

# WILDLIFE DIARY

November 2016



## Great Finds

**Peregrine Falcon**, *Falco peregrinus* sitting on water tank at Birkdale after missing feral pigeon. Dammit but what a great looking bird.

**Southern Boobook**, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*, heard at Thornlands and Birkdale.

## POPULATION MATTERS

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.  
John Nichols - novelist (1940 -)

### bioluminescence

Did you know that bioluminescence produced by fungi is the result of a biochemical reaction involving several components: luciferin - a product of the organism containing a specific molecule that undergoes a chemical change when affixed by an enzyme; luciferase - the enzyme that acts upon luciferin; adenosine triphosphate - the energy molecule; oxygen - as the catalyst? All these combined make an electronically excited product capable of emitting a blue-green light. Spectrometer readings show the colour is in the green colour spectrum. See: [http://springbrook.info/glow\\_worms/bioluminescence.htm](http://springbrook.info/glow_worms/bioluminescence.htm) for a more detailed explanation.

### Christmas Bells

**Christmas Bells**, *Blandfordia grandiflora* a well-known and endangered plant, this is a grass-like plant that grows to 1 metre high producing large tubular-bell-shaped flower that vary from red to yellow to apricot. They grow in sandy open wet soils.

### Blue banded bees

Adult blue banded bees fly only in warm months of the year (October till April) and all the adults die as the cold weather begins. But just because no blue banded bees can be seen flying during the cold months does not mean that there are no bees present. During the cold months, there are young, immature blue banded bees dormant inside the nest and they will stay there until spring arrive.

<http://www.aussiebee.com.au/bluebandedbees-in-house.html>

### The problem with hard surfaces

There is approximately an 80% decline in aquatic taxa when there is a 0.5 to 2% increase in the impervious cover within the landscape? Impervious landscapes are typically found in urban areas due to roads, concrete and general urbanisation.

## Did You Know?

Did you know Pheasant Coucals form lasting pairs and, unlike other Australian cuckoos, build their own nests and raise their young themselves? The nest is usually hidden in thick grass or sugar cane or in weedy thickets and is a platform of sticks, grass or rushes, lined with leaves and grasses. The male usually incubates the eggs and feeds the young, with the female helping with feeding. More than one clutch can be laid in one season. Both also call, they use two types of far-reaching (>1 km) calls in their solo and duet displays: the 'descending whoops' call and, less frequently (25%), 'scale' calls. Both calls are series of very deep hooting notes that the larger females produce at lower frequency than the males (~326 versus 480 Hz). Descending whoops calls also vary among individuals but this difference is not consistent enough for individual identification. Most duets (63%) comprise a single scale call by each partner and the sexes start duets with equal frequency. Duetting triggers neighbouring pairs to duet too, suggesting a role in territory defence. Calling is intense in the morning and early in breeding season. Source: Maurer et al Aust Jnl Zoology

Did you know as many as 90% of the world's plant species use beneficial fungi to acquire water and nutrients from the soil? The specialized roots that the plants grow and the fungus which inhabits them are together known as mycorrhizae, or "fungal roots". The famous, and delicious, truffle mushroom is a mycorrhizal fungus.



abundant fish species.

### Great Walks

There are a number of trails along and near Tarradarrapin Wetlands. Take time to explore them. The wetlands support birds and fish. Tarradarrapin Creek West supports

## WWW

### Threatened Species Day

<http://www.wires.org.au/blog/threatened-species-day>

### Moreton Bay state of the Bay

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

# Why Eprapah Creek is important

Refugial habitats, such as the riparian and rainforest along the Eprapah Creek Corridor, are areas of high biodiversity conservation value even though they may be small in area. Protecting these small hotspots of biodiversity in an otherwise dry, fire-prone landscape presents a number of challenges for local land managers.

Refugia – areas facilitate the persistence of species during large-scale, long-term climatic change – are increasingly important for conservation planning.

Riparian corridors often support higher biodiversity than non-riparian habitat and provide a valuable refuge for many species during droughts and fires the nature of this habitat makes it potential climate refugia. Climate refugia are those areas less likely to undergo significant climate induced changes and therefore valuable as they protect biodiversity. As climate change continues it's expected that the koala distribution will contract East and South and it would be prudent to protect and rehabilitate the wetter habitats currently threatened by urbanisation.

Eprapah currently supports many species. Research undertaken in the Eprapah Creek corridor found the following.

- many invertebrates were recorded during the study, some of these not recorded previously,
- surprisingly low number of introduced invertebrates were recorded,
- a strong tendency of the invertebrate assemblages to vary according to vegetation type and canopy cover; and
- a potential biodiversity 'hotspot', viz. Eprapah Creek Corridor, is flagged by the land snails.

Land snails are significant indicators of both environmental health and biodiversity hotspots. The study above found 18 species belonging to 9 families, 4 species of the environmentally sensitive family Charopidae were found at the Eprapah Creek Corridor. What the study has found, given the significant land snail fauna identified, is that the Eprapah Creek corridor is a biodiversity 'hotspot'.

A hotspot is defined as habitat that contains the most important and significant habitats where threatened species of plants and animals of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation still survive.

If we look at ant species along the Eprapah Creek corridor the diversity is equally impressive with 142 ant species recorded across the surveyed areas.

If many species are to have a future in the Redlands and Bayside region it will be essential that refugia like the Eprapah Creek corridor are protected from development, inappropriate fire regimes and feral flora and fauna.

*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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