



Summer Newsletter 2025

Shania recently finished as the Little Liverpool Range Officer. We thank Shania for her dedication and hard work in the role. We know that she will continue to do great things!

The initiative will be recruiting into this position shortly. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this temporary change.

We look forward to welcoming a fresh face soon!

News and features:

- Landholder highlight: Marina from Lanefield
- Black Cockatoo boxes at Mark's place
- Upcoming events: Connecting Corridors
- iNaturalist Statistics

Landholder highlight: Marina from Lanefield

I have 60 acres of 'God's own country'; mostly sloping with a seasonal watercourse through a flat, two dams and scattered vegetation with three patches of remnant dry vine forest.

I bought the property in a drought 22 years ago and it has supported my small herd of cattle and horses through a few droughts since. Flood years brought rock, silt and some erosion, while good rainfall years have brought excellent pasture growth.

In 2019, I had my dams cleaned out when they were empty due to drought. I got some valuable land regeneration advice from a friend and in 2020 started to address existing erosion, water flow issues and planned to re-vegetate the watercourse as much as possible to improve the soil condition. I had a shallow dam and a leaky dam made at the point where water enters my property, which runs out of the bluff and the properties above me. This was to slow and disperse the water across the flat and reduce pressure on the seasonal watercourse. I also had some small erosion areas filled in that year.

I joined Land for Wildlife in October



2019, which provided ongoing encouragement, great resources, support and knowledge, following up with a Conservation Partnership Agreement and a Property Management Plan. With plants from Ipswich City Council, I started re-vegetation work in September 2021 in and around a section of the watercourse and next to remnant dry vine forest. Some planting continued in 2022, with another major planting in April 2023 - a total of 550 plants to date. More planting is on the agenda for this year.



Since joining Land for Wildlife, and then the Little Liverpool Range Initiative in March 2022, I have attended many workshops and field days. Both programs have provided me with fantastic individual support, significant information and resources, great networking opportunities and access to nest boxes and wildlife cameras.

I have been fortunate in receiving grant funds through the Nature Conservation Grant in 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 to support invasive weed management in the remnant vine forest and re-vegetation areas; a great bonus and encouragement to keep up this important but challenging work.

The last three years have not been without challenges due to more erosion through flooding and bumper years for weed growth. Most encouragingly, the growth of plants in the re-vegetation areas has been incredible. I am amazed and delighted to see the growth after only 1.5 to 3 years. The benefits of the re-vegetation areas multiply as the area continues to expand and flourish; height and health, blooming flowers, the butterflies attracted, the birds, frogs and insects enjoying the new habitat. The planning, the expense, the hard work... all worth it!

I share this beautiful land with a great variety of birds and animals, from tiny blue and red backed wrens to Wedge Tailed Eagles. Among my visitors is a friendly common brush tailed possum who has raised three babies in my dairy and more shy Mountain Brush Tail possums. I also encounter wallabies and kangaroos on every trip down the paddock, the antechinus and micro bats in the vine forest, and the occasional echidna.

Though it doesn't stop me worrying about the next drought, water security, soil and pasture condition and managing weeds, I am glad to be doing my small part to support my patch of paradise and all the creatures that visit or call it home.

Black Cockatoo Boxes at Mark's place

There are big things happening on Mark Headridge's Calvert property, from installing giant nest boxes to removing immense lantana.

Mark joined Land for Wildlife and council's Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program in early 2023 and applied for his first Nature Conservation Grant this year.

With the grant, he is tackling three significant projects on his 20ha property at a scale that would not have been possible without the support of the grant.

Six nest boxes were installed on his property, including two massive black cockatoo nest boxes that towered over the others, simulating tree hollows that would take more than 200 years to form.

They were the heaviest installed by Hollow Log Homes and something of a prototype modified from a Palm parrot nest box.

Mark said he hoped the large nest boxes would be eventually used by the



vulnerable Glossy black cockatoos that often visited his property.

“We get them at dusk, they feed on the she-oaks trees at the front and then congregate on the dam,” he said.

The dam will also be upgraded with plantings and by creating leaky weirs on the slopes to disperse runoff.

But it's the huge task of tackling a dense lantana infestation that will take the most work. Down in the gully the lantana is immense and impenetrable, with the infestation creeping up the slopes.

Despite Mark's property providing excellent koala habitat and being part of a koala corridor, he has never seen any sign of koalas in the four years he's been there – possibly due to lantana blocking their access.

With the support and advice of specialised contractor Richard Jonker, Mark is making huge inroads with the lantana control. Different techniques are being used in different areas, from mulching with a brushcutter, handweeding, foliar spray and cut and paste of stumps and regrowth.

Looking at his neighbour's weed-free paddock next door, Mark says it's what he aspires to in five years' time.

With the support of Land for Wildlife and council's Nature Conservation Grants, he has taken a huge leap towards the habitat improvements that will bring more wildlife to his property.



iNaturalist Projects: Road Kill

The iNaturalist group is continuing to provide excellent observations, so please continue to contribute.

Before Shania left, she mentioned the desire to create an iNaturalist page for road kill.

Road kill is common on Australian roads and usually only reported if damage is done to the vehicle. According to AAMI, kangaroos make up over 80 per cent of all claims involving an animal ([Roadkill: Wildlife on Our Roads - Road Sense Australia](#)). In the range, we know there is a high variation in animals and the majority will not cause damage to the vehicle.

The information gathered will hopefully drive future studies in the range and potentially lead to fauna infrastructure projects.

If you see a dead or injured animal and you can *safely* pull over, please take a photo and upload it to iNaturalist. Your upload could help drive future projects!

Upcoming Events

Save the date: Connecting Corridors Forum

Saturday, 24 May 2025

Spicers Hidden Vale

Join Ipswich City Council and the Little Liverpool Range Initiative network to connect, learn and share successes on conservation efforts in the range.

Across the day you will hear from guest speakers, local landholders and learn about conservation projects from the region.

More details to come in March 2025.





New - Land for Wildlife: November 2024

- Magic at Mt Cotton
- Nest boxes for Greater Gliders
- From canal living to hinterland dreams
- Dark skies

[Find here](#)

iNaturalist Statistics



14,429
Observations

2,518
Species
identified

328
Observers

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Our mailing address is:

Little Liverpool Range Initiative (c/o Stephani Grove)
PO Box 191
Ipswich, QLD 4305
Australia