

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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What a beautiful summer we had in the Little Liverpool Range. Following the Christmas break, we had a very busy January and February. During January, our long term nest box monitoring project began with the installation of 25 nest boxes where an additional 10 were then installed in late March. On the 25th of February we had our community morning tea and community consultation where landholders came together from across the range to discuss major problems faced by landholders, wildlife and to brainstorm some future events. It was a great morning where everyone was so passionate about the topics we ran overtime!

Remember if you live in the LLRI, there are wildlife cameras and acoustic recorders to be borrowed if you want to see what's out and about on your property.

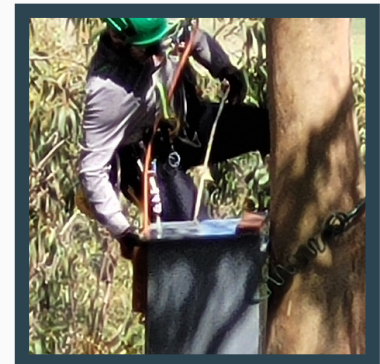


Fig 1. Nest boxes being installed on private property.

LLR Native Species Profile

By Tom Scott

Common name:

Eastern Chestnut Mouse

Scientific name:

Pseudomys gracilicaudatus

Status:

Least Concern

Did you know along with Australia's broad range of unique native marsupials, we also have several unique, native rodents? Australia's native rodents are generally outcompeted in suburban areas by the introduced brown and black rats, as well as the house mouse. But in the Australian bush, and in more remote areas these little critters rule! The eastern chestnut mouse is one of many native Australian rodents that occur across Queensland, and one of a few that occur in the Ipswich/Lockyer valley region. They like complex ground habitat, occupying heath and swampy areas, as well as dense grassy understoreys in more open woodland, and dry and wet sclerophyll forests. Without bags of grain or food to chew into out in the bush, you might never even know they're there, but in the secluded ironbark dominated woodlands of the Little Liverpool range, with the understorey dominated by kangaroo grass you'd be sure to find a few if you went looking.



Fig. 2 Cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Pest Features

Common name: Cats Claw Creeper

Scientific Name: *Dolichandra unguis-cati*

Cat's claw creeper presents a massive threat to many vegetation types with the potential to smother native vegetation. Cat's claw is a Category 3 invasive weed under the Biosecurity Act 2014, requiring everyone to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This invasive vine creates an extensive root/tuber system making it quite challenging to remove. Without the removal of the tuberous root, the plant will continue to regrow. If you'd like more information on Cat's Claw Creeper visit this website:

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/63336/cats-claw-creeper.pdf

Supporting Species through Habitat Creation



In January and March 2023, 35 nest boxes were installed across private properties in the LLRI. All of these nest boxes are part of the LLRI's new long-term nest box monitoring project aiming to support our locally significant species such as the squirrel glider, powerful owl and little pied bat. Landholders who received nest boxes are part of the ongoing monitoring of these boxes to better understand what animals are living on their property. Nest boxes can be a great tool to provide additional safe nesting sites to areas that may be lacking natural hollows. The initiative has purchased nest box inspection cameras where landholders can inspect nest boxes regularly.



Fig 3. Microbat box being installed in the Lanefield area

Due to the height of cockatoo nest boxes, we are unable to monitor these with our cameras, however we will be getting the experts to come check these out for us. So watch this space for updates on our nest box occupants.



Fig 4. Cockatoo/Owl box being installed on a property in Tallegalla (left) and a microbat box being installed in Calvert (right).

Landholder highlight: Conservation in Tallegalla



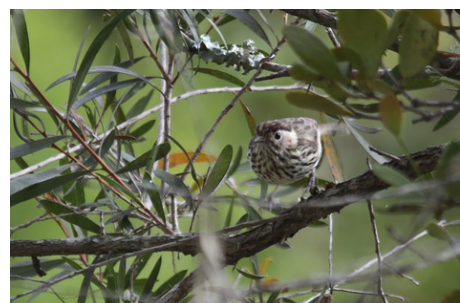
Written by Mick Drews

Kate and I joined Land for wildlife in 2003 when we first purchased our 20 acre property at Tallegalla. However we were latecomers to the LLR initiative, only joining a couple of years ago. The voluntary conservations programs and LLRI are an excellent source of information and inspiration that supports our conservation efforts.

Over the years our focus has been on replanting native vegetation as the first step in supporting ecosystem restorations, we have also been enthusiastic weed managers. Our efforts are starting to pay off and the enhanced vegetation is now attracting a wonderful variety of wildlife. The birdlife is very rewarding, we are even starting to see species that are more often associated with better quality forest, such as fruit doves and owls.

Climbing asparagus and madeira vine might be our most frustrating challenges, it seems to grow back behind you after hours of backbreaking work. It is also worrying when a new weed turns up, I have recently pulled out a patch of tecoma stans seedlings and a single Mother of Millions plant. I expect more will follow.

Even though we have been at it for 20 years there is still much to do. I think the vague aim is to give a bit of country back to the bush for the benefit of everyone. Along the way we find little victories to celebrate, like a new bird or reptile or some natural recruitment of an interesting plant. These are the experiences money can't buy.



iNaturalist Statistics

6626
Observations

1711
Species
identified

177
Observers

Upcoming events

TBC - Cultural Burning Workshop