

Greetings,

Welcome to this edition of *Land for Wildlife* news. It's springtime already and you may notice a slight bent towards the south eastern part of our region in this newsletter. Unashamedly this is because the Granite Belt is a great place to be in Spring.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, one wildflower walk has already occurred at Amiens State Forest, near Stanthorpe. This site is always a bountiful display of boronias in early Spring and Liz Bourne of the *Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium* tells me the winter rains have provided exceptional flowering this year. I hope you can get to one of these popular outings in September and October at Girraween and Mt Norman. The wildflower walks have been running since 2004, growing from a small idea into one of the region's most successful public events each year; featuring a private property is part of the success of the walks.

A *Land for Wildlife* member recently borrowed a couple of Elliot traps from us in an effort to bring a couple of voracious antechinus under control for relocation (ie out of the cupboards). The antechinus were safely trapped and relocated without troubles, and I encourage you to contact us for help in relocating native animals. We have a range of traps available for short-term loan including Elliot traps for small mammals and cages for medium sized mammals. There are also wildlife carers in most areas who can help with advice on caring for injured and sick animals.

Some recent successful funding applications to the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* program means *Land for Wildlife* members in the Toowoomba Landcare and Allora Landcare areas are eligible to submit Expressions of Interest to undertake subsidised environmental works on their property. This is great opportunity and I encourage people in those areas to contact your Landcare group or myself to discuss possibilities. While we continue to seek funding subsidies for *Land for Wildlife* across the region, there are limiting criteria set at Federal and State levels and we continue to promote to government the enormous volunteer efforts by members of *Land for Wildlife*.

Also coming up this season is a field walk at Karen McKechnie's *Land for Wildlife* property at Allora (23 September). Karen has a significant area of the endangered community of White Box woodlands, so we will be demonstrating monitoring and health assessment techniques as well as having displays of revegetation and wildlife-friendly fencing equipment. Please contact me if you would like to attend the field walk.

Enjoy the environment wherever you are.

Kate Steel

Land for Wildlife Coordinator

In this edition...

- Wildlife walks
- Events in the region
- Box Gum Grassy Woodlands Stewardships
- Brigalow regrowth research
- Queensland Landcare Conference

Springtime activities...



Walking with Wildflowers Spring 2010



Further information

WHAT TO BRING

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hat | <input type="checkbox"/> camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> binoculars |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water | <input type="checkbox"/> morning tea and/or lunch |

• Follow Wildflower Walk Signs to meeting point

• All walks start at 9:30am and aim to finish by 12:30pm

• Groups will be led by botanical guides who can assist in the identification of wildflowers and answer questions.

• Wildflower books and field guides will be available for purchase at each walk.

• Bookings not required, just turn up on the day.



2
Sunday 19th September

Junction Track
Girraween National Park
Meet at the day use area at 9:30am



3
Sunday 24th October

Mount Norman (South)
Mount Norman Road, via Wallangarra
Meet at Mount Norman day use area at 9:30

Further info: <http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/rare-wildflower-consortium>

Killarney Biodiversity Weekend

23-24 October 2010

The *Condamine Headwaters Landcare* group and *Killarney Bushcare* group are hosting a weekend focused on the wildlife of the district. The weekend will include speakers, workshops, a live animal show, Saturday night BBQ, information and guided field trips around the district. Meet at Killarney Recreation Hall, Willow St. Starts 8.30am! Contact Catherine on 07 4661 9909 or Susan on 07 4664 4074.

Help for fallen nestlings and fledglings in the Granite Belt

Temporary artificial bird nests are available for loan from the *Granite Belt Wildlife Carers* group. The nests have proven to be life-saving for small birds fallen from nests, where the parent birds are still around to feed and defend the baby. The nests are made from buckets and nesting material, providing an open-form nest close to where the baby has fallen. They work for hollow-nesting birds like galahs and parrots as well. If you find a uninjured bird fallen from it's nest at your place, it is best not moved. Contact Paula Boatfield on 07 4683 3119, or visit the website (details opposite) for more information on caring for fallen nestlings and fledglings.

Monster Market — Broadwater

Saturday, 11 September

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers will host a fund raising market at the CWA Hall, Texas Road, Broadwater from 7am until about 1pm.

- Bacon & egg burgers and sausage sizzle
- Tea, coffee, cakes and fresh doughnuts
- Granit Borders Wildlife Carers' stall with staff able to help you with your wildlife questions
- Donated secondhand goods
- Plant stall showcasing a range of native and exotic plants suitable for our area
- A kids activity area
- 2010 Anagram wildlife word competition
- Raffle of a painting by local artist



Since launching their website, the *Granite Belt Wildlife Carers* no longer produce a paper newsletter. To keep up to date with their activities and for comprehensive information on wildlife found in the Granite Belt, visit www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc

Call out for interest in Stanthorpe Sustainability Festival

The *Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium*, with *Granite Borders* and *Stanthorpe Landcare* groups, is planning a day to showcase living naturally and sustainably in Queensland's Granite Belt in June. A major focus will be on eco-friendly products and services in the Stanthorpe region. Demonstrations, talks, interactive workshops, catering, entertainment, artworks, exhibits will all display how the people of the community, live, love and celebrate life in Queensland's Granite Belt. Volunteers interested in taking on small or large tasks to make this day a success can contact **Paula Boatfield on 07 4683 3119, pboatfield@bigpond.com**.

Talk to members of the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium at the STANTHORPE GARDEN FEST AND TRADE FAIR

At the Stanthorpe Civic Centre,
8-9th October

Box Gum Grassy Woodlands Stewardships update



The box gum grassy woodland ecological community was the first to be targeted by Environmental Stewardship at a National level. It was the first community considered because of its extensive distribution across three States, its presence today predominantly on private land, and the ability of a large number of land managers to manage threats to the community through on-farm management.

Five reverse auction funding rounds were conducted in 2008-09 and 2009-10. From these rounds 201 land managers have been contracted to manage box gum grassy woodland on their land and will receive funding from the Australian Government for up to 15 years. These contracts will result in the targeted management of close to 27,000 hectares of this critically endangered ecological community.

More than \$3 million has been invested in southern Queensland for private land managers in the stewardship program. The program is now closed for new applicants while land managers involved in the first Queensland round are currently undertaking conservation-focused actions aimed at the maintenance and improvement of their projects. The actions include fencing, weed management, fire management, and most importantly resting areas from stock grazing during critical understorey regeneration and seed-setting times (Spring to end of Summer).

Since the project began, all properties have been visited by Australian National University scientists undertaking detailed vegetation surveys to establish benchmark data. The ANU team, led by Senior Research Scientist Geoff Kay, detected a high proportion of native species across all Queensland sites, which were among the highest quality Box Gum sites surveyed over the whole Stewardship program. The persistence of high numbers of large paddock trees (in a typically natural woodland composition) contributed heavily to this. The team was impressed by the high level of native vegetation still present in the Queensland and Northern NSW woodland systems. They predict the sites will change little over the duration of the program, the obvious exception being the issue of potential woody regrowth on sites. The ANU team hopes to develop an approach to experiment with thinning for ecological improvements during the coming years.



White Box in the Traprock

The ANU are also surveying birds and reptiles at each property in the coming spring months. Good results for these animals are expected, especially after the fantastic early spring rainfalls in the Traprock. The ANU team is keen to publish their results in future newsletters.

From the west... last edition we included a summary of work from John Dwyer on restoration and carbon sequestration in brigalow woodlands. Here is the second summary from Dr. Dwyer's PhD on managing brigalow regrowth for carbon emission offsets as a potential

Assessing the potential for win-win investment in an extensive Australian regrowth ecosystem

Dwyer, J. M., R. J. Fensham, D. W. Butler, and Y. M. Buckley. 2009. *Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment* 134:1-7.

Woody regrowth is extensive on abandoned agricultural lands and developed pastures worldwide. Regrowth is actively controlled in working pastures, but it could be managed to offset greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and other emitting industries with supplementary benefits for biodiversity conservation. This paper explores the case of brigalow regrowth in the

extensive pastoral landscape of north-eastern Australia. By synthesising current ecological knowledge with relevant socio-economic and policy considerations, it examines the potential of the Brigalow regrowth ecosystem to provide dual carbon/biodiversity benefits. Brigalow regrowth sequesters large amounts of carbon, especially when compared to other ecosystems from similar sub-humid climates. In addition, restoring regrowth is likely to have benefits for a wide range of native flora and fauna, including the endangered bridled nailtail wallaby. However, there are knowledge gaps relating to the landscape ecology of Brigalow regrowth and the impacts of management and climate change on carbon/restoration potential. Also, a conflict exists between short-term carbon sequestration and long-term restoration goals and we suggest a role for restoration thinning to resolve this. Regional demand for high biomass regrowth as a carbon offset is likely to be high but ambiguities in carbon policy threaten to diminish the use of natural regrowth for reforestation projects. Contact landforwildlife@qmdc.org.au for the full paper.

Sponsored places to Landcare Conference

Are you keen to learn more about sustainable land management, ways to reinvigorate your group or to have the chance to talk with like-minded people?

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) is sponsoring 12 community members from the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to attend the Queensland Landcare Conference in Caloundra on September 15-17.

QMDC Regional Landcare Facilitator Cassandra Grunberger said the annual Landcare conferences were an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge and information.

"It's vital we continue to develop the capacity of our Landcare community which is why applications for these QMDC-sponsored places are open to any member of the Basin community with an interest in Landcare, not just to existing Landcare group members," Ms Grunberger said.

QMDC sponsored delegates will receive full conference registration plus the choice of attendance at one of the optional field trips on Wednesday, September 15 or fuel reimbursement to the value of \$75 to assist with travel costs.

"Any member of the community who would like the opportunity to attend the conference as a QMDC sponsored delegate needs to simply complete the form available on the QMDC website – www.qmdc.org.au – and tell us in 50 words or less how your local Landcare group will benefit from a delegate attending the 2010 Queensland Landcare Conference," Ms Grunberger said.

Applications close very soon. Contact Cassandra as soon as possible.

"The annual Queensland Landcare Conference is the premier capacity building and networking event for the community natural resource management sector of Queensland and offers community delegates a great opportunity to learn from their peers as well as hear about the latest science, policy and social issues influencing community conservation," Ms Grunberger said. Further information about the conference program including speakers and workshop themes can be found on the Landcare Conference webpage www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm.



Did this newsletter reach you at your new address?

If you have changed your postal address, phone number or email address, please contact the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee to tell us your new details.

email landforwildlife@qmdc.org.au ■ phone (07) 4637 6209

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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For general information about Land for Wildlife, please contact the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee on 07 4637 6200 or go to qmdc.org.au

Land for Wildlife
in the Queensland Murray Darling-Basin
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Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC)
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