

**BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER**

**September - October 2012**

Next Meeting Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre.

Our speaker this month is Romane Cristescu who is a koala researcher whose aim is to improve knowledge of koala distribution on North Stradbroke Island, The island has a healthy, genetically distinct populations that is important for the conservation of the species in SE Queensland. However there is still much we don't know about the population. We don't know how many koalas there are on the island and where they all are. Even on Stradbroke the koala still faces threats such as car strike, dog attack, fire and habitat loss so its important we gather as much baseline population data as possible. This project proposes to use the abilities of a specially trained koala detection dog called "Maya" to help us learn more about the island's unique population of koalas.



Romane is passionate about her research project and the future of this iconic species, this will be a valuable opportunity to hear about the training, results, aspirations and the wider implications for the future use of dogs to track species distribution.

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**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Steve Homewood

September 7<sup>th</sup> marks threatened species day, it is also biodiversity month its aim to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity within Australia. How ironic it is that our state government chooses this day to announce to that it has sanctioned the killing of two threatened species in Queensland - the Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes and the Black and Little reds.

Our Environment Minister (definitely a misnomer) was quoted as saying "This is about giving greater control to farmers over managing their crops while

striking a balance with animal welfare and conservation."

I have never liked the word balance; there is no balance about shooting defenseless flying foxes out of the sky, this policy is crude, crass and derisive and will be condemned by many in the community. This short-sighted view of the environment will galvanize and strengthen many conservation groups and will eventually ensure that environmental values return to the forefront.

The Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year and has proud record of campaigning and

## Presidents report continued

achievements for conservation, I have no doubt that with the help and support of you all, this policy will be not be around for too long.

*When a man wantonly destroys one of the works of man we call him a vandal. When he destroys one of the works of god we call him a sportsman. ~Joseph Wood Krutch*



## Bird Walk

Members joined the Luke Street Bushcare Group for a bird walk on the morning of Sunday 2 September at Luke Street, Thornlands.

Very little ground was actually covered as the group was constantly stopping to train eyes and binoculars on the feathered ones that flew from tree to bush or just tried to escape our eagle eyes. The wrens were the favourite of the day with both Red-backed fairy-wrens and Variegated wrens sighted. 26 species were recorded.



The morning's exertions were rewarded by refreshments at the end of the walk.

*Red-backed wren - wikipedia*



## Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 9 September at 2pm Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland held its Annual General Meeting at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre Rode Road, McDowall.

Simon Baltais was re-elected as president of the society's council. Congratulations Simon.

See your head office newsletter or ebulletin for more details on the election of WPSQ council members.

## Annual Koala Count

Redland City Council and Koala Action will conduct the annual phone-in survey of koalas in the Redlands on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

Koala spotting and recording of each sighting provides valuable information for koala conservation.



© D Payne

The annual survey provides both a clearer picture of koala distribution throughout the Redlands and an opportunity to gather information from residents about their local koalas.

The sightings recorded over the survey weekend will be individually recorded on a map and entered onto a database.

Phone 3820 1103 between 8am and 5pm Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October  
If you see or hear a koala anywhere in the Redlands on either of those days, please report it! Sightings can also be registered online at [www.koalacentral.com.au](http://www.koalacentral.com.au) and [www.facebook.com/koalacentral](http://www.facebook.com/koalacentral)

### Volunteers needed!

If you would like to help answer phone calls and collect the survey data for a few hours on either Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st October, please phone KAG on 3823 5575 to register your interest.

The 'call centre' is at IndigiScapes, Capalaba and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Volunteers to scout specific urban areas (not on private property) during the survey weekend would also be appreciated.

## Wellington Point wildlife adventure

Those who made it down to the Pavilion at Wellington Point Reserve on Sunday 9 September were well rewarded.

As part of the Peaks to Points Festival 2012 the Point was alive with people, displays, animals, music and excitement.



King Island (in the background) at low tide © D Payne

At Wellington Point our Wildlife branch had set up an interactive display about the wildlife habitats of Wellington Point, King Island and Waterloo Bay. An interpretative map was provided to participants so they could take a self-guided tour of King Island Conservation Park which is an important roost for resident and migratory wading birds over spring and summer. At high tide, King island and Waterloo Bay are visited by dolphins, dugong, sea turtles, sharks and rays while low tide masses of blue soldier



crabs and other invertebrates are readily seen.

Geckos Wildlife was on hand to delight both young and old with a selection of fascinating birds, animals and reptiles.

Geckos wildlife  
© D Payne

Two contemporary bands, *Jumping Fences* and *Three Miles from Texas*, performed a variety of musical numbers for two hours which was a great treat for the people who gathered around.

Thank you to Michael Lusic (Bayside committee member) for organising this wonderful event.

Note: The Peaks to Points Festival is all about celebrating the beautiful natural environment we share in south east Queensland. It offered a diverse mix of hands-on and interactive events, hosted by community and environment groups from Ipswich, Brisbane, Logan and Redlands. The aim of the festival was to connect with people of all ages and interests, and show how we can work together to protect and improve our environment.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wildlife Queensland

The above function at Wellington Point was just one of the functions that celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our society.

The *Talking Wildlife* conference was held on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September 2012 at Bardon Conference Centre. The conference was very well attended with a huge variety of professional presenters. Some participants enjoyed it so much they thought it should be an annual event!

A very special part of the event was the dinner held on the Friday night. And what a night it was! The special guest was the governor Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC whose address was truly inspiring. Another inspiring speaker was the society's patron Margaret Thorsborne OA who has been an active conservationist since the 70's.

See head office newsletter for more details.

## Port of Brisbane Submission

Our secretary has written to the Port of Brisbane setting out our concerns in relation to the Brisbane Port Land Use Plan Amendments 2012

### Initial response to the Statement of Proposals (SOP):

The SOP reveals the proposed changes cut across the intent of Brisbane Port Land Use Plan.

The SOP fails to meet the following goals of the Brisbane Port Land Use Plan, namely failing to

1. recognise the values of our natural environment and resources as a basis for maintaining biodiversity and ecological processes with respect to port development and operations, and
2. protect and strengthen the community and character of the port by fostering constructive relationships with our stakeholders.

### For reasons outlined below:

The SOP encourages the destruction of wetland habitat (namely land designated as Open Space accommodating visitors) that will impact directly upon species protected by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The loss of habitat and dispersal of protected species will impact directly on protected species in adjacent habitat due to competition.

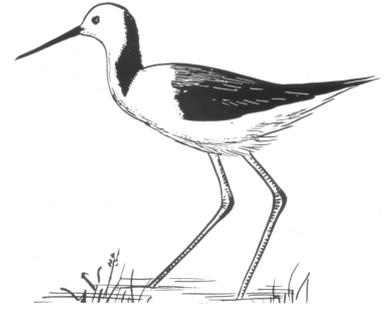


Great knot

The suggestion protected species will disperse and not suffer negative impacts and or cause the same is an urban myth and is not supported by science

or credible data. What the science does show is that both the loss and fragmentation of wetlands can have detrimental impacts on wetland bird populations by influencing habitat use, reproduction, and survival.

The dispersal of species protected under the *EPBC Act* is likely to impact upon adjacent RAMSAR values contrary to the obligations under the *EPBC Act*.



The allegations that the subject wetland is nothing more than a stormwater retention basin are inaccurate. The Port of Brisbane is entirely built upon a complex natural wetland system. The subject wetland was part of that wetland system. The POB chose to use the subject land for a retention basin. The subject land is a wetland albeit altered but still supporting many wetland values and protected wetland bird species.

The POB, State Government and others have developed much of the remaining freshwater wetland systems in the Trade Coast region. This development has severely fragmented the freshwater wetlands in this area. For this reason protecting the remaining freshwater wetlands is essential. POB has failed to acknowledge wetland losses and values; document them or provide details on how they will mitigate these losses.

The subject land:

\*Was a critical refuge for many birds during the drought.

\*While small in area equates to a substantial loss of wetland habit when the incremental losses over the years are fully accounted for.

\*Is used by a number of organizations to educate local children about wetland values and bird species.

\*Is one of the central elements that add aesthetic values to the POB.

**We strongly recommend** the subject wetland be fully protected and the Buffer/Investigation Area be designated Conservation/Buffer.

## Qld re-introduces shooting of threatened flying-fox species

(From the Wildlife Queensland website)



Threatened Species Day (Friday 7 September) is being marked this year by the re-introduction of government-sanctioned killing of two threatened species in Queensland - the Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes.

Four years ago (in 2008), the Queensland Government banned the shooting of flying-foxes after an assessment by the government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee found it was inhumane.

On Friday, amendments exempting flying-foxes from humaneness requirements under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act 1992 will come into effect. This means fruit growers will once again be permitted to shoot flying-foxes despite the acknowledged cruelty and despite two of the species being threatened.

The decision to exempt flying-foxes from humaneness requirements stands in marked contrast to recent moves by the Government to remove exemptions for hunting of dugongs and turtles under animal welfare laws. At the time (19 June 2012), the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh said in a media release, "it's important every Queenslander understands animal cruelty is never acceptable". Between 2002 and 2008 (after electrocution of flying-foxes was banned), permits were issued to shoot 3,000 to >5,000 flying-foxes each year. The carnage also included thousands of young who starved to death and many more probably shot illegally.

Shooting of flying-foxes was banned because there is an inevitable high rate of wounding (dark flying animals shot in the night), and because young flying-foxes (most born as orchard fruit is ripening) die of thirst or starvation when their mother is shot in an orchard.

Four flying-fox species will be affected: Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes, which are listed as 'vulnerable' under national environmental laws (the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999), and Black and Little red flying-foxes.

Fruit growers can protect their crops much more effectively with nets, which can cost as little as \$8,000 per hectare.

### 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](mailto:wildlifebb@bigpond.com)

It will save paper, envelopes and the cost of postage so please consider it if you are on email.



© D Payne

### Magnification Mammals Day

This event will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Redlands IndigiScapes from 10am to 1pm. Activities include face painting, Geckoes live animal presentation, craft activities, live koala with daisy hill, display by a variety of organisations including ours and the Wildlife Ambulance plus there is a free sausage sizzle.

**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>

<p><b>Meeting Information</b></p> <p><b>When</b> <u>Last</u> Friday of each month (excluding December &amp; January)</p> <p><b>Where</b> Redlands IndigiScapes Centre 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 style="text-align: right;"><i>Illustration by R Opala</i></p>
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Bayside Newsletter Editor		
	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor		
	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor		
	Paulette Jones	
Librarian		
	Pat Comer	

**Wildlife Diary Dates**

Friday 28 September Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Friday 28 September Magnificent Mammals Day, InidgiScapes
Saturday 13 October NSI Urban Koala Survey
Friday 26 October 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 time student)
  - \$45.00 Family or non profit group
  - \$12.50 Youth member (up to 18 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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