

2023

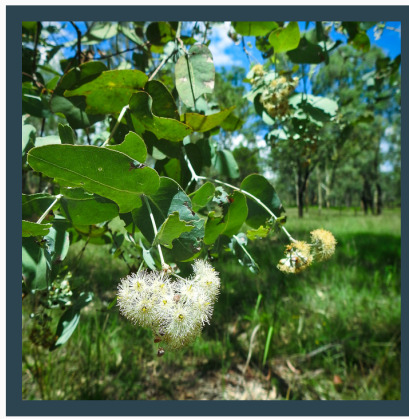
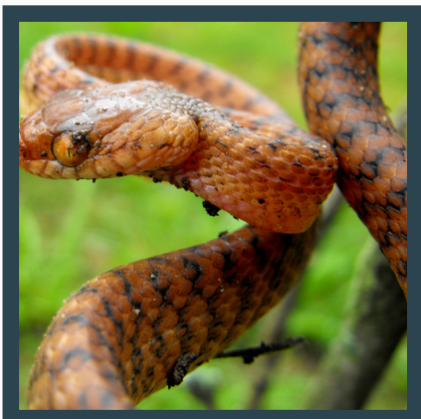
# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



It was a quiet Autumn in the Little Liverpool Range. The Turner Family Foundation, the Qld Trust for Nature and University of Queensland hosted a fantastic nest box workshop for the landholders in the Lockyer Valley and Ipswich Region. Landholders were exposed to current research being conducted by the QLD Trust for Nature and UQ investigating the presence of arboreal mammals and hollow using birds. Researchers are also looking at how nest box height and surrounding habitat impacts species residing in the nest boxes. This workshop comes at a great time as we wait to inspect nest boxes currently installed across the range. We are very excited to see who has moved in!

Remember to go check out our iNaturalist page at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wildlife-of-the-little-liverpool-range>

iNaturalist is a great way for everyone to record species to help inform important management strategies.



## NEWS & FEATURES

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# LLR Native Species Profile

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By Martin Bennett

Common name:

Goliath Stick Insect

Scientific name:

*Eurycnema goliath*

These are large insects, the females can reach lengths of 25cm, and have rather heavy bodies. Because of the females weight she cannot fly, The Goliath has two pairs of bright green wings with red markings underneath, which are thought to discourage predators when the wings are opened quickly.

The female can lay up to 1000 eggs in the ground beneath the Eucalypt trees they feed on. One of the largest predators of these large stick insects is the Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata*, a bird of prey.



Photo credit:  
Martin Bennett

# Pest Features

Common name: Water Hyacinth

Scientific Name: Eichhornia crassipes

Written by Jack McCann

Native to South America, Water hyacinth is one of the most invasive plants in the world, being listed in the top 100 of the world's worst invasive species, and recently ranked among the top 20 most invasive plant species in southeast Queensland

Water hyacinth is a restricted category 3 invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

The free-floating nature of water hyacinth and its high seed production and ability to reproduce vegetatively means it can quickly and easily spread throughout an aquatic ecosystem. It is capable of doubling its density in less than ten days.

Dense carpets alter the ecology of infested areas as the mats of vegetation lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water, shade out native aquatic plant species, alter river hydrology and increase organic sediment. These impacts can result in death or displacement of many native bird and fish species.

Hyacinth was once a huge problem in the Bremer and Brisbane catchments, but control measures have proven successful at reducing its density and impacts throughout our area.

In 1975, 2 moth species and 2 weevil species were introduced to Australia from South America to provide biological control, and these measures have successfully reduced the impact of Water hyacinth in Australia.

Physical removal of hyacinth from the waterway is the best control method wherever hyacinth is encountered.



Photo credit: Jack McCann



Photo credit: Picture Ipswich

# Boosting the Roosting! Using Nest Boxes to conserve native species.



Written by: Zeke Davidson

Nesting and roosting habitat is critical for hollow-dependent, arboreal mammals and birds and is a lifeline in areas where hollow-bearing trees (very old trees!) are not present or abundant.

Declining or threatened species such as brush-tailed phascogales, glossy black cockatoos, and Corben's long-eared bats are particularly at risk without these key habitat features.

The Hidden Vale Wildlife Centre hosted a presentation by Assoc. Prof Diana Fisher (University of Queensland Hidden Vale Research Station Dep. Director) and a community meeting on our recent nest box monitoring program. The program will monitor animals using nest boxes as a part of long-term biodiversity monitoring on the property with the Turner Family Foundation.

The workshop included topics of surveying hollow-dependent species using nest boxes, deploying nest boxes, cameras and bat detectors, and using the Wildlife Insights online platform to process pictures and identify species.

The initial results showed that our Nest boxes in 12 sites across Hidden Vale were colonised with one month of installation. Nest box residents included some threatened species like X, Y and Z. As expected, the less threatened ones like possums and squirrel gliders were well represented too. In-fact, despite us making dedicated boxes available, those cheeky possums inspected every box we put out there in short order. Even those with holes way too small for them to enter!

We put up nine types of boxes intending to spread a broad net, as several species might use one type of box. These ranged from small boxes for things like phascogales to large ones big enough for Glossy black cockatoos and greater gliders. Our thanks to Diana for raising the lions share of the funding for these boxes, and working closely with TFF to plan and implement a monitoring grid that will serve Hidden Vale and the Little Liverpool Range for decades to come.

For more information on nest boxes and to purchase your own visit [Hollow Log Homes](https://www.hollowloghomes.com.au/)  
<https://www.hollowloghomes.com.au/>



Photo credit: Zeke Davidson

# Landholder Highlight: Conservation in Calvert!

Owen and Elizabeth joined Land for Wildlife and the Landholder Conservation Partnerships in September of 2016. Since 2016, a large amount of work has gone into maintaining the weed burden to allow native species to flourish.

The Collin's property is a beautiful array of Spotted Gum and Narrow-leaved Ironbark dominated open eucalypt forest and is home to a number of Locally, State and Nationally significant species such as the koala, glossy black cockatoos, and squirrel gliders.

Learning they have a diversity of native grasses has been a major highlight of their conservation journey. Another exciting moment was when squirrel gliders were seen residing in one of his nest boxes. This came as a bit of a surprise as they didn't know they had gliders on the property.

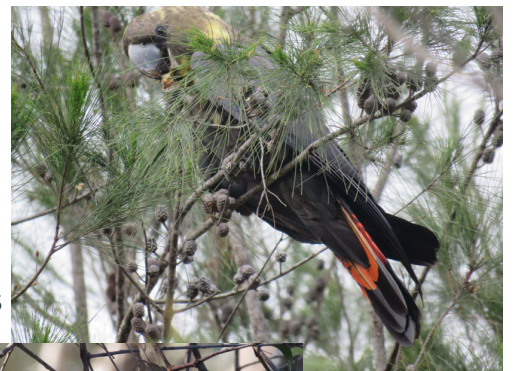
A vast number of wildlife species have been seen on the property, making it difficult to choose a favourite animal species. Wallabies are plentiful with females and their joeys frequently trimming the lawn. The occasional echidna, goanna, and glossy black cockatoo come and visit the property. A pair of owls are often found perched close to the ground. Large carpet snakes are seen occasionally and wedgetail eagles are one of their favourite birds to see. All in all, the property is a hub of wildlife activity!

The main goal for their property is to enable native plants that already exist on the property to grow with minimal competition from introduced species. Hopefully with the right flora, more native fauna will visit.

Keeping on top of weeds before they seed has been the biggest challenge to date, particularly when they live busy lives and have little free time available. Luckily, they also have the assistance of their trusty sidekicks – the grandkids – to help out on weed busts during their property walks. Like most of you, there is a constant struggle with maintaining weeds when neighbouring properties have significant infestations.

Despite the challenges, Owen continues to support the natural regeneration of the property to provide suitable habitat for the abundant fauna on his property.

Photo  
credit:  
Owen  
Collins





iNaturalist  
Statistics

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7312  
Observations

1812  
Species  
identified

204  
Observers

## Upcoming events

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August 2023 - Workshop (Keep an eye out for the topic!)  
25th and 26th November 2023 - LLRI Bioblitz