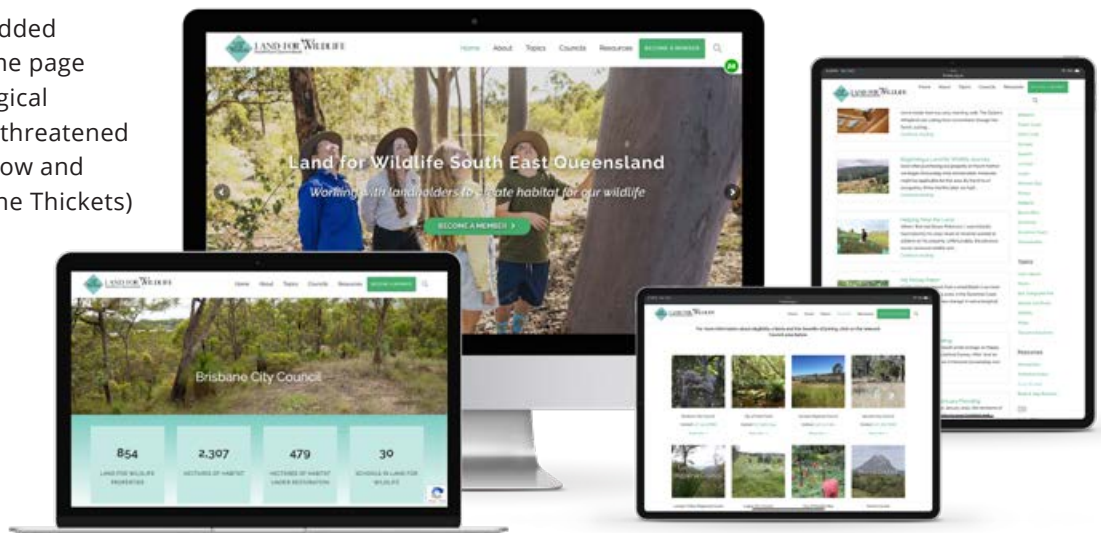
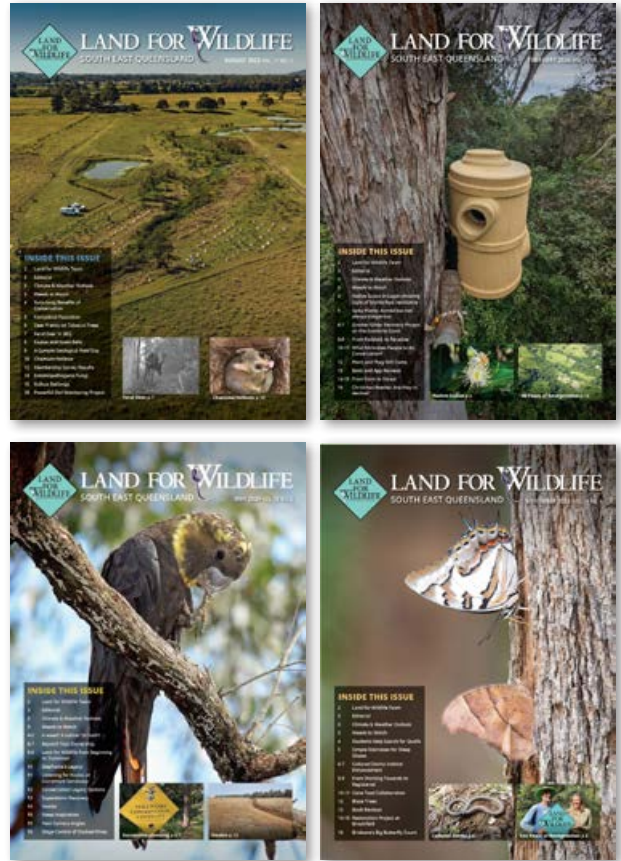
Quarterly newsletters have been a cornerstone of the LfWSEQ regional program for 25 years. They provide public recognition for outstanding conservation land management by Land for Wildlife members and offer Local Governments a way to communicate regularly with their members. Land for Wildlife members can choose to receive the magazine-style product in print or electronic format. Current and back copies are available on the LfWSEQ website.



The LfWSEQ website was elevated with new imagery and content this year to recognise the First Nations People of SEQ and ensure that each Local Government is uniquely highlighted by:

- Showcasing case studies from over 110 Land for Wildlife properties from the 13 Local Governments.
- Providing a unique landing page for each Local Government with tailored statistics and information updated quarterly.
- Offering contact information for each Local Government for potential new members.

Two videos were added to the website home page to showcase ecological restoration of two threatened ecosystems (Brigalow and Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets) on private land undertaken by Land for Wildlife members with the support of Ipswich City Council.



BEFORE (2004)



**LESLEY PANTLIN  
AND JUDY BOWEY'S  
LAND FOR WILDLIFE  
PROPERTY AT  
COOROY, NOOSA**

AFTER (2024)



*“Twenty years...  
and many thousands  
of hours and plantings  
later, our block is  
transformed and  
largely reforested.”*

*Lesley and Judy.*



*“Really enjoy the workshops held by the Land for Wildlife team and find the iNaturalist app helpful and a great learning tool.”*

*“It has been so valuable. The emotional support has been great in what can be an alone process. Social events to bring like minded together.”*

*“Great program and we enjoy being members. Having LFW officers do site visits to our home and land in the past have been of great help to us.”*

QUOTES FROM CITY OF GOLD COAST LAND FOR WILDLIFE MEMBERS VIA THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY (2022)