

**BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER**

**May - June 2010.**

Next Meeting Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiSapes Centre

It is that time again when this month's quest speaker returns to tell us about his wildlife wonderings out west.

Boyd Essex is a keen wildlife photographer and always enjoys telling everyone his stories behind the pictures. For over 12 years, Boyd has venture into the wildlife world to observe, record and photograph anything he sees. You never know, you may see pictures of some rare species too. For those interested in Australian landscapes and plants, Boyd will also show us an array of these too. Come along and see part of our western areas through Boyd's eyes and enjoy the tales that go with them.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Steve Homewood

What a great speaker we had at the Branch AGM, Dr. John Glazebrook spoke expertly about intestinal diseases that had been discovered in turtles, found floating and distressed in Moreton Bay. Graphic pictures highlighted the excruciating agony these creatures may have endured. Whilst the cause is yet unknown suspicion falls on the increasing amount of pollution that is entering the bay due to overdevelopment.

We will be following these issues closely as many of our aquatic creatures are suffering from disease and stress and becoming increasingly vulnerable as our soaring population impacts on their environment with the continual degradation of our waterways.

There will be a full program of speakers again this year, I urge you all to come along and give support at our monthly meetings.

The current committee was re-elected unopposed, I would like to thank them for the work done throughout the past year, which continues to give the branch a high profile in local and state issues.

**World Environment Day**

Wildlife Bayside will hold its annual World Environment Day Dinner

When On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Time Arrive at 6.30pm for 7pm

Where Redlands IndigiScapes Centre  
Runnymede Rd Capalaba

Cost: WPSQ financial Member: \$30.00

Non-Member: \$35.00

Book now – Numbers are limited. Call Doreen on 3206 0368 . Flyer and payment form included with this newsletter.



## April Invasion

DSP

One recent Wednesday it had been raining steadily over night and was still bucketing down to such an extent that there was minor flooding in the local area. I was concentrating on getting indoors without ruining my shoes in the deep puddles that now ruled the club car park.

Having made it inside I joined my group. Then someone remarked "why is that worm on the carpet, did someone bring it in on their shoe?" We thought this unlikely but there was the worm. I scooped it up and carried it to the garden at the front door, getting wet in the process. When I returned to the table two more worms had been spotted wriggling across the dance floor. What was going on?

I gathered up the worms wondering where they could have appeared from - a pot plant maybe. Out the front door they went in to the garden. This time on returning to my group I found one of the club staff was scooping more worms up off the carpet. There were a number of worms varying in length from 5cm to 15cm.

Then it was realised that these critters had actually come in under the emergency door at the side of the room. More were wriggling across the concrete outside and appeared to be also heading for the door.

One of the staff placed a towel across the bottom of the door to prevent any further invasion. It appears that later on worms also started to move around outside the front door. Were they the ones we had evicted?

But here is a mystery. Well to me anyway. Why did all these earthworms come out of the garden and head to a dry area? Do they dislike having their holes full of water? How much rain does it take to cause this phenomenon? (We had 50+ mls in this period)

If it wasn't the rain then what caused the mass movement? But surely it must have to be the rain / flooding. It would be too much of a coincidence to be anything else.

If anyone out there can enlighten me to the cause of the earth worm move to drier digs I would be very interested to hear from you. (Phone Doreen 3206 0368).

## Annual General Meeting.

The AGM was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who attended and lent their support to the process.

Congratulation to the incoming committee. Returning to the committee are:

Steve Homewood - President  
John Payne - Vice president  
Simon Baltais - Secretary  
Maureen Tottenham - Treasurer  
Doreen Payne - executive member  
Donna Edwards - executive member  
Don Baxter - executive member

The society thanks retiring committee member Ian Bridge for his assistance.



## Conservationist recognised

Our Treasurer, Maureen Tottenham, was recently recognised by her workplace for her efforts on the Qantas Green Team within QantasLink.

Maureen has been part of the team since 2005 and has been responsible for the introduction of a number of initiatives particularly in the recycling area which Wildlife Bayside has also benefited from.

Her achievements were reported in the Qantas News April 2010.

Congratulations Maureen.



## Out in the Community – you're needed

The annual Indigi Day Out festival has been set for the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> June.

If you can spare a little time and would like to help to look after our Wildlife stall on that weekend, please contact Doreen on 3206 0368.

No experience necessary - you just need to know a little about WPSQ and like talking to people.

## Tingalpa Creek Paddle 2010

*Steve Homewood*

On the Sunday the 18th of April 15 adventurous souls gathered at John Fredericks Park Capalaba, in order to celebrate Earth day by paddling to the Leslie Harrison dam wall.



The day had dawned bright but showery and Don was there with canoes that had to be manhandled to the steep edge of the Tingalpa creek. The bank was slippery from recent showers and there was some trepidation amongst the participants as to who would be the first to sprawl in the river mud. In the event there was only one casualty and soon we were launched and gliding against the ebbing waters of the creek into a serene river world.

The creek at this point is fairly wide but on our journey we had to negotiate fallen trees and shallow rocky areas that narrowed parts of our route to a single canoe width. The weather that had meanwhile closed in on us and light showers, turned into heavy rain, there was brief shelter as we crossed under Moreton Bay Road, eventually after 30mins of paddling we could see ahead the towering dam wall and sluices. Some intrepid canoeists paddled to bottom of the wall, others mindful of the flooding rains made a more wary approach, just in case the gates started opening.



Before starting our return journey we took in the scenery of tangled vegetation on

steep banks, cascading water from drainage outfalls against the drab colour of the dam wall and the wide river reaches. The rain continued to fall heavily as we made our way down river to disembark at our start point, most of us were drenched past the point of caring. Some continued onward lifting canoes over the historic causeway to venture further down river.



Morning tea and hot drinks had been organised, dry clothes procured, canoes loaded on to the trailer. Steve had donated a shoe to the mangrove mud, others thought they might need a flu shot.

We all agreed that despite the weather we had had a rewarding fun time. Thanks went to Don for arranging the canoes.

And then the sun came out!



Weeds observed by Norm Bain on the creek banks during the canoe trip included:

- singapore daisy
- easter cassia
- pepper tree
- umbrella tree
- morning glory

These are some of the hardest to eradicate weeds. Norm also commented that there were quite a number of supermarket shopping trolleys rusting along the banks and in the water and wondered if the supermarket companies could be persuaded to collect them.

*Photographs- B Homewood, L Wood & S Baltais*

## Learn that Weed!

Silver-leaved Desmodium (Desmodium uncinatum)



A Class R environmental weed under local Council regulation, this perennial vine was brought in from South America as a pasture plant and is now apparently naturalised. (Yep! We're stuck with it!)

The stems are covered with sparse to moderately dense hooked spreading hairs, rather like Velcro hooks which readily attach to clothing, and to animal fur.

There's a very characteristic silver stripe down the middle of each of the leaflets mostly formed in threes. Each leaflet is egg-shaped.

Flowers are pink, mauve or blue and less than 1 cm long. These are formed in inflorescences up to about 10 cm long.

The seed pods, covered with the hooked hairs, are divided into 2 to 10 segments. A Byron Shire wildlife carer was said to have reported that both a boobook owl and a frog got caught in the sticky weed's foliage and starved to death.

(CI)

*Reproduced from the Kedron Brook  
Babbler December 08  
WPSQ Kedron Brook Branch*

## Spring fever

This delightful photograph was taken by Roy Thake. The nest was built in an open shed and the chicks in the nest are thought to be Grey shrike thrush.



Apparently the chicks grew and fledged in a very short time. It was not long after this photograph was taken that the chicks left the nest.



## National Volunteer Week 2010

Theme: 'Now, more than ever'

Celebrated: 10-16 May 2010

National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteering in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you.

In Australian volunteers are essential to society, and many groups would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers.

The theme 'Now more than ever' brings volunteering to the forefront and will raise the profile of volunteering and highlight that volunteering, now, more than ever, is important to Australian society and the contribution of all volunteers must be recognised.

So, a big 'thank you' to all of our members and supporters who give their time and skills so generously.

## Sounds Of Alarm

DSP

The Sunday morning peace was broken by the alarm calls of half a dozen Noisy minors. Grabbing the binoculars we raced out to discover what had prompted this discordant chorus.

Just 10 meters from the front door he stood poised, alert for any possible danger, tasting the air with a quick flick of his tongue. "He" is assumed as I don't know how to tell the sex of lace monitors.

A fine specimen, he must have been around 1.3 meters in length, at least half of which was tail. He had big strong shoulders and legs with dark bands of colour and multiple spots which gave him good camouflage when she stood still to assess the situation. After a short while he seemed to decide he didn't like being observed and headed back into the bush block next door. He was closely pursued by the birds who seemed to feel it their duty to escort him off the property. Whether he had been planning on a few bird eggs or chook eggs for dinner I don't know but his plans were obviously spoilt.

Strangely enough he returned the next day, heralded by a similar noisy chorus of bird calls this time the peewees and dollar birds joined in. He tried to climb the "habitat tree" but was frustrated by the band of tin that was put around it a couple of years ago to give the birds a chance of raising young. Thus discouraged he headed off back next door again.

While all eyes were on him, a smaller relative of his had climbed into a nearby eucalyptus. This lace monitor was only about 70cm long and as yet did not have the massive shoulders of its large relative but displayed the same attractive bands and yellow spots.



She (call it that to distinguish them) was apparently in need of a rest as she stretched out on a branch in the sun. However the dollar birds in particular was not in the mood to put up with this presence and subjected the monitor to regular attacks. For the most part they were ignored but after a while she tired of it all and to my surprise and alarm went down the tree and straight into the nest box! I waited thinking that if there was already a tenant there would be a noisy battle but no sounds were heard so hopefully there had been no one in residence on this occasion.


I hadn't thought the monitor was small enough or agile enough to get into the nestbox but here was indisputable evidence to the contrary. I wonder if this might explain why we sometimes find egg shells under that particular tree.



**Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch**

Email- [bayside@wildlife.org.au](mailto:bayside@wildlife.org.au)

Website - <http://www.branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>

<p><b>Meeting Information</b></p> <p><b>When</b> Last Friday of each month (excluding December &amp; January)</p> <p><b>Where</b> Redlands IndigiScapes Centre 17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba</p> <p><b>Time</b> 7.30 pm</p>	<p><i>Illustration by L Saunders</i></p> 	<p><i>Opinions expressed , implied or inferred in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Society..</i></p>
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**Committee & Contacts**

President	Steve Homewood	3824 0522
Vice President	John Payne	3206 0368
Secretary	Simon Baltais	3822 4943
Treasurer	Maureen Tottenham	0418 197160
Executive	Don Baxter	
	Donna Edwards	
	Doreen Payne	
Bayside Newsletter Editor		
	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor		
	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor		
	Paulette Jones	
Librarian		
	Pat Comer	

**Wildlife Diary Dates**

Friday 28 May Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Saturday 29 May World Environment Day dinner
Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 June Stall at IndigiScapes
Friday 25 June Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

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**Membership Application**

**Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld Bayside Branch**

Date / /

-- New  or Renewal

Membership types

- \$30.00 Single
- \$20.00 Concession  
(pensioner or full student)
- \$45.00 Family or non profit group
- \$12.50 Junior (under 13 years)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/c \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Optional

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription: Wildlife Australia magazine  
(Educational, informative & great photography)

Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_

- \$42.00 per year inc GST (four issues)  
posted within Australia
- \$65.00 per year posted overseas airmail

Donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For campaign .....  
(Bayside does not have tax deductible status)

**Total amount enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

As a member I agree to be bound by the  
rules of the society

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

 <p><b>Payment by Credit Card</b></p> <p>Card type- Bankcard__ Visa__ Mastercard__</p> <p>Card No _____</p> <p>Expiry Date ____/____</p> <p>Name on the Card _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Signature</b> _____</p>	
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