

# Habitat Protection Wrap

December 2017

## Feather-tailed friends

Some months ago, one of our very dedicated Land for Wildlife participants couldn't work out why their boom gate kept being activated for no apparent reason. When they pulled it apart, they were pleasantly surprised to find a family of Feathertail gliders (*Acrobates pygmaeus*; Photo below) living amongst the dangerous electrical wires.



Feathertail glider  
*Acrobates pygmaeus*

The participants called enquiring about a safer option for their unexpected guests. We discussed the option of a nest box as an alternative and I sent them a plan for a Feathertail glider box. They built the nest box that day (Photo bottom right) and re-housed the family of gliders in a safer and more suitable location away from the wires and the driveway, where they were out of harm's way.

We have since put up a fauna camera to make sure they were using the new home. On last inspection, they had  $\frac{3}{4}$  filled the box with leaves and were living happily in their new safer home. A still from the fauna camera can be seen in the photo top right, capturing the little lodger coming out from the bottom side of the box to feed at night.

As we know, tree hollows these days are becoming more difficult to find so please protect those that remain, if it is safe to do so.

## Upcoming Events

**Coochie Curlew Count**  
Saturday February 10

**Fire Management Workshop**  
Saturday March 10

**Living Green Expo**  
Saturday March 24

**Weed Workshop**  
Saturday April 28

**Native Plant Workshop**  
*Mother Nature's Benefits*  
Saturday May 12

**IndigiScapes Day Out**  
*Don't miss our biggest day!*  
Saturday June 2

For more information on these events and others please call 3824 8611 or visit [www.indigiscapes.com.au](http://www.indigiscapes.com.au).



Night vision – Our little lodger enjoying its new home



Feathertail glider nest box

# Learn about Raingardens

Summer, Santa, and the School Holidays are all here once again and with that, so are the rains and the perfect opportunity to build your own Raingarden!



On a fittingly wet Saturday morning on November 18, participants learned about the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and were shown examples such as Raingardens and how such a design could be built in their own backyard, which included a scale model demonstration (photo below).



Utilising the key principles of WSUD, a Raingarden takes advantage of gravity and the natural filtration properties of plants and soil in a planter box to capture, filter and treat stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces, such as your driveway or roof.

Stormwater is diverted from your roof's drainage system through to the Raingarden, where pollutants and nutrients are naturally filtered by percolation through the plant's roots, soil and gravel, allowing cleaner water to end up in your stormwater drainage system and ultimately, our waterways.

In addition to being an innovative and sustainable water sensitive design, a

Raingarden can make for an attractive and interesting garden feature along with hardy native plants. Such plants that can be acquired from the IndigiScapes Nursery include *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim berry), *Lomandra* sp., *Dianella* sp., *Carex* sp., *Gahnia* sp., and *Juncus* sp. with some of these species even being edible.

Raingarden built in 2014 at the B4C Centre



To make the most of these rains, building an (edible) Raingarden could be a fun project for you and your family to try out this summer. If you would like more information on how you can build one, please contact [dominic.almudaris@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:dominic.almudaris@redland.qld.gov.au) or visit the Healthy Land & Water website.

For some inspiration, a functioning Raingarden assembled by community volunteers and Healthy Land & Water can be seen at the Bulimba Creek Catchment Sustainability Centre in Carindale (photos above and below). In the meantime, watch this space as we look to set up our own Raingarden at IndigiScapes!



# Looking after your pasture and waterways

Recently, Habitat Protection hosted a Horse and Sustainable Land Management Workshop for participants of our programs and other residents in the Redlands. Stuart Myers from Equiculture presented over two nights on a large range of topics that any rural property owner in the Redlands with livestock would have appreciated. What really drove home to me was looking after your pasture and looking after your waterways or waterbodies.

**Rest your paddocks.** Healthy pasture has many benefits for your livestock and for the environment. No matter what livestock you have, ensure that you *always* have good grass coverage for your soil type to hold the soil together, improve moisture retention, and reduce soil degradation, weed outbreaks, erosion, and pollution in our waterways. The best height of your grass for grazing will depend on your livestock's physiology and eating habits. A simple guide to grass height for horses would be to let them in the paddock when the average height is 15cm and take them out of the paddock at 8cm.

Continually over grazed paddocks take much longer to recover and you will start to see bare soil next to gates and fences, lower grass heights, more weeds and more erosion. Consider keeping your horse in an all-weather surface holding yard where they can be fed and have water while the paddocks recover.

**Riparian areas are valuable.** Riparian vegetation is the ecosystem that resides directly alongside waterways, is vital to protect water quality and form important habitat for our native animals. Fencing off dams and creeks from livestock and placing watering points in a more suitable area will help protect your water quality. Maintaining and improving riparian vegetation can provide a buffer to your waterways, sustain good water quality and provide habitat for native animals.



The hard truth is, if you have bare earth in your paddocks it's time to take your livestock out and allow that paddock to recover. If your water quality is poor, make sure livestock is restricted from damaging waterways or waterbodies and improve your riparian buffer to filter nutrients before entering your waterways. A healthy paddock and riparian areas will make for healthy livestock and waterways. There is so much more to consider and every property is different, but we can all aim for a healthy horse and long term sustainable grazing.

If you have livestock of any type in the Redlands, I would urge you to keep your eye out for our next Sustainable Land Management workshop – there is always something in it for everyone!

Learn more about Horse Management at <https://www.equiculture.net/>.