

BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

June - July 2009.

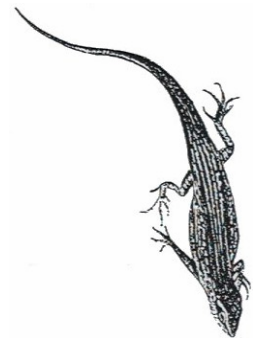
Next Meeting Friday 26th June 2009 starting at 7.30pm at Redlands IndigiSapes Centre

Our guest speaker will be Ian Bridge who titles his presentation “Climate Change Sceptical Science and Other Debates”

Ian is an environmental scientist with a speciality in air quality and experience across the Climate Change science. He has worked in heavy industry with fossil fuel combustion, in emission estimation and energy intensity as well as with a number of Cooperative Research Centres (CRC for Greenhouse Accounting, and CO₂CRC and Clean Coal and Sustainable Development CRC).

He has undertaken risk analysis of climate change and its implications for human society and biodiversity.

This presentation will examine the underlying science of climate change, scepticism and the future implications.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Steve Homewood

It is a sobering thought that whilst Queensland is celebrating 150 years of foundation, many of us are reflecting on the catastrophic decline in our Koala population during that time to a point where the urban koala in south east Queensland may not have a viable population by the end of 2010.

From tens of thousands to a mere handful and a tipping point to oblivion in Southeast Queensland, the koala has been overwhelmed by habitat clearing, urban development, dogs and cars.

The consequences of the possible loss of this icon, despite years of, community consultation but ultimately procrastination by successive levels of government does not augur well for many other similarly threatened species in the region.

At our annual World Environment Day Dinner, Koala expert Professor Frank Carrick was our timely speaker who urged that a “gloves off approach” was needed to convince State and Federal agencies of the urgency of the situation. Intense lobbying is needed to halt the decline and commence a recovery plan.

The society and other agencies will be advising their strategies through the usual outlets, I urge you all to be robust in your support to avert this disaster that is compromising the biodiversity of the region.



Bushland Saved

Congratulation to Redland City Council who recently purchased for conservations purposes 282 hectares of bushland at Redland Bay.

The subject property is home to threatened species and when added to other land own in the area will now provide a large protected area badly need by our wildlife.

Learn that Weed!

White Passion Flower (*Passiflora subpeltata*)



Thin stemmed, climbing vine with broad, pale-green three-lobed leaves. Pairs of large, stem-clasping bracts are to be found at the base of the leaf stalks, 1.5-4 cm long. The leaves are generally hairless.

The vine bears large white flowers, about 4--5.5 cm across. The sepals are 2-2.5 cm long tapering to a horn-like structure close to the tips about 0.5 cm length. Petals are 1.5-2.0 cm long.

The non-ripening fruits are leathery, green at first but turning yellowish, and are ellipsoid.

A native of tropical America but now naturalized in SE Queensland. It contains cyanic acid and is suspected to be toxic to humans and livestock if eaten in sufficient quantities.

Although listed amongst the weeds in "Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane", it is not listed in the BCC's Weed ID website tool. But it is ranked with a "moderate" score of 3.9 and is 63rd in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium.

From Kedron Brook Babbler April 2009



NATIONAL Tree Day Walk

On Sunday 26 July we will be walking in the Koala bushland at Sheldon.

The day is to celebrate National Tree Day by observing and enjoying some of our native vegetation along the route as well as the wildlife it supports.

It is suggested you might like to bring water, hat, binoculars and a bird book.

Meet at – Sheldon

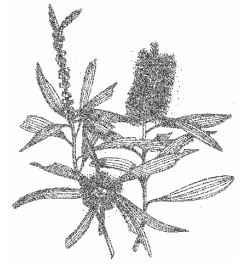
Time - 8.00am

Approximate time to walk is 2 hours

Cost - Gold coin donation

Morning tea provided.

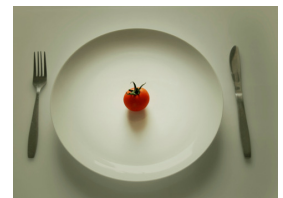
Call Steve on 3824 0522 to advise of your participation.



World Environment Day dinner

Our annual dinner was a great success. Guests enjoyed an excellent meal in great company. Musical entertainment was provided by Terry Hilton who performed a medley of songs including some of his own compositions.

Every one went home well satisfied particularly the lucky door prize winner and the ten raffle prize winners.



Our guest speaker was Professor Frank Carrick AM Chief Investigator Koala Study Program Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation at U.Q.

Frank has been a key advocate for koala conservation and his passion for their protection made him a well-informed and interesting speaker. He was particularly insistent that everyone should let the Queensland Government know that the appalling decrease in koala numbers in SEQ in the last 2 years is unacceptable and urgent action must be taken to arrest decline. We therefore encourage each one of you to write a personal note to the Premier and the Environment Minister.

Koalas to become extinct?

Extract from a media release by Simon Baltais

State Government report shows koalas accelerating towards extinction by 2010.

The release of the State Government 2009 Koala Report reveals koala numbers have plunged by 64% in 10 years.

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. (see attached report).

What we have known for so long is now spelt out clearly in a State Government scientific report, we continue to destroy koala habitat and consequently they are rapidly accelerating towards extinction. The pro growth agenda and infill development policies promoted in SEQ are pushing the koala to extinction.

The bulk of the Koala Coast koala population falls within the Redland City Council boundaries but to be fair they are one of the few Local Governments in SEQ effectively doing anything proactive to save the koala.

The Redland City Council is doing what it can to undo the damage caused by the previous pro growth Council thrown out at the 2008 Local Government election. Unfortunately, now it's the State Government pressuring the Council to open up more koala habitat and movement corridors for residential development. (i.e. Southern Redland Bay, Kinross Road, Thornlands and SE Thornlands)

Koalas are being effectively eradicated from SEQ, Coomera (Gold Coast) and Brendale (66 -110 Kremzow Road; Moreton Bay Regional Council) are recent examples where this is happening. Koalas in these areas are protected under state legislation and yet their habitat is being earmarked for houses and industrial estates.

Simon was a member of the Premier's Koala Taskforce and they were promised all state agencies would take the issue of koala

conservation seriously. Coomera, Brendale, Mt Cotton and North Stradbroke Island are just a few of the many examples that show koala habitat is being handed over for housing, industrial estates, quarries and sand mining all under the watchful eyes of state government agencies.



The State Government's own report clearly shows one of the largest urban koala populations in Australia will be effectively extinct by 2010.

The State Government must implement immediately effective legislation that protects the remaining koala habitat else be known as the government that not only failed to save the koala from extinction but encouraged it.

YOU CAN HELP

Go to the wildlife website at <http://www.wildlife.org.au/i-koala2.html> Read what is happening and then click on "Write to the State Environment Minister" and use the information to email or write a letter to Anna Bligh, Kate Jones and Peter Garrett.



Plastic

The arguments about whether or not to ban plastic bags continue to rage. However it has been reported that a United Nations report found plastic bags and plastic drink bottles are the most pervasive marine litter on the planet.

It has also been reported that the Federal Government scientific committee on threatened species has found plastic bags and other debris are a direct threat to 20 marine species.

What needs to be done seems pretty clear!



Others in Trouble

It was recently reported in the Courier Mail that the Christmas Island pipistrelle bats will likely be the first Australian mammal to become extinct in 53 years.

Their demise has been mainly attributed to failure to control invasive species on their tiny island. Rats, cats and yellow crazy ants are just some of the invaders who have pushed this little bat to the edge. Meanwhile Federal Environment Minister Peter Garret seems to procrastinate and achieve nothing.

Pelican & Seabird Rescue

In our last newsletter we mentioned the Pelican & Seabird Rescue group and the work they do.

The group did over 1000 rescues in 2008 and over 300 rescues so far in 2009.

Once a bird is rescued the PASR team, assess and treat injuries on the spot. In some instances a "clean and release" is achieved but where the bird has more of a serious injury they are taken to one of the preferred carers for intensive medical care.

In most of these instances the bird is rehabilitated by the team or a registered wildlife carer until they are fit to be released to their natural habitat. Rescued birds are released where they found them

CAN YOU HELP ? – YES YOU CAN

- Discard rubbish correctly. Cut or burn fishing line, cut all circular objects, cut all long lengths of material, place all rubbish in the bin
- Drive cars and boats responsibly
- Call for help if you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife
- Report animal cruelty
- Plant native trees in your garden
- Only feed wildlife naturally occurring foods
- Be a responsible pet owner
- Care for the environment this 'home' to our wildlife

The group is also in need of goods for use in the care of the birds. Already a large number of items have been collected by Bayside Branch and delivered to them but more is needed.

If you can assist by donating any of the following please call Doreen on 3206 0368.

- pillow cases & sheets (not threadbare please as they catch in claws)
- towels (from smallest to largest)
- beanies and sheep skin
- paper towels
- a collapsible cot
- mosquito net



Tyres on the recycling road

Recently the CSIRO announced it is working with Australian company VR TEK Operations to design and develop a new, improved method of recycling waste rubber which could be used to make new tyres, industrial insulation, road pavement, flooring or geotextiles for retaining walls and embankments.

Each year about one billion tyres are discarded around the world with most ending up in landfill.

Tyres are almost impossible to recycle economically and create health and environmental hazards when burned. Given that global demand for rubber currently exceeds supply, industry's inability to economically recycle tyres also represents lost opportunities in terms of potential resource efficiency and conservation gains.

Further info - <http://www.csiro.au>



Fund Raiser

Many thanks to all those who supported our fund raising efforts over the last 12 months by donating saleable items for our market days.

We are hoping to attend the Redland Bay Markets again in the coming months so we would encourage everyone to continue to donate any unwanted salable items.

All funds raised go to help fund future campaigns and activities.

Interested in donating? Please contact Maureen on 0418 197 160



Postponed

The annual Indigi Day Out festival was postponed due to wet conditions which was likely to lead to the destruction of the lawns. A tentative alternate date has been set for the weekend of July 11 & 12.

If you would like to help to look after the Wildlife stall on that weekend, particularly Sunday, please contact Doreen on 3206 0368.

Grass tree attractions

By DSP

I have often considered myself fortunate to have Xanthorias (Grass trees) growing around my home. Not only are they an attractive ground cover plant but the phenomenal rate of growth of their flower spike is a constant source of delight each year. Growing well over 2 metres and being so slender these flower spikes are an amazing feat of engineering by Mother Nature.

Over the years it has been a pleasure to watch as these plants suddenly throw up their flower spike and to see the birds enjoy feeding on their small but prolific flowers. The Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) and the Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) were often observed utilizing these flowers. However this year it became obvious that the plants are a food source for a greater variety of birds than just those two.

This year a Xanthoria (*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*) decided to grow and flower right outside the kitchen window which provided us with some great opportunities for bird watching. The birds started to feed on the flowers as soon as the first ones opened. As the others gradually opened right up to the top of the spike the birds came to the flowers daily.



This went on for a number of weeks during April and May with different species practically lining up to have their turn.

As a result we were able to add four more to the list of birds using this precious resource a Lewin's Honeyeater (*Meliphaga lewinii*), a Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon cornicalatus*), several Brush Wattlebirds (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) as well as my favourite a Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus bracteatus*). Of course these are only the ones that have actually been seen. Unfortunately not a lot of time can be spent keeping watch out of the kitchen window so who knows what species has failed to be noted. And of course there could be night visitors like some of the very small mammals like Dunnarts (*Sminthopsis murina*).

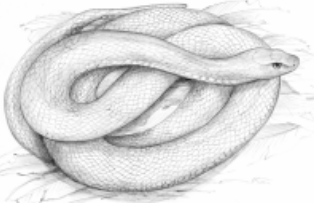
In any case the flowers are obviously very well used as instead of standing straight and tall the flower spike outside the kitchen window is now bending at about a 60 angle. I guess the weight of one or two hungry birds hanging on must have been a bit of a challenge for its finely tuned engineering.



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch

Email- bayside@wildlife.org.au

Website - <http://www.branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>

<p>Meeting Information</p> <p>When <u>Last</u> Friday of each month (excluding December & January)</p> <p>Where Redlands IndigiScapes Centre 17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba</p> <p>Time 7.30 pm</p>	 <p><i>Illustration L Saunders</i></p>	<p><i>Opinions expressed , implied or inferred in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Society..</i></p>
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Committee & Contacts

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Treasurer	Maureen Tottenham	0418 197160
Executive	Don Baxter	
	Donna Edwards	
	Ian Bridge	
	Doreen Payne	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Doreen Payne	
Wildlife Diary Editor	Simon Baltais	
Koala News Editor	Paulette Jones	
Librarian	Pat Comer	

Wildlife Diary Dates

Friday 26 June Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Sunday 26 July National Tree Day walk
Friday 31 July Bayside Branch General Meeting IndigiScapes, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Weekend 11-13 September Wildlife Queensland in your community & WPSQ AGM

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Membership Application

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld Bayside Branch

Date / /

-- New or Renewal

Membership types

- \$30.00 Single
- \$20.00 Concession
(pensioner or full student)
- \$45.00 Family or non profit group
- \$12.50 Junior (under 13 years)

Name _____

Address _____

_____ P/c _____

Phone No _____

Optional

Email address _____

Subscription: Wildlife Australia magazine
(Educational, informative & great photography)

Special Interests _____

- \$42.00 per year inc GST (four issues)
posted within Australia
- \$65.00 per year posted overseas airmail

Donation (optional) \$ _____

For campaign
(Bayside does not have tax deductible status)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

As a member I agree to be bound by the
rules of the society

Signature _____

 <p>Payment by Credit Card</p> <p>Card type- Bankcard__ Visa__ Mastercard__</p> <p>Card No _____</p> <p>Expiry Date ____/____</p> <p>Name on the Card _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature _____</p>
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