

# WILDLIFE DIARY

February 2013



## Great Finds

**Ornate Rainbowfish**, *Rhadinocentrus ornatus* found still in Tingalpa and Erapah Creek and also Sandy Creek.

**Great Barred Frog**, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* tadpoles doing well in Tingalpa Creek.

## POPULATION MATTERS

Would you want more urban expansion in the Redlands? Take our survey to have your say.

<http://tinyurl.com/byhyskt>

### Are our fish protected?

As part of Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch Ornate Rainbowfish project we are assessing the representation of freshwater fish diversity provided by Conservation Parks in the Redlands. Although most parks were not designed with freshwater conservation in mind, many do support a wide range of native fish, which includes some very special species such as the *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*.

### What is fungi?

We often see the fruit of fungus, which can be beautiful and fascinating. However, the actual fungus is not seen, but consists of a mass of threadlike structures called hyphae that weave throughout the substrate (soil, wood, lawn, mulch, leaf litter, animal dung etc.) in which it grows.

Fungi are often thought to be plants, but they aren't. Fungi cells have walls that contain chitin, unlike the cell walls of plants which contain cellulose. In that respect, fungi are more closely related to animals than plants. Even so, fungi are classified in a Kingdom of their own – Fungi, which is separate from Plants, Animals, and Bacteria. Some fungi are symbiotic with a living plant. The fungal hyphae and the plant rootlets work together to provide each other with the necessities for life. The fungus gets carbohydrates from the plant, the plant gets an enhanced supply of minerals and water from the soil. This is called a "mycorrhizal association". <http://qldfungi.org.au/>

### Would you want tree protection weakened?

Have your say via by taking our survey at our blog site, click on this link to participate. <http://tinyurl.com/byhyskt>

### Using your iPhone to report a Bush Curlew

Seen a Bush Curlew, let us know by taking a photograph with your iPhone or similar GPS capable phone. Click on this link to participate. <http://tinyurl.com/azv4yqh>

## Did You Know?

Did you know that South East Queensland continues to be one of Australia's fastest growing regions? Loss of habitat is recognised as a key threatening process for koala survival. Additional threats come from vehicular trauma and dog attacks, which are a consequence of **urbanisation**. An increased prevalence of disease, primarily associated with chlamydial infections, as a secondary effect of the loss and associated fragmentation of habitat is placing even more pressure on the survival of the koala.

Did you know it's a busy, uncertain and frequently chaotic world out there? It's easy to miss little things. However, if that little thing is one of a small number of endangered plants in an area about to be developed, the consequences of missing it are dire. [http://www.decision-point.com.au/images/DPoint\\_files/DPoint\\_66/dpoint\\_66.pdf](http://www.decision-point.com.au/images/DPoint_files/DPoint_66/dpoint_66.pdf)

The broader community has an expectation that Council will aim to protect and enhance public assets not support the want of individuals who simply seek to improve their property values. I don't believe the Queensland *Local Government Act* supports the clearing of coastal vegetation for an individual's view?

Did you know it's getting hotter? Last month was not just the hottest January on record for Australia – it was also the hottest for any month, smashing peaks that had stood since January 1932. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/january-shatters-australian-heat-records-20130201-2dq33.html#ixzz2K0zBLlaY>



### Great Walks

The wild weather has left our landscapes in a bit of disarray. Best to use the fingers and tour our landscape via cyberspace. Some brilliant sites exist.

<http://ashdown4628.clients.cmdwebsites.com/blog/>

<http://focusingonwildlife.com/news/>

# WWW

Get the dirt on soil with our new iPad app

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/soilmapp/id578173447?mt=8>

Data Discovery Portal

<http://portal.tern.org.au/>

Great Barrier Reef

<http://www.barrierreef.org/OurProjects/eReefs.aspx>

# Bush Curlews on the move?

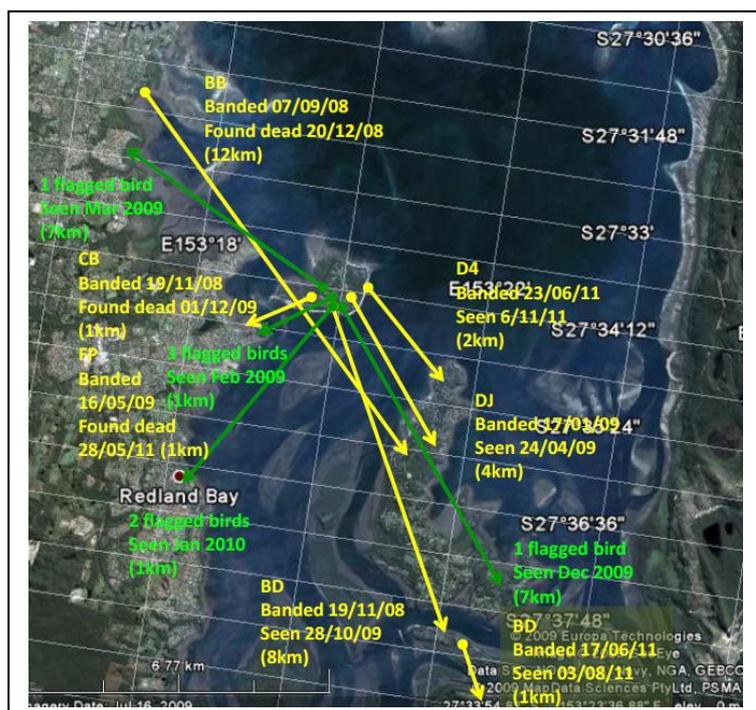
(A report by the [Queensland Wader Study Group](#) )

2008 Queensland Wader Study Group also started to focus attention on resident shorebirds with particular attention to Bush-stone Curlew.

To date 129 birds have been fitted with individually identifiable leg flags, the majority on Coochiemudlo, but small numbers have also been banded on Macleay Island, Russell Island, Karragarra and on the mainland at Cleveland and also Victoria Point. Monthly visits have been made to Coochiemudlo since 2009 to collect flag sightings and count birds and further surveys on other islands in the bay have been made to count stone-curlews and record any leg flags. To date there have been 331 individual resightings made, 101 in 2012. These monthly visits have also provided an opportunity to record hatching and rearing success for a number of pairs as well as looking at local movements and dispersal away from the island.

Monitoring nesting birds was difficult due to their mobility and ability to hide but nonetheless 23 pairs were monitored in 2012. Hatching success was 1.44 birds per breeding attempt in 2012, a significant improvement on 2011 and on a par with hatching success for other years monitored. Average rearing success per breeding attempt was 1.23, again a return to more normal productivity after 2011's abnormally low productivity... This data is shown in the figures below and will continue to be updated annually from now on.

Count data provided by Redland City Council continues to indicate consistent growth in the Coochiemudlo population with 191 counted on the island in February 2012. This is the third highest count since counting started in 1997. Monthly counts on Coochiemudlo also suggest an increasing population and also show variances in the numbers counted throughout the year which are shown below. Whether these differences reflect more secretive behaviour at different times of the year or demonstrate that birds disperse away from the island at certain times requires further evaluation.



A small number of birds (at least fourteen) have now been recorded away from Coochiemudlo. At least two of the sightings are of birds leaving Coochiemudlo and breeding on the mainland, the remainder being re-sightings of birds either alone or in non-breeding groups, either on the mainland or on other Moreton Bay islands.

The majority of records of flagged birds were within 1km of the banding location indicating a relatively sedentary existence. Regular monthly visits as well as the Redland City Council annual counts only turn up very small percentages of the total birds leg flagged indicating that birds are either dispersing widely and remaining undetected, or that surveys are significantly underestimating the number of birds as they miss many individuals. To date, attempts to widen the survey and find dispersing birds have failed to provide further re-sightings.

Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch would like to help close the gap on un-answered questions about the location and movement of Bush Curlews by utilising photographs taken by the community. Using your iPhone or similar location savvy phone we can pin point the exact location. See our blog for more details. <https://curlewwatch.wordpress.com/report-a-curlew-sighting/>

Reference: Jon Coleman 24/12/2012 Queensland Wader Study Group.

*Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.* Margaret Mead.



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