



BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER July – August 2010.

Next Meeting Friday 30th July 2010 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

Our speakers this month are from the Oxley Creek Catchment Association and will be discussing the possibilities of a vegetated corridor between Flinders Peak and Moreton Bay. The presentation will form part of the Peaks to Points Festival which celebrates the diverse natural environment of greater Brisbane’s southern region, from the dramatic heights of Flinders Peak near Ipswich, to the tranquil waters of Moreton Bay. The festival runs from the 17th July until 1st August. Locally there is also an interactive presentation being held at Wellington Point Reserve on Saturday 24th July between 10am -2.00pm.



So come along to Indigiscapes 7.30pm Friday 30th July to hear about this exciting proposal to increase our protected habitat. As usual all are welcome, light supper provided.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

The recent reports about the untimely death from disease of the Redland koala named “Pan Da” and all the subsequent publicity around the event have reignited debate on the measures being taken to mitigate the threats to their environment. It is quite clear that a minority sees the purchase of land, warning signs, fencing and better environmental planning for wildlife as excessive or even unnecessary. That the money could be better spent on facilities, roads, footpaths, parks etc.

Whilst Koala protection often makes the headlines, it is part of a bigger green movement that over the years has led to creation of new reserves, better planning and awareness about the need consider the health, not only of our wildlife but air and water quality. The selfish thoughts of a few should never deter us from

continuing to invest in sustaining a natural environment that will benefit not only our wildlife but the people who live in it now and into the future. Agencies both local and state should be congratulated on their resolute efforts to increase the natural estate and protection, there is still much more to be done.

“Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites”. ~William Ruckelshaus



Thank you for your assistance

Thank you to those who helped to person our stall at the Green Expo at Alexandra Hills on Sunday 20 June.

The Expo featured a variety of displays and food stalls and was well attended.



National Park welcomed

Joint press release by Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Stradbroke Island Management Organisation, Friends of Stradbroke Island and Community Alliance for Responsible Planning - Redlands

The Government should be congratulated.

The reality of Stradbroke Island becoming one of the great National Parks of Queensland was born in June. This will be an asset for the people of Queensland to enjoy for future generations. There are still many more steps ahead but the critical first step has been taken.

We are very happy for the indigenous people whose dreams of managing their country are coming to realization. We applaud them for their generosity and vision in helping make this National Park a reality.

Protecting the natural assets of North Stradbroke Island ensures that island residents will have access to long term sustainable jobs, something mining can never do. Once the mining resource is gone so are the jobs and so is the environment. Protecting the environment provides long term job security through industries like tourism, recreation and education along with a multitude of services that support these industries.

This is an important win for SEQ which is short on green space.

We understand that the Government is still considering the expired mining leases. It's crucial that all remaining pristine areas are protected, including the last remaining tracts of high dune country. An essential part of achieving this will be non-renewal of all expired leases. We continue to urge the Government to take this step so this land can be incorporated into National Park. We are confident that the Government appreciates the strength of the arguments against renewal.

Mangrove Watch Cleveland

On Sunday 4th July the Cleveland Mangrove Watch team was out on the mudflats at 7.30am for what proved to be a beautiful morning.

Mangrove Watch survey teams help to monitor the magnificent mangroves of Moreton Bay and is Wildlife Queensland's new monitoring project for mangrove health - If you like mud and would be able to spend 3-4 mornings a year contributing to the health of Queensland's coastline and marine environments, we want to hear from you.

Reward checking on the health of the mangroves, good company and the refreshments at the end.

Why not join the Bayside Branch Mangrove Watch on their next monitoring session at Cleveland.

Contact Steve on 38240522



Some of the Mangrove Watch crew

Looking for a website with fantastic photography? Have a look at www.robertashdown.com. Robert Ashdown describes himself as "an amateur photographer currently living in Toowoomba" but his photography gives you so much more.



National Tree Day walk

To celebrate National Tree Day on Sunday 25th July 2010, Bayside Branch will be conducting a wild walk.

The walk will take us along the foreshore starting from Thorneside and finishing at Aquatic Paradise lookout where, refreshments will be partaken.



This is an opportunity to observe a number of different plant communities and wildlife mainly of the bird variety.

Start time 7.30am. Bring suitable footwear, water, hat and sunscreen.

Distance approximately 3km, ambling time 1 hour 15 minutes, reasonable footpath most of the way.

Cost is a gold coin donation.

Car pooling back to start point, if required. For more details and to register contact Steve 38240522.



Whale News

From the newspapers - Courier Mail
The Good

Whale waste could cut carbon emissions. Scientists have found whales undertake a monumental amount of recycling, thus fertilising the huge Southern Ocean with their poo.

And as the number of whales and krill increases, that could boost productivity and improve the vast Southern Ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide. The phenomenon occurs because the krill they eat feed on algae, which is full of iron. When whales poo, they recycle the iron, thereby starting the food process again.

The bad

Whales full of toxins
Sperm whales feeding even in the most remote reaches of Earth's oceans have built up stunningly high levels of toxic and heavy metals. The findings spell danger not only for marine life but for the millions of humans who depend on seafood.

Learn that Weed!

Heartseed vine and Balloon vine (*C. halicacabum*) are closely similar rampant vines, densely growing, smothering other plants up to 8 m high in the canopy. Commonly found along waterways, road sides, disturbed sites, and at forest edges.

In the case of the Heartseed vine, the leaves are made up of nine leaflets 2.5-8 cm long, which have toothed margins and are dark green. The flowers are white, 8–10 mm long and grouped together at the end of a long stalk in the leaf axils, with two curled tendrils just below the flowers. Fruits are distinctly balloon-like, membranous, inflated and veined, and are more than 5 cm long.

The Balloon vine species has leaflets less than 4 cm long, the flowers about 4 mm long and smaller fruits and seeds. There are two varieties of *C. halicacabum* and the studios may research this further. *C. grandiflorum* has a high 4.4 invasive score as an environmental weed. (C I)



Heartseed vine
(*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*)

From *The Kedron Brook Babbler* December 09
published by WPSQ Kedron Brook Branch

TYSON'S STORY...

By Kym Mulraney & Tyson the Brushtail Possum

Today is Saturday, 9th January 2010. It's a very special day for my juvenile brushtail possum. Today is the day we've been working towards since he came into care. Today he's being released into the wild, to take his place in the big wide world, where he belongs. It's been a long hard road, with lots of ups and downs along the way. It's been the hardest, yet the most rewarding journey I've undertaken...

My life is so uncomplicated. I'm safe and snug inside my mummy's pouch, it's so warm and moist, and I have a constant supply of delicious milk. The gentle movement as my mummy jumps along lulls me into a deep sleep, knowing she will keep me safe from any harm. All of sudden my mummy stops, the jerk startles me awake. I'm not expecting the BIG BANG. My mummy seems to stumble and then my mummy isn't moving any more.

Something's wrong. I'm starting to get cold, and my mummy has stayed very still for longer than usual. I hear a noise and somehow there is light invading my pouch. A gentle hand is holding me, but I can't let go of my mummy, her teat is still attached to my mouth.

My milk supply is suddenly cut off. I'm taken out of my mummy's perfect pouch, and put into another type of pouch. This one feels very different, there's no moisture and it's scratchy on my skin when I move around. I'm feeling so scared and confused. Where is my mummy?

Then I hear it. A very soft voice whispering to me through my new pouch, reassuring me I will be fine. I hear another voice, a man. He's saying I only weigh 38 grams. I'm too small, I'll never make it. My eyes are still shut, my ears are still attached to my head, my mouth is still fused at the sides. He wants to put me to sleep with my mummy. Then I hear the other voice again. The soft voice saying I deserve a chance, she's willing to

fight for me, she won't let him put me to sleep. The man sounds mad. The pouch moves again, and now I can hear a heart beating. It's not my mummy, but it reassures me. Again I sleep. No one thinks I have a chance of survival. I'm too small. But no one knows how strong I am. I am a fighter. I am Tyson.

When I wake up I'm very hungry, but no matter how hard I suck there is no milk. I spit out my teat, and start rooting around for another one. The gentle hand picks me up, snuggles me in close to her heart and drips milk into my mouth from a syringe. I don't like the taste of it, but I swallow until my belly's full. The gentle hand helps me go to the toilet, then the soft reassuring voice lulls me to sleep, tucked up next to the same beating heart.

This routine continues for the next 10 days. Every 2 hours I am woken up, snuggled in to be fed, toileted and lulled to sleep next to the beating heart. After 10 days I still weigh 38 grams. I'm feeling weaker, but I'm still a fighter. I now know the gentle hand, the soft voice, the beating heart. They all belong to my new mummy, and she loves me. She gives me lots of kisses and cuddles, and whispers reassuring words. Inside her shirt, next to her heart, has become my new pouch.

My new mummy takes me to see a different man. She calls him "The Vet". He weighs me, and says I only weigh 38 grams. I'm very small, he doesn't think I'll make it. Then he tells my mummy that I'm very active, and he can't bring himself to put me to sleep. He makes some phone calls, and asks my mummy to take me to see a special lady for a second opinion. When we get there the special lady tells my mummy she doesn't think she'll have good news, but she would like to see me. My mummy very gently takes me out and hands me to the special lady. I don't like being out of my pouch and wriggle around to show my displeasure. This special lady weighs me, then another lady weighs me too. Nothing has changed, I'm still only 38 grams. She tells my mummy I'm very active, a little fighter. I deserve a chance, but it's going to be

very difficult. As well as being fed every 2 hours and toileted every 4 hours, I also need a special ointment rubbed into my skin twice a day.

The special lady shows my mummy how to feed me with a tiny catheter, which slides easily into my little mouth. I'm dehydrated, so I go back to The Vet. He has spoken to the special lady, and is willing to help me along. He pricks my skin, and pushes a cold liquid into my leg. This is to rehydrate me. He then pricks my other leg, more cold liquid. This is an antibiotic. On the way home my mummy gets the ointment we need. When we get home, she takes me out for a feed then rubs ointment into my skin. It's a bit cold, but it feels ever so nice.

Every day for the next 5 days I visit The Vet for an antibiotic injection, and one more fluid injection. After five days of being catheter fed, it's my last antibiotic injection. The Vet weighs me again. I wriggle around all over the place. I now weigh 53.7 grams. Everyone is very happy with how fat I'm getting! My mummy gives me extra cuddles and kisses today.

5 days later, I'm having about 12ml of milk spread over 7 feeds every day. My skin is nice and moist from the ointment. My ears have both detached and popped up, it's much easier to hear now! My mummy has been getting lots of advice and help from the special lady. It's time for my mummy to take me back to The Vet. I now weigh 64.6 grams! He reminds my mummy to slowly increase my milk intake with my weight gain.

The next day my right eye opens! The first thing I see is my new mummy's face. I love her so much! She cries when I look at her for the first time. 8 hours later my left eye opens too. Now I can hear and see, I really become a rascal! I've never learnt to like the taste of my new milk, and every feed my mummy has to pry my jaws open with her nails. The bigger I get, the stronger I get, the harder it is for mummy to open my mouth! I was born stubborn, and I have remained stubborn.

Everyone says that's what kept me alive from the start.



A 38g baby brushtail

To be continued

This is part one of a two part story which will continue next month.



Native animals starving

Flying-foxes are suffering a starvation event right now in SE Qld with an increase in calls to rescue hungry bats.

Due to hunger bats are attempting to get food from the ground with the result that they are being attacked by domestic animals. Bats also try to land in fruiting flowering trees near barbed-wire which causes injuries necessitating not only rescue but also intensive care sometimes for long periods.

In the winter of 2007 there was an extreme food shortage for bats, many people left them to die in their backyards because it is assumed no one cares for these animals. Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. Inc are passionate about rescuing and rehabilitating these animals and concerned that disease hysteria is totally out of proportion in the minds of the public.

If you encounter a flying fox in trouble please call the 24 hr Rescue Service on 0488 228 134.

