



Land for Wildlife News

Summer January 2026

*Hello to all our Land for Wildlife members and friends.
Happy New Year.*

*It has been a busy 2025 with a lot of assessments and
lots of events around the valley.*



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Land for Wildlife Assessments 2025

We have assessed and welcomed 17 properties to our Clarence Valley Land for Wildlife program. It is such a privilege to visit so many wonderful properties in the Clarence Valley, including:

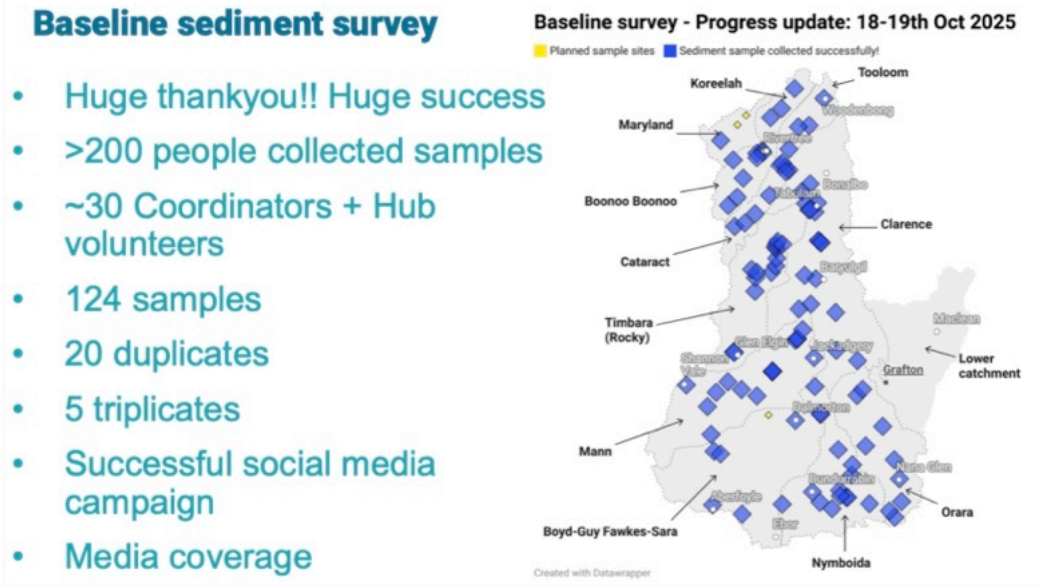
- Braunstone, Ashby, Nymboida, Coutts Crossing x2, Pillar Valley x2, Eatonsville, 3 Maclean, Mororo, Ramournie.

We now have over **188** properties registered with Land for Wildlife in the Clarence Valley LGA, with 165 active members.

We welcome those new members to our community.

CRG Sediment Testing

The Clarence River Guardians (CRG) carried out a massive citizen science project in October with their hugely successful sediment collection in October 2025. Over 200 volunteers turned up on the day to collect 124 samples across the whole Clarence River catchment from north of Tabulum right to upstream from Grafton.



What a wonderful display of community working together. This is the first major phase of collecting data about our beautiful river. It will build a dataset for the valley and can be used as a comparison as we gather further data over the coming years.

Sediment Testing Next Steps

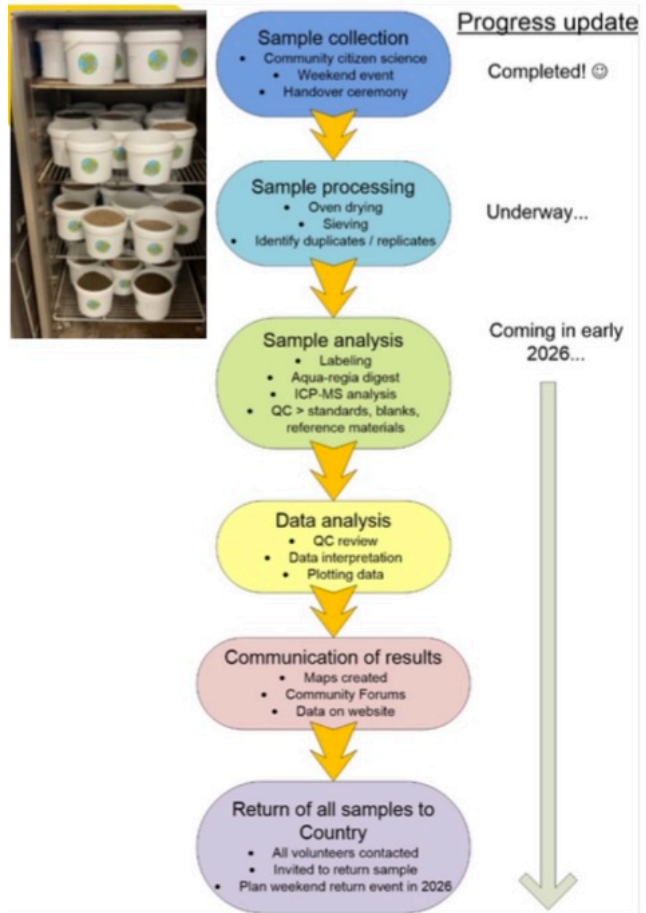
The sediment collected was transferred to Southern Cross University for drying and testing.

The oven drying has been completed. CRG has added an additional web page for updates and data hosting. SCU is contributing funds to carry out the full analysis of the sediment.

Check out the link below:

<https://www.clarencriverguardians.net/sedimentsurveyupdate>

The sediment samples will be returned to their collection locations as requested by our local First Nations people. If you would like to volunteer to return the sediments please contact CRG on their website.



Water Quality Testing

Water quality testing is underway and ready to expand in 2026.

Estuary Water Testing

The CRG have been busy testing the estuary water around Maclean.

A team of 16 volunteers have been testing for over 6 months. A school group has also been involved.

There are 12 sites currently with testing happening weekly.

Unfortunately there are some terrible results in some parts of the river where the acidity is high and the dissolved oxygen is very low making it impossible for fish to survive. This is particularly poor in the South Arm of the river and Shark Creek.

For all the details and the data collected, including some fantastic analysis animations, look at CRG website:

<https://www.clarencriverguardians.net/estuary-water-quality-data>

If you would like to become part of the water quality testing program please register your interest at:

<https://www.clarencriverguardians.net/waterquality>

Click the black button at the top of the page.

Fresh Water Testing

With the testing already underway in the estuary we will see the start of the fresh water testing in 2026.

A workshop in the use of chemical testing kits was held in 2025 with around 20 people present. These kits will be used in conjunction with CRG testing using the YSI ProDSS device as used in the estuary. Each device is calibrated for either estuary or fresh water. Initially it will be used to check the results from the chemical testing kits as we get used to both.

We will start testing using the chemical kits this month in three locations in the upper Clarence. Once underway we will use the YSI Pro to carry out measurement on a weekly basis.

The three location are Lilydale, Jackadgery and Bawden Bridge on the Orara. This will provide coverage of three parts of the freshwater catchment area. It involves driving a circuit of around 2 hours.

If you are interested in volunteering for fresh water testing please contact us at Land for Wildlife (lhw@cec.org.au) or go to CRG's website

<https://www.clarencriverguardians.net/waterquality>

Click the black button at the top of the page.

Tucabia Flora Reserve

Many of you will know Peter Turland. He is one of our dedicated Land for Wildlife assessors and has played a huge role in the valley planting trees and helping so many of our landholders particularly in the Pillar Valley and Nymboida areas.

He has also been regenerating the bush at the Tacabia Flora Reserve for many years.



“Tucabia Flora Reserve has enabled me to highlight our European Heritage and our Natural Heritage, but has also given me the opportunity to highlight Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and in doing so aspires to strengthen community awareness of Aboriginal culture.

Over the last several months I have commissioned artists from the three first Nations peoples of the Clarence Valley region, Yaegl, Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr.

SIGNCRAFT & DESIGN from Maclean have done an excellent job of putting the artwork together onto an aluminium sign and Clarence Valley Council and the Aboriginal artists helped me with the wording.

Yesterday, Brian Winters and Ben from Chile, helped me install the sign.

Photo shows myself and Ben. I have included a photo of the sign because I could not get a good photo of the sign yesterday.

Clarence Environment Centre has kindly provided funds for Pete to have a sign added to the conservation area.

The sign has arrived and is now on display.”

Pete Turland



Clarence Environment Centre has kindly provided funds for Pete to have a sign added to the conservation area.

The sign has arrived and was installed on January 22nd 2026.

Events

Wildlife Preservation Clarence Valley (WPCV)

Wildlife Preservation Clarence Valley (WPCV) was launched at the Santos Brewery at Townsend in November. Land for Wildlife was there to join in the event along with over a hundred people. We were entertained with some music by the Figtree Band.



This not for profit organisation is Clarence Valley based and will work with the community to identify and preserve high conservation value properties in the Clarence Valley.

This is a fantastic opportunity for any Land for Wildlife landholders to preserve your conservation land in perpetuity when you only wish to pass on your land to people concerned about conservation.

If you are interested you can visit their website for more information. You can become a member, currently free, or make a donation there as well.

www.wpcv.org

Upcoming Event

Halfway Creek Community Gathering

A community gathering, organised by one of our Land for Wildlife landholders, will be held at Halfway Creek on **Wednesday 28 January**. This is an opportunity to discuss and gather information about the impacts of horticultural industries in the Halfway Creek area.

We will be there to inform landholders of Land for Wildlife.

Clarence River Guardians and WPCV will also be there if you are interested in these two wonderful organisations.

This is an ideal place to hear more about WPCV and Clarence River Guardians.

Come along and meet Terry and Ian, your Land for Wildlife co-ordinators, and other guest speakers.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Clarence Valley's expanding intensive horticulture and its impact on our region

WEDNESDAY 28 JAN, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
HALFWAY CREEK HALL, KUNGALA ROAD

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Cate Faehrmann MP

NSW Greens spokesperson for water

Tracey Pateman

Clarence River Guardians

Wildlife Preservation Clarence Valley

Land for Wildlife

Be a part of the conversation about moving forward together and creating a healthy environment for all to thrive

Discussions will cover water testing, impacts on threatened species, citizen science and local regulation

Find out more: bit.ly/macksville-forum



iNaturalist Land for Wildlife Project



iNaturalist Australia is a platform where users can record and share their observations of plants and animals, contributing to scientific research and biodiversity data. It connects users with a community of naturalists and scientists to enhance knowledge about the natural world.

Our LfW property is called ISTARI, and so far, we've submitted 1798 observations, with 836 species confirmed using our 417 Australian and international identifiers. Land for Wildlife, Clarence Valley, has created a project on its iNaturalist page.

A screenshot of the iNaturalist project page for "Land for Wildlife-Clarence Valley-NSW". The page features a header image of a river flowing through a forest. Below the image is a navigation bar with the following statistics: Overview (1,941 OBSERVATIONS), 865 SPECIES, 428 IDENTIFIERS, and 2 OBSERVERS. There is a "Stats" button with a lightning bolt icon. Below the navigation bar is a "Recent Observations" section with a "View All" button. The "Recent Observations" section displays four images: a brown beetle on wood, a green grasshopper on a leaf, a brown and black wasp, and a green frog. A "Project Journal" button is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

https://ala.org.au/app/uploads/2024/04/A_Guide_to_iNaturalist_Apr2024-1.pdf

[Land for Wildlife-Clarence Valley-NSW](#)

We'd love for **LfW members** who already have an iNaturalist profile to join this project! The data we collect will highlight the incredible variety of our fauna and flora in the Clarence Valley. Just follow the link above and click 'Join' (members, top right corner). Please take a look at the project's membership requirements and make sure your privacy settings are set to 'Trust' this project. If 'Trust' isn't ticked, your observations won't be included in the Land for Wildlife project. Ian and Terry are the only administrators of this project. iNaturalist Australia shares the data we gather with Atlas of Living Australia and CSIRO.

To sign up and create your own iNat profile, go to the following website link:

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>

When assessing a property, we take numerous photographs of plants, and we will be asking each of those properties visited if we may post those observations for you on iNaturalist Australia through the lfwcvnsw iNaturalist page.



A good iNat story...[iNat Photo Leads To Rediscovery of Extinct Australian Plant](#)

FrogID



FrogID is Australia's first national citizen science project that allows people to record frog calls using a mobile app to help identify frog species and monitor their populations. It aims to gather important data for the conservation of Australia's unique frog species and their habitats.

Ian & Terry Istari joined FrogID in late 2017! So far, we've submitted 4156 recordings, had 13495 verified frogs and identified 26 different species.

Land for Wildlife Clarence Valley has created a FrogID Group: LfW - Clarence Valley - NSW.

<https://www.frogid.net.au/members/group/profile/lfw-clarence-valley-nsw>



This group is open to all LfW Clarence Valley members and their friends. Anyone with a FrogID profile and records frog calls within the Clarence Valley may join this group.

A 2022 recording sent to FrogID alerted DPI that the toxic cane toad was present in our area. They're still here wreaking havoc on the ecosystem. Please report all cane toad sightings to:



Nesting Boxes

We often get enquiries about nesting boxes. We have recently had a donation of a number of nesting boxes of various sizes for a specific fauna. There are a limited number available to Land for Wildlife members.

The boxes available are different sizes designed for different species including:

- Brush-tail Phascogale
- Brush-tail possum
- Rosella
- Small Glider
- Ringtail possum
- Small Parrot
- Yellow-bellied glider

These boxes are made of marine ply and come to us as flat packs. We have a volunteer team, through New School of Arts, that will put them together and coat them in a marine varnish before distribution.

If you would like a nesting box please let us know which one would be best for you. As there are limited numbers of boxes only one will be allocated per member.

Allocations will be made in order of requests.

Purchase Nesting Boxes

If you would like to purchase more of these boxes you can get them from Nest Boxes Australia - <https://www.nestingboxes.com.au/> They cost around \$75/box depending on the size.



Small parrot nest box.



Glider nest box designed having the entrance at the back towards the tree.



Brush-tailed Phascogales.

Bats In Backyards Project



Bats In Backyards Project

The Bats in Backyards project is a citizen science initiative in Australia aimed at monitoring and conserving insect-eating bats, which are vital for pest control in ecosystems. Participants use bat detectors to record bat calls, helping scientists gather data on bat populations and their habitats, ultimately contributing to their conservation efforts.

Land for Wildlife property, ISTARI in Stockyard Creek, has taken part in this project for the past four years. Nearly all our micro-bats are impossible to hear with the human ear.

If successful in your application, project coordinators will send you a recording device or two to mount in a designated area on your property. Follow the link below to sign up to participate in this current project year. Expressions of interest close in March 2026.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/your-research/citizen-science/get-involved/bats-in-backyards>

Once recording devices have been returned and recordings analysed, you will receive a report on what species of micro-bat were discovered. Our reports have confirmed sixteen species of micro-bat, with two more probable species. Amazing!

BCT Grants

Land for Wildlife BCT Grants

Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) grants are available to eligible Land for Wildlife properties for bush regeneration or weed control. These grants are for \$2,000 for a year and may continue for up to three years.

To apply for a grant, check out the eligibility guidelines at:

<https://cen.org.au/bct-grants/>

If you need any assistance with your grant application, please contact us.

BCT Conservation Agreements and Grants

Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is a government body that manages agreements with landholders. Any agreement 'is registered on the title of the land, ensuring ongoing protection even if the landholder decides to sell or give away their property in the future.'

Unfortunately BCT is currently not taking expressions of interest and hasn't been for several years.

<https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/review-perennial-opportunities>

Your Land for Wildlife Membership

It is important to keep up to date with the Land for Wildlife program.

Update your contact details

If you have changed contact details, please let us know. Write to us at lfw@cec.org.au or give Terry or Ian a call on 02 6647 3287.

We have a number of people with invalid email addresses. We will try to make contact over the course of 2026. If you know someone who is part of the Land for Wildlife program but has not received this newsletter, please pass on our contact details to them so they can reestablish contact with us and we can update our records and get them back on the mailing list.

Selling your Land for Wildlife Property

Don't forget, if you are selling your Land for Wildlife registered property, please let us know so we can connect with the new owner to see if they want to continue in the program; otherwise, the sign needs to be returned to us.

Joining Land for Wildlife

If you know of anyone interested in joining the Land for Wildlife program, please let us know, and we can contact them, or else you can ask them to fill out the expression of interest at <https://cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife/eoi/>

The criteria for eligibility is to have a 'retained vegetation' area of at least 0.5 hectares that is being preserved for conservation.

Unsubscribe to these Newsletters

If you do not wish to receive any further Land for Wildlife newsletters, please send us an email and we will remove you from this email list.

Our email is lfw@cec.org.au

Comments

We appreciate any feedback on our newsletter - positive or negative.

Is there something you would like us to cover that we're not at the moment?

We also welcome your contributions to future newsletters.

Please reply to the email we sent you for this newsletter,

or write to us at lwf@cec.org.au

Contact Details

Terry Lindenmayer and Ian Bentley
Land for Wildlife Co-ordinators for the Clarence Valley.

lwf@cec.org.au

Phone: 02 6647 3287

Land for Wildlife Clarence Valley is an a volunteer organisation under the umbrella of the Clarence Environment Centre (CEC)

www.cec.org.au

We acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, and Yaegl people as the Owners of Country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to Elders past and present and to the pivotal role that First Nations Peoples continue to play in caring for Country across Australia.

