

WILDLIFE DIARY

September 2014

Great Finds

An interesting find might be made if a The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) style investigation is made into developer funded political campaigns held in the local government elections.

Biodiversity Month

Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-month>

Population Matters

Australia's population size is a crucial conservation issue. Given the historical pattern of human settlement, and the likelihood that the trend will continue, the high population growth advocated by some will have a huge impact on our ability to conserve species (ECOS, 2004).

The value of trees

The stress, hard work and pace of life characterizing our times have caused urban populations to become irritable, unsociable and lose their enthusiasm for accomplishing other deeds. Researchers confirm that visual and physical contact with natural surroundings produce other physiological states that can be less stressful for humans. A study carried out by Honeyman (1992) demonstrates that youth who saw scenes of natural landscapes, including those who observed scenes of urban vegetation, had their levels of stress considerably lessened. When exposed to urban scenes, however, stress levels increased. Honeyman concludes that "the exclusion of vegetation in urban areas negatively affects human psychology, increasing the levels of stress" and that therefore, "the inclusion of vegetation in the city has positive impacts on population". Furthermore, contact with nature affects work satisfaction and well-being, lessens mental fatigue, changes moods and reduces pressure.

Did you Know?

Did you know corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald said "Behind that populist facade, the government sacked, stacked and otherwise reduced the effectiveness of parliamentary committees, subverted and weakened the state's anti-corruption commission, made unprecedented attacks on the courts and the judiciary, appointed a totally unsuitable chief justice and reverted to selecting male judges almost exclusively, appointing 18 new male judges and magistrates." Given recent changes to council committees one would have to ask if Councils are following in the footsteps of the State Government.

Did you know Coastal Sheoak, *Casuarina glauca* hybridizes with other casuarina species through wind pollination. a hybrid with *C. cunningharniana* has been reported in Australia and identified in Egypt, and a hybrid with *C. equisetifolia* is recognized in USA and Egypt? Also, did you know they were dioecious; male and female trees occur in approximately 1:1 ratios in natural stands? Male flowers appear as 4-7 cm long, light-green spikes. Female flowers are small dark red, and inconspicuous. Male trees flower at 2-3 years of age and female trees produce fruits one year later.

The relationship between ant and butterfly is tenuous at best, and sometimes the evolutionary pendulum swings more towards one than the other. In the case of Illidge's ant-blue, *Acrodipsas illidgei*, a rare butterfly found only in small pockets of mature Queensland mangrove/coastal sheoak at Coomera, Redland Bay/Victoria Point and Mary River, the butterfly caterpillar eats the larvae of its ant host communities

Great Walks

Some of the most beautiful landscapes you can find in the Redlands are found along Woodlands Drive and Springacre Road, Thornlands. Best see them while you can a little birdie says Council and developers are eyeing of this area for urban development. What a disaster that would be.

Web Sites

Tony Fitzgerald Blast QLD Govt.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/populist-newman-government-hiding-behind-facade-tony-fitzgerald-20140910-10f6r5.html>

Glossy Black Cockatoo

<http://www.glossyblack.org.au/index.html>

RAMSAR

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1_4000_0

Road Kill an Indicator for overdevelopment of the Redlands?

Many of you may have seen the pictures of the Redlands resident who took it upon himself to highlight in a dramatic way that the management of our councils so called icon is exceptionally appalling. Resident Darren Mewett took a young male Koala killed by traffic on Springacre Road into the Councils Bloomfield Street Office sending a very powerful message that we need to do better.



Photos. Judith Kerr

"This time, I decided to take the koala in to council because no action was taken the last time I reported a dead koala and my comments were not taken seriously," Mr Mewett said "This council operates under a fallacy, spruiking there are koalas here and they are protected but it is all just talk."

Our Council prides itself on being a sanctuary for the national icon, and yet when it comes to allowing development in the Redlands there is very light handed action to prevent further fragmentation and destruction of important Koala habitat.

Alignment of community ideals and council policy is crucial. People who live in the Redlands enjoy the lifestyle of Bush meeting the Bay and the friendly, relatively quiet lifestyle. If we wanted to live in an inner city suburb we would. Redland City is fast becoming a densely populated region with new developments and thousands more people living in the Redlands every year.

Koalas are now to be listed as vulnerable under national environmental law, which further cements the need for action on Koala conservation in the Redlands.

Queensland's koalas to be listed as vulnerable under national environment law

BRIAN WILLIAMS THE COURIER-MAIL APRIL 30, 2012 11:00AM

"Koala numbers in the Redlands, east of Brisbane, have collapsed by 68 per cent from 1999 to 2010 and a further 13 per cent last year."

So what can you do?

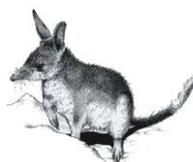
The council is revisiting their corporate plan over the next couple of months and is taking feedback on what we want to see in the Redlands very seriously. They will be taking submissions up until the end of November. Let the council know that continued development is not achievable if they wish to uphold their values of a Koala sanctuary. Critical habitat is continually demolished, fragmented or disturbed due to development in the Redlands and they cannot continue to perpetuate an idea of balance between growth and conservation. There is no balance! Development must have tighter restrictions on where and how dense. Furthermore seemingly 'bare' land cannot be taken at face value. An empty chicken farm with a grassy field and some good trees is by far a more Koala safe mobile zone than an 80kph road.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/vulnerable-koalas-to-get-protection/story-e6freoof-1226342567171?nk=0c3d3d669b850fa1d096ce4d5fd16a9b>

<http://www.redlandcitybulletin.com.au/story/2515214/dead-koala-message-to-redland-city/>

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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