

## Land for Wildlife

### Manning Landcare Inc

## A stepping stone in land conservation

### The issue

Introducing landholders to habitat conservation can take many forms.

Val contacted Manning Landcare early in 2020 with a weed issue. A property visit was organised

On inspection we learned that during the drought Val had allowed a neighbour to use her previously rested paddocks to graze his cattle.

Following the January rains Val noticed previously unseen weeds appearing, especially on the steeper sections and cattle camps. We identified Datura, growing thickly on the bare areas. Lantana was also emerging, especially under mature eucalypts and in gullies. During the paddock walk we discussed the future use of the property and Val's plans as she is now retired.

Fire management is a key concern as the property is steeply sloped and is accessed by a narrow dead end road. The majority of Val's neighbours are absentee landholders.

### The solution

We suggested that a local contractor be employed to spray the lantana. Val felt she could hand pull much of the Datura and destroy the seed heads before the seed had a chance to ripen.

Val also expressed that she no longer wanted to own her stock and would prefer to protect the property for native species. We discussed Land for Wildlife as the first step in a process where eventually Val may leave the whole property to conservation.

### The impact

Val describes the involvement with Landcare and Land for Wildlife as a journey. She is enjoying learning more about the flora and fauna on her property. We completed the paperwork for full registration with the Land for Wildlife Program.

The Datura infestation has been removed, a contractor sprayed the lantana and is returning in spring to followup. A large Durranta, growing in the garden and in full seed at the time we visited the property, has been removed.

Val is very proud of the Land for Wildlife sign which is proudly displayed on her front gate and is investigating options for more permanent protection for her property.



## Key facts

- Property visits are a wonderful way to connect with landowners.
- Relationships take time to build but are rewarding.

## Project Partners

