

Bayside Newsletter

March 2014

Next Meeting: Friday 28th March 7:30pm Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

Simon Baltais

Your next speaker is Simon Baltais who will provide you details of his 2nd adventure to the Kimberley and back. This time he travelled through the Tanami Desert, spending time on the Dampier Peninsula chasing Gouldian Finches and magnificent sunsets, traversing the Kimberley by truck and boat plane visiting the horizontal falls and remote Mitchell Plateau and with its wildlife, waterfalls and rugged landscapes and the massive Lake Argyle. The trip back was no less adventure, traversing gibber plains to Dalhousie springs, following the Oodnadatta Track and Old Ghan railways line, the beautiful Painted desert, rugged Arkaroola, Innaminka and Cooper Creek. He will provide images of stunning remote outback scenery with its wild flowers and wildlife taken from land, plane and even satellite.

Presidents Report

Steve Homewood

Despite the threat of showers, a fine day greeted 15 early morning volunteers on a mission to clean up the foreshore at Sel Outridge Park at Redland Bay. With yellow and white bags in hand the teams spread around the park, the beach and footpath. Some of the more intrepid foraged amongst the mangroves and fossicked in the drainage ditches. Our reward was 15 bags of rubbish, 1 car tyre, a pallet, some carpet, a rusted angle grinder and a hand trolley. Plenty of cans and bottles collected will be recycled by our dedicated "M" and hundreds of cigarette butts are heading to a specialist to turn into organic waste and plastic products.

Thanks to all those who helped improve this area and all others who did their own clean up on the day. But why do dog owners leave their little black plastic bags as deposits everywhere- lift your game please.

Volunteers are an essential part of any thriving community organisation and our group has many

members ready to pitch in at events, activities, write letters to newspapers (haven't they been excellent lately), add support and voice to all the challenges that our wildlife and bushland are facing from extreme ideologies. There is no doubt that we do make a difference, time will show that.

When a man wantonly destroys one of the works of man we call him a vandal. When he destroys one of the works of god we call him a sportsman. ~Joseph Wood Krutch



Are You on Email?

Would you prefer to receive your Bayside Newsletter by email? 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.

Shark Culling: Risk and Effectiveness

The Western Australia Shark Cull has sparked outrage in many of Australia's Marine loving community. Over 6000 people gathered at Cottesloe Beach in WA pushing for the government to revoke the shark cull. While fatalities of any kind are a tragedy, we need to look at the reality of the situation... and that is; if you chose to swim, surf or partake in any other activities in a Sharks habitat the risk is yours to take. Though in saying that, the risk is not that high. Two people died in Australia last year as a result of Shark attacks in comparison to the 25 000 deaths related to obesity and 10 000 from smoking. Perhaps these issues are more pressing?

What's the real risk of being bitten by a shark in Western Australia?

Peter Sprivulis

What are the real risks?

In estimating the personal risk of white shark bite, the WA Department of Fisheries has identified water depth, choice of water activity, distance from shore, water temperature, and the presence of marine mammals as important risk factors. Based on these factors, the risk of a fatal white shark bite varies hugely. My analysis shows that for Perth beachgoers bathing within 25 metres of shore during summer (which is outside the whales' migration period), the risk is no more than 1 in 30 million per swim. In contrast, for a diver more than 50 metres from shore, in cool waters more than 5 metres deep off WA's southern coast, in the springtime when whales and their calves are close to shore, the risk may be as high as 1 in 15,000. To put this in perspective, the risk of being bitten by a shark while swimming at a Perth beach in summer is about 50 times smaller than the risk of a serious or fatal recreational cycling injury in WA, and about 30 times smaller than the risk of being struck by lightning in Australia.

Reducing risk

Shark bite is an emotive topic, which evokes less-than-rational responses by both individuals and governments.

Based on what we know about the personal risk, the current summer shark culling policy in WA would appear to be unnecessary and at the time of writing is yet to catch or cull a large white shark. Baiting during summer is very unlikely to reduce the risk of white shark bite during the higher-risk winter and spring months. Although it may be expected that bite risk will increase as whale abundance continues to grow, for the foreseeable future, for the majority of bathers, it is likely that the risk of shark bite over WA's summer will remain very low. For those who choose to participate in higher-risk water activities such as diving, a better understanding of personal risk and the factors that influence shark bites could help people make informed choices about where, when and how to enjoy WA's superb climate and its beautiful coastline.

<http://theconversation.com/whats-the-real-risk-of-being-bitten-by-a-shark-in-western-australia-23132>



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/image/5185772-3x4-700x933.jpg>



<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/great-white-sharks/>

Shark victim's mother takes court action against shark cull

The mother of shark attack victim Kyle Burden and marine activists Sea Shepherd Australia are suing the WA Government in the Supreme Court over its controversial shark culling program... EDO solicitor Patrick Pearlman said Premier Colin Barnett's Shark Hazard Mitigation Program was illegal because it was in contravention of the law that protects great white sharks. Read more:

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/shark-victims-mother-takes-court-action-against-shark-cull-20140226-33hfx.html#ixzz2v8LYAApV>

Has Queensland really saved lives by killing thousands of sharks?

21 February 2014

Jessica Meeuwig

One of the most common justifications for Western Australia's shark cull is the longstanding use of baited hooks - or drum lines - in regions such as Queensland.

Two key questions need answering. First, is there clear evidence that drum lines reduce the number of human fatalities from sharks? And second, what is their cost in terms of killing marine wildlife? To that end, I have analysed publicly available figures for human fatalities in Queensland with data on the program's shark catch, to provide an assessment of its effectiveness. Over more than half a century, the program has taken a large toll on wildlife, while any increase in human safety has been equivocal at best.

The Queensland cull

- Program established in 1962 - deployment of 24 drum line off the Gold Coast
- As of December 2013 - 369 drum lines and 30 nets deployed off the Queensland coast, mostly near swimming beaches.
- Between 1853 and 2013 there were at least 71 human fatalities due to unprovoked shark attacks in Queensland, with the majority of these attributed to tiger sharks and only a single fatality to white sharks.
- Fatalities are such rare events that differentiating between random coincidence and underlying patterns is fraught with difficulty.

What is the cost to marine life?

In contrast to their contribution to human safety, one thing we can be certain of is drum lines' ecological cost.

- Queensland caught some 6250 sharks on drum lines between 2001 and 2013, or an average of 480 animals per year.
- included 35 different species, the most common being tiger sharks (41%), bull sharks (17%) and black tip reef whalers (12%).
- Only 3% of the sharks killed on Queensland drum lines are considered *not* to be at conservation risk. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, four species, representing 5.2% of the catch, are "endangered"; nine species (9.6% of the catch) are "vulnerable"; and 15 species (80.6%) are classed as "near threatened". Only six species (1%) are considered to be of "least concern",

while one species (2%) is considered "data deficient".

- Sharks longer than 3 metres have been classified as dangerous to humans, at least in WA. Yet only 11% of the animals culled in Queensland were larger than this – the average size of sharks captured on the drum lines was 1.9 metres. In terms of reproductive maturity, all of the white sharks and most of the tiger and bull sharks that were caught were juveniles.

- As a key strategy for shark recovery is the protection of large breeding individuals, this may appear a reasonable outcome. But equally, juvenile deaths will ultimately reduce the future population of breeding adults.

What have we learned?

Based on this analysis, we can conclude that:

- Shark-related fatalities in Queensland have declined in both areas with and without drum lines, with the steepest rates of decline before their installation.
- The effectiveness of drum lines is difficult to evaluate, as the rates of attacks before and after their deployment are both very low. Moreover, 83% of drum lines are deployed at locations where a fatal attack has never occurred.
- The ecological cost of drum lines is high, with 97% of sharks caught since 2001 considered to be at some level of conservation risk, and 89% caught in areas where no fatalities have occurred.

Drum lines: a blunt tool

It could be argued that the drum line program in Queensland is justified simply because it may remove sharks from popular areas. However, it is a very blunt tool and ignores the important ecological roles that sharks play in our oceans. Moreover, its success in reducing human fatalities is hard to validate. The decreases may simply reflect broader declines in shark populations, driving down encounter rates despite the increased human presence in the ocean. Or they may simply be random. There are non-lethal techniques that can potentially achieve much better outcomes. Humans and sharks alike could benefit from an approach that embraces new ideas, rather than one that has produced little measurable effect in half a century, other than to kill threatened species.

This is a summary. The full article is available here: <http://theconversation.com/has-queensland-really-saved-lives-by-killing-thousands-of-sharks-23437>

April Walk

Join us on a walk to celebrate Earth Day or anything else!

Where meet Redland Softball Association Parking area Left into park on roundabout Sturgeon and Delancey Street Ormiston follow track down to parking area. Walk via good tracks via Squirrel Glider Reserve to Alexandra Hills Tavern. Car Pool back

When Sunday April 6th 8.00 am walk time 1.5hrs. approx.

Bring hat, water, reasonable footwear, sunscreen, Morning tea provided, \$2.00 gold coin donation

Contact Steve: 38240522/0423036676

State of the Climate 2014

Full Report Available Online:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/>

The Bureau of Meteorology has released the 2014 State of the Climate. Report findings are based on the monitoring and observations carried out by the Bureau and CSIRO.

“Air and ocean temperatures across Australia are now, on average, almost a degree Celsius warmer than they were in 1910, with most of the warming occurring since 1950. This warming has seen Australia experiencing more warm weather and extreme heat, and fewer cool extremes. There has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of Australia.

Rainfall averaged across all of Australia has slightly increased since 1900. Since 1970, there have been large increases in annual rainfall in the northwest and decreases in the southwest. Autumn and early winter rainfall has mostly been below average in the southeast since 1990.

Atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise and continued emissions will cause further warming over this century. Limiting the magnitude of future climate change requires large and sustained net global reductions in greenhouse gases”



A Recycling Message

To All WPSQBB Can Collectors,

We have collected more cans in 2013 than 2012 thanks for your support we have increased what we have recycled every year over the last 4 years. ☺

Thanks for your help and support throughout 2013 for collecting **752 kgs** of aluminium cans (**approx 52,600 cans**) and **559kgs** of other scrap metal (cable, car batteries, electrical cords, etc) which has been recycled and has raised \$1158.00 to help WPSQBB and to be distributed to wildlife. Since 2009 WPSQ - Bayside Branch has collected cans and we have recycled 2270kgs cans and 1400kgs of other scrap metal raising over \$3770.00 for wildlife. Keep saving those cans and other things we can recycle which may result in dollars for our group. Just let me know when I need to pick up from the various places. Some of the other items we have recycled throughout the year to help save the environment but haven't received funds for WPSQBB but we have kept it out of land fill and helped other groups. Mobile phones, polystyrene, towels, blankets, old first aid supplies, batteries, postage stamps, printer cartridges, glass jar with lids, old reading glasses and lots more.

Once again thanks for your support and please let your supporter know what we have achieved in 2013 as well. It is amazing what a small group of people can achieve.

Kind Regards

Maureen

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle or Regret

"We share the earth not only with our fellow human beings, but with all other creatures"

Earth Hour - 29 March

Join millions of people across the world who switch lights off for an hour - to raise awareness for the planet.

**The Wildlife Preservation Society
of Queensland Bayside Branch
Proxy Form**

I _____
of _____
_____ Postcode _____

Being a financial member of Wildlife
Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside
Branch hereby appoint _____

As my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual
General meeting to be held on Friday 2nd May
Signature: _____



Is this proxy a general proxy? (Yes/No)
If 'No', indicate if this form is to be used against
or in favour of the following specific resolution:

Strike out whichever is not desired

**Notice of Annual General
Meeting**

The 2014 Annual General Meeting will
be held at Redlands Indigiscapes Centre
at 7.30pm on the 2nd of May.

All members are encouraged to attend.
If you are unable to attend please fill
out a proxy vote form to enable another
member to vote for you.

**The nomination form for the executive
team is below.**

Please return complete forms to
bayside@wildlife.org.au, PO BOX 427
Capalaba QLD 4157
or in person at the next meeting

Annual General Meeting Nomination Form

Name of Person Being Nominated for a Position:

Position nominated for: _____

Nominated By

Name: _____

I am a financial member of WPSQ BB

Signature: _____ Date ___/___/___

Nomination Seconded By

Name: _____

I am a financial member of WPSQ BB

Signature: _____ Date ___/___/___

Acceptance of Person Being Nominated

I am a financial member of WPSQBB and am willing
to accept the nomination.

Signature: _____ Date ___/___/___

Positions that may
be nominated for

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Executive Member

Committee & Contacts

President	Steve Homewood	3824 0522
Secretary	Simon Baltais	3822 4943
Treasurer	Maureen Tottenham	0418 197 160
Executive	Don Baxter (King Island project) Doreen Payne John Payne	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Alix/Simon Baltais	
Wildlife Diary Editor	Simon Baltais	
Librarian	Pat Comer	

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

Background Photography: A Baltais

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 **April meeting on 2nd May**

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 _____
(Bayside does not tax deductible status)

Postal address: PO Box 427, Capalaba 4157

Name _____

Address _____

_____ P/C _____

Phone No _____

Email _____

Special Interests _____

Pay by Credit Card

Card Type: VISA Mastercard

Card No _____

Exp Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____