

# LAND FOR WILDLIFE

*voluntary wildlife conservation*



**The Land For Wildlife Newsletter - 40th Anniversary Edition 2021**



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**Department of Environment, Land,  
Water & Planning, Victoria, Australia**

Land For Wildlife Victoria Website:  
<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/land-for-wildlife>



**Peter Johnson**

Statewide Coordinator and  
Newsletter Editor

**Department of Environment,  
Land, Water and  
Planning (DELWP)**

Box 3100,  
Bendigo Delivery Centre  
Bendigo, 3554

Victoria, Australia

Mobile: 0409 793 364

Fax: (03) 5448 4982

Email: [LFW@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:LFW@delwp.vic.gov.au)

*See last page for a list of Land For Wildlife Officers and Contacts.*

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*Provided in digital format to conserve wildlife habitat.*

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**136 186**



# Letter from the Editor



*This edition of the Land For Wildlife Newsletter celebrates 40 years of the program in Victoria.*

The Land For Wildlife (LFW) program has been quietly enriching and improving connections between community and wildlife landscapes ever since it began in 1981. Since then, around 10,000 properties have been registered as LFW, engaging and motivating more than 24,000 people in Victoria alone (the number doubles when interstate properties are included). This, plus many requesting to be on the Land For Wildlife mailing list, has broadly influenced conservation outcomes on private land locally, interstate and internationally.

The original idea for the Land For Wildlife Program arose out of meetings between the original Fisheries and Wildlife Service (now the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) and the Bird Observers Club of Australia (BOCA - now part of Birdlife Australia). At one of those meetings it was recognised that landholders voluntarily protecting habitats for wildlife should be encouraged and supported.

Following this, the first Land for Wildlife property was established in November 1981, at Winchelsea in Victoria. This acknowledged the importance of private land conserving habitats and species not represented on public land, in maintaining links between public reserves and other private land, contributing to sustainable landscapes, and creating a sense of connection between like-minded people.

Thankyou for your dedication to Land For Wildlife and voluntary wildlife conservation, for directly or indirectly influencing others, by educating families, friends and neighbours, or by helping others find the confidence to complete works on their properties. For more information about how the LFW Program has made a difference, please continue reading on the next two pages.

*All the best,*

**Peter Johnson**

**Statewide Coordinator**

**Land For Wildlife Victoria**

*(Contact details top left)*



## Land for Wildlife Property Statistics, Victoria.

Current LFW Membership	Total Property Area Hectares (ha)	Habitat Existing & Retained	Habitat Under Restoration	Total Retained and Restored Habitat
5,000	500,000 ha	140,000 ha	25,000 ha	165,000 ha

*Since 1981*

**10,000 Properties**

**1 Million ha Registered**

*Cover image: Celebrating 40 Years of Voluntary Wildlife Conservation*

# 40 Years of Land For Wildlife

*Celebrating 40 Years of Voluntary Wildlife Conservation on Private Land in 2021*

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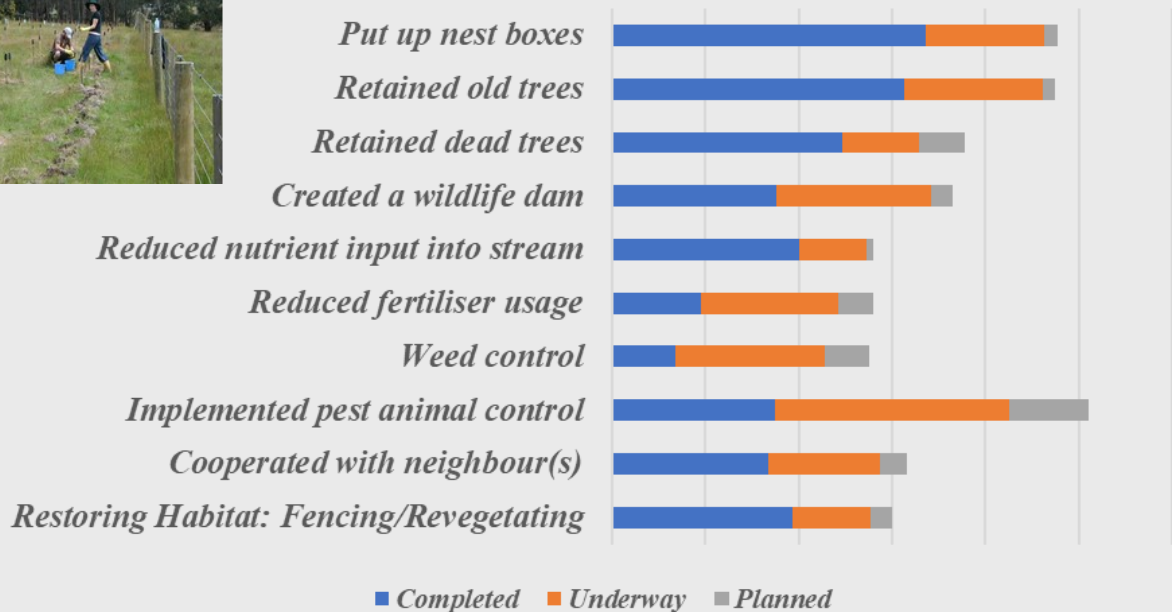
The **Land For Wildlife** programme aspires to promote participation in voluntary wildlife conservation and establish a conservation ethic among private landowners.

## **Land For Wildlife supports:**

- ♦ **Ecosystem Recovery**  
(e.g., Reduction in threatened species and communities)
- ♦ **Regeneration and Re-establishment of native vegetation**  
(e.g., Revegetation programs using local native species.)
- ♦ **Retention of regional vegetation network**  
(e.g., Patchworks of remnant vegetation and revegetation connected across the landscape.)
- ♦ **Community understanding and participation**  
(e.g., Land For Wildlife signs are prominent in rural and regional areas, with high public awareness and support for private land conservation.)



## **Land For Wildlife Actions Completed, Underway or Planned**



# LFW Survey Insights

*Celebrating 40 Years of Voluntary Wildlife Conservation on Private Land in 2021*

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## *From Recent Surveys:*

### *How did members find out about Land For Wildlife?*

When asked how they heard about Land For Wildlife (LFW), members indicated they either “saw the sign”, they heard about it from friends, or attended an event where LFW information was available. Members take immense pride in telling others about their involvement in LFW.

In 50% of occasions where people were undertaking management actions, LFW directly influenced landholders undertaking those management actions. Almost all members are dedicated to nature conservation, believing it is their responsibility to take action, and that more people should take action.

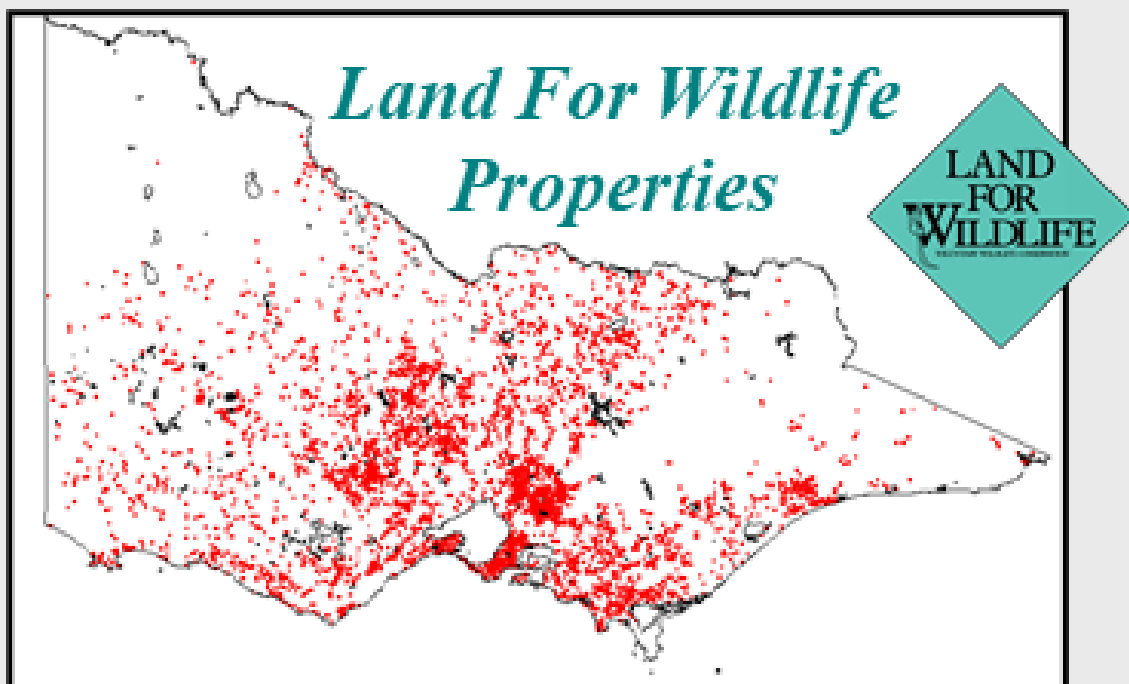
### *675,000 hours of voluntary time*

When asked how much time is spent on their property conducting revegetation, fencing, and weed control, members reported a bit more than 10 hours per month. This amounts to more than 675,000 hours of voluntary time across the membership, per year. If the going rate of labour is \$40 per hour, this equates to \$27 Million annually of in-kind, voluntary contribution to managing wildlife habitat on private land in Victoria. This is an extraordinary contribution on the behalf of LFW members!

### *There's more!*

At least 80% of landholders surveyed estimated they were spending an average of \$2,100 on conservation management actions each year. This equates to an annual capital investment of \$10 million by members undertaking voluntary wildlife conservation actions.

In addition, at least 80% of landholders surveyed have not accessed funding through incentives or grants, reinforcing the volunteer commitment not linked to financial benefits. Almost half have 60% or more of their property set aside for conservation management. Most properties are relatively small, with 32% being less than 5ha and a further 35% under 20ha. Most landholders in LFW do not rely on farming for their income - less than a quarter are primary producers.



# Landholder Health Boost

## *Landowners Avoid \$57million In Healthcare Costs Due To Boost In Mental And Physical Wellbeing*

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*While the following information has originated from Landcare surveys, it is still relevant to Land For Wildlife members. Landcare involves community groups and while many Land For Wildlife members may belong to a Landcare Group, most are working privately on their own properties. The results relate to Landcare members involved mainly in social or group settings.*

For decades, those involved in Landcare have testified to a greater sense of self, both physically and mentally, resulting from an enhanced link with their local environment. This, in turn, has boosted community wellbeing and it has long been the desire of the Landcare network to quantify the significance of these benefits.

Recently published findings by KPMG Australia in partnership with Landcare Australia, indicate Landcare volunteers enjoy substantial improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing – and a significant decrease to their healthcare costs.

Surveying more than 1,000 Landcare volunteers and coordinators from Landcare groups, the findings in the report, titled: ***Building resilience in local communities: [The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare](#)***, suggest substantial improvements in wellbeing owing to involvement in Landcare lead to an approximate savings from avoided healthcare costs of \$403 per individual per year.





# Go With VBA Go

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VBA Go is a mobile tool that links directly to the [Victorian Biodiversity Atlas \(VBA\)](#), making it easier than ever for environmental managers, researchers, students and all community members to share records of Victoria's native species while out and about.

All your data feeds into the [VBA](#) and is used to inform the [Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 Plan's](#) new decision support tools, which use a landscape approach to integrate biodiversity information. This will help to develop goals and actions as well as to measure success or to adapt the strategy.

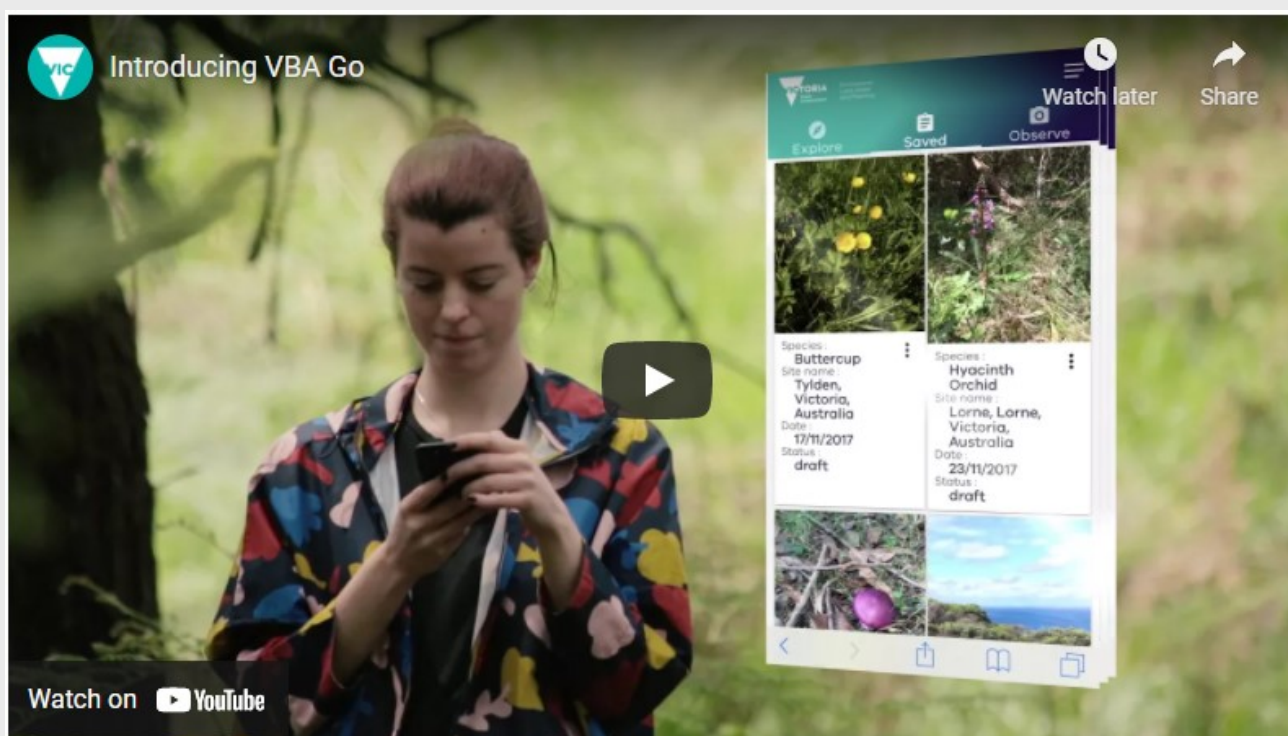
## How does it work?

[VBA Go](#) is a website which works on any connected device (it is not an App as such and cannot be found on Play Store or iTunes). All you need is your mobile phone and your existing VBA login details, or first [sign up to the VBA here](#) (the link provides instructions on how to sign up).

Simply take a photo of the species you identified and add it as a new observation. Once your location services are enabled, VBA Go can also get the location and date from this image saving you even more time. You can also include extra information such as breeding behaviour and how many individuals were seen. Once you upload this record it is shared directly with the [VBA](#).

With this information collated in the one place, we can all make informed decisions about how to manage our environment. It will help to inform where we should protect wildlife habitat and ensure the survival of threatened species.

[Click here for full instructions](#) on how to sign-up and Login to VBA Go, or copy and past the following website link: <https://publish.viostream.com/play/c-nu95w3n>



# Common Blue-tongues

*Have you ever wondered why a Common Blue-tongued Lizard has such a bright blue tongue?*  
Read on to find out why.

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## **Scientific name:** *Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*

Common Blue-tongued Lizards (“Blue-tongues”) are named after their bright blue fleshy tongue, which contrasts with their pink mouths. They use their tongue as a defence tool to scare off predators.

When Blue-tongues feel threatened they stick out their tongue to frighten predators. They are also known to hiss when threatened. Blue-tongues are not venomous, but may try to bite if handled. If you come across one around your home, it’s best to leave it alone. It won’t harm you or any of your pets.

## **Description**

Blue-tongues can grow up to 60 cm in length. They have silvery grey to brown smooth scales, with distinct dark stripes running across their body and tail. Their underbelly is usually a light grey colour. Blue-tongues have a broad triangular head that is wider than the neck. Their eyes are reddish-brown to grey and there is a broad black strip that runs from the eye to their neck.



## **Diet**

Blue-tongues search for food during the warmer parts of the day. They feed on a variety of insects, beetles, snails, wildflowers, native fruits and berries. Blue-tongues don’t just smell by using their nose. They also have an organ, called a ‘Jacobson’s Organ’, on the roof of their mouth, which they use to sense chemicals that are emitted by their prey (e.g. insects). Blue-tongues use this to detect their prey. Blue-tongues have strong teeth and jaw muscles to crush their food – they can even crush the shell of a snail.

## **Habitat**

Blue-tongues can be found in virtually all habitats across Australia. In Victoria, they inhabit a wide variety of ecosystems from coastal heathland, lowlands and mountain forests to interior plains. They are also common in urban areas, and unfortunately are often injured by people using shovels to dig in their garden. Like all lizards, Blue-tongues cannot maintain a constant body temperature without help from the sun. This means that they use the sun’s heat to maintain their body temperature. Blue-tongues are active during the daytime and shelter at night under large objects such as logs or leaf litter and debris. They can often be seen warming themselves in sunny areas. During the colder months, Blue-tongues are mostly inactive, often taking shelter until the warmer weather arrives. They may spend many years living in the same area.

# Assessing Benefits of Revegetation

Across Victoria, landholders and community groups are actively carrying out revegetation activities. Whether plantings are for shelterbelts, woodlots or along creeks to reduce erosion, revegetation can provide habitat for native plants and animals, particularly in landscapes that have otherwise been cleared.

The Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) in partnership with La Trobe University and several land managers, non-government agencies and community groups have completed research to understand how revegetation contributes to nature conservation. They asked:

- ◆ *What are the features of revegetation plantings that most increase their value for animals?*
- ◆ *Which species benefit most from revegetation in rural landscapes?*
- ◆ *Does the conservation value of revegetation change over time as plantings age and mature?*
- ◆ *What is a quick and robust monitoring technique to assess revegetation outcomes (survival, growth) and identify key factors that influence survival?*

To answer these questions, ARI and LaTrobe University examined bird and butterfly communities in a large field study undertaken in western Victoria during 2019 and 2020. The study repeated bird and habitat surveys at a range of revegetation types to help understand how the value of revegetation for birds has changed over time.

They found that all revegetation activities had broad landscape scale benefits for both birds and butterflies, increasing both the number of species and community complexity. Many benefits of revegetation are realised in the first 15 years after planting, however for some species, such as those that rely on formation of hollows, the benefits take many more years to emerge.

[Click here](#) or on the image below to watch the video, or copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62U9xVB0HDA>





# Assessing Benefits of Revegetation *(Continued)*

## A monitoring method for land managers

This project developed a monitoring method to help property owners evaluate how well they are achieving revegetation goals. The monitoring approach focused on the post-summer survival of revegetation which is the most critical time for establishment of plantings.

In 2019/20, the monitoring method was trialled at 65 sites across Victoria. It identified a range of responses across the survey area ranging from very limited planting success to high levels of survival. Rainfall and presence of tree guards had a significant influence on plant survival. Species selection was also important.

Planting survival is also likely to be influenced by factors such as extreme temperatures and climate change, so adaptive revegetation activities for future climates may be necessary.

There was a substantial decline in the number of living plants between planting and the end of the first summer, with approximately 61% of plants surviving the summer. Similarly, species richness declined, with 68% of the number of species that were planted surviving. There was no significant difference in the survival of different lifeform types, although overstorey plants had a higher survival rate than other lifeforms (understorey - 54%, midstorey - 55%, overstorey - 63%).

***Below image:*** Patches of vegetation in a (partially) cleared landscape



***Above & below images:*** Revegetating a cleared paddock



[Click here for a complete copy of the report](#) (or copy and paste the link below):

[https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0046/499978/ARI-Technical-Report-321-Evaluating-revegetation-outcomes-through-community-based-monitoring.pdf](https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0046/499978/ARI-Technical-Report-321-Evaluating-revegetation-outcomes-through-community-based-monitoring.pdf)

Revegetation Results	% Survival
Overall survival	61%
Species richness survival	68%
Understorey survival	54%
Midstorey survival	55%
Overstore survival	63%

# Remote Watering Point

In the 2016 edition of the Land For Wildlife Newsletter, there is an article titled:

*“Using Small Ponds to Attract Wildlife”*. [Click here to read this article](https://bit.ly/LFW_Newsletter_2016), or copy and paste the link: [https://bit.ly/LFW\\_Newsletter\\_2016](https://bit.ly/LFW_Newsletter_2016)

Here, we provide a terrific video showing how to install a remote, low-pressure watering point. The video (on Youtube) shows it being visited by a Koala, Sugar Glider, Ring-tail Possum, Honeyeaters, Wrens and a Blue-tongue Lizard. In the video, Lisette Mills ([Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc.](https://www.basalttobaylandcare.com/)) shows how to prevent wallabies pulling off the buttons on the tap timer. [Click here to see the video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vepSr1J3DIA) or copy and paste the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vepSr1J3DIA>



Developed by Lisette Mills of the [Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc.](https://www.basalttobaylandcare.com/)

[Click here for more great videos.](#)

Remote camera equipment mentioned in the video was supplied by [Faunatech](https://www.faunatech.com/)



# Who's Calling Me?

## *Who's calling me?*

### *The Frogs Are Calling You!*

Frogs are some of the most endangered animals in the world. They are also some of the most amazing – spending their juvenile years as tadpoles before absorbing their tails and becoming land animals! They breathe through their skin as well as their lungs, can climb trees, swim, jump and even regrow their toes should they lose them!

The “[Frogs Are Calling You](#)” citizen science project is part of [WetMAP](#) (Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program). It's a collaboration between DELWP, Frogs Victoria, the Australian Museum, the University of Melbourne, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and North Central CMA.

Although “[Frogs Are Calling You](#)” project is specific to northern Victoria, the FrogID project is a long-term, Australian wide, citizen science project that you can join from anywhere anytime. Data collected with the app will continue to help inform scientists about frogs, their activity and their habitat.

To join the project, all you need to do is sign up, download the FrogID app for Apple or Android and away you go! The detailed instructions pages will give you all the information you need. [Click here to for more information](#), or copy and paste the webpage link: <https://www.frogscalling.org/>

Visit a site and make a recording in the app. Just after dark is the best time to hear frogs, but any time of the day or night is good to make a recording. Any wetland will do (including farm dams) even if it's dry. It doesn't matter if you can hear frogs calling or not – it's important for us to know when the frogs are not active too.

(If this article seems familiar, you're right - [the 2019 edition](#) also called-out for citizen scientists to assist in recording the location of frogs and wetlands.)



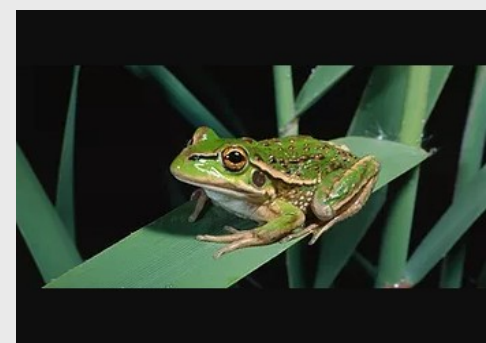
1. Eastern Sign-bearing Frog



2. Common Eastern Froglet



3. Spotted Marsh Frog



4. Growling Grass Frog

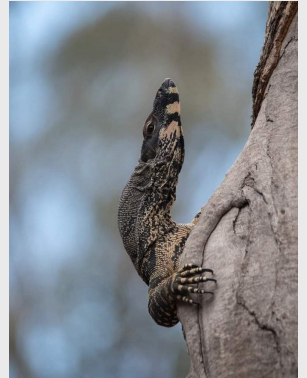
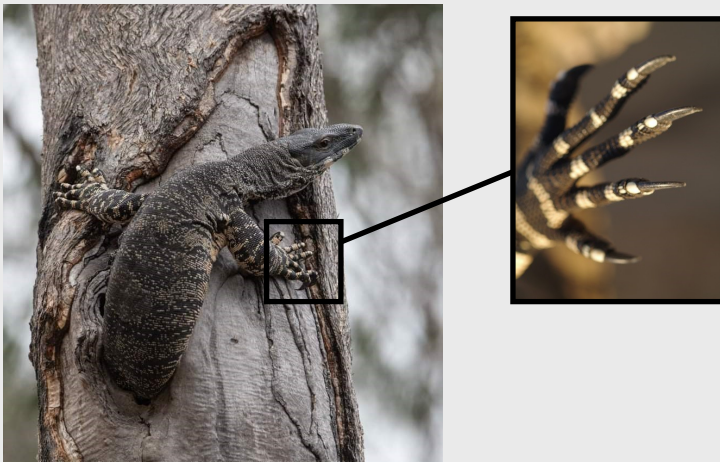
*(All images taken by Geoff Heard)*

# Winnie The Pooh Goanna

## A story about Winnie The Pooh Goanna (or how to rescue a stuck Goanna)

My wife likes photographing orchids and other interesting things in the nearby Wellsford Forest. About 11:30am she called to say a Goanna was stuck in a hollow and would I come out to have a look. After a five-minute drive and as the images below and right show, it was well and truly stuck!

While the hollow was apparently big enough to enter, in trying to leave, our Goanna became stuck. Inspection of the hollow showed that while it was smooth at the entrance, the edges were inwards facing and jagged, much like the teeth on a jaw-trap. Hence, on trying to exit, the Goanna's hips became stuck against the inwards-facing "teeth" of the hollow entrance.



I called up the Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service (WRES) but they couldn't come out for another hour. I went back home to grab a ladder and tools including cooking oil for lubrication - it always helps in these sticky situations! I arrived back on site and as soon as the ladder goes on the tree, our Goanna (now called Winnie the Pooh Goanna) reverses back into the hollow! We weren't sure how this would help solve the problem of how we were "goanna" get this knarly critter out.

At this stage, Lyam from WRES had arrived with blankets, Goanna Gauntlets (aka welding gloves) and was ready to rescue. With me on a very secure ladder and Goanna inside, I started drilling and sawing away on one edge of the hollow entrance - dry Grey Box is harder than steel when a cross Goanna is hissing at you! Ten minutes later and the entrance was now large enough (and smooth around the edges) for Winnie the Pooh Goanna to leave when ready.

Having expanded the entrance to twice its original size, "Winnie The Pooh Goanna" was staying put...having a proverbial hissy fit. It peered out once but went straight back in after seeing us still there. Lyam went up the ladder to attempt an extraction using the Goanna Gauntlets and to inspect for any injuries. With all the hissing, that Goanna was determined to stay put, especially with its grappling hook claws hooked inside the hollow. But good news, no visible injuries were observed.





# Winnie The Pooh Goanna

(Continued)

Also known as Lace Monitor (*Varanus varius* – Endangered in Victoria), Goannas utilise hollows for shelter and will prey on nestlings and eggs. Lace Monitors reach sexual maturity at about 4 to 5 years of age. The breeding season extends from about September to December. Several males may approach a receptive female, and engage in ritual combat to establish dominance.



Rival males will rise up on their hind legs and hold each other up with their front legs, while inflating their throat pouch to intimidate each other. Eventually one male will sprawl to the ground in defeat, or retreat into the shelter of a hollow log. Click on the link below for more information: [The 2016 edition of the Land For Wildlife Newsletter](#) has an interesting story on this behaviour.

Their diet typically consists of insects, reptiles, small mammals, birds, and birds' eggs. They are also carrion eaters, feeding on already dead carcasses of other wildlife. Lace monitors will also forage in areas inhabited by people, raiding chicken coops for poultry and eggs, rummaging through unprotected domestic garbage bags, and rubbish bins in picnic and recreational areas.

Its strong jaws contain long, sharp teeth that can inflict serious injury. A bite from a Lace monitor is comparable to a bite from a similarly sized tiger shark. A [2020 University of Melbourne](#) report showed that monitors produce very mild venom which could help subdue small prey animals. [Click here](#) to read the report by Melbourne University.

I checked on our Goanna the next morning and on arrival it was out of the (now enlarged and smooth edged) hollow, gripping the tree trunk. When it saw me arrive, it quickly went around the opposite side of the trunk. With the Goanna now out, I inspected the hollow for size and was amazed to see it was about 50 cm deep – quite shallow for a 1.5 metre Goanna! It was obviously wrapped up around itself while inside. While inspecting the hollow, our Goanna climbed further-up the tree to get as far away from me as possible. “Varius” (not a typo) poses were struck until finally, as far up the tree as possible, sat there and “Monitored” me closely (puns intended!). (Zoom to 200% to see the Goanna.)



***Most images were taken by my exceptional photographer wife Felicity who was the former Land For Wildlife Coordinator (yes, we like to keep it in the family!).***

# Dodder Laurel

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Dodder-laurel species are in the *Cassytha* genus and are native, parasitic vines. Slender Dodder Laurel (*Cassytha glabella*) is smaller and more slender than Coarse Dodder-laurel (*Cassytha melantha*). Dodder-laurel species germinate in the soil and after attachment to the supporting plant, direct contact with the ground may be lost. The vine may completely dominate the host plant.

Coarse Dodder-laurel tends to attract more attention due its size and tendency to completely cover and ultimately kill their host. In areas where Coarse Dodder-laurel occurs, the loss of a tree creates a clearing where other small plants can flourish until another tree regrows. Thankfully, extensive, heavy infestations are not usually common, but do become concerning when they result in the loss of several trees.

Due to its size and extensive climbing habit, Coarse Dodder-laurel can provide shelter, food and nesting sites for wildlife. Ringtail Possums may build nesting dreys in Coarse Dodder-laurel, while Parrots, Cockatoos and Currawongs may feed on its fruit. The fruits are about 1cm to 1.5cm in diameter and are usually green but are black when dry.

Like all parasitic plants, Dodder-laurel species negatively affect their host by obtaining their moisture and nutrient requirements from the host, with the attachment to the host being through a structure called an haustorium. Other parasitic plants include Mistletoe which was covered in a previous LFW newsletter (Summer 2017/2018).

Parasitic plants do not have photosynthetic capacity to produce carbohydrates for their needs and no roots to absorb water and nutrients from the soil. The haustorium allows parasitic plants to attach, penetrate, and absorb nutrients from the host plant.

Dodder Laurel species are referred to as holoparasites, also known as stem-parasites which attach onto the stem of the host. However, they can flower and attract nectar-feeding birds, which in turn supports the host by contributing to pollination and control of invertebrates.





# Eel Be Back

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Victorian eels move from freshwater streams into coastal salt-water and migrate north to the Coral Sea to spawn. Eels then move back from the ocean as larvae into freshwater, before changing into “silver” eels. After spending many years occupying inland waterways, they return back to the Coral Sea to spawn.

In 2019, The Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) attached transmitters to 20 eels and tracked them over 3,000 kms as they moved north towards the Coral Sea. After the device is attached to an eel it collects and stores data for the next six months as they swim to their spawning grounds. After the eel dies, the device floats to the surface and transmits to the satellite network. The data is then downloaded to reconstruct migratory tracks of where the eels have been.

Eels can utilise a form of respiration in which oxygen exchange occurs across the skin rather than gills or lungs. Using this adaptation, they can travel short distances over land to reach a waterway that will carry them out to sea. Spending most of their life in streams and other waterways, they are exposed to the impacts of land-use.

Like fish, eels rely heavily on suitable water quality for survival. Fertilizer runoff and other chemicals can impact their survival. If soil is exposed after the loss of native vegetation, this may impact water quality entering streams resulting in increased turbidity, reduced oxygen levels and other (unsuitable) changes in water chemistry.

[Click here to read more](#) about these fascinating creatures and the research helping to understand their management.

*The Eels of Dandenong Creek* video touches on the amazing lifecycle of eels, what they mean to indigenous nations and how land-use is affecting them. [Click here to watch the video](#). Or, copy and paste the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umZINGATy0E>



# Artificial Hollows

*“Can chainsaw carved hollows provide an effective solution to the loss of natural tree cavities for arboreal mammals?”*

William Terry, Ross L. Goldingay, Rodney van der Ree (Forest Ecology and Management Volume 490, 15 June 2021, 119122). [Click here to read the full research paper](https://bit.ly/Chainsaw-hollows) (Or, copy & paste the link: <https://bit.ly/Chainsaw-hollows>)

Constructing hollows or cavities in trees with chainsaws is an emerging approach to manage hollow-dependent species in hollow depleted landscapes. Despite nest boxes being effective tools for monitoring and potentially offsetting habitat loss, there are several drawbacks. Nest boxes have variable lifespans which may be influenced by local rainfall, the method of attachment to trees and the types of materials selected for construction, though some may still function after 20 years.

Some studies have raised concerns that nest boxes may not provide protection from temperature extremes compared to natural cavities, though there is little direct evidence that this poses a fitness cost. Thus, the use of chainsaw constructed hollows has recently received renewed attention as an alternative to nest boxes.

However, while results are promising for providing an alternative to nest boxes, there are many questions that still need to be investigated before chainsaw hollows are routinely adopted in habitat restoration. Further work to prove the method is still required to refine this approach before implementing on a broad scale. Therefore, the continued use of nest boxes is advised.



**Above images:** The initial chainsaw hollows (a) had a design with a prefabricated faceplate constructed from dried hardwood. The later chainsaw hollows (b) had a piece of the tree removed during construction which was used as the faceplate. Nest boxes (c) of the same internal dimensions were installed on nearby trees for both designs.

**NOTE:** *Due to the inherent risks of using chainsaws, it is advised that only experienced chainsaw operators should perform the activity. Refer to previous LFW articles for more information: Read the [2018](#) and [2019](#) LFW Newsletters for more information ([See links to copies on last page](#)).*



# Artificial Hollows

*(Continued)*

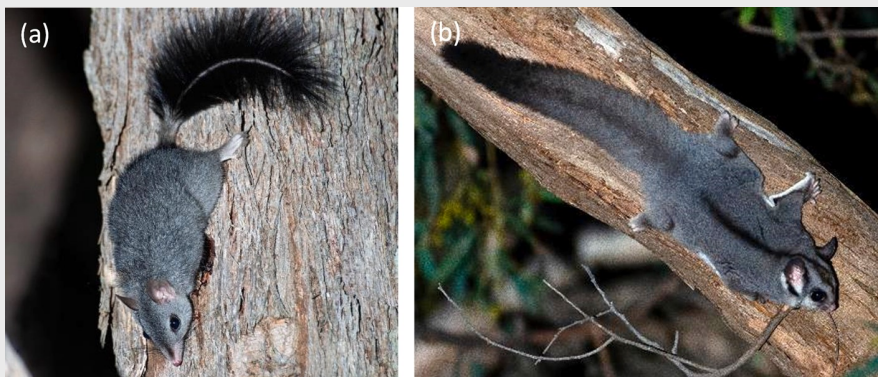
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The authors addressed two questions: i) are chainsaw hollows used by the regionally threatened brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) and the non-threatened sugar glider (*Petaurus notatus*), ii) do chainsaw hollows retain their integrity over time. They paired 45 chainsaw hollows with nest boxes of equivalent internal dimensions and inspected these on 20 occasions over 2.5 years.

Camera traps revealed phascogales visited some cavities within hours of installation and monthly inspections revealed rapid uptake of these hollows by both target species. Overall, phascogales and sugar gliders used 32% and 84% of the chainsaw hollows respectively, and 21% and 82% of the nest boxes. Multi-method occupancy compared detection within the two types of cavities.

Detection of both species was substantially higher in the chainsaw hollows compared to the nest boxes. Over the 2.5-year monitoring period the faceplates of some chainsaw hollows showed signs of deformity. Callous regrowth over the faceplate was pronounced on some trees suggesting the need for periodic maintenance.

This study confirms the potential of chainsaw hollows to restore habitat for hollow-dependent mammals but highlights periodic maintenance is likely to be a feature of this approach as it is with nest boxes.



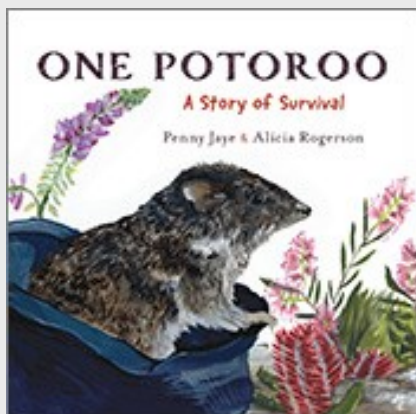
**Above:** The Brush-tailed phascogale (a) and Sugar glider (b) were the subjects of this project.



**Above:** Images taken by a pole mounted camera inside chainsaw hollow cavities. (a-b) sugar gliders, (c) a phascogale in a characteristic nest of stripped stringybark.

# Recent Publications

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## ONE POTOROO: A STORY OF SURVIVAL

**A beautifully illustrated story about the conservation of the world's most endangered marsupial.**

When a bushfire destroys Potoroo's home, he becomes one of the last surviving Gilbert's Potoroos at Two Peoples Bay in Western Australia. Frightened, hurt and alone, Potoroo needs a new home – somewhere safe from predators and with plenty of his favourite food. Luckily, a team of conservationists know where Potoroo can go to be safe.

One Potoroo: A Story of Survival is a beautifully illustrated book about the world's most endangered marsupial, the Gilbert's Potoroo, and the conservation work that has kept this unique Australian alive.

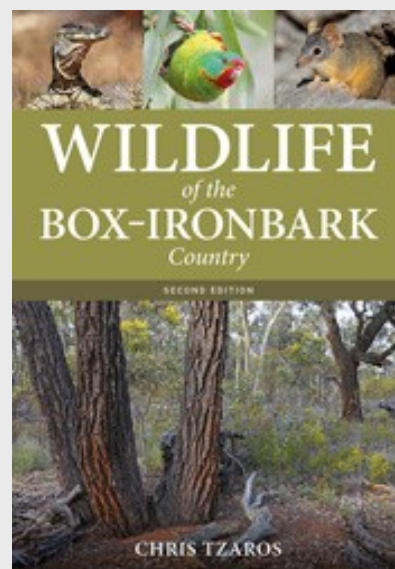
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## WILDLIFE OF THE BOX-IRONBARK COUNTRY

**A comprehensive overview of the ecologically significant Box–Ironbark habitats and their wildlife.**

Wildlife of the Box–Ironbark Country gives a comprehensive overview of the ecology of the Box–Ironbark habitats and their wildlife. This extensively revised second edition covers all of the mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs that occur in the region, with a brief description of their distribution, status, ecology and identification, together with a detailed distribution map and superb colour photograph for each species. The book includes a 'Where to watch' section, featuring a selection of national parks, state parks and nature conservation reserves where people can experience the ecosystem and its wildlife for themselves.



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The full set of four books in the Small Friends Books series.

The Small Friends Books series combines cutting-edge scientific research, rich narrative and beautiful illustrations to tell stories that describe symbiotic partnerships between microbes and larger life forms. Each book is also a kind of symbiosis: a collaboration between writers, scientists, artists, designers and educators. Includes the following four books:



- ◆ The Forest in the Tree: How Fungi Shape the Earth
- ◆ Nema and the Xenos: A Story of Soil Cycles
- ◆ The Squid, the Vibrio and the Moon
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## WILD MUSHROOMING

**Find, identify, collect and prepare 10 edible fungus species using a 'slow mushrooming' approach.**

Fungi are diverse, delicious and sometimes deadly. With interest in foraging for wild food on the rise, learning to accurately identify fungi reduces both poisoning risk to humans and harm to the environment. This extensively illustrated guide takes a 'slow mushrooming' approach – providing the information to correctly identify a few edible species thoroughly, rather than many superficially.

This guide provides the necessary information for the safe collection of fungi, and is essential reading for fungus enthusiasts, ecologists, conservationists, medical professionals and anyone interested in the natural world.



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## Land for Wildlife Contacts

Land For Wildlife Extension Officers and Contacts are at the following Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning Offices:

### Alexandra, Benalla, Wangaratta, Wodonga & Upper Murray Areas

Dave Smith  
0428 395 639  
[dave.smith@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:dave.smith@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### East Gippsland, West, Central & South Gippsland

Kylie Singleton  
0428 722 116  
[kylie.singleton@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:kylie.singleton@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh, Ararat & Beaufort

Andrea Keleher  
0409 018 910  
[andrea.keleher@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrea.keleher@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Bendigo, Mildura And Swanhill

Peter Johnson  
0429 260 760  
[peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Heywood, Portland & Warrnambool, Geelong & Colac Areas

Peter Johnson  
0409 793 364  
[peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Horsham & Grampians

Felicity Christian  
0429 007 885  
[felicity.christian@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:felicity.christian@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Melbourne & Port Phillip

Paula Nink  
0409 548 073  
[paula.nink@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:paula.nink@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### Interstate & International

Peter Johnson  
0409 793 364  
International +61 3 5430 4358  
[peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au)



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