

## Changes to Queensland Land Tenure Laws

Farmers and graziers who lease State land will get longer leases if they improve the condition of their land under changes to Queensland's land laws that came into effect on 1 January, 2008. Natural Resources and Water Minister, Craig Wallace, said the innovative environment-focused changes would affect nearly 65% of Queensland's land. Leaseholders will be able to get 30, 40 and 50-year leases, compared with the current maximum of 30 years.

The Delbessie Agreement, signed by Premier Anna Bligh and Craig Wallace on 3 December, will make Queensland a leader in caring for land. "The changes will help protect the economic viability of Bush communities by providing more secure tenure for agriculture and grazing," Mr Wallace said. "The strategy also rewards leaseholders who protect the natural resources and environmental values critical to their land's long-term viability," he said. When renewing a lease, 40-year terms will be granted if lessees keep or returned their land to good condition. Fifty-year terms will be offered to lessees who also conserve high-value environmental areas and reach access agreements with local indigenous people.

### General notices

- The State of the Environment Report 2007 has been released by the Queensland EPA. To download the complete report, its 'key findings' and the Queensland Government's response, visit [www.epa.qld.gov.au/stateoftheEnvironmentreport](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/stateoftheEnvironmentreport)
- Two styles of polo shirts with the Grassland Earless Dragon (GED) logo are now available for purchase. One is navy blue with a white logo and the other red and black with a black logo. They cost \$25 and are available from the Landcare Discovery Centre, Toowoomba, or from Paula Halford, Mt Tyson Landcare Group, 07 46 93 8186.
- Registrations are now open for the 2008 Queensland Landcare Conference, to be held 21-24 September in Monto. Keynote speakers include renowned soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones, award winning rural mental health specialist Fay Jackson and Gardening Australia presenter Jerry Coleby-Williams. More information is available online at [www.qldlandcareconference.com](http://www.qldlandcareconference.com) or [www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm](http://www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm).

*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.*

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Land for Wildlife website: via QMDC's website, [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)  
(follow the links to 'projects', 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.



## 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](http://qmdc.org.au)

LAND FOR WILDLIFE  
VOLUNTARY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

news news news

Winter 2008

Hello Land for Wildlife members,

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the regional Land for Wildlife newsletter. With Winter just around the corner and days getting markedly shorter, it is no wonder the year gets away. After representing Land for Wildlife at a recent Biodiversity/Voluntary Conservation Program workshop hosted by the Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group at Killarney, I was once again reminded of the wonderful conservation ethic that already exists in the rural community and the ever present thirst for information. I trust you find the state newsletter a wealth of interesting and helpful information and, remember, the highly informative south-east Queensland Land for Wildlife program newsletter can also be accessed on the web at [www.seqcatchments.org.au/pdfs/lfw](http://www.seqcatchments.org.au/pdfs/lfw).

It is with much sadness that QMDC will say goodbye next month to our Regional Ecologist, Greg Ford, who many of you might know. Affectionately known as the 'Batman', this edition is dedicated to him with a focus on the cute, furry and not so cuddly mammal species of our wildlife kingdom. The team here call Greg colleague, mentor and friend and we wish him all the very best for the future.

Spring will bring a hive of activity, with a number of property visit workshops currently being organised, including the 10th Anniversary open property scheme, so check out the Date Claimer below and keep a look out for more details. We'll look forward to catching up with you then.

Alison  
Regional Land for Wildlife Coordinator

### Date Claimers

#### National Tree Day

Join your local community or plant a tree on your property.  
• Monday 7 July

#### 10 years of Land for Wildlife

Visit last edition's profiled property, 'Wattle Downs' to talk about the production-biodiversity balance. Also celebrating National Threatened Species Day.

- Friday 12 September
- Afternoon tea and guest speakers included

Spend an afternoon at the Lucas Estate Winery, with owners, Louise and Colin, to talk about remnants, wildlife, and wines.

- Sunday 14 September, 3.30pm
- Afternoon tea and guest speaker included

#### Reptile Identification Workshop

Run by reptile experts, Steve Wilson (Qld Museum) and Rod Hobson (QPWS), and held at the Myall Park Botanic Gardens, Glenmorgan.

- Saturday 4 October
- Accommodation is available

newsletter  
for the Queensland Murray Darling Basin

Queensland  
Murray  
Darling  
Committee



### QMDC Land for Wildlife incentives program – 2007

Kate Steel, Regional Biodiversity Officer, QMDC Roma

In 2007 we invited Land for Wildlife participants in the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments for Expressions of Interest for funding for on-ground works on properties containing recognised high nature conservation values, where actual or potential habitat for threatened native plants and animals occurs. We asked for Intentions of Management plans in the Expressions of Interest that included actions to reduce or remove threats to significant species' habitat and that would increase habitat values.

The QMDC was also keen to have baseline data on flora and fauna on the properties involved, and arranged biological surveys to help guide landholder planning.

Thirteen properties were involved in the 2007 incentive program, extending from the New England Tablelands to the Western Downs near Roma, with \$33,500 provided for on-ground works. Nine and a half kilometers of wildlife friendly fencing was constructed, with 659 hectares of Land for Wildlife better protected for biodiversity. Eleven biological surveys were carried out and two field days held. Follow-up activities, such as fire management planning, are still occurring as a result of the recommendations made in the biological reports.



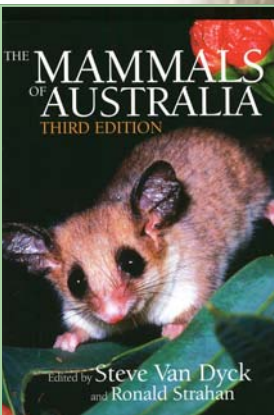
### Newsflash: Wildlife Friendly Fencing E-newsletter released

The first of the Wildlife Friendly Fencing Project e-newsletters can be accessed via the website [www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com](http://www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com) or by emailing me and I can forward the e-newsletter on to you from which you can subscribe. A very worthwhile read with some simple tips to help stop possums, gliders, flying foxes and bats like the Little Pied Bat from becoming casualties on barb wire fences.

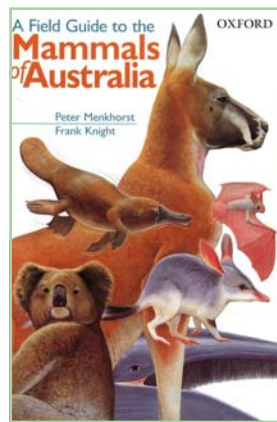
### Book reviews: want to know more about mammals?

Greg's recommendations:

The newly released 3rd edition of *The Mammals of Australia*, edited by Ronald Strahan and written by over 240 acknowledged experts in their field. The book provides an account of every species of native mammal known to have existed in Australia since European settlement, 389 species in total. Beautifully illustrated with full colour photographs, each species account includes a detailed description of the animal and its behaviour, a distribution map and a fact box that gives size, identification features, synonyms and alternative common names, subspecies, conservation status and abundance.



- Publisher: New Holland
- Cost: \$125



For in the car, field or paddock, a more user-friendly reference is *A field Guide to the Mammals of Australia*, 2nd edition, by Peter Menkhorst. This book provides concise and accurate details of the appearance, diagnostic features, distribution, habitat, and key behavioural characteristics of 379 mammal species known to have occurred in Australia since European settlement. Each double-page spread provides a full-colour illustration of the entire animal, a smaller diagram of diagnostic features, a distribution map, and species description and measurements, including details of how to differentiate between similar species.

- Publisher: Oxford University Press
- Cost: \$40

These can be purchased online at <http://www.andrewisles.com/AndrewIsles> and <http://www.publish.csiro.au>, or visit your nearest Dymocks bookstore.

### Fauna Profile – Little Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus picatus*)

Pronounced *kah'-lin-oh-lobe'-us peek-ah'-tus*, meaning pied (black-and-white) and bridle-lobe.

*"In this region, the Little Pied Bat is associated with brigalow-belah and poplar box vegetation communities, as well as ironbark-cypress forests, and riparian red-gum and coolabah woodlands"* (Greg Ford)



Recognised as threatened under Queensland and New South Wales legislation, the attractive Little Pied Bat can be distinguished by thick glossy black fur over its back and a bright white V-shaped line along the edges of its belly.

The Little Pied Bat can be found from the central Queensland coast through western New South Wales and into far eastern South Australia. Despite its wide distribution and habitat preferences, it is relatively uncommon, accounting only for about one per cent of all bats captured during broad-scale surveys. "I've caught it in traps through most of the region, but not on the eastern Darling Downs or in the granite-traprock country of the New England Tableland bioregion," said Greg Ford.

Early records suggested this species roosted in subterranean colonies in caves and old mine shafts, but, in this region, it appears to roost mainly in tree hollows, with an apparent preference for dead trees in some parts of its range. It is sometimes also found in human-made structures like woolsheds and abandoned buildings.

Little Pied Bats are highly agile, displaying fast, darting flight as they forage among the woodland canopy, taking insects mid-flight and also gleaning prey from foliage and other surfaces. This bat often occurs in areas of highly ephemeral surface water; however, it may regularly travel up to 14 to 34 kilometres to forage and drink before returning to its roost. In tree-hollows, the Little Pied Bat has been found to roost alone, or in groups of up to 10 individuals. Subterranean colonies may contain 10 to 15 individuals.

Pregnancy has been observed from mid-September, with females giving birth to one or two young in late spring (November) in northern New South Wales and central-western Queensland. Young are left in a maternity crèche while the females go out to forage each night. Juveniles have been observed leaving the maternity roost to forage with their mothers in early March in western Queensland.

#### References:

1. van Dyck, S. and Strahan, R. 2008. *The Mammals of Australia*. 2nd Edition. New Holland Publishers, Sydney.
2. [www.threatenedspecies.environment.new.gov.au/tsprofile](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.new.gov.au/tsprofile)

*"Other common species that some people may see and/or hear in the region are the yellow-bellied sheath-tailed bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*) and the white-striped free-tailed bat (*Tadarida australis*)"* (Greg Ford)

For profiles of these species and more, visit the Australian Museum website: <http://www.amonline.net.au/bats/index.htm>.

#### How we can help

- Protect large hollow-bearing trees and standing dead timber such as mulga, gidgee and leopardwood.
- Make sure our woodlands are regenerating, fence off areas if necessary.
- Leave old fence posts and sheds standing as roosting sites.
- Reduce pesticide use.
- Keep domestic cats inside at night and control feral cats.