

# Collaborations

LEP024-02

## Landcare Enabling Land For Wildlife

Granite Borders Landcare Committee Inc



### A capacity and resource building partnership

#### The issue

Historical over clearing, over grazing and over-application of superphosphate fertilisers across the Northern Tablelands has led not only to critical reductions in natural biodiversity but also irreversible consequences, as seen with New England dieback. While this was most extreme in the early 2000s, pockets of dieback still regularly occur and this is evident in Tenterfield Shire today. Despite this, appreciation for healthy natural ecosystems is increasing as climate change becomes less contested. Coupled with migration trends from Coastal areas to the Granite country and accompanying lifestyle block investments, landholders are searching for ways to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity on their properties. Furthermore, Granite Borders Landcare has had few options to support people who are ready to make positive changes to our beautiful country in any meaningful and systematic way.

#### The solution

Granite Borders Landcare tapped into the Land For Wildlife (LFW) program delivered by Community Environment Network (CEN) in New south Wales. This is a step towards rehabilitating native bushland on a small patchwork scale. The Land for wildlife program offers free solution for private landholders to encourage wildlife (flora and fauna) on their properties. GBLC now has a team of trained assessors who help landholders learn about native plants, birds and ecosystems. They help them to plan ways to manage tracts of land greater than 2 Ha to protect against threats like weeds and pest animals, regenerate healthy ecosystems and integrate nature with other land uses. This program is free to landholders, so it is accessible and popular. The minimal remuneration available from CEN helps reimburse LFW Assessors on an honorarium basis, and barely covers the time and expertise required to produce professional, accurate and well researched assessments. LEP makes the coordination of this program possible.

#### The impact

Operational benefits of conducting LFW assessments include working face to face with people on their own country. Getting out on to country during LFW assessments facilitates a close and detailed survey of local bushland flora and fauna. For example, we have identified species of notable conservation value, such as the Tangle Orchid (*Plectorrhiza beckleri*) (at the limit of its known range) the Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) (categorised as 'Endangered' in NSW ), Turquoise parrots (*Neophema pulchella*) and Dusky Woodswallows (*Artemus cyanopterus*) (both categorised as 'Vulnerable' in NSW). These observations can contribute to scientific understanding of these species, their distribution, changes in populations and so on. Such discoveries can result in greater appreciation for remnant bushland communities and feed into localised management plans by individual landholders, including habitat restoration and pest animal recommendations. One landholder recently stated that the value of Land For Wildlife was enabling property-specific conservation activities and knowledge to be passed on to future generations, particularly her children who witness the LFW process. Mapping of Land For Wildlife properties has become an important part of the GBLC LFW service, and we are fortunate to be able to engage local experts to value add



#### Key facts

- Total LFW assessments completed = 10
- Total currently being undertaken = 3
- Total number of EOI's = 2 (ongoing)
- Total ha Tenterfield under LFW agreements = 635.8ha

#### Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

30 Jun, 2025