



## GER Connections: April 2024

Dear

As we reach the middle of Autumn, planting season is still in full swing with our regional partners taking advantage of the quenching rain to get lots of new stems into the ground across the corridor.

In this edition of our enewsletter, learn about our exciting new project with Amazon Web Services which is working with communities and groups in the Wollondilly Shire to enhance the health and functioning of this important part of the Greater Sydney Water Catchment. You can also read about what a scent detection dog has uncovered in Dorrigo, how koala tree troughs are making a splash in Queensland and watch all the action that took place at the Nymboida Bioblitz.



## **Amazon Web Services and GER collaborate to boost catchment health and biodiversity in Greater Sydney**

Amazon Web Services and Great Eastern Ranges have announced a collaboration to enhance the health and functioning of important parts of the major water catchment that supplies Greater Sydney. The two-year project plans to restore nature in key locations in the Wollondilly Shire to improve water yield and quality, boost biodiversity and enhance the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change. Our new partner Greater Sydney Landcare is leading the project in the region.

[Learn more](#)



## Scent detection dog uncovers new evidence of little-known koala population in Coffs

With funding through GER's partnership with WWF-Australia, the Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance recruited a scent detection dog to sniff out koalas on the Dorrigo Plateau – an area that until recently had remained largely unstudied. Lots of evidence of koala activity and high occupation were discovered on the private properties surveyed. The scats found by Max have been sent away for DNA testing to ascertain the size, sex and health of the koala population.

[Read more](#)

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## Koala tree troughs making a splash in Queensland

Through our partnership with IFAW, wildlife drinkers have been hoisted up into trees across the Bunyas to Border climate corridor to provide koalas and other native animals with a reliable source of water during droughts and after bushfires. Local partner LUCI engaged landholders to install 47 Tree Troff water drinkers provided by WIRES in key parts of the corridor. Landholders are also being engaged to reconnect and expand core habitats by planting native vegetation and installing nest boxes.

[Read more](#)



## Nymboida Bioblitz

Enthusiastic members of the Nymboida community donned their sleuthing caps last month to help collect much-needed records of animals and plants. The intrepid group gathered over 800 observations of 367 different species during a one-day Bioblitz in March organised by our local partner, Clarence Landcare. These species included the threatened eastern long-eared bat, yellow-tailed black-cockatoo, ornate burrowing frog and eastern bearded dragon. The Bioblitz was supported through our Glideways, Flyways and Stepping Stones project with WIRES which is working to assist animals which are still recovering from the impacts of the 2019-2020 and more recent devastating bushfires.

[Watch video](#)



## CREATURE CONNECT

### Spotted-tailed Quoll

Closely related to Tasmanian devils and the extinct Tasmanian tiger, the spotted-tailed quoll is the second-largest carnivorous marsupial in Australia. And like its relatives, they are ferocious hunters. The quoll boasts one of the strongest bites of any predator in the world. The quolls' characteristic white spots help to break up their outline in dappled light during the night and

daytime, camouflaging them as they prowl the forest floor. Although they tend to hunt and scavenge mainly on the ground, quolls are excellent climbers known to prey on roosting birds and feast on possums in their hollows.

[Learn more](#)

Thank you for continuing to help us connect, protect and regenerate nature from Tassie to Far North Queensland!



**Gary Howling, CEO, Great Eastern Ranges**

**There has never been a greater need  
to repair and reconnect nature  
or the chance to do it**


**DONATE TODAY**




We know what needs to be done and where it will have the biggest impact on the ground. Together we can reverse the damage at the vast scale needed and create a thriving, resilient Australia for people and nature. [Will you help us?](#)

*All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible*

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