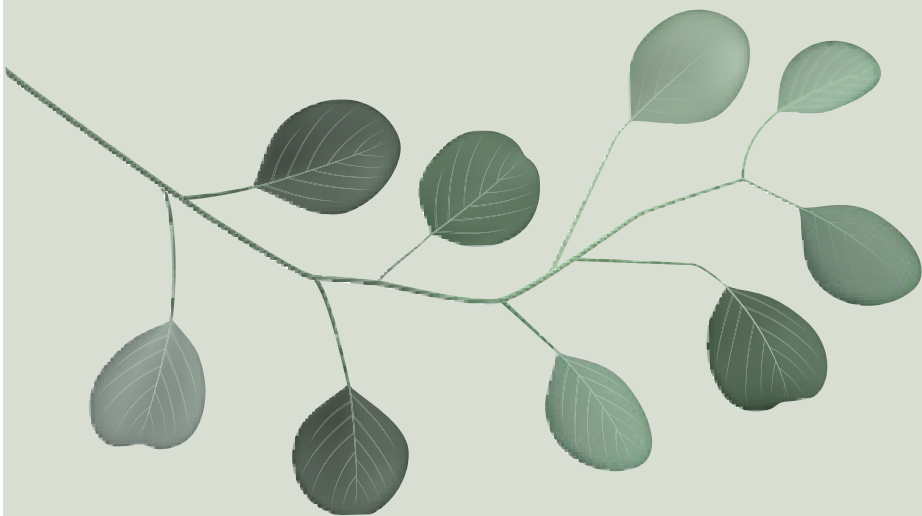




This project/activity is part of the Partnering in Private Land Conservation. A joint initiative delivered by Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

# CONSERVING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS IN GLENORIE





#### MORE INFORMATION:

**BCT NSW** <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/>

**Land For Wildlife** <https://cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife>

#### GET INVOLVED:

**CHEN** <https://www.chen.org.au/>

**HEN** <https://www.hen.org.au/>

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To find out how you can conserve your land

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**Cover Photo:** Erland Howden



**Biodiversity  
Conservation  
Trust**

This project/activity is part of the Partnering in Private Land Conservation.  
A joint initiative delivered by Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

# Conserving WILDLIFE CORRIDORS IN Glenorie

As the North-western Sydney population grows, our natural bushland is at risk of being taken over by urban development. We want to be able to preserve this bushland for generations to come to protect and conserve native wildlife, and to provide clean air, and waterways for us to live healthy lives.

Most of NSW's land is privately owned, which puts landholders in a position to protect their land from development and improve its ecology in a sustainable way.

Protecting your land helps create and sustain wildlife corridors. This is important as development is creating bush islands, that are far from one another containing populations that are too small to sustain a viable population.

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW provides the opportunity to protect your natural bushland into the future, in a variety of ways, one of which is with a conservation agreement.

There are also opportunities for you to learn how to manage your property sustainably and apply for conservation management assistance through grants.

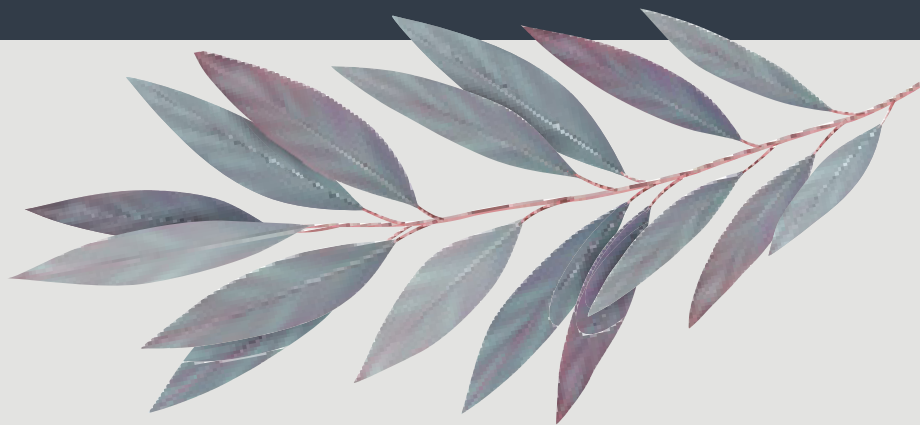
Greater Sydney Landcare interviewed some landholders that live in the Glenorie region, a beautiful region at risk of increasing urban development, who are striving to look after the bushland and wildlife through conservation agreements and by creating an aware community of its bushland's value.



## CASE STUDY



Becky Tregear-Nathan



# koalas

ARE IN THE **HILLS SHIRE!**

WITH LILLY SCHWARTZ  
HILLS- HORNSBY  
KOALA PROJECT

## *Why and how did you start this group?*

"The Hills Hornsby Koala Project was established in 2019 after a koala was seen and photographed in the Glenorie area. The group includes Cattai Hills Environment Network, Glenorie Progress Association, Hawkesbury Environment Network, RFS member and community members and professionals as well as researchers from Western Sydney University through CHEN.

"The purpose of the group is to work with the community to protect koalas in the area and a large part of that involves koala search to find out more about distribution and population density".

"Historically, koalas have been present in the Hills-Hornsby region, particularly in the Maroota area, but with the fires in 2002 there was massive wildlife loss, and koalas were heavily impacted. To our knowledge, there had not been verified sightings until the 2019 photographed sighting".

## CASE STUDY

About 5 years ago we started going out, hoping, and looking to see if they had returned because they were still present in other areas like the Hawkesbury. So, we started reaching out to the community asking them to report anything they heard or saw that indicated Koalas were in the region”.

“Every year it has grown, with more community outreach on social media and through letter box drops, asking landholders to report any Koala calls and getting more feedback from the community about their sightings”.

“Over that time, we have been able to put together koala sightings maps and can use these with our habitat maps. We are narrowing in on certain areas where the most calls have been heard and where habitat is most suitable”.

### *Why is the work you are doing so important?*

“With koalas now being officially endangered, it is important to conserve habitat for koalas, which in turn conserves habitat for all wildlife in the area.

The most important thing about this project is probably that we are gathering firm evidence of koalas in the area, so that they can be protected”.

“Koalas are not adequately recognised by local, state, or federal government in the Hills area. The NSW’s parliamentary inquiry into Koalas in 2020 did not mention the Koala populations in the Hills or Hawkesbury regions.”

“Even the National Recovery Plan for the koala does not acknowledge koalas in the Hills-Hornsby regions”.







## What progress have you seen since its creation?

"We have produced a map of koala sightings which is over time as more people have come forward and reported sightings or calls heard. Some of the sightings are anecdotal and some are verified with evidence. They anecdotal and verified sightings are occurring in the same areas most of the time. This is exciting because it means that even the anecdotal sightings are quite plausible."

"More community members are becoming involved, and several local professionals have become involved, bringing us their experience and expertise which is very helpful".

What can landholders in this region do for Koalas and other native wildlife?

- Keep your dogs out of the bush unsupervised, especially at night. Dogs are a serious threat to wildlife.
- Keep an eye out on the roads.
- If you are clearing trees for fire, be aware of your koala habitat trees. Many of these are used by multiple species not just the koala. Red bloodwoods for example are sometimes used by koalas, and regularly used by sugar gliders. Grey gums are a primary koala trees, but we've seen them used by many species including feather tail gliders and possums.
- If possible, do not get remove hollow bearing trees as a large range of animals use these trees.
- It is always helpful if you are following our Facebook page, because the more people that know about us, the more the word spreads, and then the more likely we are to have sightings reported.





# A *forever*

## PROTECTED WILDLIFE REFUGE

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WITH JOCELYN HOWDEN

I HAVE LIVED IN THE GLENORIE REGION FOR ALMOST  
45 YEARS NOW! MORE THAN HALF MY LIFE!”

- JOCELYN SAYS LAUGHING.

“I believe that the most important issue for the whole population of Australia and the world is environmental protection, and preservation of natural bushland, habitats, because everything depends on that.”

“I live on 40 ha of native bushland, and I love it. I love the diversity, starting from the bottom, there are many different types of insects, birds feed on those insects, mammals, bats, larger mammals like koalas, echidnas, reptiles, wombats, big birds like glossy black cockatoos, and kangaroos that I get to experience right at my doorstep! I even have a diamond python living upstairs in our roof, so I have no rodents! There is more than one, for sure, as I see the skins lying around. It is about 3 meters long, so he is a big one! There is so much biodiversity here.”



## CASE STUDY

### *What are the ecological issues in your area?*

"Over-development, and the sub-division process which is removing habitat. People do not understand what they are doing when they clear their block."

"Development in the region is impacting the wildlife that live on my property, as some habitat is lost when new residents clear bushland to build houses. My property is a corridor connecting two creeks and it is important to maintain this wildlife corridor."

### *Why did you choose to put in a conservation agreement on your land?*

"The most important thing for us, or the Glenorie Wildlife Refuge, is to try and preserve wildlife habitat. I am part of a group of landholders in the area that have conservation agreements on our land that protects the biodiversity forever."







What do you want to see other landholders with large properties in the Hills region do for conservation?



"I would like to see landholders who own natural bushland protect and conserve it. I would like landholders to understand the value of their bushland and what it can provide for all the biodiversity from insects to the large predator birds and macropods. Habitat will be lost if the bushland is not protected."

ERLAND HOWDEN



## CASE STUDY



Wollula-Traber



# PROTECTING OUR BIT OF *paradise* IN SYDNEY'S HILLS SHIRE

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WITH PATRICIA SCHWARTZ

PAT AND HER FAMILY HAVE OWNED 40 HECTARES OF BEAUTIFUL PRISTINE BUSHLAND IN THE MAROOTA REGION FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS NOW.

"When we first bought this land in Maroota Forest, I recognised the diversity of wonderful plant and wildlife that lives here, it is a paradise" I thought. "I immediately committed to the conservation of this area."

*What are the ecological issues in your area?*

"The issues that are facing these regions unique flora and fauna are the impacts of bushfires, badly planned development, and sand mining, which are getting closer to vulnerable areas of highest conservation significance. So far, my property has not been yet affected. However, if some things are affecting the animals or bushland somewhere nearby, then it is going to affect my land, because these animals move around. If I can conserve my block of land, I am dependent on other people around me conserving their land too. We need to work as a network."



### *Do you have a conservation agreement on your property?*

"At the moment, I have joined Land For Wildlife which does not change the legal status of my property, but provides me with a sign to show my commitment to wildlife protection, I also get information about how to manage my land, and access to funds to help manage it".

"I am considering attaining a conservation agreement because I think private land conservation is extremely important and I think it should be encouraged. There is so much private land that is of such huge conservation significance, that we really need to encourage landholders to conserve their land to protect it forever."





What do you want to see other landholders with large properties in the Hills region do for conservation?

"I would like to see landholders in the Hills Region working together by attaining conservation agreements because our land is very significant. If we are all prepared to do that, we can look after this wonderful bushland."

"At the end of the day, it is no loss to us, we have got this beautiful land, and if we sell it, it will be sold with a conservation agreement and the new people that come will be able to embrace that and enjoy all the wonderful wildlife that live here".

"With increasing population in the world and more destruction of habitat, these wonderful areas will likely become very valuable and sought after."

