



# Community Spotlighting Night

## Young District Landcare Group

**The Community Spotlighting Night engaged locals in learning about nocturnal wildlife and conservation through the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. This event included a guided spotlight walk, expert talks, and a BBQ, offering both education and enjoyment for attendees.**

### The issue

Native wildlife populations across the Riverina, especially the Squirrel Glider, are on a steep decline. The continued loss of intact native vegetation, coupled with habitat fragmentation and other human activities, has pushed these species to the brink. Recognising this, the need for increased community awareness and stronger conservation efforts has become urgent.

### The solution

With this in mind, Murrumbidgee Landcare reached out to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, proposing a community spotlighting event at Clover Leigh Golf Club in Crowther, NSW. It was a chance to connect the community with local conservation efforts, spotlight the importance of protecting native species, and directly engage with wildlife.

We brought together a line-up of knowledgeable speakers on the evening to engage our participants. Lucy Wright from Local Land Services (LLS) guided participants through the Squirrel Glider habitats, sharing the conservation on what work LLS is currently doing. Acting as our expert spotlight guide, Lucy led participants to discover wildlife in real-time, making the experience truly interactive.

Mason Crane from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) added his voice, sharing the vital work BCT does with land managers to safeguard places like Clover Leigh. His stories about the Squirrel Glider provided an even deeper appreciation for the species and its precarious situation.

The owner of Clover Leigh Golf Club, Peter Frecklington, also shared his inspiring story. He spoke about why he turned the back nine of his golf course into a conservation area under a BCT agreement, and his ongoing commitment to wildlife protection. Peter's involvement in past projects, such as Barb Busters, was a highlight. He showed the group a barbed-wire sculpture in the shape of a golf ball, created from the very wire he removed from his property to make his land safer for wildlife.

### The impact

The event brought together 28 community members, both adults and children, who left with a richer understanding of local wildlife and conservation. Throughout the night, participants spotted 5 ringtail possums, 2 squirrel gliders (one of which was seen gliding!), a brush tail possum, sleeping birds, and an array of insects.

Before the spotlighting, Lucy Wright used her pole camera to inspect the nest boxes Peter had installed on the property. Excitingly, the boxes showed promising activity, with one even housing a sleeping Squirrel Glider. This kind of monitoring provided reassuring evidence that past conservation efforts, like these nest boxes, continue to benefit native wildlife.

The event not only created lasting memories for the participants but also reinforced the importance of ongoing conservation work and how many years after projects finish, they are still adding value, restoring and protecting vital habitats across the Riverina.



### Key facts

- Attendees: 28
- Speakers: 3
- We spotted: 8 nocturnal mammals
- Monitoring outcomes: Old nest boxes were still being used by wildlife

### Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

18 Mar, 2025