

WILDLIFE DIARY

February 2014



Great Finds

Tawny frogmouth, *Podargus Strigoides* have just finished raising their very noisy and hungry chicks. Birkdale and Thorneside.

POPULATION MATTERS

Declaration from Fenner Conference 2013
Passed unanimously by the participants at the
Fenner Conference - 11th October, 2013

- The inextricable links between population, resources and climate change

<http://www.population.org.au/articles/2013-10-11/declaration-fenner-conference-2013>

Urban Heat Island

Urban Heat Island effect (UHI) is a phenomenon in which ambient air temperatures are higher in urban areas than surrounding rural areas (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2012)? UHI have been measured for many cities including Melbourne, where a peak temperature differential of up to 7°C has been observed in the central business district. Urban heat islands arise through characteristics of cities that include replacement of vegetation and soil with impervious, heat absorbing surfaces such as concrete and bitumen, installation of tall buildings that reduce airflow and ventilation, and generation of heat and greenhouse gases through human impacts. The UHI effect is particularly pronounced overnight when heat stored in buildings and hard surfaces during the day is slowly released overnight, and varies both spatially and temporally depending on the local microclimates, geography and urban development. One explanation is that the UHI allows little relief from the heat overnight, causing extra heat stress for susceptible individuals.

Source: NCCARF <http://tinyurl.com/mlq9wd5>

Once upon a time - a historical background

Otime... there was a small, friendly, seaside township called Cardwell-by-the-Sea, on the North Queensland mainland at the northern end of the World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Channel, just four kilometres across from the magical and mysterious Hinchinbrook Island.

In the 1970s the Queensland Government carried out investigations of mainland sites that had been selected, from an engineering perspective, for investigation as small boat harbours. The Government had already decided that **Oyster Point** (the mouth of Stoney Creek, about one kilometre south of Cardwell) was unsuitable. <http://www.madaboutdogs.com.au/hinchinbrook/history/history.php>

Did You Know?

Did you know greenspace and the lack thereof is becoming a major issue in our over-crowded urban centres. Greenspace is an important part of complex urban ecosystems and provides significant ecosystem services. It benefits urban communities environmentally, aesthetically, recreationally and economically. A big natural and semi-natural forest area can act as an ecological buffer and protect the environmental quality of a city and provide habitats for wildlife. At the city level, a green network system of green wedges, parks and green corridors helps to limit future urban expansion, improve urban environmental quality and serve as habitats and migration routes for wildlife. At the neighborhood level, green extensions and connections of riverside greenway, road greenway, parks and vertical greening permeate into the built-up areas. They provide open space close to residential areas and offer places for recreation. This three-level green system can constitute an integrated ecological network for urban sustainable development for a city.

Did you know that Daniel Donato of the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in Hilo, Hawaii and an international team of researchers examined the carbon content in 25 mangroves scattered across the Indo-Pacific region? They found mangroves stored atmospheric CO₂ just as well as land-based tropical forests, they found. Below the water line, they were even more efficient, hoarding five times more carbon over the same surface area. 'Mangroves were found to be among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics'.

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.ann.henry@bigpond.com

WWW

Mangrove Report for Moreton Bay

<http://tinyurl.com/kl2rkog>

Moreton Bay Mangrove Watch

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

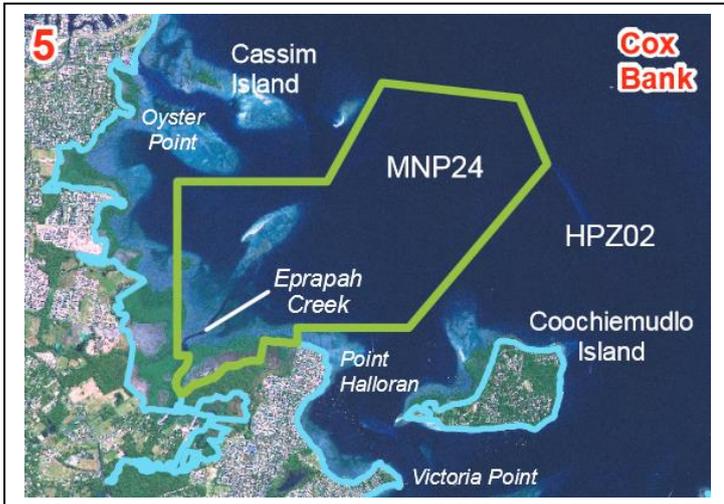
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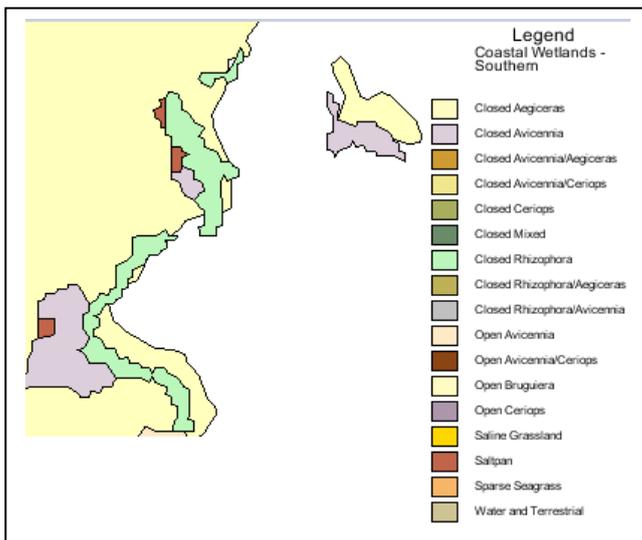
The values of Toondah Harbour

Redland Council has told us a lot about the development of Toondah Harbour and very little about the community and environmental values that they intend to concrete over. So what are these values?

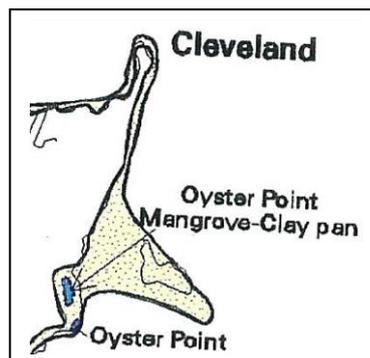
Toondah Harbour is on the boundary of the Marine Park. The Mangrove and seagrass meadows Council want to destroy a part of the Marine Park. <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/moreton-bay/zoning/pdf/map1-zoning.pdf>



It is clear Council fails to understand that the **Toondah Harbour area is part of the internationally listed Moreton Bay RAMSAR site.** <http://www.ramsar.org> The Convention aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve remaining wetlands through wise use and careful management. The destruction of mangroves and seagrass meadows is not a Wise Use of wetland; wise use is the core principle of the RAMSAR convention. http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=PwfuNqQk9h0&list=UUvtCtVKTdDBqUBVJrX2wYOQ



Toondah Harbour also supports a wonderful community of mangroves. Wildlife Queensland has been monitoring these mangroves for many years as they are special and important for maintaining healthy fisheries, coastal protection and wildlife. http://chrisweb.dpi.qld.gov.au/website/ArcIMS_CHRIS/viewer.htm?Project=3



Ironically the sad and tragic destruction of mangroves at Oyster Point in North Queensland, which made way for the Port Hinchinbrook marina, is seemingly going to be happily replicated by Redland Council at Oyster Point, Cleveland.

Toondah Harbour area is also noted for the Oyster Point migratory wader high tide roost site. **Source:** *Wader site data collection and survey project for south-east Queensland.* Migratory birds are protected under Federal legislation and a number of international conventions. <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/moreton-bay/pdf/shorebird-management-strategy.pdf> Encroaching development represents a significant disturbance to these protected international species.

Why would someone want to destroy or compromise these values? Perhaps greed is more important? They are certainly not wise.

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.

