



Old Hiddenvale
and
Thornton View
**NATURE REFUGE
ECO GUIDE**

Little Liverpool Range - South East Queensland

Acknowledgements

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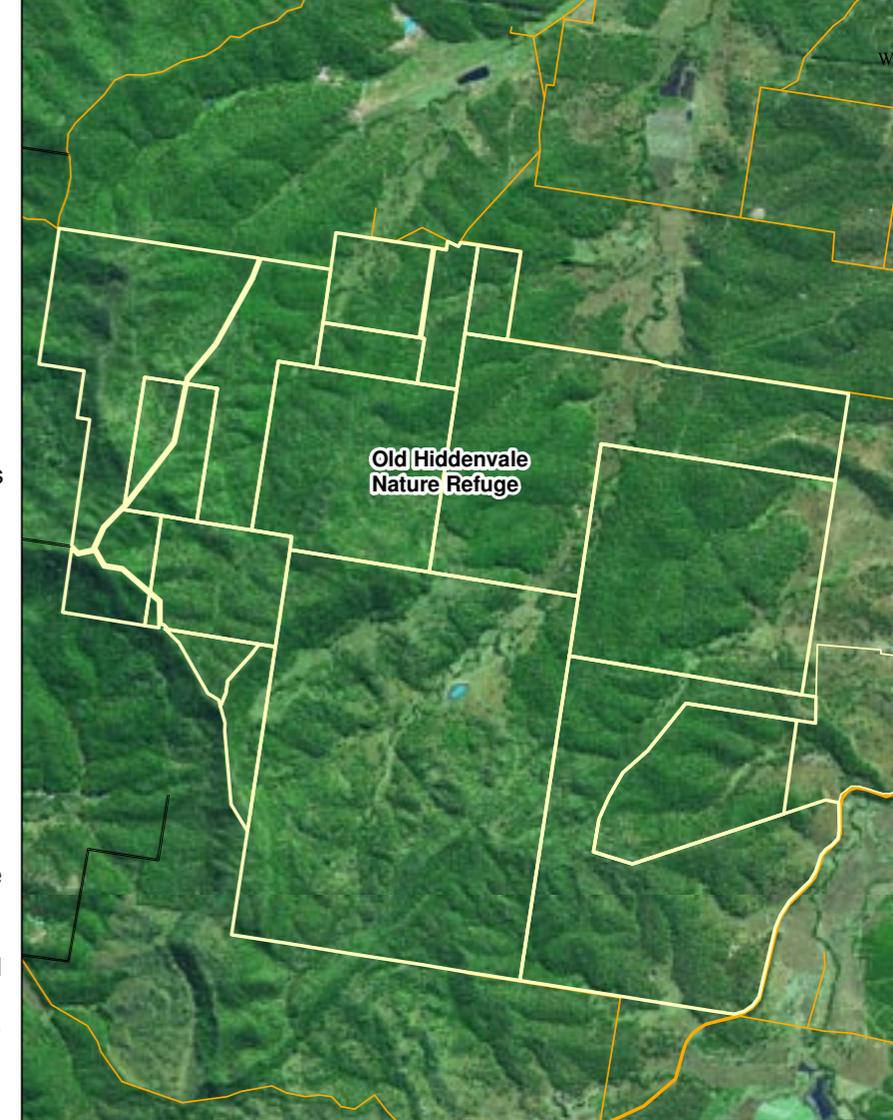
Old Hiddenvale Nature Refuge was established in January 2007 and comprises 3091 hectares of a 4000 hectare working cattle station.

Owned by Jilrift Pty Ltd (Directors - Graham and Judith Turner, Representative David Stent), Old Hiddenvale Nature Refuge is located on the Little Liverpool Ranges between Franklin Vale Creek and Mulgowie Valley in the Shire of Laidley and Ipswich, in the Southeast Queensland bioregion.

The land is covered with mostly open eucalypt forest and is largely mountainous, including basalt benches with black soil creek flats. Western Creek flows through its centre.

The refuge provides suitable habitat for rare and threatened species including the vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo, the rare square-tailed kite, and the vulnerable koala. Vegetation has been identified as a regionally significant corridor, which connects to the Little Liverpool Range and extends to Main Range National Park.

This area is protected in perpetuity through a Conservation Agreement between the owner and the Queensland Government. This agreement binds all future owners and those with an interest in the land to conserve the area's significant natural and cultural resources, and provide for the controlled use of the land's natural resources for livestock production, eco tourism and adventure activities.



The Story of Old Hiddenvale & Thornton View

The first white settler to take up Franklyn Vale (part of which is now Hidden Vale) was Mr James Phelps Robinson in 1841. He was followed by Henry and Maria Mort, who then purchased Franklyn Vale in 1849 - Maria was the daughter of James Laidley after whom Laidley town was named. The Mort's started by running 13 000 head of sheep on Franklyn Vale which was then 384 000 acres that extended from Walloon in the east to Tent Hill scrub in the west, Mt Mistake in the south and Marburg Range in the north. At the time of separation of Queensland from its parent state, the new Queensland government resumed a great deal of leasehold land, which included about half of the original Franklyn Vale property.

The country north of the Little Liverpool range was transferred to James Laidley, further sub division followed and by 1869 the Mort's only had 10 000 of their original 384 000 acres.

Philip Jost, a Dutch settler, who was a butcher from Ipswich, was first to free-hold Hidden Vale in 1871 when the property was around 10 000 acres. Jost renamed the property 'Jost Vale'. He bred sheep, cattle and fine racehorses. In 1883/84 Jost won seven major horse races in Sydney and Brisbane including the A.J.C Derby and the Queensland Cup.

A.J. Cotton purchased Jost Vale in 1900. He renamed the property 'Hidden Vale' and was the first to take up residence in the valley below the current Homestead. Mrs

Cotton at that time had announced "This is a beautiful Hidden Valley, we shouldn't live in the valley but rather on the Hill which over looks this beautiful valley" and so it was that Mr Cotton replaced the original Jost home with a substantial two storey building in 1908 on the site of the current Homestead. Their previous residence was then used as the Manager's House.

On the 13th July 1916 the first head teacher, Ms Ellen Tait, opened Hidden Vale Provisional School, which was located opposite St Ann's Church on the corner of Hidden Vale road. By 1918 the average attendance had risen to 13, it was then the school became Hidden Vale State School. It was an open-air building with canvas blinds in place of walls and windows. These blinds proved to be unsatisfactory as the canvas soon deteriorated so they were replaced in 1923 with sash windows. It was recorded that the School also held dances during the 1920's to 1930's. On February 12th

1943 the School was closed due to the average attendance dropping to 8. Mr Cotton donated the land for St Ann's Hidden Vale church that was erected on the 11th of July 1937 (located opposite Hidden Vale's entrance).

A.J. Cotton sold the property in 1911 to return to England to educate his children. He then repurchased it in 1914 for £27 500 and established his office in the Chinese Cottage (previously known as the Butcher's hut) that was built by some of the 250 Chinese Coolies who were used to clear Hidden Vale land. It was around this time that he and the Mort's from Franklyn Vale shared the cost of £600 to bring the phone line from Ipswich to the Valley in 1904.

During A.J. Cotton's life in Queensland he owned and operated a number of properties in Queensland and the Northern Territory. Many of these were controlled from his Hidden Vale office such as Mt Spencer, Woodstock,

Lawn Hill and Tent Hill and Brunette Downs. During his work with stock, he was involved in all sorts of deals. He moved into cattle hide exports and shipped £220 000 worth overseas in 22 months. He also bred horses for the remount trade and exported about 10 000 horses to the Seventh Dragon Guards, who were then in South Africa fighting the Boer War. 2 000 head were sent to the Boxer Rebellion in China and others to the India Campaign. 16 000 horses in all were sold overseas.

A.J. Cotton's son Sidney distinguished himself by becoming a Wing Commander with the Fledging Royal Naval Air Service in England. When he started he bluffed his way into being allowed to fly solo before qualifying to allow him to enrol in the Air Force. He pioneered Airmail and Survey work and in the 1920's mounted an expedition to rescue Augustine Cauthoult from the Greenland Ice Cap. He revolutionised photography



A.J. Cotton's house burnt down in 1921, eight years before he sold Hidden Vale to the Day family in 1929. (Hidden Vale's name then changed to Sutton Royal). The original kitchen attached to the homestead that was burnt down has been completely refurbished and still stands in immaculate

condition as the Santa Gertrudis Cottage.

Murdo Mackenzie purchased 'Sutton Royal' from the Day family in 1938 and returned the property's original name 'Hidden Vale'. There had been a caveat on the name 'Hidden Vale' but this was overcome by adding the word 'Old'. The property was then only 7500 acres. Hereford cattle were purchased and run on the

property. Murdo Mackenzie replaced the old homestead with a 228-metre long house. Mackenzie's wife, Lila considered it to difficult to care for so she had it pulled down and rebuilt with the front section over the original site and quite a bit smaller. The remodelled homestead was a gracious single storeyed building with wide verandas and superb view now with years gone by it has been extended and renovated to the exquisite homestead is now is.

Mackenzie was the first to bring Bos Indicus cattle south of Rockhampton in 1948. He then acquired three Santa Gertrudis bulls from the then King Ranch Risdon property near Warwick. These bulls were the first shipment of the Santa Gertrudis breed to arrive in Australia from the King Ranch in Texas, USA in 1952.

Mackenzie died in 1957, his daughters Margaret Crombie and Patricia Bothrane carried on adding a 1800 acre parcel to the Old Hidden Vale Station and also the 1000 acre

Klienschmidt block thus bringing the station back to the size it was in 1871. The sisters sold a considerable portion of the property in 1964 to Allan Cowley leaving 6000 acres in the Crombie name. In January 1992 the Crombies sold Old Hidden Vale to the Cole family of Mt Mistake. They also purchased the Miline Block of 800 acres in the middle of Old Hidden Vale land. A further 1800

acres was purchased in 1993 from the Huth Family making the property once again almost the same size as when it was Jost Vale.

The Turner family then purchased 'Old Hidden Vale' from the Cole Family at the end of 1999 and Peppers Retreats and Resorts began managing the newly refurbished 'Peppers Hidden Vale' in

February 2001. The property went on to be named Spicers Hidden Vale in February 2010.



Little Liverpool Range

The Little Liverpool Range is a mountain range of the Scenic Rim in South East Queensland, Australia. It runs from the Main Range to the west of Aratula northwards to the area between Marburg and Hatton Vale where it is crossed by the Warrego Highway. The range separates the Bremer River valley from the Laidley Creek valley, which is a tributary of Lockyer Creek. The Laidley valley parallels the range to the west. Prominent features include Mt Beau Brummel, Grass Tree Knob, Kangaroo Mtn, Mt Castle and The Boar's Head. A good deal of the range is cattle country and is accessed through private property.

The Mt Castle (southern) end is visited by bushwalkers from Main Range (Sylvesters Lookout) or perhaps from Cunningham's Campsite #6 via The Boar's Head. Mt Castle can be seen from Laidley Ck Falls at the tip of Main range NP. A forestry road

leads from the valley floor on the left between the cliffline on the lower left of the mountain and the main peak. We usually drop onto the road from the razorback ridge on the right.

Alan Cunningham and his party were the first Europeans to explore the area. They crossed the range in 1829. Mountain peaks in the Little Liverpool Range include Mount Stradbroke, Mount Grandchester, and Two Tree Hill. One of the regions weather stations Marburg radar station is positioned on the range at a height of 370 m (1,210 ft).

The Little Liverpool Range was an obstacle that hindered development of a railway from Brisbane to Toowoomba. Under the range are two tunnels. One named Victoria Tunnel is 537 m (1,762 ft) long and is the oldest and longest railway tunnel in the state.

Mt Mistake

Replace map to include nearby Nature Refuges within the Range.





Regional Ecosystems

An ecosystem is an ecological community, which together with its environment, functions as a unit. Vegetation communities in Queensland are categorised and mapped as regional ecosystems.

Each recognisable plant is designated a species. A species is defined as a population of individual plants that closely resemble one another and are normally capable of cross breeding. A group of closely related species is a genus. Individual plants are identified by two names comprising the genus first and species second eg *Acacia harpophylla* – usually written in italics. Plants provide animals with food such as pollen and nectar, seeds, fruit leaves and sap as well as nests, roosts, shelter and hunting surfaces.

The following six regional ecosystems low represented on Old Hiddenvale Nature Refuge including two 'of concern' Eucalyptus woodland regional ecosystems.

12.9-10.7
E. tereticornis, *Corymbia tessellaris*, *Angophora* spp., *E. melanophloia* woodland



Old Hiddenvale Nature Refuge

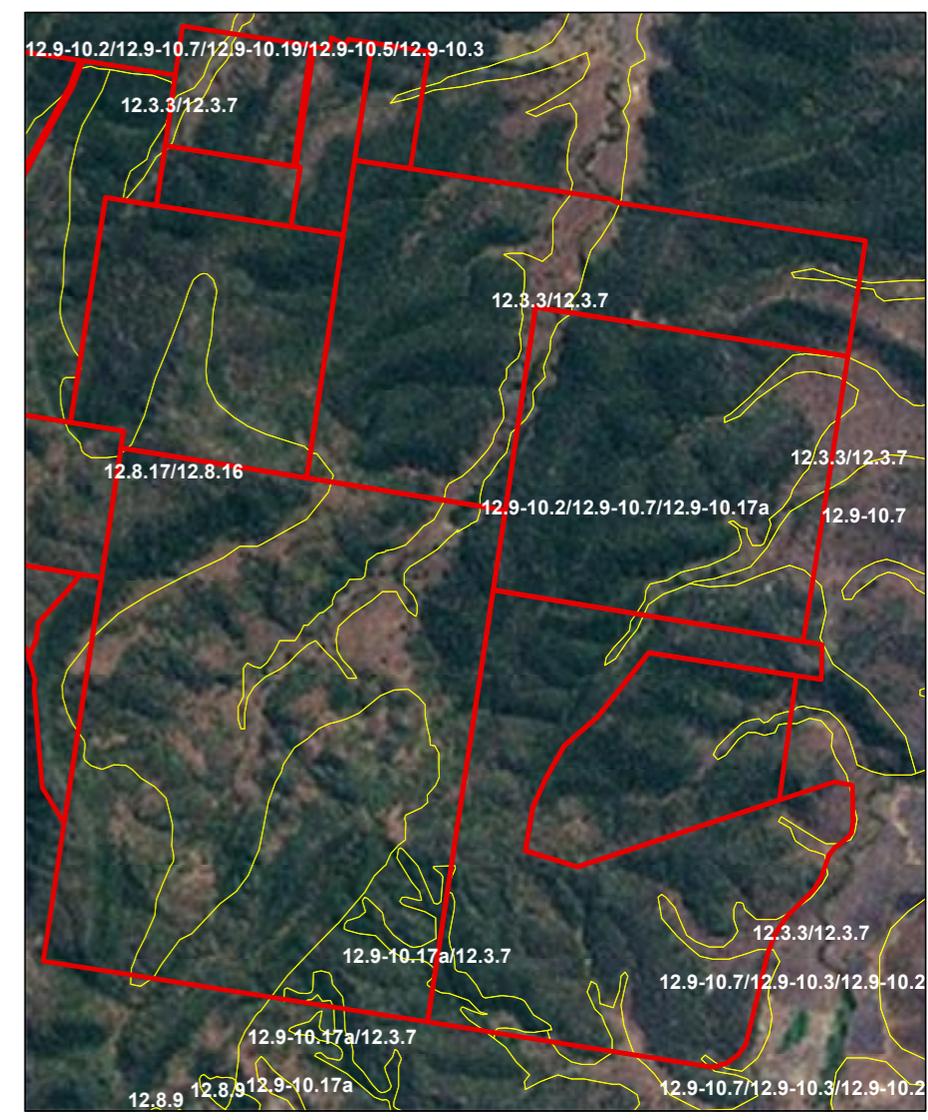
12.8.16
Eucalyptus crebra, *E. tereticornis* woodland

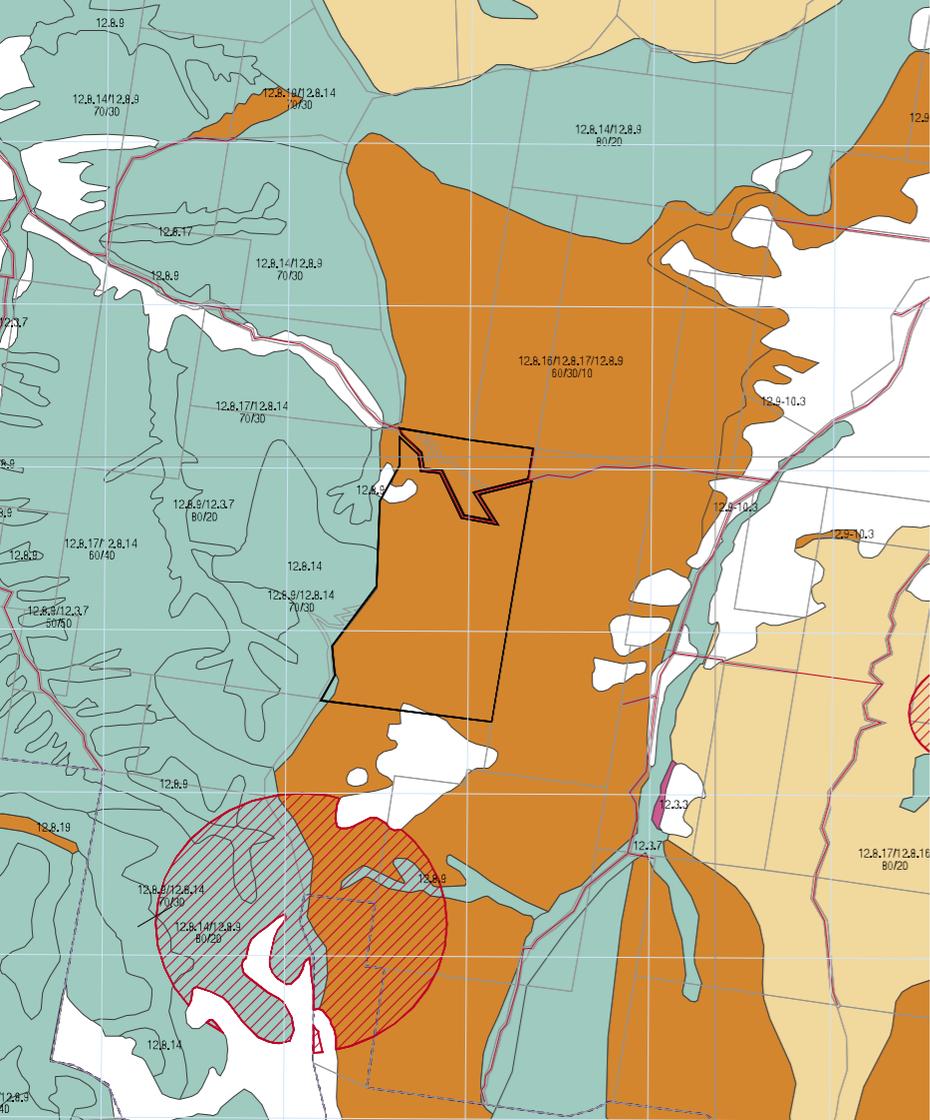
12.9-10.2
Corymbia citriodora, *Eucalyptus crebra* open-forest

12.3.7
Eucalyptus tereticornis, *Melaleuca viminalis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* fringing forest

12.9-10.17
Eucalyptus acmenoides, *E. major*, *E. siderophloia* +/- *Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata* open-forest

12.8.17
Eucalyptus crebra, *E. melanophloia* woodland





Thornton View

There are three Regional Ecosystems represented on Thornton View Nature Refuge.

12.8.16
Eucalyptus crebra, generally with *E. tereticornis* and *E. melliodora* +/- *E. albens* grassy woodland.

12.8.17
Eucalyptus crebra, *E. melanophloia* +/- *Corymbia tessellaris*, *C. intermedia* and/or *C. clarksoniana*, *E. tereticornis*, *E. melliodora*, *Angophora subvelutina* grassy woodland.

and 12.8.9
Lophostemon confertus open-forest often with vine forest understorey ('wet sclerophyll')

Replace scientific name with common.

Replace with aerial RE map.



Koala Nature Refuge Program



Kelsie to write

Fauna Introduction

Both the Old Hiddenvale and Thornton View Nature Refuges provide vital habitat for many special creatures. Koalas may be spotted in some of the tall gum trees in the forested areas, grazing wallabies and kangaroos cluster in the cleared country, and you may even catch a glimpse of a possum, glider or microbat heading out for their night feed.

During the day the bush is alive with birds singing their lovely tunes, as they dart in and out of the bush canopy, or soar overhead in a thermal current looking for a hearty meal. Reptiles bask in the sun on a warm rock or grassy flat and frogs may be heard calling near waterways.

These important Nature Refuges provide for many animals that are listed 'vulnerable' according to Queensland's Nature Conservation Act 1992 such as the koala, glossy black-cockatoos, powerful owls and the majestic Albert's lyrebird.

Koala

Phascolarctos cinereus

Old Hiddenvale and Thornton View Nature Refuge's protected eucalypt forests provide vital habitat for one of Australia's most iconic creatures—the koala.

The koala is a small tree-dwelling, foliivorous (leaf-eating) marsupial which averages about 6-7kg in weight. It has a thick coat of ash grey fur with a cream belly. Apart from its extremely sharp claws used for climbing, the koala's most prominent feature is their large furry ears used to help regulate their body temperature. However, it is the koala's nose and their highly developed sense of smell that is their most important feature, necessary to differentiate between their preferred gum leaves, of which they feed solely on. In fact the koala gets its name from an ancient Aboriginal word meaning "doesn't

Image

drink" because it receives over 90% of its hydration from the eucalyptus leaves (also known as gum leaves) it eats.

Koalas are solitary animals and only come into contact with each other to breed or dispute territorial boundaries. Sometimes they will communicate with each other by making a noise like a snore and then a belch, known as a "bellow" that can be heard almost a kilometre away.



Peter Bostock

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Glossy black-cockatoos are the smallest of the black-cockatoos, and unlike other species of black-cockatoos, they are generally secretive and not raucous - they call little and then in subdued notes. When seen, however, glossy black-cockatoos are still commonly mistaken for other species, notably the red-tailed black-cockatoo and yellow-tailed black-cockatoo.

In appearance, glossy black-cockatoos are most readily distinguished by their broad, bulbous bill; dull, brownish tinge on the head and breast (despite the name!); and low,



Kelsie Neilson

rounded crest and shorter tail than the other two species of black-cockatoos. Glossy black-cockatoos are also usually seen in groups of no more than 3 (as opposed to the other black-cockatoos occurring in much larger flocks).

The most distinguishing feature of glossy black-cockatoos is their specialized diet and feeding habits. The bird is an extremely specialised feeder, feeding almost exclusively on the seeds of the cones of she-oaks (Casuarinaceae) via a very flexible wrist and a tough, specially shaped beak. In south-eastern Queensland, they most commonly feed on the seeds of black sheoaks *Allocasuarina littoralis* and forest sheoaks *Allocasuarina torulosa*. Most importantly, glossy black-cockatoos are very choosy birds and, despite the commonness of sheoaks throughout the region, they do not feed on all trees available in an area.

Pale-headed rosella *Platyercus adscitus*

The pale-headed rosella is a medium-sized, broad-tailed parrot, with a pale head and white, or blue and white cheek patches. The underbelly is mainly blue, with red under the tail. The back is yellow with dark flecks. The female is similar, though slightly duller, with an off-white underwing stripe.

This is a noisy and conspicuous parrot, except when feeding, mainly on the ground, but also in trees and shrubs. Their main diet consists of seeds and fruits of grasses, shrubs and trees, as well as flowers, insects and their larvae.

The pale-headed rosella is very similar to the eastern rosella which has a bright red rather than



yellow head. The two species are often found together and may hybridise (breed together, blending characteristics).



Michelle Fisher

Rainbow lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

The rainbow lorikeet is unmistakable with its bright red beak and colourful plumage. Both sexes look alike, with a blue (mauve) head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange/yellow breast. They are often seen in loud and fast-moving flocks, or in communal roosts at dusk.

The rainbow lorikeet is found in a wide range of habitats including rainforest and woodlands, feeding mostly on the nectar and pollen of flowers of shrubs or trees, but also will eat fruits, seeds and some insects.

The eggs of the rainbow lorikeet are laid on chewed, decayed wood, usually in a hollow limb of a eucalypt tree. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female incubates the eggs.



Michelle Fisher

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Named for the lobes of skin (wattles) on their cheeks, the red wattlebird is found in eucalypt woodlands in loose nomadic bands of five to 100.

It is often seen darting between foliage in search of flowering eucalypt, banksia, grevillea and hakea which make up its diet, along with insects, such as honeybees, and fruit.

Listen out early morning for the red wattle bird's call that sounds like somebody saying 'chocolate'.



Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti*

Listed as Near-threatened under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Thornton View Nature Refuge* provides suitable habitat for the Albert's Lyrebird is a large, long-tailed, mostly ground-dwelling bird with rich chestnut brown plumage, which is slightly paler and greyer below. The male has a long and beautiful tail combining ribbon-like plumes, filamentary feathers, and broad 'lyrates'. The female has a shorter and more simply structured tail which appears more pointed. Albert's Lyrebirds are much more often heard than seen; they are shy and wary and difficult to approach. Their loud, penetrating call is often interspersed with mimicry of other species. In display, the male spreads its tail forward over its head and body and shivers it, while calling loudly.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

Listed as Vulnerable under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, The Powerful Owl is the largest owl in Australasia. It is a typical hawk-owl, with staring yellow eyes and no facial-disc. Adults reach 60 cm in length, have a wingspan of up to 140 cm and weigh up to 1.45 kilograms.

Males are larger than females. The upper parts of the Powerful Owl are dark, greyish-brown with indistinct off-white bars. The underparts are whitish with dark greyish-brown V-shaped markings. Juvenile Powerful Owls have a white crown and underparts that contrasts with its small, dark streaks and dark eye patches. The call of this species may be heard at any time of the year, but it is more vocal during the winter breeding season. It has a

slow, deep and resonant double hoot, with the female's being higher pitched and expressing an upward inflection on the second note. The main prey consists of medium-sized arboreal marsupials, particularly the Greater Glider, Common Ringtail Possum and Sugar Glider.

Powerful Owls nest in large tree hollows in large eucalypts that are at least 150 years old. Powerful Owls are monogamous and mate for life.





Rainbow Bee-eater
Merops ornatus

A striking, colourful bird with a long slim curved bill and a long tail with distinctive tail-streamers. It has a golden crown and a red eye set in a wide black stripe from the base of the bill to the ears, which is edged with a thin blue line. The Rainbow Bee-eater rubs bees and wasps against its perch to remove their sting before eating them.



Square-tailed kite
Lophoictinia isura

The square-tailed kite is a medium sized raptor endemic to mainland Australia, and listed as 'vulnerable' in Queensland. It is a bird which can spend many hours on the wing with little active flight and can be observed either soaring high over open country, scrub or woodland or close to tree tops and through the tree canopy. A key character in flight is the long fingered, upswept wings with a large

white patch at the base of the barred 'fingers'.

An adult square-tailed kite can grow to 50-56 cm in height and has a wingspan of 1.3 metres. Adults have a white face with thick black streaks on the crown and finer streaks elsewhere. The saddle, rump and central upper tail coverts are blackish with grey-brown barring.

It is a specialist hunter of passerines, especially honeyeaters and insects in the tree canopy, picking most prey items from the outer foliage by skimming and circling just above or below the tree tops. It also feeds on reptiles, bird eggs and occasionally poultry, but not carrion.



Kelsie Neilson

Bush Stone-curlew
Species name

The Bush Stone-curlew stands about 55 cm tall. It has a grey to light brown back, marked with black blotches, and a streaked rump. It has buff and white underparts with dark streaks, and a black band that runs from near its eye down its neck. This species has large, bright yellow eyes and a hunch-shouldered stance on long spindly

legs. When disturbed it lies flat on the ground, with its head and neck outstretched. Its call is a loud eerie wailing "wee-loo", mostly heard at night.

The Bush Stone-curlew is found throughout Australia except for the central southern coast and inland, the far south-east corner, and Tasmania and inhabits open forests and woodlands with a sparse grassy groundlayer and fallen timber. They feed on insects and small vertebrates, such as frogs, lizards and snakes. Nesting occurs on the ground in a scrape or small bare patch. Two eggs are laid in spring and early summer.

MAMMALS

Kangaroos & Wallabies

The kangaroo has stunted forelimbs but elongated hind legs, which give it great strength and speed in leaping along. Its large tail is used for balance or for pushing its body along slowly while grazing.

The birth cycle of the Macropodidae (kangaroos and wallabies) is one of the most fascinating features of these unique animal. The female macropod can 'pause' (known as embryonic diapause) a pregnancy in times of harsh conditions then resume the growth of the foetus when environmental conditions improve unlike most other marsupials.

Macropods have specialised teeth for cropping grass and complex fore-stomachs for the breakdown of plant fibre by fermentation which are much more efficient than the stomachs of ruminant animals (cows, sheep etc.) therefore they require less food to sustain themselves.

Whiptail wallaby

Macropus parryi

This wallaby has a rather slender tail which is a little longer than the head and body. From before dawn into the early morning and from late afternoon into the early night, it feeds on native grasses, also eating some herbs and ferns. For the remaining part of the day and night it sleeps in the shelter of a shrub or low tree. It is gregarious, moving in groups of up to fifty individuals of all ages.

Males are up to twice the weight of females. Females become sexually mature in the second year of life while males seldom mate until they are two to three years old.

Breeding is continuous and two young may be born in a year. The species exhibits embryonic diapause.



Kelsie Neilson

Eastern grey kangaroo

Macropus giganteus

Eastern grey kangaroos live together in mobs. A mob is led by a mature male and consists of young males and females with their young. The Eastern grey kangaroo lives on the grassland and open woodland of eastern Australia and Tasmania. Their habitats range from semi-arid mallee scrub to the forested coastal areas of eastern and south eastern Australia.

Eastern grey kangaroos are herbivores. They feed mainly at night and in the early morning. They sleep during the day under shaded trees or in depressions they have dug.

Common wallaroo

Macropus robustus

The wallaroo, or hill kangaroo, is large and stocky and is found in small groups in hilly country. Wallaroos descend to the flats at night to feed. They are much less nomadic than their



Darren Phillips

red and grey counterparts. During the day it sleeps in shelter, usually under a rock overhang or in a cave on the upper parts of a slope. It does not need to drink, obtaining all necessary water from its food. They are solitary animals and males are as much as twice the weight of females.

The common wallaroo, as with all wallaroos, has a large black rump and a bare muzzle. The male is distinctly darker in colour in comparison to the female which is very grey in colouration with black markings.



Red-necked Wallaby
Macropus rufogriseus

The Red-necked wallaby is reddish brown with grey tips on its fur, has a pronounced reddish-brown neck, paler grey chest, black muzzle, white stripe on its upper lip, and paws and its largest toe is black. It lives in eucalypt forests, where you would find open areas nearby, and in tall coastal heath areas. It is a grazing animal, eating mainly grasses and herbs. Red-necked wallabies shelter in dense patches of forest during the day, coming out early evening just before dusk to graze.

Brush-tailed rock-wallaby
Petrogale penicillata

These unique and beautiful 'acrobats' of the marsupial world leap and bound their way around rocky outcrops and cliff ledges in fragmented populations on the Great Dividing Range. Rock-wallabies are extremely agile, moving swiftly and confidently through rugged terrain.

The brush-tailed rock-wallaby is a small reddish brown rock-wallaby with a distinctive long bushy tail and white cheek blazes. They are sometimes confused with the larger, more common swamp wallaby, the presence of their distinctive scats around highly rocky habitat is often the best sign of their presence.

They feed on a wide variety of native grasses, herbs and shrubs as well as roots and bark in the evening and early mornings and return to their rocky shelters by day.



Common brushtail possum
Tricosurus vulpecula

An adult brushtail possum is typically cat-size with a pointed face, long oval ears, pink nose and bushy black tail. The tail

Possums and Gliders

is prehensile and assists the sharp claws in climbing trees.

In the wild, brushtail possums feed on leaves, buds, flowers and fruits. They have strong teeth and often use their front paws to hold their food while eating. A nocturnal animal, it is active at night and usually spends the day sleeping.

Except when breeding, brushtail possums tend to lead a solitary life. They stick to their 'home range', which they mark out by coating tree



branches with a scent released from glands on their chests. If two possums meet at night they try to avoid each other - fights between adult possums are rare, although they may make threatening noises towards each other.



Rosie Booth

does not normally need to drink.

Fur colour is white or cream below and varies from dark grey, dusky brown through to light mottled grey and cream above. Being the largest of the

gliding possums, the greater glider has the ability to glide up to 100 metres and involve changes of direction of as much as 90 degrees. Since the leading edge of the patagium (the membrane that enables them to glide) only extends to the elbow (not to the wrist as in other gliders), it does not extend its whole forelimb, but flexes at the elbow, bringing the paws under the chin. It has large ears and strongly reflective eyeshine in the beam of a

spotlight making it easy to detect.

Gliders shelter during the day in tree hollows and will use up to 18 hollows in their home range with an average size of 1 to 3 ha.

Greater Gliders give birth to a single young in late autumn or early winter which remains in the pouch for approximately 4 months and is independent at 9 months of age. They are very loyal to their territory.

Greater glider *Petauroides volans*

The greater glider is a nocturnal possum, which has adapted to an almost exclusive diet of eucalypt leaves. Like the koala, it has a greatly enlarged caecum (second stomach) in which much of the cellulose from the leaves is broken down. Like most tree-dwelling leaf-eating animals, it

Sugar glider *Petaurus brevicipes*

The sugar glider's scientific name means 'short-headed rope-dancer' and refers to its quick movements on tiny twigs high up in the canopy. It may be seen briefly leaping from a tree, spreading the membranes which extend on each side of the body, steering and maintaining stability by the long bushy tail and by varying the curvature of the right or left membrane. Just before landing the sugar glider 'stalls' and lands on all fours.

Colonies live in tree hollows, emerging at dusk to forage for arthropods, honeydew, nectar, pollen, Acacia gum and Eucalyptus sap.

Jo McLellan



CARNIVEROUS MARSUPIALS



Bruce Thomson

during the day scavenging for invertebrates, eggs, nectar, small birds and house mice to eat. After catching the prey, the antechinus oddly turns it inside out, as it prefers to get to the meaty interior.

Not fearful of humans, the antechinus has been known to enter houses and to commence nest building.

During the two week mating season, male yellow-footed antechinus go on a frenzy, fighting for the attention of a suitable mate. Following the twelve-hour mating session, the males all die due to self-imposed starvation and the stress their little bodies endure from overexertion, lack of nutrients and loss of weight.

Yellow-footed antechinus
Antechinus flavipes

The yellow-footed antechinus is a curious little marsupial resembling a mouse but does not have the characteristic mouse odour. It has teeth like a canine and is usually grey in colour with a more rusty hue toward the belly and has a white-eye ring and black tipped tail.

They prefer to scamper around

Bruce Thomson



Brush-tailed phascogale
Phascogale tapoatafa

The brush-tailed phascogale also known as a tuan, is a large rat-sized, carnivorous arboreal marsupial. It is a uniform deep grey on the head, back and flanks, light grey to pale cream underneath with large naked ears and a conspicuous, black 'brushy' tail.

Only rarely coming to the ground, it spends nearly all of its time foraging for food in the trees and is capable of leaping up to two metres between trees. It almost seems like they should be related to possums and gliders rather than Tasmanian devils and quolls!



Long-nosed bandicoot
Perameles nasuta

About the size of a rabbit, and the largest of all bandicoots, the long-nosed bandicoot is a secretive creature with light grey fur, a creamy white belly, long white feet, large ears and a long pointy nose.

Nocturnal and shy, the long-nosed bandicoot is often known only by the conical shaped holes it makes on lawns when foraging, or by the excited high-pitched squeeks it lets out while doing so!

Its days are spent in shallow nests which have been dug into the rainforest floor and lined with grass and leaves gathered with the forelegs.



The upper surface of the nest, which is sometimes flattened and partly covered with soil, may be well concealed under rainforest litter. When the nest is in use, its entrance is closed.

These are solitary animals therefore meetings between males and females are restricted to mating periods.

MICROBATS



PHOTO: Bruce Thomson

White-striped freetail bat
Tadarida australis

Darting through the treetops catching insects as they fly is the largest of the

freetail bats - the white-striped freetail bat. This bat is one of a few microbats with echolocation calls that can be heard by humans.

Freetail bats are named accordingly because of their tail extending past the skin that stretches between their back legs. The white-striped freetail-bats are about 9 cm long with chocolate-brown fur and white stripes down the sides of their body.

They have a wrinkled face, large ears and their long tail.

During the day they roost in tree hollows and under loose bark in the eucalypt forests close by. Shine a spotlight in the night air and you may catch a glimpse of one flying by looking for its insect prey.

Golden-tipped bat
Kerivoula papuensis

Until 1981 it was thought that Golden-tipped bats were extinct in Australia and only living in Papua New Guinea. However they have since been widely found in eastern Australia but are uncommon.

As the name suggests, the golden-tipped bat has a distinctively coloured dark brown, curly fur with bright golden tips extending along the wings, legs and tail. It has a short, pointed, over-hanging muzzle and pointy, funnel-shaped ears. Golden-tipped bats feed almost entirely on orb-weaving spiders. They can hover and fly slowly, which helps them to get through the thick vegetation where they hunt for prey.



PHOTO: Robert Ashdown

AMPHIBIANS



Tusked Frog
Adelotus brevis

Not the most attractive looking frog, the tusked frog has a mottled dark brown back that is covered with small warts. There is usually a butterfly-shaped marking between the eyes, and the arms and legs have dark bands. Bright red patches are located

in the groin area and on the back of the legs. Males have very large heads and large 'tusks' (tooth-like projections from the lower jaw). The belly of the male is black with white spots, while the female has a marbled black and white belly. In both sexes the belly is smooth, the fingers are unwebbed and the toes are slightly webbed. The call is a single "cluck" repeated slowly.

Tusked frogs were once found west to the New England Tableland and North West Slopes (Nandewar bioregion) but are now very rare there, and the population in these regions has been listed as an

endangered population under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

They remain more common in lower elevation coastal areas. Habitat includes rainforests, wet forests and flooded grassland and pasture. They are usually found near creeks, ditches and ponds, and call while hidden amongst vegetation or debris.



Photo: Harry Hines

Lesueur's tree frog
Litoria lesueuri

Lesueur's tree frog is a terrestrial, nocturnal frog found in a wide range of habitats, often long distances from water. Females are larger and quite different in size and colouration from the males, however the males outnumber the females, sometimes as many as fifty-to-one.

Like all members of the genus, Lesueur's tree frogs have large fingers and toe pads and horizontal pupils. The breeding males are lemon yellow at night.

A very strong jumper, they feed on mostly of insects and other arthropods but can include lizards, small mammals and other frogs.

Emerald spotted tree frog

Profile source: *Jo*



Jo McLellan



Harry Hines

REPTILES



Red-bellied black snake
Pseudechis porphyriacus

The red-bellied black snake is one of our best known elapid

(or front fanged venomous) snakes in Australia. It is wide spread throughout the eastern parts of Australia, preferring to live near creeks, and fixed water sources.

Jo McLellan

Their diet consists mostly of frogs, although they are known to eat the occasional lizard, and smaller snake.

This snake is often misidentified if the belly is not visible. With a pure black back, the underbelly of this snake is cream to pink in colour, with the lateral edges being a bright crimson red, in colour.

Normally shy, when threatened, they will flatten their bodies and hiss loudly, but will usually attempt to escape if possible.

Yellow-faced whip snake *Demansia psammophis*

The yellow-faced whip snake is a very slender and fast moving snake, with a long, thin whip-like tail and distinct facial markings. No longer than 1m they are generally pale



Jo McLellan

olive or bluish-grey in colour with an obvious pale cream or yellow rim around eye, with dark comma-shaped marking curving back below eye.

The yellow-faced whip snake feeds mainly on small diurnal lizards, as well as frogs and lizard eggs. They have good eyesight, and can chase and capture lizards on the run.



Plants

download plant list - Wildnet
cross-reference check with Peter Coppings survey list



Management of the Cattle Station and Nature Refuge

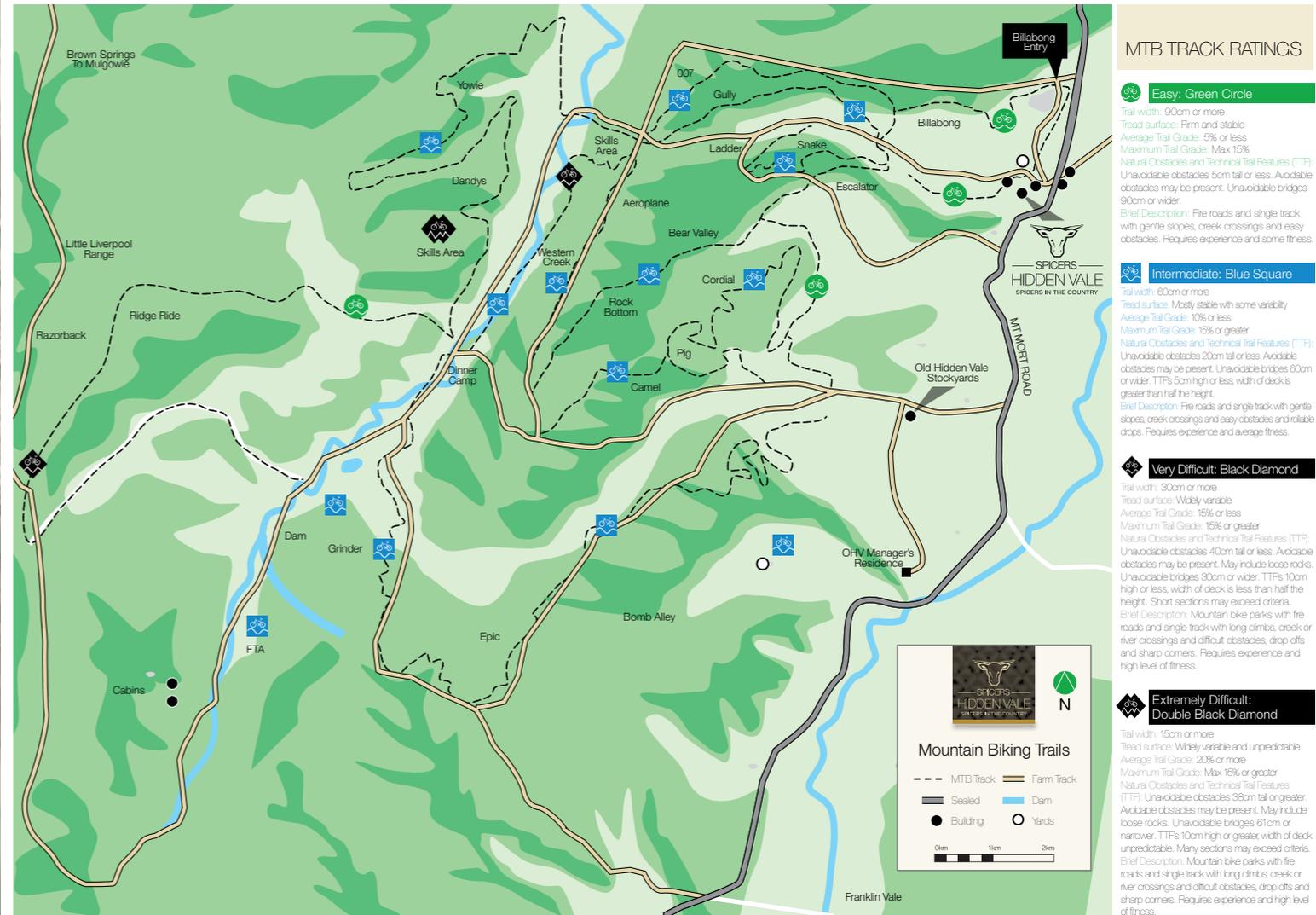


Text to be written by David Stent.

Mountain Bikes



Text to be written by David





Situated on a 12,000 acre working country farm in South East Queensland just an hour's drive from Brisbane, Spicers Hidden Vale is an Australian adventure getaway offering true country hospitality.

The property is centred around the grand old homestead which holds a lot of history and features Cottons Restaurant, a classic lounge area with open fireplace plus bar and a Boardroom.

The accommodation is located in clusters of attractive Queensland cottages with a tasteful colonial inspired design and scattered within close walking distance to the grand old homestead. The cottages (some of which date back to the 1920's) are elegantly restored buildings comprising of one through to six bedrooms. All have been converted to guest suites with their own distinctive character. All 30 suites have private verandahs and

Happy for you to replace this or any other photo David.

breathtaking views of the picturesque Lockyer Valley.

The best thing about a visit to Spicers Hidden Vale is the country adventure experience only an hour from Brisbane! Find yourself or re-connect with your loved one in the great outdoors. With everything from bushwalking, cycling, orienteering and clay pigeon shooting, to going on a 4WD adventure, swimming, tennis or croquet. Then there is horseriding or even take time out to hang out with a cow, donkey, goat or alpaca! Or, enjoy a massage and beauty treatments.





