

Land for Wildlife Update - May 1993

Since mid-1990 each *Land for Wildlife* property has been individually assessed and the resulting information recorded in a database called the *Land for Wildlife* Statewide Property Register. This information forms the basis for operating the scheme (e.g. generating mailing lists), for planning (e.g. observing the types of habitats being protected on LFW properties) and for producing the following report. Prior to the scheme's upgrade in mid-1990 few details were recorded about each property. The scheme has a program to re-visit all properties and to bring our detailed habitat and property records up-to-date. Thus, the following information relates to approximately 70% of all registered *Land for Wildlife* properties.

Properties

The number of registered *Land for Wildlife* properties is 1980. 196 properties (approx. 10%) have been de-registered (mainly through change of ownership) and 113 properties are working toward registration (Figure 1). 466 properties were registered in 1992. 1172 properties have been registered since mid-1990 (~33/mth) when extension officers were first employed. This is a 400% increase on the 2.5 years prior to mid-1990 (275 properties). The total area of all registered properties is 178 441 ha comprising 25 831 ha of area managed as wildlife habitat of which 21 649 ha is retained habitat and 4 181 ha 'habitat under restoration'. Whilst Dandenong Region (of CNR) has the largest number of properties (338, 1762 ha) it has less wildlife habitat under management than Horsham with 101 properties (6 014 ha). This is expected given the small block size and semi-urban nature of the Dandenongs (Figure 2). The area of wildlife habitat as a proportion of property area has remained relatively constant in 1991/92 (Figure 3). By the year 2000, if the 1992 rate of registration is maintained, there will be over 5 700 registered properties in the scheme.

Habitats

The most common habitat represented on *Land for Wildlife* properties is Wet Forest (Figure 4). Habitats associ-

ated with private land that are of particular conservation significance, including Box-Ironbark, Red Gum Woodland, Grassland and wetlands, are well represented; however, Cypress Pine Woodlands are not.

Other features

One in three *Land for Wildlife* properties has temporary or permanent stream frontage (Figure 5). 37% (698) of registered *Land for Wildlife* properties have conservation as their primary land use.

Only 3% of all 'rural' properties are *Land for Wildlife* (assuming there are 70 000 properties). About 1.2% of the area of private land in Victoria is managed by *Land for Wildlife* landholders (Figure 6).

Most *Land for Wildlife* properties are less than 20 hectares (606) but a significant number of larger properties have also joined the scheme (e.g. 144 properties between 100 and 500 hectares in size, 18 properties over 1000 hectares) (Figure 7).

The scheme has distributed ten newsletters and 23 Notes. 1.7% (32) of *Land for Wildlife* properties had a Conservation Covenant registered on part of their land at the time of LFW assessment. At 23 November 1992 there were a total of 86 covenants registered with the Victorian Conservation Trust protecting 3 580 hectares.

Land for Wildlife extension officers are currently undertaking extension activities with landholders on nine projects initiated by the scheme. (Contact names for each project are placed in brackets) - Superb Parrot, Regent Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler (Liz Raven), Plains-wanderer (Peter Morrison), Eitham Copper Butterfly (Virginia McCallum), Willaura wetlands, Friends of Broлга, Striped Legless Lizard (Murray McIntyre), Rufous Bristlebird (Claire Dennis).

Stephen Platt,

Land for Wildlife Statewide Co-ordinator

Figure 1: Cumulative number of properties assessed for Land for Wildlife status 1981-1992

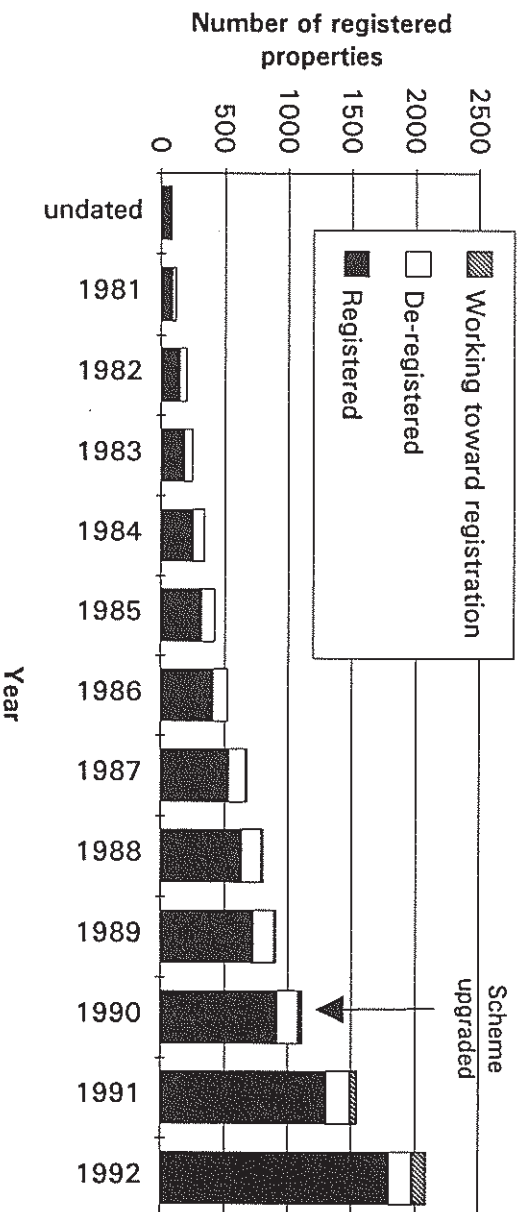


Figure 2: Number of Land for Wildlife properties and area of habitat by Region at May 1993

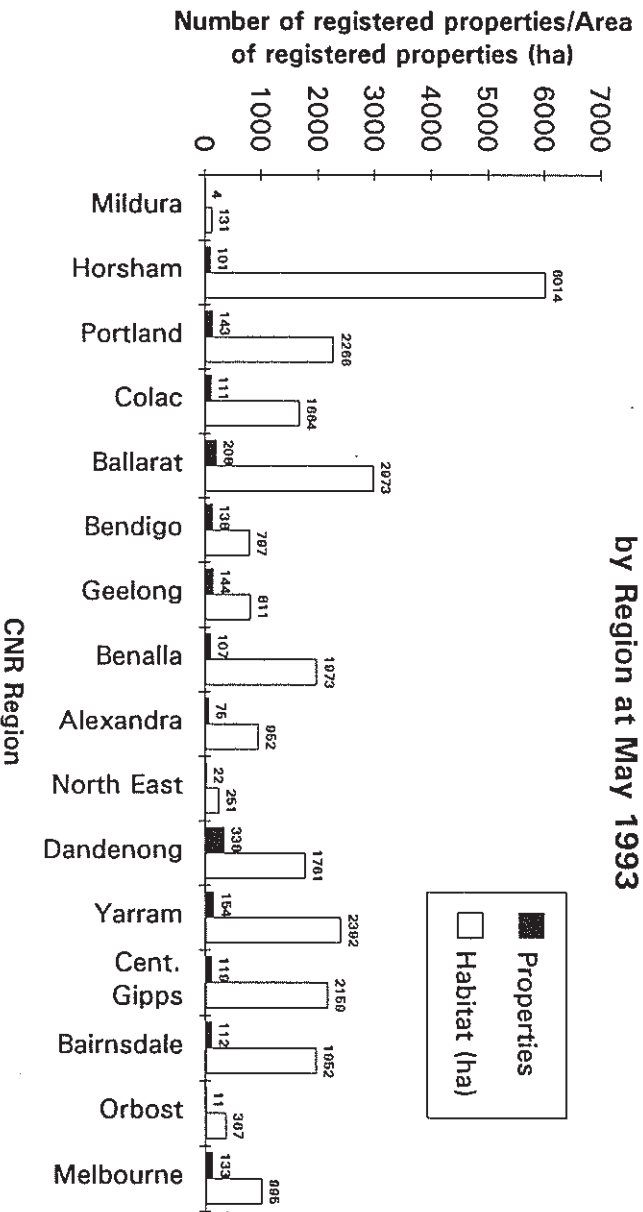


Figure 3: Area (hectares) of habitat type on Land for Wildlife properties at May 1993

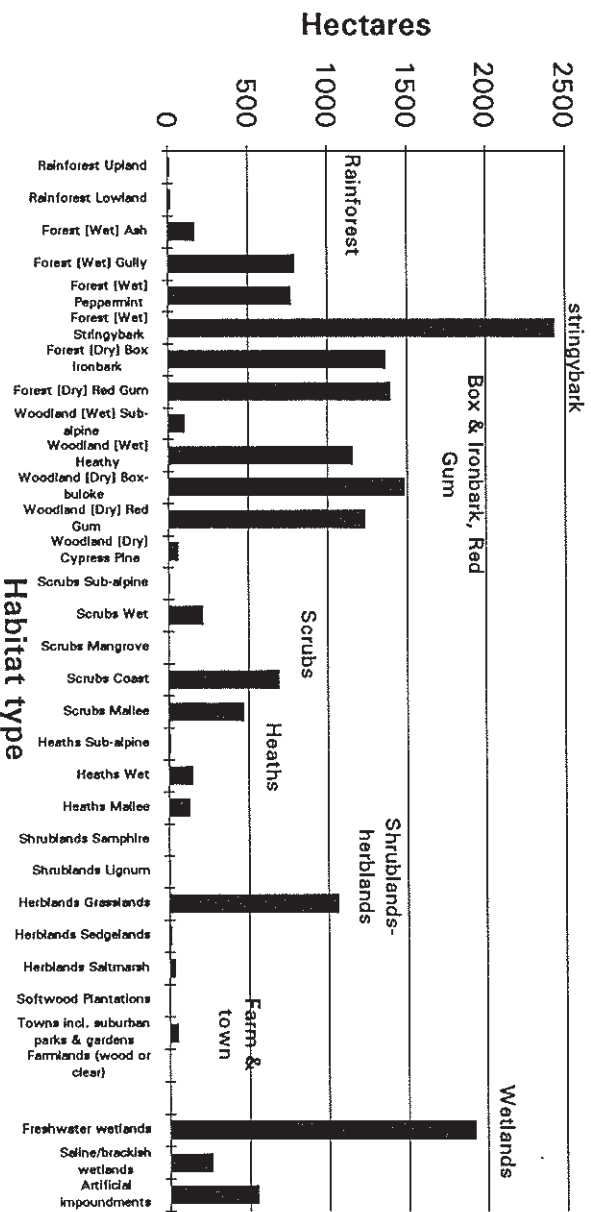


Figure 4: Area of retained habitat & habitat 'under restoration' on Land for Wildlife properties as a proportion of total area 1990-92

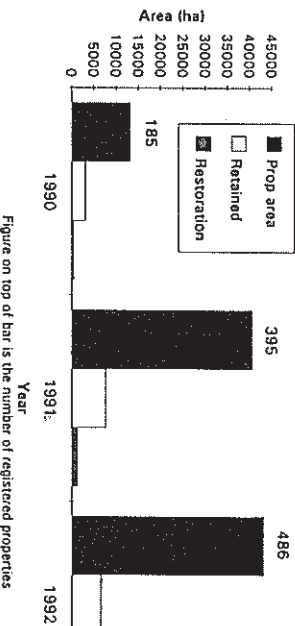


Figure on top of bar is the number of registered properties

Figure 5: Number of Land for Wildlife properties with temporary and/or permanent stream frontage

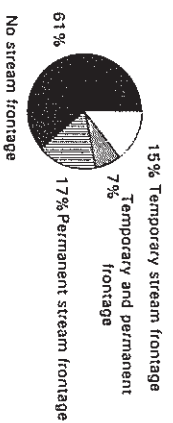


Figure 6: Number of Land for Wildlife properties (May 1993) compared with number of properties in Victoria (estimated at 70 000)

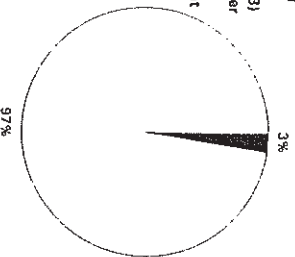


Figure 7: Area and number of Land for Wildlife properties in area range since mid-1990

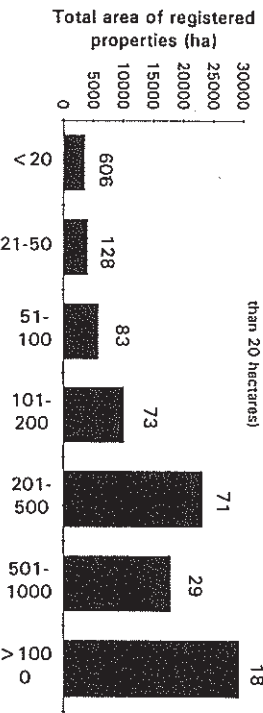


Figure on bar is the number of properties in the area range