

WILDLIFE DIARY

April 2015

Great Finds

Squadrons of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, *Cacatua galerita*, **Rainbow lorikeet**, *Trichoglossus moluccanus*, **Little Corella**, *Cacatua sanguinea* and even **Long-billed Corella**, *Cacatua tenuirostris* take to the air in the early hours of the morning at Birkdale.

Sustainable Development is Not the Same as Sustainability:

Sustainability, from a natural resource perspective, means that we don't take things from nature faster than nature can replace them. For an ecosystem like a forest, it means that we don't harvest trees faster than the forest can regrow them. Otherwise we will eventually destroy the forest. For an underground aquifer system, it means that we don't pump water out faster than it is naturally replenished. Making development more efficient, and thus more sustainable, is important, but merely making economic activity more sustainable does not guarantee that we are living within nature's means.

Population

With 7 billion people on the planet and rising levels of affluence, we are already exceeding nature's limits. Every two years, the Global Footprint Network and the World Wildlife Fund publish a "Living Planet" report that looks at humanity's ecological footprint. The latest report, issued in 2010, indicates that humankind is already overusing the renewable resource capacity of Earth's biosphere by 50%. Climate change, peak oil, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and recurring food crises are all signs that humanity is overusing global resources. Leading scientists warn that we are in biological and general resource overshoot.

Sustainable World Initiative

Rare fish threatened by urbanisation

Rhadinocentrus ornatus (Ornate Rainbowfish) is a beautiful but rare native fish found in a number of our 1st and 2nd order creeks. That is, the upper catchments that are still bushland and difficult for feral fish to access. Any urbanisation in the Erapah Creek catchment is likely to significantly impact upon this species.

Did you Know?

Did you know that it appears Council may sell off public bushland and parklands to developers. Keep a close watch on your patch. Concerned? Contact the Deputy Premier deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au and tell her not to approve any change to the Redland Town Plan that allows such areas to have their land use changed to residential development.

Did you know that the Redland Council appears set to open large areas of the Redlands for development? This development will increase the loss of bushland, vehicle movement and domestic dogs in areas used by koalas. Concerned? Contact the Deputy Premier deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au and tell her not to approve any change to the Redland Town Plan that allows koala habitat be subject to increased development.

Great Walks



Want to find a Glossy Black Cockatoo. Try those areas that support old growth eucalypts and woodland. Days Road, Redland Bay, West Mt Cotton, Glider Reserve and Scribbly Gum Reserve. Bushland behind and alongside the Alexandra Hills Hotel is another worthwhile area to see this rare bird.

Web Sites

WPSQ Coastal Community Science

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

Population Institute

<http://www.populationinstitute.org/>

Tropical Pacific Ocean primed for El Niño in 2015

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan

<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/long-term-sustainability-plan>

Birkdale bushland

The federal Aust Communications and Media Authority Land and the Air Services Aust located along Old Cleveland Road East, Birkdale, Queensland is a significant refuge for koalas and other wildlife. An area absent of urbanisation, roads and their cars and dogs koalas are relatively safe on this public land.

Unfortunately the Federal Government wants to sell this land and already Council and developers are salivating at the opportunity to develop this site.

Interestingly we note the Federal Minister is giving koalas away to Singapore.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/national/2015/04/09/bishop-gifts-singapore-four-koala-ambassadors.html>

It seems the Federal Government is currently inclined to give our koalas away and their habitat.

The Federal Government is keen to sell the properties on the open market a situation that will suit residential developers who have deep pockets. Unfortunate also Federal environmental legislation setup to protect koalas does little when it actually comes to saving koalas. So we are relying upon the State Government to honour their commitment to protect the koala.

What are the values of this site? There are many.

The area supports vegetation noted under the Vegetation Management Act as of Concern Regional Ecosystem. *Eucalyptus siderophloia*, *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia intermedia* open forest on alluvial plains usually near coast. Ref: 12.3.11. See extract from Regulation map.

The area also supports significant coastal vegetation, mangrove and saltmarsh communities.

The subject land was surveyed by Queensland Government Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) in:

- 2010, Survey 20 Koala Coast, Redland City, ACMA Commonwealth Land, site 11, Bushland, All-of-Area by Transect, 34.49, 4, 0, 0, 4.
- 2012, survey 22 Koala Coast, Redland City, ACMA Commonwealth Land, site 11, Bushland, All-of-Area by Transect, 34.94, 3, 0, 0, 3.

Research shows that urbanization of koala habitat has caused densities across the Koala Coast to decline. The subject site devoid of urban development is one parcel of land that continues to support koalas. The koala densities found during QPWS surveys were very high 0.4 koalas per hectare (Dique *et al*, 2004).

The results of the 2008 Koala Coast koala survey estimates a population of 2279 animals. Based on the population estimate of 4611 koalas in 2005-2006, this represents a 51% decline in less than three years and a 64% decline in the 10 years since the original 1996 -1999 estimate of 6246 koalas. The full report can be found here. https://wildlifebayside.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/decline_of_the_koala_coast_koala_population_population_status_in_2008.pdf

The area is also an important historical military site. The subject land supports the US Radio and Receiving Station. <http://www.wv2places.qld.gov.au/places/?id=1231>

The Birkdale site was used by General MacArthur to receive communications from the United States and Washington DC via shortwave radio. This message that announced the signing of the formal surrender by the Japanese on that day on the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay was likely received by this communication facility.

In the year we celebrate a 100 years since Gallipoli the Redland Council appears set to urbanize this area and turn it into bitumen and bricks. We cannot think of a more grotesque way to destroy our military history.

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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