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G'day LFWers and GFWers,

Thank you for all the feedback about the new newsletter format. We have also received a minor flood of requests for assistance with rabbit control; it seems the seasons of plenty have been very good to the bunnies. We're pretty flat out at the Land for Wildlife offices at the moment, but we're getting through all the requests, and if you have sent us a message then we will be in touch shortly to arrange a visit.

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LAND FOR WILDLIFE NEWS...



The Land for Wildlife program has a new coordinator who has come aboard to help us with the increasing demand for our assistance. New Coordinator Matt Digby writes below;

Greetings, I'm the newest addition to the Land For Wildlife team! I've been living in Central Australia since 2009, where I have been involved in tourism, community development, communications (Emergency Services) and retail. I'm excited to be professionally using the Natural Resource Management part of my brain, after giving it a break for around 10 years. Previously I worked in Alpine Ecology and Outdoor/Environmental education. So far I've taken part in some rabbit control and the desert SMART ECOFAIR, both of which have provided great opportunities to meet current Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife, and potential members. I'm looking forward to strengthening current relationships and creating new ones.

NEWSFLASH – LFW GOES INTERNATIONAL

We've just received word from Alan Fleming at Forest & Bird in Aotearoa, that the trial of Land for Wildlife has begun in New Zealand and has had very strong interest right from the outset. See the articles section for the full story from the Forest & Bird blog.

The Alice Springs Show went off without a hitch, and we saw many smiling faces (despite that cold wind). A big "thank you", to the folks

at the Australian Plant Society for again hosting the Land for Wildlife/Garden for Wildlife stand within their sheltered garden.

The next big event on the eco-calendar is the DesertSMART Eco Fair at Olive Pink Botanic Gardens on the 10th and 11th of August. Jesse and Chris will be there demonstrating the construction of feral dove traps, and some of our new camera traps which we are hoping might catch on with some of our members as an interesting way to monitor the wildlife on their properties.

GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE NEWS...



Garden for Wildlife also did well out of the Alice Springs Show with a couple of new properties joining up to help strengthen our patchwork quilt of protected wildlife habitat around town.

ARTICLES & CONTRIBUTIONS...

The following is a reproduction of an article by Alan Fleming that appeared on the blog of Forest & Bird in New Zealand.

Australia: A Land for Wildlife

Central North Island Field Officer, Al Fleming

Australia's Land for Wildlife (LFW) program has grown to include over 15,000 landowners wanting to restore wildlife areas, and I recently got a chance to travel there in the hope of re-creating a similar scheme here.



The bush falcon maybe coming to properties around the Bay of Plenty if there's good community support for our Land for Wildlife scheme. Photo: Jordan Kappelly

The program was started in 1981 by two determined birders - Ellen McCulloch and Reg Johnson – who wanted to increase habitat for rare and endangered creatures such as the black cockatoo, the tawny frogmouth and the perentie lizard.

It all began in Victoria and then quickly spread across the country – now 30 years on and 4% of the state's total land area is protected under Land for Wildlife.

The scheme works like this – willing landowners can sign up to the voluntary programme, and they'll receive a visit from an officer to assess the biodiversity values of the land, after which they will write up a property plan which includes conservation actions on the property. Land owners also learn how to protect and enhance the habitat on their land through workshops, field days and regular newsletters.

Land for Wildlife members trouble-shoot problems and by placing a 'Land for Wildlife' sign on their front gate, the word spreads. This word of mouth advertising has been phenomenally successful and since its inception, the area of wildlife habitat being managed on properties throughout Australia totals more than 560 km².

After travelling to Victoria my walkabout continued in Queensland, where they have a sophisticated database that maps a variety of

details – from the land class, soil types and trees planted.

The program not only involves private land-owners but also government agencies like the defence force, allowing large swathes of land to be turned into wildlife friendly areas.

I then travelled over to Alice Springs where Jesse and Chris showed me some of their LFW properties in the Red Centre. We even watched a Euro (medium sized kangaroo) eat damper by the campfire. Fair dinkum!

The Land for Wildlife sister programme for urban restoration 'Garden for Wildlife' is particularly strong in Alice, where they are working to protect habitat for the bowerbirds, bats, rock wallabies and even frogs.

Then it was onto Western Australia where Penny runs a team of 11 officers delivering LFW on a range of properties including "tree changers" (lifestyle properties) and large farms within the West Australia Wheat Belt.

By creating a stretch of ecological corridors that run from wetlands through to grasslands, heaths, woodlands and forests, landowners are able to protect a range of species that live across a variety of habitats.

Suitably energised and enthused, I am back on the ground in NZ, and we've put in a place the first building blocks for starting a similar scheme over here in the hope of bringing back bush falcon, kaka and fantails into semi-rural and urban areas around the Bay of Plenty.

We are looking for willing landowners who are keen to participate in these two programs. The pilot project area is the Kaimai Connection which includes Aongatete, Omokoroa, Te Puna in the Bay of Plenty and the area between Wairongomai and Matamata in the Waikato .

So if you want to protect wildlife on your property please get in touch!

Thanks very much for the mention Alan. We'll stay in touch with our friends at Forest & Bird

and keep you up to date with the progress of the Land for Wildlife program across the Tasman. You can also stay abreast with everything that Forest & Bird are up to by following them on Facebook; <http://www.facebook.com/ForestandBird>

Feeding Wildlife: a chance to participate in important wildlife research

An interesting article in the latest edition of Wildlife Australia Magazine (www.wildlife-australia.org) has thrown up an interesting opportunity for participation in wildlife research.

The subject of feeding wild animals has many emotional attachments, and a new research project by Darryl Jones (Griffith University) and Renee Chapman hopes to elucidate some of the motivations of people who feed wild birds and learn more about what it means to them.

The researchers are interested in hearing from people who feed wildlife on their properties and would like to be involved in this research. They can be emailed at feedingwildlife@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTICES...

Alice Water Smart



Playing our part to make Alice water smart

Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses encourage you all to take advantage of our great service.

FREE Home Water Efficiency Consultations

Register now for your free Home Water Efficiency Consultation for:

- A \$50 water smart rebate voucher
- Tailored advice to reduce your water use
- Help identifying the best rebates available for you
- There are up to \$2700 worth of rebates per household
- A consultation can provide access to a free Garden Watering Consultation with professional gardeners and up to \$800 of irrigation rebates

To arrange a time, call 8953 1030 and speak with Jethro or Richard or email your interest and contact details to homes@alicewatersmart.com.au

BIODIVERSITY MATTERS – An ALEC Initiative

Biodiversity Matters

Biodiversity refers to the diversity of living organisms living in an environment. This includes plants and animals, vegetation, microscopic organisms and the landscape-scale ecosystems that protect and nourish them.

Biodiversity in the arid lands of Central Australia is declining at alarming rates as a result of weeds, uncontrolled burning, feral species and over-grazing.

Biodiversity Matters is an ALEC initiative to increase community participation in land management and biodiversity conservation activities.

A number of workshops will be held in the second half of 2012 in partnership with Land For Wildlife, Parks and Wildlife and funded through the Northern Territory Eco-link.

Participants will learn about local wildlife and in subsequent workshops go out on country and assist in the implementation of biodiversity conservation activities. These include flora and fauna research, weed removal, fencing and other activities as needed. It is through these partnerships we can begin to take on the challenge of biodiversity decline and extinctions in the arid rangelands.

Biodiversity Matters

WORKSHOP PROGRAM 2012

Biodiversity Matters Launch with Talk and Walk with Peter Latz

**@ desertSMART EcoFair, Olive Pink Botanic
Gardens**

10am Sunday August 12

Urban Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation

@ the Alice Springs Desert Park,

1-4pm Saturday September 1

Monitoring Biodiversity in the arid lands (Pt 1)

@ Simpsons Gap National Park,

1-4pm Saturday September 8

Monitoring biodiversity in the arid lands (Pt 2)

@ Finke Gorge National Park,

Saturday and Sunday Sept 22-23

Landscape conservation on private land

@Conlan's Lagoon (TBC)

1-4pm October 6 or 13

**Bookings and enquiries - Arid Lands
Environment Centre (ALEC) 8952
2497 info@alec.org.au**

Feral Spotted Dove Monitoring and Trapping

Results/commentary from the workshop,

The bad news continues with the feral Spotted Dove population; they're now well-established south of the range. Spotted Doves are daily attendees at birdbaths and garden feeders south of the range along Ross Highway and Ragonesi Road. This range expansion has, no doubt, been assisted by the recent good seasons, but is unlikely to attenuate naturally as The Centre heads into another dry period.

Please continue to notify us of your catch rates and if you still need a dove trap for your back yard.

Rabbit Control Project Progress

It's full steam ahead at the moment with 6 LFW members monitoring their rabbit populations with motion-sensitive cameras (see below!).

The official period of this project is shortly to wrap-up, but that will not mean the end of rabbit control for Land for Wildlife properties. Persistence is the key here. Coordinators are always available by email to answer your feral control questions and we may even have some Pindone bait left to distribute among members at the end of the current project.



1. Confirmed... Rabbit activity beneath a wood pile.



2. Caught in the act, a rabbit (far left) gets stuck into the roots of a newly established Acacia seedling.



3. Our cameras have been catching more than just rabbits. This feral cat was photographed lurking around a rabbit warren on one property.

WEBWATCH...

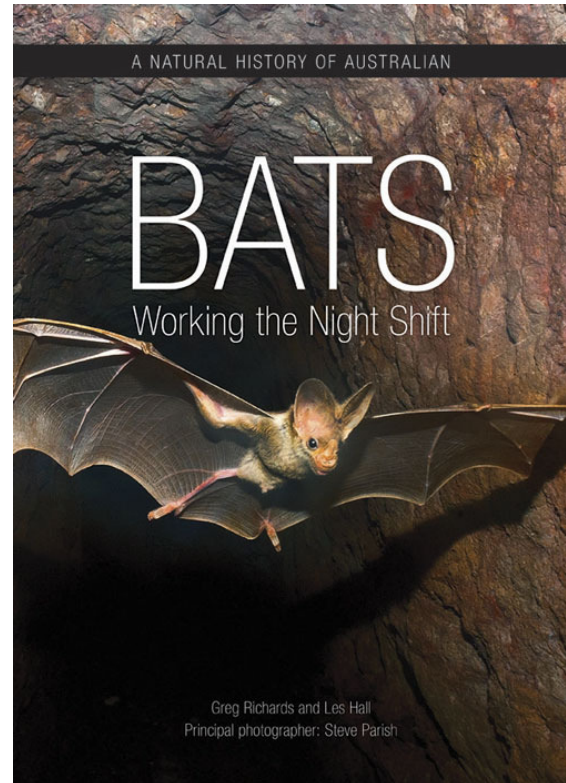
Zoomu

http://www.zoomusicology.com/Site_1/Introduction.html

Feral Camel Research

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20122507-23606.html>

ON THE BOOK SHELF...



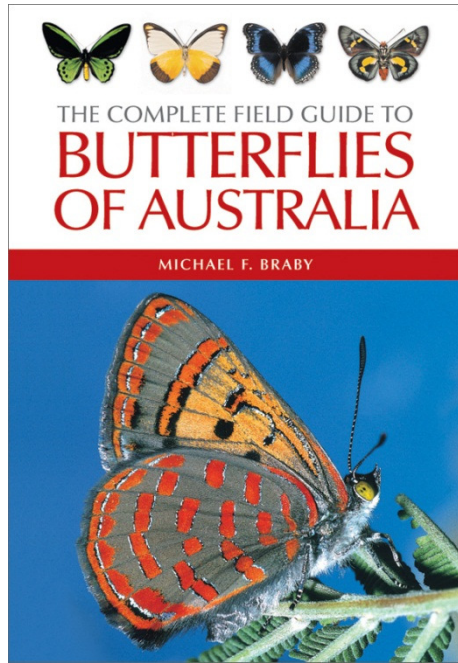
A NATURAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN BATS: **Working the Night Shift**

By Greg Richards and Les Hall with
photography by Steve Parish

This book is a little bit on the expensive side (rrp about \$80), but even at this price, it is offering value for money.

It's a large book, so certainly not a field guide, and well-illustrated throughout. The text is scholarly but always readable, engaging, and bursting with the passion of its authors for their subjects.

This has received rave reviews across the "batting" (yes, it's a thing) community since its launch. If you have a general interest in wildlife but have not yet cultivated a great interest in bats, then this book will have you hooked.

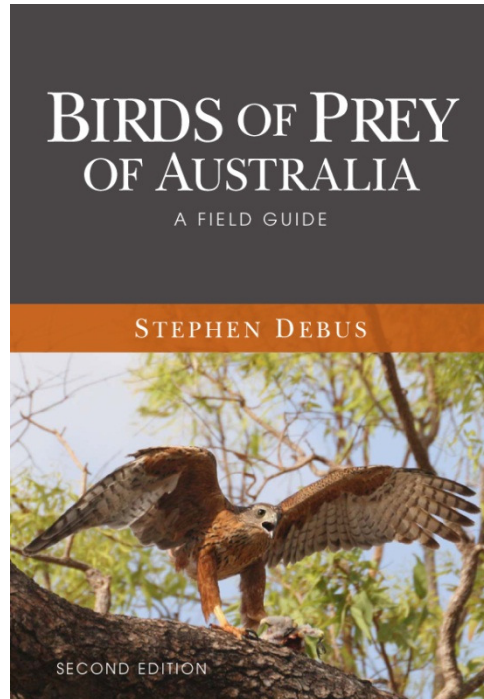


The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia

By Michael F. Braby

This book has been featured among our recommendation in the past, but with the current abundance of butterflies across The Centre it seems fitting to give it another go.

“The Braby”, as it has become known among Lepidoptera enthusiasts, is the standard field reference for the subject. It features full colour plates of all species, with just enough text to help you identify your quarry with minimum fuss.



Birds of Prey of Australia: A Field Guide (2nd Edition)

By Stephen Debus

Not quite on the bookshelf yet, this is available for advance purchase from CSIRO Publications, but it is not actually due for release until September 2012.

The first edition of this book debuted to great acclaim and became an instant classic among amateur bird watchers and professional ornithologists alike. The first print run sold out quickly and it has been hard to come by ever since, with used copies selling for as much as \$150 online

This revised second edition, features a further fifteen years-worth of additional data from the author who is the acknowledged authority on Australian raptors.

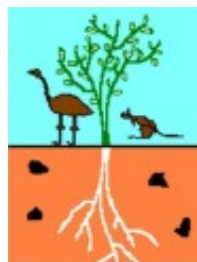
With the diverse range of birds of prey that we see in Central Australia this will be a handy book for anyone who is interested in furthering their knowledge of these fascinating species.

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Thanks for all the emails and photographs
this month everyone. Please keep them
coming for the next edition.

Cheers,

Jesse, Chris, and Bill



Low Ecological Services