

Bayside Newsletter

May 2013

Boyd Essex revisits adventures to the red center

Next Meeting: Friday 24th May 7:30pm at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

In 2011 Boyd Essex (Naturalist and Bushcare Officer) ventured into the heart of Australia on a 7650km round trek. Revisit the adventure with him to icons such as Lake Eyre with water, Uluru, MacDonnell Ranges, Devils Marbles, Mount Isa and Cooper Creek. With conditions perfect, the wildlife was abundant and diverse, the scenery inspirational and the adventure a once-in-a-lifetime experience

Presidents Report

Steve Homewood

Another AGM has been successfully concluded I thank all committee members past and present for their expert help and influence over the past year and their interest in furthering the aims of the Society.

Having just spent 4 weeks in the U.K. it was interesting to see the issues making the news, we have the Koala, but they have the hedgehog, these hibernating mammals are under threat from cars, habitat clearing and disturbance while they are hibernating, chemicals and drowning. There are hospitals for hedgehog, ladders and tunnels built so they can escape from pits, "hog friendly" areas so they can be released back into the wild, education to reduce the use of garden chemicals that are used to kill snails and slugs their main diet. Unfortunately the car is their main enemy and their defence is to roll up into a ball!

There is even a hedgehog preservation society

Whilst we were in South West England there was a chemical spill that killed 2400 seabirds, mostly

guillemots, they were coated with a glue-like substance, polyisobutene, which can be legally washed out of ships' tanks. There were distressing pictures of carers trying to save these birds by washing and cleaning them. There is now pressure on the Government to outlaw dumping of the chemical in UK waters, but this is happening around the world at what cost to our seabirds

The general population has great access to the country-side and coastline by using public footpaths that criss-cross all areas, we had great walks on the South Western Coastal footpath which continues for an unbroken 1014 km, with unrivalled views of the Jurassic coast. It does put our local coastline access to shame.

Hope to see you at our annual World Environment Day Dinner, 25th May as usual tickets are selling fast.

A walk amongst nature, whether by the sea, river, hill, valley, meadow or wood, works wonders for the human spirit- not attributed



Are You on Email?

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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 postage.

Government plans new council powers to move bats

Queensland Environment Minister Andrew Powell says the State Government will work with councils to develop a code of practice for dealing with flying fox colonies.

Mr Powell says the State Government wants to reduce green tape for local government by identifying urban areas where the council can manage the bats without a permit.

He says the Government still plans to send in bat squads to trouble areas, but this approach is about simplifying the process for local government.

Mr Powell says the State Government will work with councils to identify urban areas where the council can make their own decisions about how to manage the bats.

He says this will simplify the process as councils will not have to apply for permits in the designated areas.

The changes would only be for non-lethal removal.

"In some cases it's very easy - the town plan designates what the urban area is," he said.

"In other places, it's less clear and we certainly want to have a conversation what the buffers should be too.

"We are willing to give them the powers to do what they need to do, without having to wait for my department to approve it.

"We want to get the green tape out of this."

'Passing the buck'

However, Opposition spokeswoman Jackie Trad says the Newman Government is passing the buck to local councils.

She says Government needs to play a large role in protecting the threatened and endangered species.

"It's not just about managing the problem locally – it's also about managing the population on a state-wide basis," she said.

"Make sure that these very important species that contribute to our ecosystems, that are responsible for our rainforest regeneration, that are also responsible for koala habitat, remain a viable population in our state."

Meanwhile, Brisbane's Lord Mayor Graham Quirk says councils need to work closely to ensure that moving troublesome flying fox colonies does not create problems for other local government areas.

"No doubt about it - there is strong support from some communities, strong support from some mayors, for moving on of bat colonies," he said.

"We just have to make sure that it's done in a proper and organised way, rather than an ad hoc fashion that creates further problems for Brisbane and regional communities."

Councillor Quirk says he will be discussing the issue with other local government heads this week.

"It's no good one council going off and doing it and the others not," he said.

"We need to have a united approach and that's why we're going to have a regional discussion about that on Friday."



Koala Community Planting

Help out your local koalas, by joining us for our annual Koala Community Planting. Join in the fun as we put 2000 plants in the ground to create a future home for our furry friends in Birkdale.

Stay after the planting, for a sausage sizzle and take a free native plant home with you.

When: Saturday 18 May 2013: 8.30 am –10.30am

Where: Creek Road Park, Parkridge Place, Birkdale : UBD Reference: Map 184 D5

Bring: Enclosed shoes, sun protection & drinking water

Provided: Plants, equipment, sunscreen, gloves and sausage sizzle.

Contact: Call Bushcare on 3824 8611 for more information.

Please call Travis Green (Bushcare) on 38201114 if you have any further questions regarding promotion of this event.

Climate change compounds rising threats to koala

Australia's iconic marsupial is at risk from shrinking habitats, road traffic and dog attacks – and increasingly, global warming.

Neena Bhandari

Australia's iconic marsupial is under threat. Formerly hunted almost to extinction for their woolly coats, koalas are now struggling to survive as habitat destruction caused by droughts and bushfires, land clearing for agriculture and logging, and mining and urban development conspire against this cuddly creature.

In the past 20 years, the koala population has significantly declined, dropping by 40 percent in the state of Queensland and by a third in New South Wales (NSW). The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) estimates that there are between 45,000 and 90,000 koalas left in the wild.

Shrinking habitat and climate change is compounding the risk of disease, while attacks from feral and domestic dogs and road accidents add to a long list of risks that this arboreal mammal faces as it moves across the landscape in search of food.

It is estimated that around 4,000 koalas are killed each year by dogs and cars alone.

Climate scientists warn that forecasts of longer dry periods, rises in temperature, more intense bushfires and severe droughts pose a significant risk to the koala, which is endemic only to Australia.

"In the past decade, we have experienced the hottest temperatures on record followed by floods and cyclones. The koalas are highly susceptible to heat stress and dehydration," University of Queensland koala expert Dr. Clive McAlpine told IPS.

"Our [climate envelope modelling](#) found that koalas occur at a maximum temperature of 37.7 degrees centigrade. Across western Queensland and New South Wales, temperatures remained in the mid to high 40-degree centigrade (range) for consecutive days, pushing them beyond their climatic threshold."

The name koala is derived from the aboriginal word meaning "no drink", as the creatures feed on and derive much of their moisture needs from the nutrient-poor eucalyptus leaves. An individual Koala may have to consume 500 grammes of leaves or more each day in order to grow and survive.

"Climate-induced changes will not only reduce their food resource, but also the nutritional quality and moisture content of leaves. Most recently an 80 percent decline was documented in Queensland's Mulga Lands following the 10-year drought," McAlpine told IPS.

Continue Reading at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/30/climate-change-threats-koalas>

Butterflies - Reproduction

Robyn Howard

The mission of all adult insects is to survive, to mate, and to reproduce.

The “mating game” for butterflies can be quite varied. A male may mate with a female when she is newly emerged, before her wings have expanded and hardened, so she has no hope of flying away. A female generally only mates with one male, unless she is of a longer-lived species, allowing her time to produce and lay ova, and then regain condition to allow further egg production. Males aim to mate with as many females as they can entice.

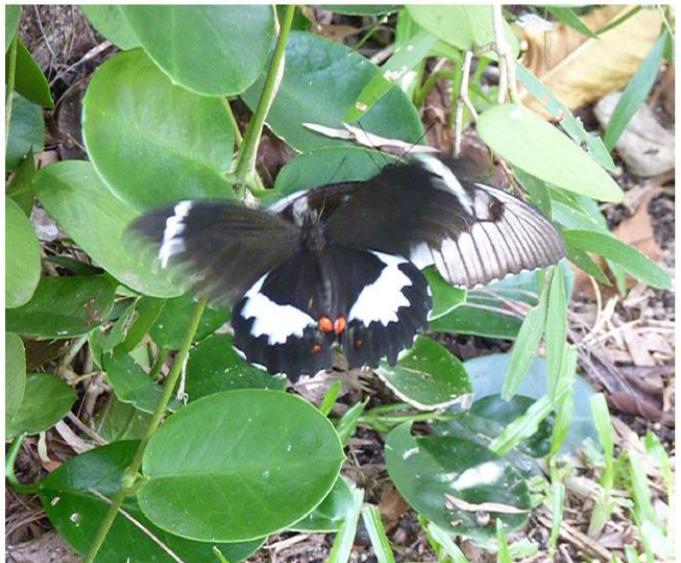
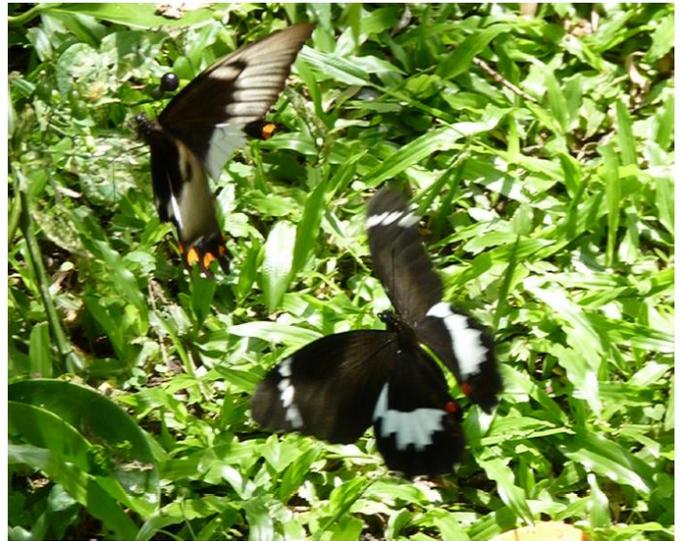
Most males perform quite elaborate flights and dances to attract a partner. The attraction initially lies in their wing shape, colours and patterns, but they also spread aromas which simulate the females to join them. The males produce pheromones from either small patches of special wing scales, or from bristles on the rear of the abdomen. Pheromones act as an aphrodisiac. When present, female scent glands are located on the abdomen.

Scents are the final recognition for mating with the correct partner, not another species – right scent, right species. Males pursue females which will eventually land on vegetation. Unwilling females, normally non-virgins, will perch with wings erect and lightly closed, precluding sexual activity. Willing females perch with wings loosely half-open, allowing the male to land on top of her. He caresses and courts her before mating, at which time he repositions in the opposite direction. They may remain coupled, tail to tail, open for hours. If danger threatens and flight is essential, the coupling continues with the carrier (mostly the female) flying and carrying the partner backwards.

In some species, it is the female who must seek out the male. In a behavior known as “hill-topping”, males move to a high position, usually a ridge, hilltop, raised ground, or even a substantial tree-top, and patrol a territory.

Congregated males will continue patrol flights, or perch in a prominent position from which they can intercept arriving females. Unmated females come specifically to find a male. It is of no significance whether there are food or host plants in the vicinity. Having mated, females do not remain in the area, but leave to find a suitable host plant on which to deposit their ova.

This female had already mated and was laying ova earlier. The male pursued her for quite some time, dancing around her incessantly. Every time he came close, she either moved or flapped her wings rapidly, precluding his landing.



Acknowledgments

From *Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld—Moreton Bay—Edition 267 —May 2013*

Want more to read?

Feed your curiosity with these online resources.

Decision Point

Issue #69 / May 2013

Connecting conservation policy makers, researchers and practitioners

http://www.decision-point.com.au/images/DPoint_files/DPoint_69/point_69.pdf

The Conversation

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Sign up for a daily newsletter

<https://theconversation.com/au>

Curlew Watch

Do it from your Smart Phone

Send your pictures to curlewwatch@bigpond.com or see : <https://curlewwatch.wordpress.com/report-a-curlew-sighting/> for more details

Database up to date...Check it out

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=44e1193c0b7443209b6d2240888102bb>



Photo taken of two adults at the University of Queensland Athletics Track/ Netball Courts

Steve's UK Adventures

Pictures below from Steve Homewood's latest trip to the United Kingdom



Photos by B and S Homewood 2013

Have you seen a **White-cheeked Honeyeater**, *Phylidonyris nigra*

[If so click here to let Climate Watch know.](#)

Committee & Contacts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
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| Secretary | Simon Baltais | 3822 4943 |
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| Bayside Newsletter Editor | Alix/Simon Baltais | |
| Wildlife Diary Editor | Simon Baltais | |
| Koala News Editor | Paulette Jones | |
| Librarian | Pat Comer | |

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au

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

Keep up to Date online!

Blogs:

SeagrassWatch

<http://seagrassmb.wordpress.com/>

Wildlife Bayside

<https://wildlifebayside.wordpress.com/>

Curlew Watch

<https://curlewwatch.wordpress.com/>

Websites:

Wildlife Bayside

<http://branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside/>

MangroveWatch

<http://mgwmb.azurewebsites.net/>

SeagrassWatch

<http://sgwmb.azurewebsites.net/>

Ornate Rainbowfish

<http://rainbowfish.azurewebsites.net/>

Meeting Information

When: Generally LAST Friday
of each Month

Where: Redlands IndigiScapes Centre
17 Runnymede Road Capalaba

Time: 7.30pm

Membership Application

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Memberships Types

- \$30.00 Single
- Concession (Pensioner/Full Student)
- \$45.00 Family or Non Profit Group
- \$12.50 Junior

Optional Wildlife Magazine Subscription

- \$47.00 per year inc GST (Four Issues)
- \$90 for 2 years inc GST (Eight Issues)
- \$70.00 per year (International Post)
- \$135 for 2 years (International Post)

Optional Donation \$ _____

For Campaign _____

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