

WILDLIFE DIARY

October 2010



Great Finds

41 new species of spiders found in the Redlands during a recent invertebrate study.

Great Barred-frog, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* and the **Tusked Frog**, *Adelotus brevis* in Little Eprapah Creek.

4 Dugongs frolicking at Scarborough.

Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*, heard about Wellington Point and Birkdale. Also, the **Koels**, *Eudynamys scolopacea* and **Channel-billed cuckoos**, *Scythrops novaehollandiae* are back in town.

POPULATION MATTERS

But the rapid loss of species we are seeing today is estimated by experts to be between 1000 and 10,000 times higher than the "background" or expected natural extinction rate (a highly conservative estimate). Unlike the mass extinction events of geological history, the current extinction phenomenon is one for which a single species - ours - appears to be almost wholly responsible. This is often referred to as "the sixth extinction crisis", after the five known extinction waves in geological history.

IUCN Redlist -

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/species_extinction_05_2007.pdf

International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>

LED koala signs

The Premier's Koala Taskforce investigated and advised the premier of a range of actions that could be applied to help save the koala from sliding further towards extinction. As cars account for a significant number of koala deaths the taskforce concluded that the installation of mobile LED speed signage was an effective way of reminding drivers of their speed. Redland City Council has been one of the first statutory authorities to embrace this expert advice. It is known that people become accustomed to static signage and in some instances ignore them.

The mobile LED signage certainly grabs the driver's attention and increases the opportunity that a driver will drive at a speed that gives a koala a chance to avoid a vehicle and almost certain death. Their conservation and cost effectiveness becomes apparent when it is realised how quickly and easily these signs can be moved to any spot in the Redlands where koalas are found to be on the move or are at risk of being hit by cars.

Did You Know?

Did you know the **Soft spined sunfish**, *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*, is a small freshwater fish with a limited and fragmented distribution? Populations of *R. ornatus* are faced with environmental pressures including loss or degradation of habitat and invasions by exotic fish species. If you are interested in helping locate remaining populations contact us: wildlifebb@bigpond.com

Did you know a recent study of invertebrates in the Redlands found there is a mature local **land snail** community in the bushlands, albeit, mainly within small, scattered moist refugia in a much larger 'sea' of drier eucalypt forest?

In the USA studies have estimated that **trees may account for up to 15 percent of the value of a residential property**. For example, a \$200,000 USD house on a lot with three mature trees might owe as much as \$30,000 USD of its value to the trees. Assuming that all three trees are of equal value, each tree would be valued at \$10,000 USD. In Melbourne city trees are valued at \$95,608 each; a street tree may add as much as \$50,000 to the value of a property. See: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/03/26/2857693.htm>

Have a look at the [SA Urban Forests - Million Trees Program](#), where they are planting three million local native trees and associated understorey species to help restore vital habitat across the Adelaide Metropolitan Area.

Ever wondered what the froth at the bottom of some trees was after rain? It's most likely the natural compound called **saponin**. It acts like a detergent and was dispersed into water by indigenous people to poison fish, making their capture easier.

Great Walks

Some of the best bird watching walks are those tracks that traverse those coastal woodlands at Wellington Point, Ormiston and Thornlands. Travel to the top of Empire Vista Ormiston or South

Street Thornlands and you can find good walking trails along the coastline. Great walks and great bird watching.



WWW

Glossy Black Cockatoo events

http://www.glossyblack.org.au/news_events.html

Save Wellington Ponds

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0O6Es9VwbA>

Koala Central - great website

<http://www.koalacentral.com.au/>

Birds

<http://birdsinyard.net/>

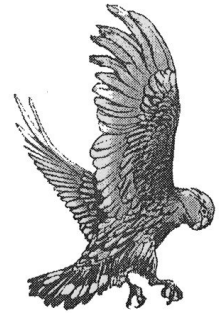
Ecological footprint

<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/footprints/index.html>

Glossies

The **Glossy Black Cockatoo**, *Calyptorhynchus lathami*, is one of the more threatened species of cockatoo in Australia and is listed as vulnerable under QLD and NSW legislation.

Glossies are a 48cm long cockatoo, brownish-black in colour. Has a broad red tail band and a very short recumbent crest. With its flight described as relaxed and floppy, they are seen on Russell & Lamb Is. and listed as Vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act. It can be identified from its larger more raucous cousin, the **Red-tailed Cockatoo**, *Calyptorhynchus banksii*, which hasn't been seen in this region and by its smaller size and soft prolonged call, sounds like tarr-red, tarr-res. The Glossies feed solely on the **Black She-oak**, *Allocasuarina littoralis* & **Forest She-oak**, *Allocasuarina torulosa*. These trees are dioecious, (distinct male & female plants) so seed-bearing cones are borne on fewer than half of the trees in most areas.



Adult male, Head, neck, nape and underparts dark sooty-brown, merging into brown-black on under tail-coverts; back and wings black, a faint brownish-green sheen on primaries; central tail feathers black, lateral feathers with a broad subterminal band of bright red; bill grey; iris dark brown; legs grey.

Adult female, Tail-band washed with yellow and divided by narrow black stripes; yellow feathers scattered throughout sides of head and neck, bill grey-horn.

Immatures, Feathers of lower underparts strongly edged with yellow; a few yellow spots on upper wing-coverts; no yellow feathers on head; tail band washed with yellow and divided by narrow black stripes, similar to that of adult female; bill grey-horn.



In Queensland the Glossy Black-Cockatoo is listed as vulnerable, and is considered rare, ranging from Eungella in the north, and inland to the middle reaches of the Isaacs River, Blackdown Tableland, the Carnarvon Ranges, the Augathella district, Morven, Mitchell, the Moonie River and Stanthorpe (Forshaw 1981) and lucky for us, also on the Moreton Bay Islands (we know of nesting pairs), Mt Cotton and on the Gold Coast, particularly in the Hinterland.

The estimated Queensland population size is about 1000 - 2500 individuals, suspected to be decreasing. The area of distribution may have declined by 25 - 74%. There is a low reproductive rate and potential for recovery is low. They nest in a hollow limb or trunk of an old or dead tree, usually 15 - 30 metres off the ground. Even in the fastest growing eucalypts, suitable hollows do not form until they are at least 150 - 200 years old and may take centuries to form. The

high degree of threatening processes acting on this species, including illegal trapping, loss of nesting trees and food source, puts the Glossy Black-Cockatoo into the Vulnerable wildlife category.

- The effects of development on glossy black populations and habitats include:
- Habitat loss through clearing of vegetation favoured as food trees (*Allocasuarina littoralis* & *A. torulosa*) and hollow bearing trees used for nesting;
- Increased encroachment of domestic animals (cats and dogs) on remnant areas;
- Habitat loss through modification of surrounding remaining vegetation through edge effects and weed spread;
- Habitat loss through modification of surrounding remaining vegetation through inappropriate fire regimes;
- Exposure of remnant areas to the introduction of pest species (such as myna birds) displacing hollows of Glossy Black-Cockatoos; and
- Exposure of remnant areas and bird species to the illegal bird trade.

Source: http://www.glossyblack.org.au/glossy_fact_sheet.html

Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day 31st October 2010

The Glossy Black Conservancy partners will be expanding the event to cover southeast QLD and northeast NSW in 2010. The event will be conducted on a shire wide basis with each region having its own coordinator. Sign up now to participate in this event and be in line for some great giveaways! Contact Lisa at Redland Council for details: Lisa.Bailey@redland.qld.gov.au Ph: (07) 3820 1105

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead.

