

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



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## NEWS & FEATURES

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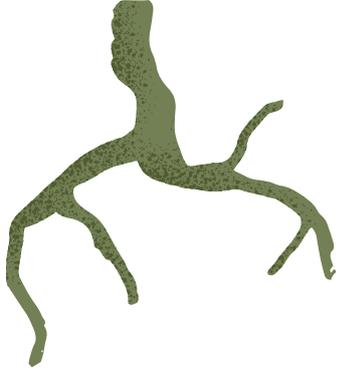
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## Heading into Summer

As the warmer months approach and the rain continues to pour in, we are starting to see more biodiversity across our properties. Warm weather means our reptiles are out basking in the sun. The abundance of rain we've had has meant our plant species are flowering in abundance, making it much easier to see and identify our beautiful plants.

As the end of the year approaches our iNaturalist competitions draw to a close. Reptiles are the final group we are focusing on, so get out your phones and start recording! Join our iNaturalist army as we continue to add to our records of species across the range.



## Pest features: Creeping lantana

Many are aware of the common Lantana (*Lantana camara*) however we are also burdened by *L. camara*'s lesser known cousin - *Lantana montevidensis*. Creeping lantana is an introduced species from South America which has a very similar appearance to *L. camara* but has a less erect structure and 'creeps' as the name suggests. Like *L. camara*, this species is a Category 3 weed and must not be disposed or distributed across Queensland. Creeping lantana is found in a diverse array of habitats from tropical to semi-arid regions and favours disturbed areas such as pastures, railways and roadsides.

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## LLR Native Species Profile

Common name:  
Brush-tailed rock-wallaby

Scientific name:  
*Petrogale penicillata*

The brush-tailed rock-wallaby (BTRW) is one of the icons of the Little Liverpool Range. As a vulnerable species we are trying to obtain more data on the BTRW distribution across the LLR. This goal aligns with our 4th LLRI strategic aim - to support locally rare and threatened species. It is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 individuals left in the wild with populations currently declining due to farming and predation by introduced species.





## Research showcase: Housing small native mammals in an ecosystem

BY TOM SCOTT

My research focused on understanding the importance of regrowth, cleared areas and pasture to small native mammals.

I intensively surveyed sites made of remnant vegetation that had never been cleared, alongside areas that were regrowing, and cleared areas and pasture. I then went in and did vegetation surveys in those areas to understand what plant species they had in them.

My surveys were also some of the first surveys done at Old Hidden Vale, which has since helped with site selection for a number of other surveys and work. Having a starting understanding of what species we have in the landscape can help us select which ones need conserving the most. On top of that hopefully this work can help guide more research into protecting regrowing vegetation which can be really important for some critters in the landscape!

One of the main take aways from this was that regrowing vegetation, even if it looked a bit ratty appeared to be really valuable to a lot of small native mammals. That and that some areas full of blady grass can be havens for tonnes of rodents!

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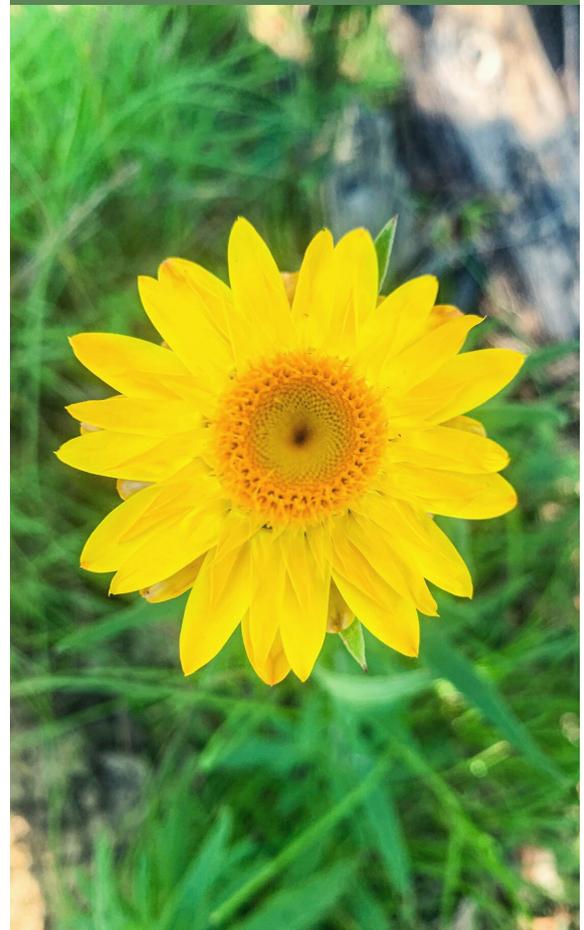
iNaturalist  
statistics

3,845  
Observations

1,273  
Species  
identified

84  
Observers

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# Upcoming events

December 2022 - Final month of

iNaturalist competitions (Reptiles)

2nd February 2022 - LLRI Office HOurs

Afternoon Tea

26th February 2022 - Habitat

restoration workshop

March 2022 - Pick up the poo day!

April 2022 - The LLRI Great bioblitz

