

WILDLIFE DIARY

March 2013

Did You Know?



Great Finds

The rare **Swamp Yabbies** (5 found) *Tenuibranchiurus glypticus* was a big find. Found in the Redland Bay area.

Perhaps an equally great find was the **Wallum Froglet**, *Crinia tinnula* also found in Redland Bay.

Empire Gudgeon, *Hypseleotris compressa* was found during surveys at Redland Bay and Tarradarrin Creek, Birkdale.

POPULATION MATTERS

Sustainable Population Australia (SPA) has commended Bindi Irwin on having the courage to stand up to Hillary Clinton. Her 1000-word essay on overpopulation of the planet was so edited by Secretary of State's office that the 14 year-old Bindi withdrew it.

Bindi was frustrated by the experience and said: "The true test of freedom of speech is when someone says something you don't like."

SPA National President, Ms Sandra Kanck, says Bindi has shown intelligence, wisdom and courage and deserves the full support of the Australian community.

<http://www.population.org.au/publications/types/media-releases-2013>

Are we really listening?

Deborah Bird Rose

<http://www.ecologicalhumanities.org/rose.html>
(1996) sums it up well:

'Only rare individuals in the past, and today still a minority of people, have taken seriously the knowledge of indigenous people. In so doing, some have learned to listen to what Aboriginal people say about country. More daringly, perhaps, some have learned to listen to what country says about itself'. (Gott, 2005).

Ceriops australis - easily confused

The **Smooth-fruited Yellow mangrove**, *Ceriops australis* has often be listed in some literature as *C.tagal*. Once grouped together they have been shown to be genetically isolated. *C. australis* has smooth rounded hypocotyls.

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>

You may have heard about the ***Avicennia marina*, Grey Mangrove** but did you know that that Avicennia was named in honour of the Persian physician Avicenna (980-1037)? He was one of the most famous and influential of the philosopher-scientists of the Islamic world. He was particularly noted for his contributions in the fields of Aristotelian philosophy and medicine. He wrote the Canon of Medicine, which is among the most famous books in the history of medicine.

Did you know that Wildlife Queensland has launched its 2013 **Student Research Grants Program** - available to students at Queensland Universities? Eligible research projects are those which investigate methods of addressing or reversing the decline in threatened native plant and animal species or their habitat, or other applied conservation outcomes in Queensland. Visit <http://www.wildlife.org.au/about/researchgrants.html> for more details.

The European honey bee kills almost as many Australians per year as falling trees but do we call for the culling of honey bees? Redland Council wants to remove many of our **old growth trees** on safety grounds yet they pose no more of a threat than a bee.



Great Walks

If Mangroves fascinate you but you don't like the idea of walking through them. Why not climb aboard a boat and do some Mangrove Watching in comfort. At the same time you will be

contributing to the science that helps us better understand this most precious and threatened habitat. For more detail contact the Mangrove Watch coordinator. Debra Henry debra@oceanwatch.org.au

WWW

Keep up to date with the latest local Wildlife news

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

Seagrass sites now online

<http://tinyurl.com/at5f9t6>

Monitoring fires - great info

<http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi2/>

Frogs

There are about 36 species of frogs listed as occurring in the Brisbane and Bayside Region. With recent rains many of these frogs have been active taking advantage of the damp conditions. Though once common the Green tree frog, *Litoria caerulea* seems to have vanished from many of its former haunts. It's readily identified by its dark olive to bright green back, which can change over a period of an hour. The sides often have white spots as does the back. There is usually a white streak or a number of white spots that run from the corner of the mouth to the base of the arm. The belly is white and granular. There is a skin fold that runs from the eye to the arm. The skin on the back is smooth and the iris of the eye is golden. The finger and toe pads are large. The fingers are one-third webbed and the toes are three-quarters webbed.

What appears as its smaller cousin the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, *Litoria fallax* is often found around suburban gardens so small it's overlooked but its presence is given away by its call, a high pitched "wr-e-e-ek, wr-e-e-ek, wr-e-e-ek" repeated many times. This frog is all green with a white stripe that runs from underneath the eye to the base of the arm and it's no more than 30mm long.

Another small frog (45mm) Dainty Tree Frog, *Litoria gracilentia* is also recognised by its call a long "waaa" or "weee". This frog is bright leaf green on its back. It has a faint yellowish-green stripe running from the nostril, over the eye and tympanum (tight membrane covering the entrance to the ear). The iris is golden or red. The belly is cream to yellow and granular. The finger and toe pads are large.

An even smaller frog with a big voice is the Beeping froglet, *Crinia parinsignifera*. Only 20mm in size it makes a drawn out low 'squelching' sound - "eeeeeeeeek" - repeated every few seconds. Though its colour and body patterns are varied it is generally found sheltering under logs and leaf litter in woodlands around the edges of dams and swamps. Its equally small cousin the Clicking Froglet, *Crinia signifera* is 30mm in size and it too makes a loud call for its size making a rapid repeated "crick...crick...crick...crick". One notable feature of this frog is that its belly is granular and blotched black and white. This frog is found in almost all habitats including wet sclerophyll forests, grasslands, disturbed areas and sometimes suburban ponds. It is always associated with water.

Great Barred Frog, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* is a 80mm frog found in the remnant rainforest regions of the Bayside area. Its call is very distinctive, a deep harsh "wark". It's a beautifully patterned frog. Its arms and legs have dark bars which widen under the legs to form a triangular pattern and the sides of its body have dark spots and blotches, and the skin on the back is finely granular. The iris is dark brown. The belly is smooth and white. The toes are three-quarters webbed. Sometime found with the Great Barred frog is the Tusked frog, *Adelotus brevis*. The Males have very large heads and large 'tusks' (tooth-like projections from the lower jaw). The belly of the male is black with white spots, while the female has a marbled black and white belly. Its call is quiet but distinctive, a slow "cluck" repeated several times a minute. Both these frogs are under threat from habitat destruction and modification.

Another rare frog is the Tinkling froglet, *Crinia tinnula*. This 30mm frog is only found in acid paperbark swamps in the 'wallum' country. Redland Bay is one area where populations can be found. Its call is a short high-pitched ring "tching...tching" like the tinkling of a bell. If you like to hear what one **sounds like go to our blog at <http://tinyurl.com/aprhtah>** This frog often has a line of white spots down the middle of the throat. Its belly is granular and usually white or light brown with a few dark flecks. The snout of this frog projects beyond the lower jaw, which can be clearly seen when the frog is viewed in profile. The fingers and toes have no webbing.

Ornate Burrowing Frog, *Limnodynastes ornatus* is an interesting frog but unfortunately mistaken for a Cane toad. It can be found in a wide range of colours and markings. It can vary from dark brown above to pale grey with dark irregular markings. The frog grows to about 45mm and often has a butterfly or U-shaped light patch on the back behind the eyes. It makes a very short, rapidly repeated "unk...unk...unk" the breeding males calling while floating in the water. This frog lives in a wide range of habitats from the wet sclerophyll forests of the coasts to the dry woodlands.

Source: <http://frogsaustralia.net.au/>

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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