

# WILDLIFE DIARY

September 2016



## Great Finds

### Threatened species day 7<sup>th</sup> September

#### In memory of those species now lost from our region

**Tiger Quoll**, *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* one of Australia's largest carnivorous marsupials lost from the shire within living memory.

**Yellow-bellied glider**, *Petaurus australis*, last seen in the German Church Road / Valley Way Mt Cotton area in the early 1990's.

Storm birds have returned. The **Koel**, *Eudynamys scolopacea* have been heard around the Redlands. Summer is here.

## POPULATION MATTERS

Mankind is looking for food not just on this planet but on others. Perhaps the time has now come to put that process into reverse. Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, maybe we should control the population to ensure the survival of our environment.

Sir David Attenborough

### National Threatened Species Day

- 7th September

The last *thylacine* to walk upon the earth was a female kept in Beaumaris Zoo near Hobart. Problems with the zoo during 1935 - 1936 meant the thylacine and other animals were neglected. It was during September 1936, housed in an open topped wire cage with no access to a den she had to bear the extremes and un-seasonal weather. At night temperatures were below zero and during the day they reached 38°C. On the 7th September it became too much for her, alone and stressed she closed her eyes on the world for the last time.

### Melaleuca in flower

**Melaleuca nodosa** are in flower throughout the Ransome / Chelsea Road area. Melaleuca...from Greek melas; black and leukos; white, referring to black marks on the white trunks of some species due to fire.

*nodosa*...from Latin nodosus; knobby, a reference to the fruiting capsules along the stems.

The few remaining stands of Melaleuca are found in BCC bushland reserves. Chelsea Road is easy to access.

## Did You Know?

Did you know an EPA (2007) report on the status of the Koala Coast koala population indicated the largest koala declines occurred in the urban footprint because of loss of habitat and permeability? The same report highlighted koala declines are associated with vehicle strikes, predation by domestic dogs and disease, all impacts that arise from urbanisation. These impacts are severe and McAlpine et al (2006) suggested high road density in an urban matrix was one of the more extreme impacts on a species movement.

Did you know that while it's important to minimize further loss of koala habitat (McAlpine et al, 2006) we should not lose sight of the important habitat value a matrix can provide (Franklin and Lindenmayer, 2009)? A matrix is the major cover in which objects are interspersed. Though a matrix may only provide marginal habitat McAlpine et al (2006) showed such habitat still can provide important connectivity and dispersal functions.

Did you know 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.



### Great Walks

If you walk along German Church Road South from the intersection of Valley Way you may be lucky to find the old feeding trees of the now locally extinct Yellow-bellied Glider.

These trees are readily identified by the "V" shaped markings. These markings were caused by Yellow-bellied Gliders incising the tree and tapping sap. Unfortunately like the tree markings, which have faded this species likewise faded into extinction because of habitat fragmentation.

## WWW

### Threatened Species Day

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

### NASA celebrates 50 years

<http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/50th/main.html>

# Threatened Species Day

Threatened Species Day is a national day held each year on 7 September to commemorate the death of the last remaining Tasmanian Tiger at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

Threatened species are an important component of biodiversity. 'Biological diversity' or 'biodiversity' for short, encompasses the variability among living things from the genetic diversity within species, and the diversity between species, to the diversity of ecosystems.

Biodiversity is essential for our existence; it contributes to the healthy ecosystems, clean air, water and healthy soils that support human life.

Without the appropriate management and protection of biodiversity, important components may be lost forever, while others struggle to survive. This in turn reduces the ability of ecosystems to function, jeopardising the processes that humans rely on for survival.

This rich diversity of life provides humans many free services known as eco system services. Ecosystem Services are the goods and services provided by natural (and semi-natural) ecosystems that benefit, sustain and support the well-being of people. They include the production of food and medicines, the regulation of climate and disease, provision of productive soils and clean water, and landscape opportunities for recreation and spiritual benefits.

Ecosystem services are fundamental to the maintenance of a healthy economy. Geographic areas that provide ecosystem services comprise vital 'green infrastructure' for any region. For too long in industrial economies, ecosystem services have been inadequately recognised and hence undervalued. When ecosystem services are lost they can be extremely - or even prohibitively - costly to reproduce

Redland City in South-East Queensland is made up of the mainland, North Stradbroke Island, Coochiemudlo Island and Southern Moreton Bay Islands. It is located on Moreton Bay and borders Brisbane City, Logan City and the Gold Coast. Redland City covers large areas of natural coastline, the coastal islands of Moreton Bay, remnant bushland, and developed urban and rural areas. It is well recognised as one of the most biologically diverse areas of Queensland with an abundance of sub-tropical plants and animals. The wildlife habitats are diverse – ranging from tall eucalypt forest, to fresh and saltwater wetlands and island ecosystems.

Despite the immense biodiversity, natural and man-made processes are threatening the survival of many species.

The major threats to the survival of these animal and plant species include land clearing, habitat alteration, introduced pest species, and on-going human activities.

Protection and enhancement of the Redlands biodiversity will need to be a collaborative effort from all stakeholders – private, commercial, Local, State and Federal Government. All of us have a duty of care and responsibility to protect the environment.

*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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