



BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

July - August 2012

Next Meeting Friday 27th July 2012 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

Our guest speaker Yvonne Webb will introduce us to Slow Food and the Rhythm of Life. What is Slow Food you ask? Slow Food is a global, grassroots organisation connecting the pleasure of food that is good, clean and fair with a commitment to their community and environment.

It started in Italy in 1989 as a reaction to the increase of fast food and fast life and to encourage interest in the origins of food, preservation of local food culture and the connection between what we eat and the world at large. Slow Food members champion farmers markets, food education and school kitchen gardens, whilst also supporting local producers and much, much more.



Food is currently at the forefront of public debate. Issues such as how food is produced, the distance it travels, the use of genetically modified organisms, transparency of labelling and the impact of monoculture are sparking discussions around the country. Slow Food Brisbane aims to reignite people's pleasure for food and all that it encompasses.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

As you all know by now, last week at the Healthy Waterways awards night we received much to our shock, (no speech prepared) two prizes, the Community Award and the Minister's Grand Prize. It was honour for me to receive these awards on behalf of our members and volunteers who have collectively helped in our headline monitoring projects, Seagrass and Mangrove watch, Ornate Sunfish surveys, participated in our community educating activities and lobbied at every turn to protect wildlife and habitat.

In our 25th year it is a fitting tribute to the tenacity and robustness of the Branch and its members and will certainly aid us in what will be a difficult few years for all community groups. Unfortunately there seems to be a concerted effort to mute any opposition to the environmental vandalism that is occurring across our state. It is only by having good science and the community behind us that we can continue to give voice and expert support to reduce the impact or stop some of the more insane projects.

The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology. ~E.F. Schumacher



Some interesting native groundcovers have taken advantage of the favourable weather to flourish.

A hardy survivor that many consider a garden weed is white root, *Lobelia purpurescens*. This little plant is widespread and hardy and has a long flowering period. Anything that is hardy has my vote.

Growing everywhere at the moment is *Desmodium triflora*. A tiny clover like plant with small purple flowers (pictured above), it invades lawns and complements the grass. Both of these plants enjoy the sunshine.

In the shade, we find the pretty ivy leaf violet *Viola banksii*. It has lavender and white flowers and readily spreads by sending out runners.

I also have a patch of shade loving grass, possibly *Ottochloa gracillima*. It doesn't go much above 15 cm tall and provides a soft green carpet in shady areas of eucalypt forest. There are several native grasses that prefer shade.

We do not need to be content with just dead leaves on the ground in our native gardens.

Carol

Reproduced from Wambaliman Autumn 2012 produced by Bundaberg and Fraser Coast Branches, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland



Walk with Wildlife

To Celebrate National Tree Day we have organised a walk so we can appreciate the beauty and diversity of the native vegetation.

Cost: \$2.00

When: Sunday 22nd July

Time: 8am.

Where: Beveridge Road, Thornlands



Bring: As the area is likely to be damp after recent rains you are advised to wear reasonable footwear and bring water, hat, sunscreen, mozzie spray, binoculars, and clothing that offers protection against the possibility of insect bites

Morning refreshments are available at the conclusion of the walk.

Please register for this event by phoning Steve on 3824 0522 or emailing bayside@wildlife.org.au



Coming events for your Dairy

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th September
WPSQ 50th Anniversary "Talking Wildlife Event" at Bardon Professional Centre
Sunday 9th September 9.00am Waterloo Bay Expo at Wellington Point. Includes walk to King Island and entertainment.
Sunday 9th September 2.30pm WPSQ AGM

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

Wildlife Queensland Bayside celebrates a double win

From the Healthy Waterways media release 29 June 2012

Wildlife Queensland **Bayside Branch** took out two awards, including the highest honour, at the recent Healthy Waterway Awards for their Community Action Research project which inspires young people through community education and on-ground waterway programs.

The project not only won the 'Brisbane Airport - Community Award', but was voted the most innovative of all entries by an independent judging panel, receiving the 2012 Minister's Grand Prize and a total of \$11,500 in prize money.

The Community Action Research project delivers ten programs that engage primary and high school students in the inaugural Cicada Film and Animation Awards, encourage post-graduate researchers to deliver presentations at the organisation's science seminars and involves over 20 volunteers in the assessment of Ornate Sunfish populations.

Chair of Wildlife Queensland Research Group, Mr Michael Lusi, said the success of our community-based projects is due to volunteers and supporters from other community groups, funding from government and industry, and technical support from peak non-government organisations and research institutions.

"On behalf of the 140 members of Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch, we humbly accept the recognition and responsibility associated with being a Healthy Waterways Award winner - every nomination, in every category, was exceptional," Mr Lusi said. "The goodwill within the healthy waterways network in South East Queensland (SEQ) is exceptional," he said.

Brisbane Airport Corporation's Environment Manager, Helen Clarke, said they are proud to continue sponsoring the

Community Award for the sixth consecutive year.

"Brisbane Airport recognises that waterways are an integral part of sustaining SEQ well into the future and are proud to be able to sponsor the Community Award; further engaging the community life of our region through the ongoing protection and improvement of waterways," Ms Clarke said.

Now in its twelfth year, the annual Healthy Waterways Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of groups and individuals working to improve the health of SEQ's waterways and catchments.

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, The Hon Andrew Powell, paid tribute to the organisations and individuals who were doing their part to protect and improve our waterways.

"I congratulate the finalists and winners of the 2012 Healthy Waterways Awards for their hard work and dedication to protecting SEQ's precious waterways. The work showcased through the Healthy Waterways Awards represents the essence of Healthy Waterways - industry, community, schools, individuals, researchers and governments working together to safeguard our waterways for future generations," he said.

Healthy Waterways is not-for-profit, non government organisation working to protect and improve South East Queensland's waterways. For more visit www.healthywaterways.org



Members on hand to accept the award.

Keeping cats, dogs and wildlife safe!

1. How to keep cats and wildlife safe

- Keep cats totally indoors with lots of company and play toys, high ledges with views to look out to, a tall scratching and climbing post and of course a clean litter tray.
- Desex your cat between 2-4 months to reduce roaming, spraying, wailing and fighting (unwanted pregnancies can happen by 5 months).
- Train your kitten or cat to walk on a lead and harness so she can go places safely with you. Find out how at: www.awlqld.com.au/happy-cats.html
- Identify your cat with a microchip, collar and ID tag so it can be returned safely to you if ever it does escape.
- Explain to your friends about how to keep cats and wildlife safe.
- Keep working on reducing consumption and pollution and saving habitat for wildlife.
- Enclose an outdoor deck or courtyard with wire ceiling and walls or install an inverted cat safe fence so your cat can enjoy a bit of the great outdoors but not wander to be killed in road accidents or injured by dogs or other cats, or trapped by neighbours, or killing wildlife.

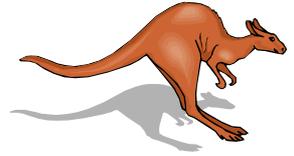


2. Keeping your dog and wildlife safe

- Train your dog not to chase and attack wildlife through obedience training - come, sit, stay, drop.
- Keep your dog on a lead when wildlife is near until you are sure it will not chase or harm it. Say firmly “no” if your dog looks like chasing or annoying wildlife (children should be taught not to chase wildlife including birds as well - editor!)
- Praise your dog when it ignores wildlife or moves around calmly near wildlife in your yard.
- Keep your dog inside or in an enclosed run inside your fenced yard from dusk

to dawn when native animals move around to feed.

- Keep your dog on your property at all times when not out walking on a lead or in a leash-free park.
- Prevent your dog from chasing marsupials. Marsupials often drop their joeys when chased and, unless found quickly, these joeys will die.
- Keep your dog away from snakes. Because Australia has some of the most venomous snakes in the world very few will survive a snake bite.



We did bring cats to Australia because we valued their ability to hunt rats and mice to protect our food supplies. Loss of wildlife is through the introduction of non native animals eg domestic (feral cats kill millions of native animals/birds each year), fox (imported to have English tradition of fox hunting here!), cane toad, rabbits, and habitat destruction and pollution. Roaming dogs in suburbs and country have an impact on native animals as they try to move through their habitat.

Reproduced from January 12 Newsletter Gold Coast and hinterland Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.



Did you know ?

What is unusual about the thumbs of a koala's front paws?

There are two thumbs on each front paw - along with three fingers



What is unusual about Africa's cuckoo catfish?

The female deposits its eggs among those of a mouth-breeding fish. After the eggs are taken into the unsuspecting host's mouth to be incubated, the cuckoo catfish eggs hatch first, and the babies eat the other eggs.

Maureen's recycling tips

As you have seen previously there are lots of ways to re-use products and packaging at home, to help us avoid, reduce and re-use.

We have become adept at recycling some packaging which helps keep down the amount we send to landfill but by re-using packaging and other items, we can reduce our waste even further, as well as saving money.

Here are some more ways we can re-use and recycle at home.

1. Old wet-wipe containers make great string dispensers - try it out!
2. Glass jars or take-away containers make great storage containers for cake decorations, leaf teas, buttons and many other things!
3. Collect branches from the garden to make a Christmas tree. Have a fun time arranging them in a vase or pot and then hang on the decorations!
4. Get creative making Christmas and birthday cards from old cards, postcards, photos, stamps, pretty paper and more. Your family and friends will love the handmade greetings! For more recycling ideas with cards, check out FestiveRecycling.PlanetArk.org
5. Keep old jeans to use as patches for other jeans.
6. Save old lip balm pots and small toiletry containers. Refill these from your large bottles to make travelling packs.
7. Placing bottle top or jar lids under your chairs or sofa is a great way to protect your carpet.
8. Has your pillow gone flat? Then why not fold it over and put it inside a new cushion cover?
9. Got some old clothes or furniture that you don't want anymore? There are plenty of charity shops that do want them, so why not donate your unwanted items to your local op shop?

10. Save bread bags and other food or newspaper bags to take as doggie-doo bags when walking the dog.
11. Use newspaper to line the kitchen bin. Give the bin a quick rinse when needed, pouring it out on the garden.
12. Pour old cooking oil and fat into a used milk carton or jar and put it out in the rubbish. It clogs the drains if put down the sink. Newspaper can also be used to wipe out oily pots.

Source: <http://recyclingnearyou.com.au>.

Don't forget that Bayside branch welcomes donations of aluminium cans and other scrap metals as they generate a small amount of income for us. Call Maureen on 0418 197160 to arrange collection.



Did you know about seagrass?

Seagrass stores more carbon than forests

According to a recent article on the ABC Seagrass meadows store 90 per cent of their carbon in the soil and continue to build on this indefinitely.

This makes our seagrass monitoring project so very important for the future. Read more about it in next month's newsletter.



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

