

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

August - September 2011.

Next Meeting Friday 26 August 2011 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

Guest speaker, Pat Leonard is from the Queensland Mycological Society (QMS). Pat like the QMS is interested in the discovery, survey or research of macrofungi. Many of us only tend to notice fungi when we come across the fruiting body of this unseen organism, many times they are colourful and or unusual in structure. However, did you know the largest component of the fungus is the mycelium which reside in the substrate?

Fungi are extremely important in the ecosystem as decomposers and recyclers of bush litter from huge logs to leaves, animal dung and even insect bodies; some are mutualistic biotrophs - forming a symbiotic relationship with a specific plant via the roots to exchange nutrients; some are a food source for some small mammals such as the potoroo.



Come along and listen to Pat and learn about one of the most poorly researched yet one of the most important species to be found in our environment.

You will find the variety and beauty of the fruiting bodies of fungus are simply amazing.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

In this world where information is in abundance, we use the media in its various forms to get our message out to the community. Newspapers, our website, social networks, TV and radio are used to great effect and give WPSQ a high profile. Much has been achieved over the years from all this incalculable publicity and one would think that we could all live in harmony with our natural environment.

Hendra virus reappears and the media whips up hysteria and fuels an anti-flying fox campaign with misinformation, selected footage of roosting bats supposedly near to houses. Our politicians receive plenty of air time to espouse their

ideas, which normally means move them on or chop down their habitat.

We have seen similar calls for the culling of sharks and crocodiles, when there have been attacks on people. Sanity often prevails and the media moves on to another headline, but the damage has been done. Environmental groups continue with their message that these creatures are part of a chain that keeps this planet healthy.

The media can be our friend but also our enemy.

“It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment. ~Ansel Adams”

Seagrass film premiered

Bayside Branch funded Seagrass film was premiered at Cleveland High School on 28 July. The film is part of an endeavour to find new and novel ways to educate the broader community about the importance of seagrass and build alliances with like-minded people and organisations to help us achieve this goal.

The film was produced by a talented group of former Cleveland High School film students. The short film titled 'Project Seagrass' was funded by Bayside Branch to highlight the importance of the seagrass beds to marine life and actions we can take to help save them.

As you know seagrass is an important habitat for a range of species and essential if we are to have a healthy fishery and bay.

This film is the creation of some of Redlands' most talented film producers and is an entertaining creation that carries an important environmental message.

On the night a number of awards were given out to the film makers.

Seagrass Film Excellence Awards included

Logan Kelk

In recognition of excellence in short film production and editing

Michael Bradshaw

In recognition of excellence in short film music and presenting

Stephanie Walsh

In recognition of excellence in short film writing and directing

Cleveland district State High School

In recognition of excellence in multi media education



Seagrass Film Awards night Photo@ D Payne

Letters to government

Our secretary has written to the Deputy Premier of Qld in relation to the governments failed attempts at koala conservation.

We believe State Planners have consistently failed to understand the needs of the koala and at best have a rudimentary understanding of koala conservation. In particular Kinross Road, Thornlands may be a rural landscape

but it provides habitat and safe areas for koalas to move between patches of koala habitat.

What the government proposes is to introduce an urban environment into the Kinross Road area and yet urbanisation has been shown by numerous scientific studies to be the most toxic of all environments for koalas.



Ms Anna Bligh, Premier of Qld was also contacted as we had not received an adequate response to correspondence where we raise concerns about the quarry operators' consultants who allege DERM officers support a koala habitat offset plan for 1515 - 1521 Mount Cotton Road, Mount Cotton that results in a significant net loss of koala habitat.

The subject site provides valuable koala habitat and a safe area for koalas to move between habitat patches. **The entire subject site is recognised by law as koala habitat.**

We are bewildered as to why DERM officers allegedly will accept offsets for the loss of koala habitat within the subject site itself. It suggests that it's acceptable to clear a site of part of its koala habitat and offset that habitat with the remaining koala habitat within the same site. This action does not meet the purpose of the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006.

This outcome does not result in an increase in koala habitat. It results in a very significant loss of koala habitat. At the same time the offset is placed within an environment that will be very dangerous to koalas, an active quarry pit and quarrying operation.

National Tree Day Events

Our first event was Mangrove Watch at Cleveland Sunday 24th July 2011. The monitoring of the mangroves at this site has been an ongoing project for our members who enjoy the work which is not onerous but can be a bit muddy. Fortunately it was a lovely day.

The Mangrove watchers had to have a clean up and refreshments after this activity to get them ready for our walk.



Belinda & Charmaine recording mangrove health at Cleveland – Photo @ D Payne



National Tree Day walk

The second event to celebrate National Tree Day was a walk around Cleveland foreshore which followed the Mangrove Watch activity.

The walk which took us along Eddie Santagiuliana Way towards Oyster Point, was very pleasant allowing us observe a number of different vegetation types as well as a quite a few bird species, butterflies etc.

The walk was completed in around 1.5 hours.



Tree Planting

Our Branch was invited by Redland City Council to participate in the tree planting event held on 31 July. The planting which celebrated National tree Day, was aimed at improving the Erapah Creek corridor at Victoria Point.

The branch erected a display to highlight our society's work and a number of members attended to help with the planting and to guide first time tree planters in the best methods to use.

A variety of trees, shrubs and ground covers were put into the ground that had been prepared with mulch and where the holes had already been dug.



Bayside president, Steve Homewood, demonstrates his tree planting skills – Photo @ D Payne



Our 25th Year

Bayside Branch of WPSQ is 25 years old this year. It would be interesting to calculate how many submissions we have prepared, displays we have mounted, meetings we have attended, educational media we have created, walks, spotlights and events we have enjoyed.

With the support of the members the branch will continue to do much more.

Indian Myna – control of a pest

DSP

The Indian or Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) is not native to Australia but has established populations in eastern and south-eastern Australia, as well as other countries worldwide.

Description

It is a small sized brown bird with a black head and neck. It has a distinctive yellow eye patch and beak as well as yellow feet and legs. It has a black tail tipped with white, dark wings with white wing patches seen in flight but don't confuse it with the summer visitor the Dollar bird which also has white patches under the wing. It forages mostly on the ground and has a distinctive walk or strut and makes loud, raucous calls. It thrives in towns and cities as it scavenges rubbish and food put out for domestic pets. There is a large population already in Redland City.

Similar native

The Indian myna should not be confused with Australian native honeyeaters called "miners" that are not related but look similar. One of these native species is the noisy miner, which has yellow colouring around its eyes and beak and has a grey body.

The Problem

The Indian myna is listed by the World Conservation Union in the 100 worst invasive species around the globe and is one of only three bird species on that list.



Indian Myna (pest) Photo @ D Payne

It has been declared the second greatest threat to native birds after land clearing, being deemed an extreme threat even worse than the cane toad, rabbit or feral cat. Native to Asia the bird was deliberately introduced all over the world and has rapidly adapted to new environments. The Common myna has significant potential to spread further in Australia and sadly unknowing persons welcome these birds to their backyards and encourage them with food.

The Myna makes use of food scraps in parks and public eating areas as well as enjoying the abundance of insects. The birds are active by day and sleep in communal roosts at night.

The birds are bad news for our native birds and small animals. They use superior numbers to aggressively defend their territory thus depriving the native species of the availability of food sources. During the breeding season they take over tree hollows from native birds and small animals such as sugar gliders, harassing and evicting them from the hollows. Mynas are also known to kill chicks and destroy the eggs of native birds.

The survival of our hollow breeding animals and birds are seriously jeopardised by the increasing numbers of these pest birds. Even when the Mynas leave the hollows they have usually fouled them to such an extent that no native animal or bird would attempt to use it again. With the loss of hollows due to land clearing it is a great additional blow to our native wildlife to find the hollows that do exist are either occupied or have been fouled by the Myna.



Noisy Miner (native)
Photo @ D Payne

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Indian Myna – control of a pest continued

Throughout Australia a number of projects have been set up to control the numbers of Indian (Common) Mynas in an effort to give our native wildlife a fair go.

One of our members, Don Baxter, is keen to set up a pilot control program in Redland City. He has taken delivery of a Myna bird trap and would like to get a large number of people involved in the project. He has suggested the plan of for the project could be:

1. Make your yard 'myna bird friendly' by establishing a feeding/trapping station area that is quiet and undisturbed and out of sight of human activity.
2. Once the birds are attracted to the yard and regularly visiting the trapping can be done using a trap provided by Don. However care must be taken as the birds are very intelligent and should one escape from a trap it would communicate with other birds and set back the trapping program.

Don will prepare a system of disposal of the birds that is humane and meets animal ethics standards. He hopes people involved will be prepared to organise the disposal.

If you are interested in taking part in the pilot control program of this threat to our wildlife please contact Don on mobile 0409 421 669.



Reminder

9 - 11 September is the WPSQ AGM and members get together at Springbrook.



Members are encouraged to participate in part if not all of this special weekend. Springbrook is a beautiful part of the country so it will be well worth a visit. Check out the program of events and registration form that was sent to you recently with the head office newsletter.

Community planting 2011 Glossy Black Cockatoo

In recognition of Threatened Species Week 2011, you are invited to join in the 8th annual Glossy Black-Cockatoo community planting. Glossy Black-Cockatoos are a threatened species and currently listed as vulnerable in Queensland. Their primary source of food is the seeds of the Black She-oak and Forest Oak, with females only laying one egg every two years.

Help plant 700 native plants, including food and nesting trees.

When: 9.30am - 12.00pm, Saturday 3 September 2011

Where: Corner High St and Bamboo Rd, Russell Island

On-street parking available UBD Ref. Map 248 K15

Bring: Sun protection, enclosed shoes and drinking water

Supplied: Tools, gloves, sausage sizzle and refreshments

Mainland residents: You can catch a ferry departing at 9.00am from Weinam Creek Marina, Banana Street, Redland Bay. Please register with IndigiScapes if you require a transfer on Russell Island.

More Information: 3824 8611
www.indigiscapes.com.au

Pesticides, Pollution and the Law

Free community Legal Education Workshop
Wednesday 24 August 2011, 5.30pm
At Brisbane Square Library Theatre, Ground floor, 266 George St, Brisbane. This is a short legal information session suitable for anyone interested in the impacts of pesticides and their regulation, including pollution and the Environmental Protection Act.

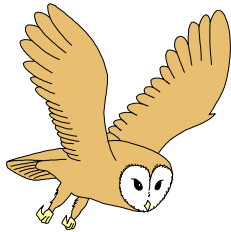
Presented by the Environmental Defenders Office.

RSVP to edoqld@edo.org.au or telephone 3211 4466.

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 Friday</u> 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>	
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	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor		
	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor		
	Paulette Jones	
Librarian		
	Pat Comer	

Wildlife Diary Dates

Friday 26 August Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
7 September Threatened Species Day
9-11 September WPSQ AGM at Springbrook
Friday 30 September Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

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>Payment by Credit Card</p>	
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