

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER **February – March 2010.**

Next Meeting Friday 26th February 2010 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiSapes Centre

For our opening speaker of the year we welcome back Martin Finland from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations who will bring along a large range of our Australian wildlife. Martin's easy style, comprehensive knowledge of our fauna will give his audience a chance to be up close to our unique creatures. Snakes, Quolls, gliders, frogs and turtles have previously enchanted young and old. Come along for more surprises this year. You will not be disappointed. Do not miss out. Entry by Gold Coin donation.



Martin - photographed by Donna Edwards

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

Welcome back to our first newsletter of the year. We have a busy programme planned with many and varied and interesting speakers and events.

As usual we will be highlighting events including World Wetland and World Environment days. Our Seaweeek cruise will be a unique chance to travel by water from Raby Bay to the heart of the city South Bank. We will be conducting walks within the shire to highlight its many aspects. Our monitoring programmes Seagrass and Mangrove watch continue providing valuable data on the health of the bay.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it. Australia is blessed with abundant diversity but seem to be hell bent on a path of population growth and exploitation of natural resources that will ultimately have dire consequences for our fragile ecosystems, our flora and fauna

both sides of government frequently espouse the words that "growth is good", it is needed so that future generations can live comfortably. They neglect to mention or plan for protection of nature's infrastructure, the land, water and the air we breathe, if these living networks are compromised, then humans will eventually struggle to even feed themselves.

During the year will continue to highlight the importance of conserving biodiversity and the threats to our bushland and wildlife that are becoming all to apparent.

I look forward to seeing you all at our events throughout the year.



Seaweeek Cruise

Join the fun and excitement on **Sunday 14 March 2010** when we head out for a different type of cruise taking in part of the bay and then the Brisbane river up to Southbank.

See flyer & booking form enclosed for details.



Learn that Weed!

Cockspur coral tree - (*Erythrina crista-galli*)

Deciduous, perennial, thorny tree to 8 metres high, with woody trunk, furrowed corky bark and a crown of short, deciduous, spiny branches.

Forms compound foliage with trifoliate leaves, mid-green, pinnate, about 10 cm. long, tending glossy, and veined.

Flowers are large, red, pea-type in

spectacular dense, long angled or pendant clusters.

Seeds are chestnut brown with speckling,

cylindrical and distributed sparsely throughout the long seedpod. The

buoyant pods are carried by floodwaters and dispersed along the creek banks and into wetlands.

The weed is listed as an environmental weed on the BCC's Weed ID website tool, and it gained a medium score of 3.5 and was ranked 169th (out of 200) in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium.

(CI)



The Kedron Brook Babbler August 09
WPSQ Kedron Brook Branch

Note from BCC weeds - Forms dense monocultures in low-lying, wetland areas, out competing native vegetation and reducing native habitat for wildlife. It contains alkaloids that have powerful narcotic and purgative effects. The seeds are poisonous. Previously commonly grown in gardens throughout Brisbane.



Baby Rescue

Fran has reported that she has rescued a baby bandicoot from her swimming pool. Baby was taken to the vet who after checking it over placed it with a wildlife carer.

He (the vet advise it was a male) weighed in at just 50g and he will be in care until he reaches 350g so he has a way to go.

Fran lives at Alexandra Hills backing on to Scribbly Gums Reserve.

The benefits of recycling:

Recycling is the process by which waste materials are diverted from the waste stream. The products are sorted and then used to produce new materials.

When steel and aluminium is not recycled, it ends up in landfill. Landfills generate toxic emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane. These greenhouse gases contribute to worldwide climate change. (Source CUA)

Maureen's Tips:

Did you know.... by recycling six aluminium cans you can offset a 25 kilometre train journey, a 17 kilometre bus ride or ten kilometre trip in an average size car. So be sure to recycle all your aluminium cans. (Source Planet Ark)

Did you know....plastic bags can become serial killers. Once a bag is ingested the animal dies and decomposes, releasing the bag back into the environment to kill again. So Reduce Reuse and Recycle. (Source CUA)

"We share the earth not only with our fellow human beings, but with all other creatures" - The Dalai Lama



Save Straddie

A coalition of groups has been formed to fight the destruction of North Stradbroke Island (NSI) by sand mining company owned by a Unimin Australia Ltd.

The company has been in court recently over its alleged actions in removing and selling sand from North Stradbroke Island without lawful authorisation. Unimin Australia Ltd, a private Belgian-owned company that also owns NSI mineral sand miner CRL, was charged last month after an investigation by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), now part of DERM.

The coalition of groups is campaigning to have North Stradbroke Island declared a national park in order to protect the remaining old growth forest, pristine freshwater lakes, flora and fauna such as the koala.

Walking brings all sorts of benefits

By Belinda Homewood

On a regular morning walk about 6am in downtown Alex Hills, looking upwards (where I once brushed too close for comfort to a rather large carpet snake whose weight bent a small gum into my path) I was disappointed to see the snakes tree had been snapped off about 3 ft from the ground (vandals?)

But beside it about 4-5 metres high in a casaurina tree was an owl or 2 or 3 or 4 or even 5! Southern boobook owls.

It looked like mum and dad with a family, there being 2 very dark coloured owls and 3 which were much lighter. The darker owls, seems to have their brows knitted close together, dark faces and eyes watching me closely, staring me out. The younger birds were much fluffier with almost white breasts.

30 minutes later I drove back in the car with the camera to take photos. I was very excited at spotting them. In this particular location, as well as eyeballing the carpet snake, I regularly see a wallaby and the occasional koala. It's an area bordered by roads on 3 sides and all the wildlife spotted within 50 -100 metres of these roadways.



Work for Wetlands & enjoy rewards

Join the Eprapah Enviro's Bushcare Group for a short while. Get your hands dirty (or wear gloves) to both help and enjoy this unique environment.

When - Saturday 13th February 2010

Meeting Time - 7.30am

Meet at - Victoria Point Scout car park at Eprapah (Cnr Colburn Ave & Redland Bay Rd, Victoria Point

It s only a short walk to the work site but there is a lot to see along the way.

A delightful morning tea will be your reward. Remember your water, hat and sturdy shoes.

Call Maureen on 0418 197160 to register.

Wetlands for Wildlife

Each year World Wetlands Day is celebrated on the 2nd February. It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

The day is an opportunity for community groups to contribute to raising awareness of the value of wetlands to the environment. The theme for 2010 is 'Caring for wetlands - an answer to climate change', this follows on from the climate change meeting of world leaders in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.



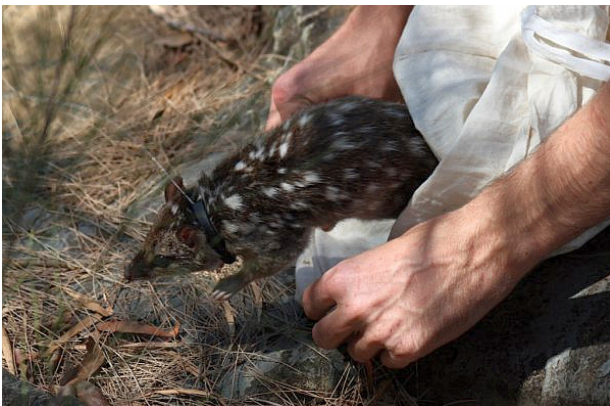
Additionally 2010 has been designated the International Year of Biodiversity.

Quoll spotting at Eungella

By Don Baxter

The quoll search project at Eungella went well over a period of two weeks under the control of National Parks & assisted by a group of volunteers. The trapping was carried out in the area of Crediton State Forest which adjoins Eungella to the south with the camp site located at Denham Range at an altitude of 800M. The country was extremely dry with many large fires burning continuously. No roos or wallabies & not a lot of bird life in the dry areas.

The area is typical of most east coast ranges with rain forest on the eastern side & dry forest on the western slopes. Much of the area consists of very steep ridges with bolder strewn gullies with the occasional pool of water. Habitat that suits quolls & red bellied black snakes. Beef cattle are grazed in the area on a land lease basis. Most of the many tracks in the area are the result of logging though Parks does apparently put a blade over them occasionally. All pools had a heavy population of cane toad tadpoles & some wild pigs were seen in the area.



Quoll being released - photo by Jesse Rowland

Four teams of three people went out each day at 1500 to set approximately 50 traps along roads & creek lines. Traps used were Elliott A & B & cat traps. Teams went out at 0500 each day to check traps early to avoid stress to trapped wildlife.

Four quolls were trapped & fitted with collars for tracking. One quoll was trapped four times. One quoll was taken by a black headed python which was then tracked & caught & taken to the vet to recover the tracking device & then returned to the bush. Brush tailed possums, mice & cane toads were also caught. In one case I saw where an animal had been caught in an Elliott A trap & had

bashed it's way out of the back of the trap so it was obviously a powerful little animal. No cats were seen or caught but they are believed to be in the area.

A couple of harp traps were set & a three species of micro bat were caught & documented. These photos were taken by Jesse Rowland as I took about 100 shots but am having a problem sending individual ones.



Wanted please

When having your New Year's clean out please put aside any good saleable items for Wildlife.

Wildlife Bayside will have a fund raiser Market Sale in March and we are asking for donation of goods to sell. We are looking for household items but not large furniture or clothes (as storage room is limited). Books in good condition are also welcome.

If you have items to donate please contact Maureen on 0418 197 160



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Help celebrate 20th Anniversary of Clean Up Australia's campaign on March 7, 2010.

Clean Up Australia Day

On Sunday 7th March

Members are invited to participate in this important clean up day at the Greater Glider Reserve in Wimbourne Road Alexandra Hills.

Come and help clean up your local environment. It is a fun and easy way to get involved. Just a few hours can make a difference

Meeting point Picnic table, Wimbourne Road park opposite Chipping Drive

Start time 7am End time 10am

Contact Steve on 3824 0522 or register on line at <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/steveh>

Fire Report

By Jan Smith

On the 8th December 2009 there was an enormous explosion which sounded like a gas bottle blowing up and almost immediately afterwards a fire broke out on Skinner's Reserve on the northern side of Bligh St. Wellington Point. I phoned the emergency number and was told they had it covered.

From our house in Galena St. we could see smoke billowing up from the reserve and then from the direction the smoke was coming we could see that it had jumped Bligh St and was beginning to burn along the other side almost up to Station Street (near the new Retirement Village).



Shortly after the fire - Photo R Smith

The residents in the surrounding areas were not allowed back into their homes for quite some time as there are many trees close to houses in this area. The Fire Brigade and the Council conservation team had quite a job on their hands as there was a strong wind blowing that day.

We originally thought it was not a 'hot' fire so we were hoping that we wouldn't lose a lot of the big Eucalypts but later we did see that the fire burnt some of them a fair way up. The young eucalypts were burnt but as we know, these trees need fire to germinate and before too long more young trees will spring up.

The Casuarinas and Melaleucas were mostly all burnt. Once the fire burnt up into the paperbark trees near Duke St. all the Council conservation team could do was to do a back burn and keep an eye on it. Some of the paperbarks kept burning for a few days but the council team kept a careful watch on it. This made life very difficult for people with respiratory problems and no doubt displaced much of our wildlife.

Fortunately, to the best of my knowledge only one koala came into care with burnt feet and ears and a baby possum that, having obviously lost its mum, wandered into a house in Fernbourne Road and is now being looked after by one of the Care Network's carers. I did hear that several koalas managed to climb high enough to save themselves as the fire went through.

The local newspaper said that the fire was started by kids 'playing' with matches. Whether it was kids 'playing' with matches or something more sinister such as teenagers taking risks with something more dangerous we will never know but in any case I think this could be considered to be arson.

Finally the rain came in January and this area has started to recover. Its hoped that the displaced wildlife has been able to shelter elsewhere and can now return to its home.



Fire ravaged area showing signs of recovery after the rain - Photo R Smith

