



Above: *Leionema ambiens*



Above: *Dampiera purpurea*



Above: *Calytrix tetragona*

Wildflowers Galore

The Rare Wildflower Consortium ran another series of highly successful wildflower walks again this Spring.

Around 200 people enjoyed viewing and learning about the wildflowers in their habitat.

And the wildflowers didn't disappoint!

The walks coincided with the group's release of the booklet, 'Wildflowers of the Granite Belt'. This is a photographic guide to some of the diverse wildflower species you may encounter in Stanthorpe's Granite Belt region.

For copies of the booklet or more information, please contact Liz Bourne on 07 4683 6374, or email on batmaps@halenet.com.au.



Right: Jo McLellan (QPWS) shows a group of walkers the wildflowers in Girraween National Park.



If you would like to arrange for a Land for Wildlife assessment on your property, please contact the Land for Wildlife Representative nearest to you.

Contacts

For general information about Land for Wildlife, please contact the Queensland Murray Darling Committee on 07 4637 6201 or go to qmdc.org.au

Alison Goodland
Regional Biodiversity Officer
Toowoomba
P (07) 4637 6286
F (07) 4632 8062
E alisong@qmdc.org.au

Kate Steel
Regional Biodiversity Officer
Roma
P (07) 4622 2993
F (07) 4622 6060
E kates@qmdc.org.au

Holly Hanlon
Regional Biodiversity Officer
Goondiwindi
P (07) 4671 7980
F (07) 4671 2966
E hollyh@qmdc.org.au

South West NRM
Vegetation & Biodiversity Officer
Charleville
P (07) 4654 7382
F (07) 4654 7284
E biodiversity@southwestnrm.org.au

Land for Wildlife website: via QMDC's website, www.qmdc.org.au (follow the links to 'get involved', then 'Land for Wildlife')

Land for Wildlife in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin is coordinated by the Queensland Murray Darling Committee (QMDC) on behalf of South West Natural Resource Management Group (SWNRM) and Condamine Alliance.



news news news

Summer 2007

Hello Land for Wildlife members,

With Christmas just around the corner, it begs the question, "Where did the year go?!" I think we will all agree that in people's hectic lifestyles, it can sometimes feel like the year does just 'disappear'. But a successful year it has been for the Land for Wildlife program. In this region alone, we have welcomed 17 new members to the network, covering approximately 800 hectares of habitat, held three well-attended Bushland Management workshops in conjunction with Greening Australia and the Myer Foundation, revamped the newsletter, strengthened the program partnerships with Greening Australia and surrounding regional bodies, and promoted the Land for Wildlife ethic to land managers, both private and public, across the region.

And next year is planned to be just as busy. To keep up-to-date with upcoming events, QMDC is soon to launch an e-newsletter with information on the happenings in the QMDC region, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please email the editor on ameliar@qmdc.org.au. We will continue to produce the Land for Wildlife newsletter, so any stories or items of interest are very welcome. And don't forget to check out Condamine Alliance's e-newsletter online at www.condaminealliance.com.au for all the latest news across the Condamine catchment.

September marked the announcement of successful projects under Round 10 of the Threatened Species Network Community Grants. A successful project, 'Protecting threatened flora and fauna at Myall Park Botanic Garden', will undertake on-ground species protection works and a community awareness and training event. Stay tuned for more details.

Round 9 of Envirofund was also announced with 45 projects successful in the southern inland Queensland region, bringing nearly a million dollars to the region to support natural resource management. If you think you would like to apply for an Envirofund but are not sure where to start, QMDC and regional Landcare groups will be holding a series of workshops early next year in the lead up to the next Envirofund round.

On behalf of Kate, Holly and myself, I wish everyone a very safe and happy festive season and we look forward to catching up with members in the coming year.

Alison
Regional Land for Wildlife Coordinator

newsletter
for the Queensland Murray Darling Basin

In this edition...

- **Get paid to manage remnant vegetation:** Bush Tender is on again with the 2007 round now open
- **Interesting reads:** from conference papers, to DVDs, to best management practice guides, find out what's new and where to find it
- **Wildflowers galore:** a wrap up of the recent Wildflower Walks organised and hosted by the Rare Wildflower Consortium in Stanthorpe



Above: Brigalow vegetation (*Acacia harpophylla*) is one community targeted by Bush Tender 2007.

Get paid to manage remnant vegetation

Landholders in the southern Brigalow Belt can now access stewardship funding from the Australian Government to help them protect or improve high quality remnant native vegetation on their properties.

QMDC's 'Bush Tender 2007' will allocate Australian Government funding to land owners and leaseholders under the *Australian Government's Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspot Programme*.

Project Coordinator for QMDC, Emma Taylor, said that the programme had now invited bids for funding under a stewardship arrangement, with the aim of protecting valuable intact ecosystems - but not at the expense of productive land.

"The Australian Government and QMDC recognise the role that landholders play in protecting and improving native vegetation," said Emma.

"The *Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots Programme* will provide funding to offset the costs that are usually borne by landholders in managing important patches of natural habitat," she said.

Ms Taylor said the project would run as a commercial tender, where landholders enter bids based on the costs of managing the area, as well as the value of their vegetation to the overall biodiversity health in that area.

"Involvement in the project is totally voluntary and eligible landholders will be given the opportunity to set their own price for the stewardship services they're prepared to provide," she said.

"The first step to participating in the project will be to complete a simple Expression of Interest form. We will then contact applicants to find out more information about their vegetation and discuss management options," she said.

Funding will be available for landholder management on remnant vegetation that has already been retained for high biodiversity values and has already been mapped by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water.

For a full list of eligible vegetation, visit www.qmdc.org.au/get-involved/bush-tender-2007.html and download the brochure.



Left: Inspecting remnant vegetation will be part of the process of assessing Bush Tender 2007 applicants.

Expressions of Interest will close on 14 March, 2008, and landholders are encouraged to apply sooner rather than later.

For more information contact Emma on 07 4623 3478 or visit the website.



Interesting Reads

Landcare Queensland

The 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference proceedings are now available on CD. Themed 'Making a Difference', the CD includes:

- Presentations of all speakers
- Full conference program and sponsor details
- Contact lists for speakers and conference organisers
- Photos from field trips, conference sessions, welcome and farewell dinners and more

The DVD, 'A Green Future', was also launched at the 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference. By using a series of factual case studies of grazing families throughout Queensland, 'A Green Future' documents the exciting journey of people who have improved their natural resource base by utilising innovation, instinct, and Landcare principles. This DVD is an introduction to the development of sustainable grazing systems.

Both CD, DVD and a range of adult and children's natural history books are available from the Queensland Landcare bookshop. Phone 07 3211 4413, or check out the website: www.landcare.org.au/Bookshop.

Free manuals target pest weeds

Weedy Sporobolus grasses: best practice manual

A new manual explaining how to control weeds that cost the pastoral industry \$60 million a year is available free to all land managers. The best practice manual for the management of weedy *Sporobolus* grasses with emphasis on giant rat's tail and giant Parramatta grass, provides grazing land managers with up-to-date, well planned control guidelines.

The manual is available free through the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' Business Information Centre by calling 13 25 23.

Battling Lantana: Learning from the experience of others

Funded through the Defeating the Weed Menace Program, this DVD presents lantana management advice from the perspective of the land managers themselves, with tips on management for both production and conservation outcomes.



This DVD will form a major part of future education and extension activities relating to lantana and complements the lantana resources currently available on the Australian Weeds Website at <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/lantana/> including:

- The lantana control manual
- Using herbicides on lantana – a guide to best practice
- A range of fact sheets, posters, stickers and bookmarks

Free copies of the DVD are available through the Lantana WoNS team on 07 3224 8383 or by contacting Kym Johnson on telephone 07 3405 5360 or email Kym.Johnson@dpi.qld.gov.au.

Guidelines for the Development of Bird Habitat in Urban Areas

The Birds in Backyards Program (through a NSW Environmental Trust Grant) has recently completed a series of Best Practice Guidelines for the Development of Bird Habitat, not based on anecdotal evidence but on scientific research. Those interested in creating, or helping others to create bird-friendly urban areas should visit the BIBY website: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/spaces/guidelines.cfm>.

