

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

June - July 2011.

Next Meeting Friday 24 June 2011 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

Our guest speaker at our meeting in June will be Brett Parnell.

Brett is a professional photographer who has travelled widely photographing wildlife and landscapes from Antarctica to Alaska. Closer to home he has undertaken a road trip through outback Queensland and photographed many of our native birds and beasts.

Join us and be entertained by the images from this trip through parts of Queensland and learn how with a little preparation and a few spare weeks any of us could have such an experience.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

Over the past few weeks the Branch has been busy with various events; our regular Friday monthly meeting had Norm Duke on the need to retain mangroves.

Yet again our World Environment dinner not only had excellent food but an excellent speaker in Paul Hodda who drew gasps when he explained why whales had been driven to near extinction by barbaric extraordinary overfishing by the then secretive Russia. How close did we come to losing these beautiful creatures and if we keep scooping krill out in unsustainable quantities to feed our pets then more issues loom in the near future.

Next day was a display at the Koala Fun Run and for some of our members more active participation. Council and its supporters should be congratulated on the effort and promotion that highlighted the plight of the Koala in the south east corner of the state. We look forward to next year's event, some of us may need to start training now.

Last weekend in glorious sunshine the Indigiscapes open weekend gave the Branch a chance to disseminate information to the many hundreds who attended this event. It's evident when we go to these events that the majority of people do get pleasure from bushland, are still fascinated by our wildlife and hopefully will rebuff those who seek to carve up the Redlands for selfish monetary gain with scant regard to the future of our flora and fauna.

"The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge, for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future." ~Marya Mannes



Some coming events for your Dairy

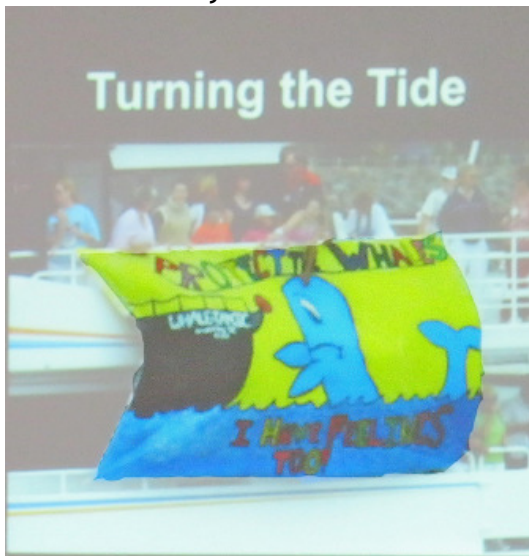
7th September Threatened Species Day.

9-11 September - WPSQ AGM hosted by Gold Coast Branch

25th November - Bayside Branch 25th Anniversary event will be held.

World Environment Day

To highlight this most important day, Wildlife Bayside held its annual World Environment Day Dinner



On Saturday 28th May 2011 we enjoyed predinner snacks followed by a two course meal and beverages.

Guest speaker Paul Hodda's presentation was well received. Paul who is president of the Australian Whale Conservation Society, talked of the history of whale hunting and looked at whale conservation, education and research which he illustrated with stunning images. Whales numbers have increased since whaling ceased on Australia but there are still challenges for them to face in the future.

At the dinner Bayside launched a new fund raising effort using the vouchers kindly donated by **The Good Guys of Capalaba**. This store has been very supportive of the society and we thank them most sincerely. See them for your electrical needs.

Many thanks to those who planned and organised the event and those involved in setting up and decorating the venue. Also thanks to all of you who attended and helped make it a great night,



IndigiScapes Weekend

Wildlife Bayside was pleased to again be part of the IndigiScapes open weekend on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June.

Our volunteers did a great job of transporting our equipment to the venue and setting up the display plus being on hand all weekend to answer questions from the public and distribute educational material.

Those who participated thoroughly enjoyed their time on our display as well as the opportunity to enjoy the other stalls and entertainments provided over the weekend.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to ensure Wildlife Bayside set up and well represented. Volunteers included Doreen, Maureen, Steve, Michael, Don, Sue, Janna, Donna, Colleen, Charmaine, Sybil, Gwynne and John.



Koala Fun Run success

Redland City Council has reported that between 500 and 600 people participated in the inaugural Koala Fun Run on Sunday 29 May 2011.

The aim was to raise the profile of the koala and to encourage people to do their part to save our dwindling urban koala population in the Redlands.



Wildlife Bayside was represented both by an information stall at Norm Price Park and by a number of people who participated in the run. Thanks to Steve and Maureen for looking after our stall and to all the members who participate in the run (or walk).

Learn that Weed

Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)



Salvinia is a free-floating perennial aquatic fern (and therefore has no obvious flower). It rapidly forms thick mats covering waterways and lakes.

Leaves appear waxy and bright green, are oval-shaped and about 2 cm wide. The leaf surface is covered with long, water-repellent hairs. Young leaves float flat on the water surface. As the plant matures, leaves become thick and fold at the midrib.

Salvinia develops long filamentous roots that resemble wet hairs, Trailing stems with small, hairy spore capsules form among the roots of mature plants.

This weed reproduces from spores and plant fragments spread by water movement, mechanical contact and water birds. It's rated the tenth most invasive plant (Score of 4.9 out of 5) in the Queensland Herbarium List of Invasive Naturalised Plants in SEQ.

A State Class 2 declared weed that requires early detection and eradication.

(CI)

From The Kedron Brook Babbler February 2011 published by WPSQ Kedron Brook Branch

Note: In Redland City we have a problem with this weed in many of our waterways but it is under active management using biological controls and chemical control as well as some intervention by bushcare groups.

Wildlife Walk

Join us for an adventure at Empire point and walk through a variety of habitats including bushland and mangrove. Morning tea provided.

Where: Meet at the end of Empire Vista, Ormiston

When: Sunday 26th June 2011

Time: 9.30am

Cost: \$2.00

Bring: : Hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, mozzie spray, closed in footwear that will stand being wet such as gum boots

Register with Doreen after hours on 3206 0368 or email wildlifebb@bigpond.com



Congratulation lucky winners.

The winners of each of the 5 x \$50.00 Vouchers from The Good Guys, Capalaba were.

1. K. Clements
2. P. Meldrum
3. P. Maltby
4. J. Held
5. C. Govey



Snippet

Courier Mail reported on a Japanese animal rescue where volunteers rescued a fineless porpoise from a rice field where it was apparently wash by the March Tsunami.

The lucky porpoise was put in a car and returned to the sea.

Would you prefer to receive your Bayside Newsletter by email?

If you would like to exchange your paper copy of the newsletter for the full colour email version please let us know by emailing - wildlifebb@bigpond.com

It will save paper, envelopes and postage.

A slice of history from

Bayside Branch newsletter August 2002.

This article by a wonderful, artist, conservationist and friend the late Rosemary Opala

FRIEND OR FOE?

Again our paper-barks have flowered, with a seasonal explosion of pale blossom and heavy scent; and noisy with lorikeet chatter by day and fruit bat bickerings after dark.

The tea (not “ti”) tree, Melaleuca quinquinervia, is the most visible of its family hereabouts, reaching 25m in height and flowering from small-shrub size. The Latin “quinque” refers to the five (usually) nerves that stripe the flat, stiff leaves. Thick sheets of papery bark, popular with Art-in-Bark creators, help identify the species.

Melaleuca foliage contains an aromatic oil of germicidal value. It must have really tested the pioneering spirit of those early settlers who infused the leaves as a tea substitute! Aborigines use the leaves as a medicine for colds, and wrapped their infants in the soft inner bark. And in my opinion nothing beats tea tree honey for flavour, though it’s hard to find commercially these days.

Paperbarks prefer low lying, swampy places, or areas with groundwater close to the surface, so are an indicator or potential drainage problems for the intending land buyer! Away from “development”, there’s a particular fascination in a pristine tea-tree swamp, where gnome-like roots and clinging ferns are reflected in tannin stained, sometimes wine-red, water. Just the place to start thinking about Bunyips.

In dry spells, these areas are equally interesting, with carpets of deep, springy peat giving access to orchids, gold-dust ferns, and such botanical treasures, not to mention birds and other wildlife of course.

But as we know, over recent decades Melaleucas have been ruthlessly wiped out in the name of progress. The very term “tea-tree swamp” is synonymous with *Uselessness*, its part in ecology irrelevant when developers - and their customers - believe a service has been provided in turning wetland into Real Estate. But, read on!

Back in the 1980s I’d written:

“In Florida, USA, M. quinquinervia (introduced 80 years back as a timber source and found unsuitable) has become so entrenched as to threaten its adopted habitat. Described as ‘the real terror of the Everglades’, the Melaleucas have now colonized a vast area of swamp and defy all efforts at eradication, from burning to poison. “A conservation group warned darkly: ‘If nothing is done, the trees are going to take over completely.’”

As we now know, they weren’t just being alarmist. I’ve recently read that fascinating best seller THE ORCHID THIEF: Vintage 2000, Susan Orlean. It comes highly recommended, with particular attention to pages 127 to 128! Here the writer tells how Melaleucas drink so much water that they can dry out an acre of wetlands a day....they have parched and then taken over a ½ million of the Everglades 7.6 million acres. Their oily leaves burn so intensely that in 1985 a fire left two million Florida residents without electricity when the fuelled-up flames reached power lines.

Orlean goes on to say that “Melaleucas hate to die: if a tree is frozen or starved or chopped or poisoned, it will release 20 million seeds before it dies and resow itself in every direction.”

At the time of the book’s publication, there seemed a possibility that a little Australian weevil, the Snout Beetle, which lives on tea tree leaves and flower buds might be one answer. (Or, maybe a few squads of Aussie developers could be imported, may we suggest?)

NB: M. Quinquinervia shouldn’t be confused with the showy M. viridiflora seen in North Queensland in a range of blossom colour from lime green to pink and red. A pinky-red variant of “our” tree is occasionally seen in the wild, but lacks the vibrancy of the tropical species.

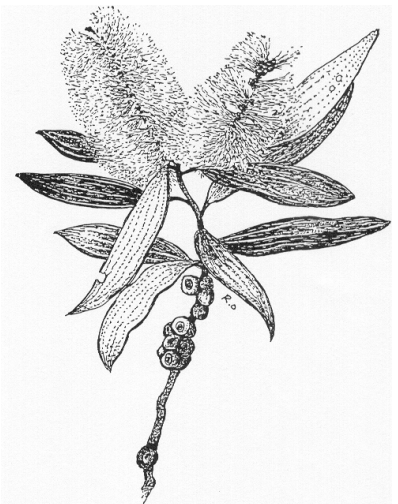


Illustration by R. Opala

Health and the environment

A compilation of evidence - March 2011
Published by Australian Government -
Australian Institute of Health and welfare

Summery from Simon Baltais

A healthy environment equates to healthy people.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=10737418532&libID=10737418531>

The results of this compilation highlight that: our surroundings can influence our physical health and mental wellbeing through a variety of channels; health and wellbeing may be affected in both positive and negative ways; humans, through their intervention in the environment, can play a vital role in exacerbating or reducing health risks. As the pathways involved can be indirect and complex, this report also examines some of the difficulties involved in assessing the broader relationship between health and the environment.

The risk of **heat-related problems may increase for those living in urban areas** (known as the 'heat island effect') and those without air conditioning. Elderly persons have also been identified as being at particular risk of heat-related health problems. This is due to both physiological reasons (such as reduced ability to regulate body temperatures) (Basu & Samet 2002) and other factors (for example, social isolation, mental illness and housing type) (Vaneckova et al. 2008).

People living in a greener environment were found to be significantly healthier than others and displayed fewer symptoms in the last 14 days. Overall 10% more green space was associated with a reduction in the number of symptoms which was comparable to a decrease in age of five years.

The annual prevalence for 15 out of 24 diseases was lower in people living in environments with more green space in a one kilometre radius. The strongest relationship was found for anxiety and depression, although there were also smaller reductions in the risk of heart

disease, diabetes, chronic neck and back pain, asthma and migraine. For anxiety disorders, the annual prevalence for people with 10% green space in a one kilometre radius was 26 per 1,000 people and, for those with 90% green space, 18 per 1,000 people. For depression, these figures were 32 and 24 per 1,000 people respectively. People who are hypothesised to spend more time around their homes (such as children and people of lower socioeconomic status) were found to experience the strongest effects of this relationship.



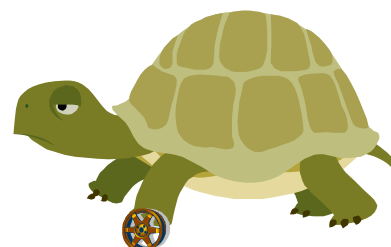
Tortoise

A UK tortoise is now faster than her friends after having a wheel fitted to replace a missing leg.

Tuly lost a front leg when it was horrifically gnawed off by a rat while she was hibernating. But now, thanks to a toy car wheel and some Velcro, she is fully mobile again - and her pals are finding it hard to keep up.

Philip Chubb, 64, whose daughter Eleanor runs a local Tortoise group in Norwich, made the prosthetic limb. He said: "Tuly came to us after the vets operated to save her life last year. She was mobile but very off balance and slow. "She was rubbing away her shell because it was scraping along the ground when she walked. It was a problem that would have lead to more complications."

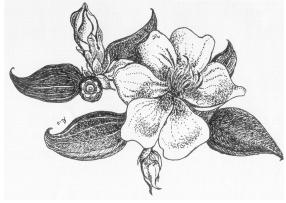
Mr Chubb bought a toy tractor at a car boot sale and removed one of the wheels. Then he made a brace out of metal and Velcro strips. He added: "Her balance was corrected. She didn't look like a sinking ship anymore and then she just took off. "She clearly didn't mind having it on and seemed delighted to scoot off to feed on the weeds. She's now actually the fastest tortoise we have which is rather funny." *Orange.co.uk



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch

Email- bayside@wildlife.org.au

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

<p>Meeting Information When Last Friday of each month (excluding December & January) Where Redlands IndigiScapes Centre 17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba 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 Rosie Opala</i></p> 
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Wildlife Diary Editor		
	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor		
	Paulette Jones	
Librarian		
	Pat Comer	

Wildlife Diary Dates

Friday 24 June Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Sunday 26 June Walk at Ormiston Enjoy the great outdoors and get your feet wet.
Friday 29 July Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
9-11 September WPSQ AGM Springbrook

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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