

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER **March - April 2011.**

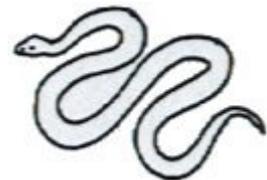
Next Meeting Friday 25 March 2011 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

Martin Fingland from Geckos Wildlife Presentations will bring to us a fascinating display of live animals and an informative talk on our unique and wonderful Australian wildlife and the value they bring to our lives.

A topical subject with the recent hot weather are snakes and will form an interesting part of Martin's displays. Martin is licensed to display wildlife, his presentation will allow you to get up close giving you the opportunity to see and touch. Martin's own easy and educational style of presentation makes this fun and informative and will amaze and delight you.

Come along and join the fun. Both children and older folk will all be enchanted.

DO NOT MISS THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY.



Please note: Gold coin entry for this meeting.

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**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Steve Homewood

Our speaker last month Darryl Jones was full of admiration for the investment and strong legislation that has enforced the creation of wildlife crossings on any new stretch of highway in Europe, some of the land bridges are over 100 metres wide. A small country like the Netherlands has over 600 crossings, critical habitat has been minutely mapped across Europe, roads go high above habitat or under it.

If destruction has to occur then the offset has to be times a factor of 50 and exactly replicated in mix of vegetation. Contrast this with our meagre efforts with only one viable wildlife overpass created in Queensland, little or no attempt made when our roads are upgraded for example the Gateway Motorway. For many years we have under invested in wildlife

protection, resulting in fragmentation and ultimate loss of biodiversity.

It will be interesting as the upgrade to Mount Cotton Road progresses what design innovations will be there for our wildlife or will it be a token gesture.

Earth hour this year is 8.30pm on Saturday 27th March; it is a time to reflect on clever ways to save energy. Publicise this event amongst your colleagues, involve your neighbours and friends to create a darkened street and a reason for a party. Your reward will be commitment to an event that will unite people around the globe.

*Henry David Thoreau - "In wildness is the preservation of the world."*



## Clean Up Australia

The Glider Reserve at Alexandra Hills is looking much better for 14 bags of rubbish that were removed by an intrepid party of 12 that traversed the bushland on Clean up Australia Day.



Most of the rubbish was found in the area known as “Redhills” where there are BMX bike riders, although there was less debris than other years.

Of concern was the amount of rubbish entering from Redland Bay Road mostly soft drink bottles, but there were nappies thoughtfully sealed in plastic bags, shelving, a for sale sign and a 12 inch clay pot complete with dead plant. The group doing street entrances to the reserve rescued a car tyre and kept finding garden hose in plastic bottles!!.

At the end we all met for morning tea, exchanged tales of our finds and remarked on how vibrant the reserve was looking.



## Dangerous import

Myrtle rust has recently been found in production and retail nurseries in South East Queensland and more worryingly in bushland.. It has somehow spread from southern states.

Myrtle rust is one of a group of serious pathogens that affect plants in the family Myrtaceae, which include Australian natives like bottle brush (Callistemon), tea tree (Melaleuca.) and eucalypts.

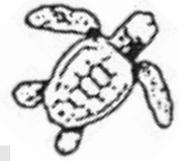
Biosecurity Queensland is working to find the origin of the infected plants and also investigating what measures can be taken.

Find out more on the DEEDI website  
<[http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790\\_19788.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_19788.htm)>

## Marine Strandings

If you come across dead or injured marine wildlife such as turtles and dugong, please call the Marine Strandings Hotline on 1300 130 372.

Save the number in your mobile phone.



## Mangrove Watch Cleveland

Cleveland Mangrove Watch was in action again in February.

The team meets about every 4 months at Long Street Cleveland to record data for ongoing monitoring of the health of the bay. We did have concerns that the recent floods would have deposited rubbish amongst the mangroves but the area was free of debris.

On a very hot day it took about two hours to complete the statistics, the mud was deep in places but we all managed to avoid any incidents. We did notice many more molluscs than usual and the mangroves were in full flower.

If you are interested in coming out on the mudflats contact Steve on 3824 0522. Our next monitoring session will be in June/July



## Your Help needed

Wildlife Bayside will have a market stall on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March and would appreciate the assistance of members to person the stall.

We are asking people to give 2 hours of their time between 8am and 11am. If you can help please phone Maureen on 0418 197 160.

## SeaWeek Walk

This year we celebrated SeaWeek by crossing to Coochiemudlo Island for a walk around the island perimeter followed by a morning tea on the foreshore.



On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March we met at Victoria Point ferry terminal at the end of Colburn Avenue Victoria Point.

During a leisurely clockwise walk around the island we observed the fauna and flora and collected rubbish found on foreshore.



## Some coming events for your Dairy

Earth Day Canoe trip 17<sup>th</sup> April - see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

World Environment Day dinner - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May at Redlands IndigiScapes centre. We will have a special guest speaker.

The Annual SeaWeek cruise postponed due to the state of the river following the floods will now be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Bayside Branch 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### Wildlife Rescue

If you find sick or injured wildlife in Redlands please contact Wildlife Rescue

Redlands 24 hours on 07 3833 4031



## Coochiemudlo Island Paddle

On the Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April - See the wildlife of Coochie and celebrate Earth Day 2011.

Come along on a canoe paddle from the ramp at Victoria Pt & circumnavigate Coochiemudlo Is. We will stop along the way for a break & morning tea at the park on the Eastern side of the island. There is a variety of scenery and wildlife to be observed. This is a trip of approx 5 km. Arrive at Victoria Pt car park at 7.45am for 8am departure. Two persons per canoe and life jackets will be provided. It is expected that the trip would be completed by 1200.

We recommend long sleeves, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses with strap, sand shoes or deck shoes. Please bring one litre of water per person & insect repellent.

Cost of the excursion is \$10.00 per person. Discount for anyone bringing their own canoe and equipment. Bookings for the excursion by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April please. Bookings can be made through Don on 0409421669 or Doreen 3206 0368.

NOTE: Should wind conditions be unsuitable for open water paddling we will do an exploration of Erapah Ck. Morning tea will be provided.



## Herbarium Seminars

The Queensland Herbarium monthly lunchtime [Seminar Series](#) is open to the public, and entry is free. Seminars will be held in the second week of each month in the FM Bailey Conference Room, in the Herbarium building foyer, [Brisbane Botanic Gardens](#) at Mt Coot-tha, 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm. [http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/plants/queensland\\_herbarium/#seminars](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/plants/queensland_herbarium/#seminars)



## Summer in the Habitat Tree

DSP

This magnificent old scribbly gum stands about 10 meters from the veranda of our house where it provides us with endless wonders and daily dramas.

We have no idea of the age of the tree but judging by the number of hollows it is likely to be over 200 years old.

During the summer this tree is premium real estate. The year round occupants like the Rainbow lorikeets had to put up with lots of new and noisy neighbours. Of course the brush tail possum is there all year too but in spring/summer we see an increase in numbers from one to two as Mrs Possum carries her young bub about.



The kookaburras nested in a tree hollow there this year for the first time and successfully raised one youngster. They spent a lot of time feeding the young and attacking anything they

saw as a threat. A pair of Wood ducks that dared to get too close to the tree were left with no doubt of what the kookaburras thought of them. The ducks seemed quite bewildered by being attacked as they have nested in the tree themselves on many previous occasions.

One of the summer visitors, a pair of Dollar birds, looked over a number of hollows on the opposite side of the tree to where the kookas were nesting before choosing one they liked. Dollar birds have successfully bred in this tree for most of the 10 years that we have been observing. This year was no exception. Dollar birds are also very protective of the tree in which they nest which is how I came to realise there were at least three other occupants of this “apartment block”.

The Dollar bird was noisily swooping something on dark one evening. To my surprise and delight it proved to be a glider. Probably a Squirrel glider but they are too quick for me to actually get a good look. A couple of nights later the same noise alerted me again and this time there were three gliders scampering around the tree. I was even privileged to see one of them fly.

Another regular visitor to one of the boxes we placed in the tree, although not seen lately, is an Owlet nightjar. This unusual little bird can sometimes be seen during the day when it sits at the entrance to the nestbox sunning itself. The markings on its face and the small beak make it look more like a small animal than a bird when only the face is seen.

The Peewees attempted to raise young again but were not successful. I think there are for too many predatory birds around for them to have a chance.

Our observations of this beautiful old tree prove the tree is invaluable to our wildlife. We are impatient for the other trees we have planted to grow and develop the much needed hollow homes.



*Note: the above article was originally written a few years ago before the years of very dry weather that saw heavy water restrictions in SEQ. It is interesting now to note the changes that have occurred. The tree, probably weakened by the years of drought, was damaged in a storm and one of the largest hollow branches broke off. This eliminated the hollows that had been used by the ducks and the dollar birds neither of which have bred in the tree again though the ducks have made an attempt again this year. The Rainbow lorikeets are still there but the possums now occupy another tree. The kookaburras never nested in the tree again and I believe the gliders have disappeared also.*

*This one tree and its inhabitants have been badly affected; I wonder how others and their occupants fared over the same period?*

## RECYCLING TIPS

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Wash your car on the lawn to keep unwanted substances out of our waterways.



Microwaves use 55% less energy than conventional ovens.

Think before you sink - What goes down the drain could end up in our waterways.

Keep windows shut during the heat of the day and open them once the sun has gone down to catch any breezes.

Keep your blinds or curtains drawn during the heat of the day.

Always unplug the mobile phone charger when not in use. Feel it: the warmth is caused by the consumption of electricity.

Turn appliances off at the wall when not in use.

Donate unwanted items to charities and other organisations that can use them.

Pay attention to what goes down the drain - The more solid and chemical waste that goes into our sewage, the more energy is spent treating the water.

### LET'S ALL DO OUR PART

Think before you throw items in general rubbish as that goes into landfill.

### Would you prefer to receive your Bayside Newsletter by email?

If you would like to exchange your paper copy of the newsletter please let us know by emailing - [wildlifebb@bigpond.com](mailto:wildlifebb@bigpond.com)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Financial Members are reminded that the meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> will be Bayside branch Annual General Meeting.

Your participation is vital to ensure that the society meets its legal obligations. A Proxy Form has been printed here so that if you are not able to attend the meeting you can still participate by completing and return the proxy form. You may nominate any financial member of the branch as your proxy.

Financial members who would like to become more involved in management of the Branch are encouraged to talk to the president or secretary about how you might assist.

A Nomination Form is included with this newsletter to allow you to nominate suitable persons for the positions on the committee.

All forms should be sent by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 please to the 'Returning Officer' at WPSQ PO Box 427 Capalaba Qld 4157.

THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BAYSIDE BRANCH (QLD) Inc

### PROXY FORM

I,.....  
of.....  
.....Postcode.....

being a financial member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Bayside Branch hereby appoint

.....  
as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the (Annual) General meeting to be held on (date).....

Signature :- .....

Is this proxy a general proxy? (Yes/No).

If 'No', indicate if this form is to be used against or in favour of the following specific resolution:

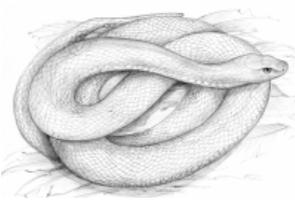
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.....  
.....

Strike out whichever is not desired.

**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>

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| <p><b>Meeting Information</b></p> <p><b>When</b> Last Friday of each month<br/>(excluding December &amp; January)</p> <p><b>Where</b> Redlands IndigiScapes Centre<br/>17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba</p> <p><b>Time</b> 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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**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 25 March<br>Bayside Branch General Meeting<br>IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba |
| Sunday 17 April<br>Earth Day Canoe trip                                                   |
| Friday 29 April<br>Bayside Branch General Meeting<br>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

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><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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