

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

August - September 2012

Next Meeting Friday 31st August 2012 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

Our Guest Speaker, is Michael Lusi, Chair Wildlife Queensland Research Group, Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch. Michael coordinated the campaign, on behalf of the Bayside Branch for the establishment of Moreton Bay Marine Park and participated as a conservation representative in the reviews of 1997 and 2008. He also worked for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 1990 to 1995, as well as training staff and volunteers about the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Queensland's first marine park at Green Island, offshore Cairns; yet, it was another 37 years (1974) before Queensland's second marine park was declared in the Whitsundays.



Michael will profile some of success of community-based campaigns and characterise why marine parks are important in protecting wildlife habitats.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

I was at Wellington Point recently, enjoying the winter sun and was watching an Ibis balancing on top of a rubbish bin trying unsuccessfully to extract some food from the under the protective shield. It would appear that people using that area are reasonably responsible and most litter does go into the bird proof bins or is taken home.

This contrasts to motorists who delight in throwing their rubbish on to our roads and highways, there are endless trails of takeaway wrappers, cups, cigarette butts and packets, beverage containers, bottle tops, newspapers that pollute our

environment ultimately ending up in our rivers and oceans.

Our marine animals are extremely vulnerable to this type of pollution witness the agony that some turtles have to endure after ingesting plastic bags and yet our society and big business still refuse to embrace the idea of no plastic bags or bottle deposit recycling.

We are so used to having bad ideas imposed on us without discussion; it would a better idea to have something eminently more productive occurring on recycling. The majority of us would accept it without rancour, supported by

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vigorous enforcement of littering and polluting laws.

Our modern industrial economy takes a mountain covered with trees, lakes, running streams and transforms it into a mountain of junk, garbage, slime pits, and debris. ~Edward Abbey

Keep Australia Beautiful week starts
20.08.2012

How long does rubbish take to dispose in the environment?

- Plastic Bottles: 400 to 500 years, but they never completely degrade
- Plastic bags: 1 to 20 years
- Glass Bottles: more than 600 years
- Food Packing: 1 to 5 months
- Cans: 200 to 400 years
- Paper bags: 6 weeks to 5 months
- Fishing nets: from 450 to 600 years
- Paper towels: 3 months
- Chewing gum: 5 years
- Cigarette butts: 1 to 3 years



Bird Walk

Your invited to join Luke Street Bushcare Group who will be holding a bird walk on Sunday 2 September at Luke Street, Thornlands.

Time: 8am.

Bring: water, hat, sunscreen, mozzie spray, binoculars, and clothing that offers protection against the possibility of insect bites.

Also please wear reasonable footwear.



Morning refreshments are available at the conclusion of the walk.

Please register for this event by phoning Doreen on 3206 0368 (please leave message) or emailing wildlifebb@bigpond.com

Wellington Point wildlife adventure

Come and see an interactive display about the wildlife habitats of Wellington Point, King Island and Waterloo Bay. Receive an interpretative map and take a self-guided tour of King Island Conservation Park.

From September to March, King Island becomes an important roost for resident and migratory wading birds. At low tide, the island is home to masses of blue soldier crabs and a host of other invertebrates. At high tide, King island and Waterloo Bay is visited by dolphins, dugong, sea turtles, sharks and rays. Event hosted by Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch.

Geckos Wildlife will deliver their enthralling wildlife presentation from 9am to 10am, while two contemporary bands, *Jumping Fences* and *Three Miles from Texas*, will perform between 10am and 12pm.

All activities will be held at the Pavillon within the Wellington Point Reserve. Point of View Coffee Shop and Seafood Cafe are close by; alternatively, bring a picnic and enjoy the mornings events.

Details: Sunday 9 September, 9am-midday. Wellington Point Reserve, Mains Road, Wellington Point.

Note low-tide is at 9.40am.
For more information contact Michael Lusi, 0448 761 114 or email michael.lusi@gmail.com

IT'S RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP SO COME AND ENJOY THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT



Important Date

Sunday 9 September
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Annual General Meeting to be held at 2pm at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre 815 Rode Road, McDowall UBD Map 119 F16



Seagrass stores more carbon than forests

Tuesday, 22 May 2012 Reuters
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles>



Seagrass meadows store 90 per cent of their carbon in the soil and continue to build on this indefinitely (*Source: microgen/iStockphoto*)

Coastal seagrass can store more heat-trapping carbon per square kilometre than forests can, which means these coastal plants could be part of the solution to climate change.

Even though seagrasses occupy less than 0.2 per cent of the world's oceans, they can hold up to 83,000 tonnes of carbon per square kilometre, a global team of researchers reported in the journal *Nature Geoscience*. That is more than twice the 30,000 tonnes of carbon per square kilometre a typical terrestrial forest can store.

Earth's oceans are an important carbon sink, keeping climate-warming carbon dioxide from human-made and natural sources out of the atmosphere. The scientists found that seagrasses account for more than 10 per cent of all the carbon buried in oceans, also known as blue carbon.

The study included researchers from the United States, Spain, Australia, the United Kingdom, Denmark and Greece.

The greatest concentration of carbon found was in the Mediterranean where seagrass meadows stored carbon many metres deep. According to the study, seagrass meadows store 90 per cent of

their carbon in the soil and continue to build on this indefinitely.

"These results show that seagrasses are key sites for carbon storage and probably are far more important as carbon dioxide sinks than we realised," says study co-author Professor Gary Kendrick of the University of Western Australia.

In addition to storing carbon, seagrasses filter out sediment before it gets into oceans, protect coastlines from floods and storms and serve as habitat for fish, crustaceans and other commercially important species.

Seagrasses can be damaged by human activity, such as pollution from oil spills and by boat propellers and cargo that can rake through seagrass meadows and cut through roots.

"The good news is if seagrass meadows are restored they can effectively and rapidly re-establish lost carbon sinks and stores, as well as providing a range of other valuable ecosystem benefits, including water quality protection, and as an important biodiversity habitat," says Kendrick.

Some of the study's authors are affiliated with the Blue Carbon Initiative, a global plan to mitigate climate change by conserving and restoring coastal marine ecosystems. The initiative is a collaboration between UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Conservation International.



50th Anniversary Wildlife Queensland

Talking Wildlife, (a conference 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

Five things you need to know about wildlife corridors

We live in a very inter-connected world. This is something that conservationists have learned when studying the species that they are trying to protect. It's not good enough to create protected habitats that are isolated, like islands surrounded by roads, fences, farmlands, cities etc. That's not how most species have evolved. Their habitats need to be connected to others via wildlife corridors if life there is to really thrive and be robust enough to survive long-term.

Here are few reasons why these corridors are so important

1. Some species need to travel long distance to survive.

Sometimes protected habitat areas are large enough to provide the needed space, but often they are too small and without safe corridors to move around, the animals are exposed to all kinds of dangers. The corridors provide a kind of safe valve for protected habitats that are too small, allowing especially the large carnivores to find ways to roam (other species in Australia) to their heart's content between different 'islands' without being exposed to potentially fatal dangers.

2. There is no one-size-fits-all.

Each wildlife corridor needs to be designed with the local species in mind. Some species will do just fine with relatively narrow corridors, while others that are less used to human presence simply won't use them. Many factors play a role in how attractive a wildlife corridor will be to animals: terrain type, vegetation cover, snow depth, topography, physical barriers of various kinds, and of course, human presence including smells and noises.

3. They help protect genetic diversity.

One of the dangers of isolated habitats is that, over time, genetic diversity will be reduced and inbreeding will lead to vulnerability to various diseases and genetic defects. Just allowing some migration and exchange of precious

genetic materials with other populations can reduce genetic risks and make species more robust in the face of all kinds of threats. It is the same principle as with farming and forests: monoculture is much more vulnerable than polycultures. Variety: robustness.

4. Some wildlife corridors are naturally occurring, some need to be created.

Sometimes, wildlife corridors were already present and all we need to do is protect them. For example, sometimes a narrow valley between mountains will act as a natural funnel and help bring species from one area to another. But sometimes, there are no natural corridors, and nature needs our help eg the European Green Belt, Tandai Tiger Corridor. Stock routes in Queensland can serve this purpose.

5 Government needs to play a role.

Animals and plants don't care much about political borders. Many habitats overlap different countries (and in Australia different states) and many important wildlife corridors, natural or artificial, cross state lines. That's why cooperation from governments is crucial and while it's probably too much to expect that legislators will be very knowledgeable in that area, we should at least make sure that they are disposed to listen to the experts and make forward-looking decisions to help protect many precious species and habitats. And, of course, you can play a role too, either by supporting your favourite environmental non government organization or by bringing conservation to the attention of your political representatives!

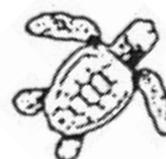
Reprinted from WPSQ Gold coast Newsletter- January 2012

Source: Article by Michael Graham Richard, Treehugger. Care2 Causes November 2011.

Wildlife Rescue

If you find sick or injured wildlife in Redlands please contact Wildlife Rescue Redlands 24 hours on 07 3833 4031

For Marine Strandings please report to 1300 130 372



Queensland's most threatened flora and fauna species in fight to hang on

Brian Williams Courier Mail 4 August 12

UNDER THREAT: Queensland's list of shame includes reptiles, birds, sharks and frogs. *Source:* The Courier-Mail

Of the 1791 threatened species listed by the federal Environment Department, 484 - or 27 per cent - occur in Queensland.

Australia already has 21 extinct mammal species - the most of any nation - and more than one in five are under threat, by far the highest of all developed nations.

In the 200-plus years since Europeans arrived, 234 birds have become either extinct, threatened with extinction or near threatened out of the total 760 bird species.

World Wildlife Fund scientist Martin Taylor said the figures were a concern, especially as the Queensland trend was downwards. "All indications are that nothing is in recovery," Dr Taylor said. Wolf Sievers, from the Environment Department's threatened species unit, said the biggest impacts on flora and fauna were habitat loss, seasonal conditions and disease. "All the time we have more people in more places wanting to do more things, so that has a general impact on space," he said.

It was hoped the past two good seasons would ease pressure on many species, particularly frogs. "We thought bilbies were right, and then the good seasons produced a lot of feral cats which is making it risky for bilbies. It's a bit of a seesaw."



He said the department had about 25 programs under way working on threatened species, such as bilbies and northern hairy nosed wombats, and was trying to keep the issue in the public eye.

In a paper released this week, scientists warn that the policy of allowing habitat clearing - on the basis of the loss being offset elsewhere - was fraught with danger and hard to do without losing species. Martine Maron from the University of Queensland said that in some cases, people were trying to use offsets to replace centuries-old trees.



Invitation to a free member's 50th Anniversary birthday party

Brisbane and Kedron Brook branches invite all Wildlife Queensland members past and present to celebrate the Society's birthday in festive style at this free event

Downfall Creek Bushland Centre 815 Rode Road, McDowall UBD Map 119 F16
10.00am - 2.00pm
SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Bring your memorabilia, set up a personal display, wear your historic T-shirt, relax with fellow members, compare stories, watch the Geckoes Wildlife presentation, walk in the Raven Street Reserve, enjoy morning tea and lunch, share the birthday cake and simply celebrate our 50 years of achievements.

10.00am - Gather at the Bushland Centre to meet friends and set up your display of memorabilia to celebrate your history and achievements.

10.30am - morning tea and view the displays

11.00am Geckoes Wildlife presentation

11.45am - take a walk in the reserve with local members or simply relax and chat

12.45pm - CELEBRATORY FREE LUNCH

1.30pm - 50th BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING

2.00pm - 4.00pm - Wildlife Queensland AGM

4.00pm - 5.00pm wine and cheese & crackers to round off the day

PLEASE RSVP by 2nd September for catering (let us know if you are vegetarian too) to brisbane@wildlife.org.au

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch

Email- bayside@wildlife.org.au

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

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| <p>Meeting Information When <u>Last</u> 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> |  <i>Illustration by R Opala</i> |
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Committee & Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| President | Steve Homewood | 3824 0522 |
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| Executive | Don Baxter Doreen Payne Michael Lusi | |
| Bayside Newsletter Editor | Doreen Payne | |
| Wildlife Diary Editor | Simon Baltais | |
| Koala News Editor | Paulette Jones | |
| Librarian | Pat Comer | |

Wildlife Diary Dates

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| Friday 31 August Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba |
| Sunday 2 September Luke Street Bushcare bird walk |
| Sunday 9 September Wellington Point Adventure |
| Friday 28 September 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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|  <p>Payment by Credit Card</p> |  |
| Card type— | Visa__ Mastercard __ |
| Card No | _____ |
| Expiry Date | ____/____ |
| Name on the Card | _____ |
| Signature | _____ |