

WILDLIFE DIARY

May 2011



Great Finds

Glossy Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus lathami* seen at Kinross Road.

POPULATION MATTERS

BROADCASTER and naturalist **Sir David Attenborough** has questioned the 'strange silence' about population growth in public debate, and urged members of environmental organisations to discuss the subject openly and often. In a speech to the Royal Society of Arts in London on 10 March, hosted by its president, the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir David said there seemed to be some 'bizarre taboo' around population.

"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," he said. "So why does hardly anyone say so publicly?"

He went on: "What can each of us do - you and I? Well, there is just one thing that I would ask. Break the taboo, in private and in public - as best you can, as you judge right. "Wherever and whenever we speak of the environment - add a few words to ensure that the population element is not ignored."

The UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has chosen 31 October as the day on which it estimates world population will reach 7 billion - just over 12 years since the Day of Six Billion, on 12 October 1999

<http://www.population.org.au/>

Velvet worms

Velvet worms belong to a phylum of their own, the Onychophora, meaning 'claw-bearers'. They are small, terrestrial (land-dwelling) worms that look rather like caterpillars, with antennae and clawed legs down the whole length of their bodies. Velvet worms range up to about 10 cm in length, but those most often are between two and four centimetres long. Despite their apparently gentle appearance, velvet worms are voracious and active carnivores, feasting on other small invertebrates (for example, termites, woodlice and small spiders) that they encounter during their travels. Velvet worms capture their prey by squirting sticky slime from their oral tubes. The slime effectively entangles the prey so it can't escape. The velvet worm bites off parts of the prey then sucks them up after they have been softened by digestive saliva extruded from the velvet worm's mouth. They also squirt the sticky slime in defence. Velvet worms are quite secretive and display 'photonegative' behaviour, they hide from light.

Did You Know!

Did you know that research revealed that large patches are crucial for the long-term persistence of a viable **koala** population in an urbanizing landscape?

Did you know **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**, *Calyptorhynchus lathami*, are one of the more threatened species of cockatoo in Australia and are listed as vulnerable under QLD and NSW legislation? Glossy Black-Cockatoo have a very restricted diet, feeding only on the seeds in cones of she-oaks (*Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina*) and only on selected individual trees. They can fly more than 10km to feeding areas. Breeding occurs every two years with a single egg being laid in late January to early June with a longer nestling period than any other cockatoos (up to 90 days). The young are dependent on the parents for at least 12 months.

Large hollow bearing trees are essential for breeding, emphasising the need to retain remnant vegetation in these areas just as much as food trees. Glossy Black-Cockatoo are known to have a life span that can exceed 30 years.

Great Walks



The finite foreshore space cannot meet ever increasing demand for parking while maintaining, protecting and enhancing the open space and aesthetic amenity values of this regionally significant foreshore area. Visit our foreshore parks and consider are they better preserved for the aesthetic values or as car parks?

WWW

Super Quarry - it's back again

<http://www.superquarry.org.au/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjyQoQB8onA&feature=player_embedded#

Habitat Refugia

<http://tinyurl.com/3bpbxxk>

Tree frog bleats its existence in Gippsland

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2011/05/12/3215137.htm>

Sir David Attenborough & population

<http://www.thersa.org/events/vision/vision-videos/sir-david-attenborough>

Kinross Road will kill Koalas

Fragmentation is one of the most severe world-wide processes depressing biodiversity and considered the greatest current threat to biodiversity. Certainly the probability of extinction is higher for populations distributed among fragments because reduced interactions change the long-term dynamics relative to those of a non-fragmented landscape.

With regard to the koala the loss of habitat and its fragmentation is recognised as the key threatening process that undermines the chances of the koalas' survival, with additional threats from vehicle hits and dog attacks. Unabated clearing of koala habitat for development in South East Queensland is placing a great deal of pressure on the survival of the koala.

It is important to UNDERSTAND that koala habitat is defined by the [Nature Conservation \(Koala\) Conservation Plan 2006](#) as (a) a woodland where koalas currently live; or (b) a partially or completely cleared area that is used by koalas to cross from one woodland where koalas currently live to another woodland where koalas currently live; or (c) a woodland where koalas do not currently live, if the woodland— (i) primarily consists of koala habitat trees; and (ii) is reasonably suitable to sustain koalas. Further, koala habitat tree is defined as a tree of any of the following genera, (a) Angophora; (b) Corymbia; (c) Eucalyptus; (d) Lophostemon; (e) Melaleuca.

It should be NOTED that inland koala habitats are likely to become climatically unsuitable due to climate change and there is a need to protect and restore the more mesic habitats, which are under threat from urbanisation.

It should be further NOTED that the Koala Coast koala population has been shown by microsatellite analysis to be genetically distinct from adjacent areas. Consequently the Koala Coast koala population is deserving of strong protection.

The status of koalas at Kinross Road

The results of the 2008 Koala Coast koala survey estimates a population of 2279 animals. Based on the population estimate of 4611 koalas in 2005-2006, this represents a 51% decline in less than three years and a 64% decline in the 10 years since the original 1996-1999 estimate of 6246 koalas ([DERM ,2009](#)). The same report showed the Redlands koala population has declined to 1,502.

Recent research clearly shows the Kinross Road Structure Plan area supports koalas. Refer to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAzRhKrmhWM>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0bXZeA6r6I>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL268dI13Ug> .

Koalas in SEQ are currently listed as Vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*.

Kinross Road Structure Plan supports koala habitat and land suitable for koala rehabilitation as highlighted by [DERM](#) mapping and by the [South East Queensland Koala Conservation, State Planning Regulatory Provisions – Assessable Development Area Koala Habitat Values](#). Unless changes are made to the way urban areas are developed and maintained in Redlands, it is expected that koalas will become restricted to only large habitat patches.

Threats to the koalas within the Kinross Road Structure Plan area

The Kinross Road Structure Plan will fragment koala habitat thereby reducing the size of current patches and therefore significantly threaten the survival of the koala in this area. Further, what was a non-hostile landscape will be transformed into a hostile landscape (rural environment converted to urban environment, with its roads, cars and domestic dogs). The Structure plan in its current form will encourage approximately 6,000 – 10,000 vehicle movements per day across Wellington Ponds or the riparian corridor along Hilliards Creek. This is unacceptable for both people and koalas.

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.

