

WILDLIFE DIARY

September 2017



Great Finds

Threatened species day 7th September

Tiger Quoll, *Dasyurus maculatus* is 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.

Scarlet honeyeater, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*, **Grey shrike thrush**, *Colluricincla harmonica*, **Brown Goshawk**, *Accipiter fasciatus*, **Rufous Whilster**, *Pachycephala rufiventris* and **Brown Tree-creeper**, *Climacteris picumnus* are just some of the birds you will hear and see in bushland reserves around the South of the Redlands.

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.

What is flowering

Xanthorrhoea johnsonii A.T.Lee and **Xanthorrhoea fulva** (A.T.Lee) D.J.Bedford are in flower, Days Road Reserve is a great place to see them. The beautiful yellow pea flower of the **Golden Glory Pea**, *Gompholobium latifolium* are abundant as are the yellow flowers of the **Hibbertia vestita**. While the violet coloured **Patersonia** sp and pink **Boronia rosmarinifolia** add variety of colour to the bush.

Did You Know?

Be wary what you call common, it may not necessarily always be the case. North America was once the home of two of the most breath taking spectacles that nature could offer. These were, the migration of 60 million buffalo, with herds numbered in the millions and the airborne equivalent, the Passenger Pigeon. In the 19th Century Passenger Pigeon flocks were so immense they blotted out the sun and they roosted in colonies that stretched 160 km. On the 1st September 1914 the last Passenger Pigeon died in Cincinnati Zoo, they were considered common and basically mistreated into extinction. The buffalo likewise is but a shadow of their former glory.

Australia has many species listed as common and equally are threatened with extinction. The koala was once common in SEQ and now is vulnerable.

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 want to enjoy the colours of the bush that the early warmer months encourage you can't go wrong walking around Days Road, Redland Bay.

WWW

Threatened Species

<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/>

Rare White Koala

<https://thewest.com.au/news/wa/rare-white-koala-surprises-australia-zoo-in-queensland-ng-b88575828z>

Xanthorrhoea

<https://tinyurl.com/y7er378d>

Divers who clear ghost nets from Devon waters may face Government fee

<http://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/divers-who-clear-ghost-nets-353012>

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 ecosystem 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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