

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

May – June 2012

Next Meeting Friday 25 May 2012 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands Indgiscapes Centre

This months speakers are Ian Jarvis and Brett Parnell, who will take you on a journey through East Africa's Tanzania and Kenya National Parks and Reserves talking about their wildlife photography experiences.

The migration, millions of Wildebeest, was the time to capture life on the Serengeti; seeing it all from new born calves to hungry big cats to colourful birds and so many more animals make the cycle of life a real experience.



Life on the Serengeti © Brett Parnell and Ian Jarvis

If you are planning a trip to Africa or are interested in the African wildlife, this is a meeting not to be missed. Their talk will conclude with a 20 minutes audio visual presentation of still photos and videos.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

This is our 25th Anniversary year and I would like to thank the previous committee for all their hard work over the past 12 months which has continued to give the Branch a high profile and respect within the community.

The Branch membership remains stable which is testament to the quality of our Newsletters and Wildlife diary and the various events organised throughout the year. Our financial situation is strong has been bolstered by fundraising through raffles and the recycling project run by our treasurer. This has enabled us to make donations of \$900.00 to other organisations supporting wildlife. Our newest committee member has been very successful in obtaining grants which has helped fund new Mangrove watch

projects, the well-received "Science at the Grand View" talks and other event marketing expenses. Last year the branch sponsored the inaugural "Cicada Award for Wildlife Film and Animation Excellence" which gave us some very interesting, creative and educational short films. This year we hope to attract more entries to create an annual event.

Various speakers have talked on whales, fungi, gone into clouds and delved into piles of rubbish, displayed birds and espoused the virtues of Stradbroke Island. We had several guided walks to showcase the local bushland and foreshore, there are more to come throughout this year. We have also attended various displays

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Presidents report continued

which has enabled us to disseminate plenty of information to the community, educating the public on wildlife is one of the key aims of the society.

On a sad note I reflect on the passing of one of our key supporters “Bob Douglas”, his enthusiasm and passion for the environment was infectious and spurred others to continue their commitment towards the protection of our flora and fauna.

The coming year will be full of challenges with a new state government that wants to change legislation on the protection of Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, the Great Barrier Reef and Wild Rivers and seems likely to approve many more mining projects. All these in some form or other will impact our wildlife in the name of growth. With local elections final results imminent we are concerned on the future direction of the “Super Quarry”, Biomass Plant, Southern Redland Bay development and Stradbroke, it is troubling that these issues still, after so many years, continue to test the resolve of our members and drain resources of community groups.

We enter our next 25 years as a strong vibrant branch that can challenge this continual assault on our wildlife and bushland but needs all spheres of government to heed the warnings of environmentalists on the consequences of continual growth on our unique landscape.

Remember when atmospheric contaminants were romantically called stardust?

Lane Olinghouse



Help Wanted

Your help is needed to look after our display at the IndigiScapes weekend in June.

If you can spare 2 hours or more to come to IndigiScapes on either Saturday 2nd or Sunday 3rd June your help would be appreciated. No experience necessary. You just need to enjoy talking to people about wildlife.

Call Doreen on 0407 157 556 to find out more.



Coming events for your Dairy

Saturday 26 May Science in the Grand View - See page 4 for details.

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 June IndigiScapes weekend.

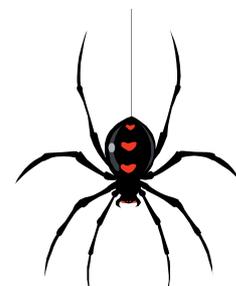
World Environment Day dinner

Saturday 26th May at Redlands IndigiScapes centre. Bayside branch's World Environment Day annual dinner.

Our guest presenter for the night is Dr Robert J Raven Senior Curator (Arachnida) & Head, Terrestrial Biodiversity Queensland Museum.

Robert has studied spiders for many years and has travelled the world to do so. He plans to excite people about "Spiders and their importance to the environment".

Lost your payment form? Call Doreen 3206 0368 or Steve 3824 0522 for assistance.



Specialist Coastal Raptors

by...Robyn Howard

This is the first of four articles about the coastal raptors which are seen in this area. This first is an introduction to raptors in general, and the following three are devoted to each of the three specialists which co-exist in our region - the Whitebellied Sea-Eagle, the Brahminy Kite, and the Eastern Osprey.

INTRODUCTION: The term “raptor” essentially means “bird of prey”, and therefore, its strict interpretation includes owls, vultures, and even the Secretary Bird of Africa, but it is more often used as a generic term relating to our eagles, kites, harriers, falcons, goshawks and the like.

In these families, females are the bigger birds, sometimes only slightly so, but in other species they may be nearly half as heavy again as the male. Due to this evolution, the female has more resources on which to draw when producing eggs and incubating, whilst the male is more agile in flight displays and in hunting food.

Although pairs are monogamous during the breeding cycle, (and many pairs remain “faithful” for virtually their whole breeding life,) between seasons, a female may look for a mate with a better nest location, or a more fruitful territory, or one she thinks will better provide for her and her future chicks, but she will only change to a partner with better prospects. Upwardly mobile, perhaps?

Generally, male and female plumage is similar, though some species have sufficient variation to allow sex identification in the field. The juvenile plumage of raptors may be quite different from the adult birds.

The availability of prey has a great effect on raptors. In times of plenty, the numbers of some species build up. In poorer times, raptors will vary their diet, taking whatever prey is available, not

necessarily their preferred foods, and may even choose not to pair and mate. In the worst of times, even adult birds starve to death.

Breeding seasons may commence as early as April, but in some instances actual breeding may continue until November, and rarely may occur at other times if food is plentiful, especially after a period of drought or poor food supplies. Males court females prior to breeding. This begins with flight displays and calling.

If the female is attracted, she joins the male in flight rituals, wonderful to watch. Each species varies in the ritual, but it is often includes circling on thermals, interacting closely, even passing food in flight, or locking toes and whirling together in amazing aerial acrobatics.

Once the male has a mate, he takes her to the nest site. Some birds use a new site each year, others add to a long-term nest. (In arid areas, old raptor nests may be taken over in subsequent years by crows or ravens.) More courting continues at and above the nest site, and the male offers food to the female. There are at least three benefits to this feeding. Firstly, it proves to the potential mate that he is a good provider; secondly, it initiates and builds the co-operation necessary to raise a family; and thirdly, it is also practical in that it helps the female to build up body resources for the production of eggs and the stresses of incubation including possible food shortages when only one bird is supporting a mate and young.

Mostly, both birds are involved in nest building or maintenance. The male tends to bring suitable material, but the female constructs and organizes the nest. During incubation, the female spends the majority of her time on the eggs, but during the day, she is normally relieved for short periods by the male. He hunts and provides her with food, but both sexes fiercely defend the nest.

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Raising young is a huge commitment. After the efforts of nest building or refurbishment, egg production requires significant resources from the female, especially the contribution of calcium necessary for healthy eggshells. The male must spend time and energy hunting to provide for his mate during incubation, plus the young in the early days after hatching. Once the female is able to assist with food provisions, the demands of the young have increased due to their growth. It is many months before the young become independent.

As is virtually universal with birds, there is a high mortality rate for offspring. Hazards include predation by cats, other birds and reptiles, starvation, accident (falling from nest or broken limbs, etc.), and storms. Death of either parent may result in eventual desertion of the nest and young for that breeding cycle. In the past, both human hunting and poisoning through use of insecticides and baits added greatly to natural mortality, but education and regulations have lessened these human threats. Humans cause some deaths through road accidents or the stealing of eggs.

Reprinted from WPSQ Moreton Bay Newsletter No. 253 - January/February 2012



April Wildlife Walk

After the rain of previous weeks it was a pleasure to find Sunday 22th April was a fine day for walking.

The wetland at Carbrook lived up to its name by being very wet under foot but what a pleasure to see such a diverse habitat.

The guided walk was lead by Dr Margaret Greenway some one who has undertaken significant research in this area and who proved to be an excellent guide.

Science at the Grand View Hotel

Another in Bayside branch series of science presentations.

Where: The Historic Grand View Hotel,
49 North Street, Cleveland



When: Saturday 26 May 2012
9.00am to 12 noon

Guest speakers will include:

Simone Maynard

Simone is currently employed by South East Queensland (SEQ) Catchments as Ecosystem Services Project Manager. Her role is to coordinate the development of the SEQ Ecosystem Services Framework and assist stakeholders with incorporating the Framework into policy, planning and management practices. Simone is also a Member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN); is part of United Nations Statistical Division's Expert Group on environmental-economic accounting; a Scholar with the Australia 21 group; on the Editorial Board for the Elsevier journal 'Ecosystem Services'; on the Steering Committee for International Ecosystem Services Partnership; and a PhD Candidate at the Australian National University.

Her topic will be: Ecosystem Services:
Identifying the benefits of Nature



50th Anniversary Wildlife Queensland

Talking Wildlife, (a forum to celebrate Wildlife Queensland's 50th anniversary) will be held on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September 2012 at Bardon Conference Centre, Brisbane. Registrations open.

Check the website for more information
www.wildlife.org.au

Maureen's recycling tips

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

- REDUCE both consumption and waste, given that a 1% reduction in consumption is thought to be equal to a 25% recycling rate.
- REUSE an article again and again, for its original manufactured purpose eg. Refillable glass container, plastic lunch box or wheelie bin.
- RECYCLE something if REDUCE and REUSE are not options, if it is easy to recycle and if there is a genuine market close by for the material we want to recycle.

By making the extra effort to dispose of waste thoughtfully you, and our environment, will benefit. We'll conserve valuable resources, reduce environment impacts and save money too!!

We can minimise the amount of waste we produce every day at home, at the office and at school.

Ask these questions:

Every time we buy something, we should ask....

- How am I going to dispose of this?
- Is this recyclable?
- Is this necessary?
- Could I buy it in different packaging?

And every time we go to throw something away, we should consider....

- Could this be reused?
- Could it be repaired?
- Could someone else use it?
- Can it be recycled?

REDUCE - Produce less waste

REUSE - Reviving an old product for a new use

RECYCLE - Creating new products from discarded goods

There is no real effort to recycling. Just change your thinking habits.

Wetlands Festival

Join us at Cannon Hill Anglican College Cnr Junction & Krupp Roads Cannon Hill on Sunday 27 May 2012 from 10am to 3pm.

Bayside branch will be at the Wetlands Festival which celebrates the themes of Environment, Community and Sustainability. It is being held in the grounds of Cannon Hill Anglican College which is home to a unique 4.5 hectare Eucalyptus and Melaleuca Wetlands area.

Festival activities include rides for all ages, bands, classical music, fabulous festival food, stalls, community displays, art, drama, competitions etc.

This year the Wetlands Festival will also feature special guest MCs on the main stage. Terry Hansen (97.3 announcer), Loretta Ryan (4BC announcer) and Jamie Charman (former Brisbane Lions player) will be the special guest MCs.

The CHAC musicians will also be there including the Rock Band, Guitar Heroes, CHAC in Black, Menuhin Strings, Sound Sensation, Senior Vocal Group and College Choir.



There will also be Wetlands Tours.

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 the cost of postage so please consider it if you are on email.

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 R Opala</i></p>
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Committee & Contacts

President	Steve Homewood	3824 0522
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Treasurer	Maureen Tottenham	0418 197160
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	Doreen Payne	
	Michael Lusic	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor	Paulette Jones	
Librarian	Pat Comer	

Wildlife Diary Dates

Friday 25 May Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Saturday 26 May Science at the GV
Saturday 26 May World Environment Day dinner
Sunday 27 May Wetlands Festival - Cannon Hill College
Friday 29 June Bayside Branch General Meeting 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 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 _____

 <p>Payment by Credit Card</p> <p>Card type— Visa__ Mastercard __</p> <p>Card No _____</p> <p>Expiry Date ____/____</p> <p>Name on the Card _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>
