

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER July – August 2011.

Next Meeting Friday 29 July 2011 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

Naturalist Sir David Attenboroug said, “I meet no one who privately disagrees that population growth is a problem. No one - except flat-earthers - can deny that the planet is finite.”

If you want to know more about our population problems and how to address them come and listen to Dr Jane O’Sullivan. Dr O’Sullivan is a member of the National Executive of Sustainable Population Australia (SPA) and President for SPA SEQ Branch. She has worked as an agricultural scientist with subsistence farmers in developing countries, and has been actively involved in a range of environmental and development organisations.



These experiences have affirmed her view that population stabilization is the key factor on which positive social and environmental outcomes depend. She is currently applying her scientific expertise to population issues, particularly the economic implications of population growth rate. Jane has been very successful in showing communities that urban myths like the Aging Population crisis is exactly that, a Myth.

Jane highlights how we are struggling to meet our hospitals, schools and community infrastructure needs because we are struggling to simply keep up with meeting the demand for new roads and water infrastructure when we fail to address unsustainable population growth.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

Recently there was an outcry over the lifting of a Tree Protection Order by Brisbane City Council on three fig trees. It became clear, when people protested over the proposed destruction, that all a TPO achieves is to ensure that the property owner can make a request for the order to be rescinded. In 95% of the cases the go ahead is given and environmental vandalism commences. Once again weasel words, TPO, from an elected authority, whose aim is to create

an impression that something specific and meaningful has been achieved, when in fact only a vague or ambiguous claim has been communicated. There are many examples, we often hear the phrase sustainable development, fishing, wood chipping, but how are the outcomes measured?

“Balance” is a favourite to justify development balanced against environmental concerns. The recent

Continued over page

President report continued

snapper ban will not be extended because quote from Acting Premier Paul Lucas “We have to balance the need to protect this species, the jobs the fishing industry provides and the right for Queenslanders to chuck in a line”

Another phrase that is creeping into the language is “Green Offset” which apparently allows economic development with environmental protection. An example of this was the allowed destruction of Koala habitat for the Gateway Motorway, because land had been purchased elsewhere to be vegetated for koalas to reappear, not sure where this land is situated but we are certainly not creating more habitat by this method.

As we enter the second half of the year be certain to keep the last Friday of every month clear, we have unique speakers on some interesting topics, the culmination will be our 25th Anniversary get together in November.

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority. -Elwyn Brooks White, Essays of E.B. White, 1977



Some coming events for your Dairy

9 - 11 September WPSQ AGM and members get together will be held at Springbrook.

25th November - Bayside Branch 25th Anniversary event will at Redlands IndigiScapes centre.



Wildlife Walk

Join us Sunday 24th July 2011 by a walk around Cleveland foreshore and parkland reserve. Meet up with the “Intrepid Mangrove Watchers” after their endeavours and join them for morning tea.

We will then walk along Eddie Santagiuliana Way towards South Street and return in due course.

What are we celebrating:

National Tree Day

Cost: \$2.00

Where: Meet parking near mangroves bottom of Long Street Cleveland

When: Sunday 24th July 2011

Time: 11.00 am for tea

Bring: Hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, mozzie spray, reasonable footwear

Walk will take 1.5 hours approx. Start at 11.30 am finish around 1.00 pm

Register by contacting Steve 33234801 (work) or 38240522 (home).



Brisbane Population Film Festival

Features recent documentaries and short films on the contribution of population growth to ecological, social and economic crises. Covering global, Australian and local perspectives.

Includes films by David Attenborough and Dick Smith, as well as the Australian Premiere of *Mother: Caring for 7 Billion* (2011), and Queensland Premiere of Dennis Grosvenor's *State of Siege* (2011). Followed by public discussion forum.

For full program and online tickets, visit www.populationfilmfestival.com

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST 10:00 am to 6:30 pm
TRIBAL CINEMA
346 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE

Parking available Tank Street.

Ornate Rainbowfish

An Ornate Rainbowfish project is a partnership arrangement between Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch, the Australia and New Guinea Fishes Association (ANGFA), frc Environmental, Brisbane City Council (BCC) and Redland City Council (RCC). It was created to locate *Rhadinocentrus ornatus* (Ornate Sunfish, soft spined sunfish, or Ornate Rainbowfish) populations in Brisbane and the Redlands, and to raise public awareness of their potentially threatened status.

The Australia and New Guinea Fishes Association played a key role in training volunteers to successfully locate *R. ornatus*. Frc Environmental provided expert advice as did Redland Council and the QLD Museum assisted with identification. The project was gratefully funded via the Brisbane City Council Environmental Grants Program Application 2009/2010 - Round 2.

Eleven volunteers were trained in the capture, identification and handling of native fish and to assist in the operation of the project with teams monitoring a number of creeks between November 2010 to May 2011. However, floods in early 2011 and persistent rain did cause numerous disruptions to the survey timetable.



The project was very successful in identifying *R. Ornatus* in the creeks of interest and discovering three (3) new populations, one found by students from Kenmore High School who were not directly part of the project but communicated with us via ANGFA to inform us of this valuable find. Redland Council also found a new population as part of their ongoing

commitment to monitor and protect our waterways.

A comprehensive report was produced and will soon be available from our website.



Habitat Protection

Redland City Habitat Protection Program recently released statistics on the number of properties that have been registered under the conservation programs. It is pleasing to see that there are a good number of properties and that they cover a large area of land within our city. Statistics listed below.

Rural Support
66 properties registered
365.88 ha in property area

Land for Wildlife
149 properties registered
1139.68 ha in property area
737.89 ha retained habitat

Voluntary Conservation Agreement
5 properties registered
70.89 ha in property area
56.53 ha under covenant

Koala Conservation Agreement
58 properties
83.9725 ha in property area
73.2106 ha as koala habitat

Waterways Extension Program
46 properties
303.93 ha in property area

Your Backyard Garden
59 properties



Bad News in the Courier Mail

June 11

A herpes virus is killing endangered sea turtles in NQ. About half of green turtles near Bowen have life threatening or debilitating tumours, compared to 10% elsewhere scientists say.....every second juvenile turtle in the bay has tumours triggered by the herpes virus.



A slice of history – Bayside branch celebrates 25 years

From the Bayside Branch newsletter July 2003. This article by naturalist and frog enthusiast Eric Vanderduys was one of a series of articles which the newsletter featured on local frog species.

Acid Frogs

Article and photographs by Eric Vanderduys



A Wallum sedge frog can see you coming from any angle when sitting on thin reeds!



Wallum sedge frog – the very pointed snout and continuous, pale side stripe are useful features to distinguish it from the more common Eastern dwarf tree frog

Take a walk (carefully) off the beaten track in a low-lying area on Stradbroke Is and you will soon come across low shrubs with prickly leaves. You might also find water under your feet or a thick mass of leaf litter, the bottom layer of which has living plant root-masses in it. You may be able to see the large, leathery leaves of *Banksia robur* or hear the bill clapping and harsh chatter

of Little wattlebirds. Chances are you're in wallum or heathland or wallum swamp. This is home to the "acid frogs".

Acid frogs are so named because of their ability to breed in waters that are more acidic than can be tolerated by most other frogs. There are four species in Redland Shire: the Wallum rocket frog (*Litoria freycineti*), Wallum sedge frog (*Litoria olongburensis*), Wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) and Cooloola sedge frog (*Litoria cooloolensis*). Only one of these, the Wallum froglet, is known from the mainland within the Shire. The others are restricted to the Bay islands (though I'd welcome being proved wrong).



Wallum rocket frog – not quite as leggy as the Striped rocket frog, but a good jumper all the same



Cooloola sedge frog – the complete absence of facial markings usually distinguishes this species from others in the area

Wallum froglets are prone to disappearing at the hand of humanity - their natural habitat is an infertile place and the waters in which they breed are relatively sterile. Increase the nutrient load by changing runoff regimes, dumping rubbish and so on, and weeds may take hold. Other native frogs may move into areas where they could not previously survive, and there is some evidence that these otherwise welcome species may outcompete their acid-loving cousins. Introduced Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), and competition with Cane toad tadpoles may also play their part in reducing numbers. However, the real killer is almost certainly development. Acid frogs' habitat is, by definition, prime real estate (by the sea), yet it's often seen as useless or unattractive to those who've never experienced it - after all, most of the leaves are prickly and Saw sedge (*Ghania*) and Barbed wire vine (*Smilax*) will do their best to tear you to shreds if you don't cooperate.



Wallum froglet, in this case an adult male 17 mm long. The pale mid-stripe underneath is a fairly good character to help tell this *Crinia* from others

Because of where they live, no acid frogs are "Common". The *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations, 1994* lists Wallum froglets, Wallum rocket frogs and Wallum sedge frogs are all listed as "Vulnerable", while Cooloola sedge frogs are "Rare". Still, it's quite possible to go to suitable habitat, and if weather conditions are right, see - or more likely hear - hundreds of each of these species.

The Wallum froglet in particular seems to be the least susceptible to habitat alteration. Wallum froglets can survive some weed incursion and seemingly persist even in very small remnants of suitable habitat. Let's hope that they continue to survive, and aren't simply the last canary alive in the coal mine.

Learn that Weed

Kahili Ginger

(*Hedychium gardnerianum*) (S. Navie)

Biosecurity Qld has recently declared three ginger species; White, Yellow and Kahili Ginger. This article will look at the latter plant which is listed on the Global Invasive Species Database and amongst the top 100 worst invasive alien species.



This herbaceous perennial plant grows to about 2 m high and features open spike-like

inflorescences 15-45 cm long. The flowers are pale yellow with red stamens extending a long way past the petals. The seeds become bright red. The bracts (shown with immature green fruit inset right) do not overlap.



Flowering occurs mostly in summer and autumn. The plant develops large rhizomes and is also spread by bird dispersal and movement of the seeds. Kahili forms pure stands and is regarded as a serious threat to sub-tropical and tropical rainforests.

This is a State Class 3 declared weed that may not be sold and landowners adjacent to environmentally significant areas must ensure adequate control.

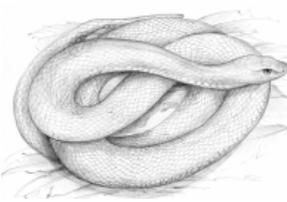
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From *The Kedron Brook Babbler* April 2011 published by WPSQ Kedron Brook Branch

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch

Email- bayside@wildlife.org.au

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

<p>Meeting Information</p> <p>When <u>Last</u> Friday of each month (excluding December & January)</p> <p>Where Redlands IndigiScapes Centre 17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba</p> <p>Time 7.30 pm</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>	<p><i>Illustration by L Saunders</i></p> 
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	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor		
	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor		
	Paulette Jones	
Librarian		
	Pat Comer	

Wildlife Diary Dates

Friday 29 July Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Sunday 24 July Walk - Cleveland Enjoy the great outdoors
Friday 26 August Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
9-11 September WPSQ AGM Springbrook

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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

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

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

Email address _____

Special Interests _____

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>Payment by Credit Card</p>	
Card type—	Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>
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