

Male Richmond Birdwing Butterfly
taken at Sullivan Springs in
Banora Point, Tweed Heads NSW

© Frank McGrath

What's inside

Plastics Wrap Up	1
Holly Bryant Award	2
Vale Joan Coutts	2
President's Report	3
Projects Report	4
Butterflies for your garden	6
Around the Tracks	8
Wildlife Land Fund news	10
Wambaliman celebrates 50 years..	10
WPSQ in action	11
Koala research	12

Plastics Wrap Up (with no plastic in sight!)



In January 2015 Wildlife Queensland took on the campaign for a ban of Plastic Bags in Queensland. We also supported the Boomerang Alliance in efforts to introduce a Container Refund Scheme. Both of these measures have proven to reduce litter, particularly plastic litter, reduce pollution and, very importantly, reduce the threats to native wildlife posed by plastics.

In the time since, we are pleased to report that Queensland will now have both measures in place in July 2018. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 that introduces both schemes was passed unanimously by the Queensland Parliament on 5 September 2017.

This is a fantastic result for the environment and for our wildlife! We would like to acknowledge the Queensland Government and the Opposition LNP for their decision to back both of these measures, and to all the independent Members of Parliament who gave their backing. That unanimous support has made the difference.

We would also like to thank all our branches and supporters, our benefactors and members of the public who got behind our campaign and gave us the opportunity and determination to win.

We have achieved an important milestone in our campaign, although this is not the end of our efforts. Already we have presented to both major political parties a proposal for a Plastic Reduction Strategy for Queensland that will move forward from a plastic bag ban and Container Refund Scheme and start to address many other problem single use, non-biodegradable plastics (such as takeaway containers and utensils, water bottles, discarded fishing tackle, supermarket plastic packaging and agricultural plastics). We simply have to find better ways of doing things without using single use, throwaway plastics.

It's a frightening thought that 95% of all plastic packaging is used once and then thrown away and that, as a world, we are on a trajectory that will mean we will have more plastics than fish in the ocean (by weight) by 2050.

Let's continue to make a difference.

Quick Facts for this story at bottom of next page

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Holly Bryant Award winner

Courtney Peirce, University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Science



Courtney receives her award from Peter Ogilvie © S Homewood

The award, which comprises a certificate and a \$500 gift, is in memory of Holly Bryant, former Projects Manager with WPSQ, who passed away in 2015, well before her time.

The Holly Bryant Award is funded by her husband Todd, Holly's family and friends.

Courtney received her award at the Symposium dinner in September.

Courtney's project:

Greater Glider project Redlands

The aim of the project was to investigate the presence of greater gliders within three conservation reserves in the Redlands region and identify any consistent Regional Ecosystem features that support the species' survival in these three reserves.

Courtney's work included spotlight surveys and Infra-red camera monitoring of tree hollows. Six greater glider sightings were recorded across two study sites (no greater gliders observed in the third site). Other species observed included powerful owl, brush tail possum, ringtail possum, sugar glider and tawny frog mouths. Courtney's work suggested that tree hollows were low in number across the sites and identified that this may be a limiting factor on the growth of greater glider populations within these reserves.

Vale Joan Coutts

Dedicated campaigner for animal rights and for the environment, Joan Vashti Coutts, died from influenza on August 19, 2017 in Lismore, NSW at the age of 89. Her family were by her side.

Joan's activism began when a teenager in Victoria with Animal Liberation and her campaigning spirit continued with the Australian Conservation Foundation fighting against duck hunting.

Joan and husband Jack retired to Hervey Bay in the 1980's where she became a founding member of the Hervey Bay Branch. From 1992, she was president of the Hervey Bay Branch and then Fraser Coast Branch until 2006.

Under Joan's presidency, the branch spearheaded many campaigns to save endangered species such as the Illidges ant blue butterfly, the dugong, and marine turtles. Joan was fearless in her defense of the flying fox colony at Toon Toon Creek. The branch successfully

campaigned for the Hervey Bay City Council to purchase Arkarra Lagoons, for an environmental levy, tree clearing laws and helped to save Wongi Waterholes.

In recognition of her contribution to the society, Joan was given a life membership of WPSQ. She won the prestigious Margaret Thorsborne award in 2012.

When Joan could no longer take part in branch activities due to health issues, the special position of Patron of the branch was created in her honour.



With her Margaret Thorsborne Award and branch award.

continued from page 1: Some Quick Facts on what has been achieved and what needs to be done next

- We have achieved a ban on lightweight plastic bags in Queensland, and with the support of every single MP in the Parliament (introduced July 2018) ✓
- We have also seen the planned introduction of a Container Refund Scheme for drinks containers, an associated goal of our campaign (introduced July 2018) ✓
- Unfortunately we failed to get thicker bags included in a ban but were able to get the legislation (Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017) altered to include the option to increase the thickness of bags if retailers sought to provide these. The State Government has also announced that it is leading a national program with retailers designed to reduce the use of thicker bags.
- We were unable to get the mass release of helium balloons

included in the ban. However, we were able to establish this as a recognised littering problem, and should be able to get these releases stopped in future. Wildlife Queensland also wrote to every school in Queensland to alert them to the problem of helium balloons, and to promote the idea of plastic-free school fetes (with a how-to guide)

To push the plastic pollution agenda forward, Wildlife Queensland and Boomerang Alliance have been lobbying for a Plastic Waste Reduction Plan for Queensland. This would primarily focus on a range of single use, plastic disposable items (food ware, food trays/packages etc) and include discarded fishing gear and agricultural plastics.

This plastic reduction agenda should be a key policy item for the next Queensland Parliament.



President's Report

As you are probably aware, Wildlife Queensland held a climate change symposium in September entitled Wildlife Matters in a Climate of Change. It was a productive afternoon with excellent presentations and lively questions and discussion. The dinner was

similarly enjoyable and included a thought-provoking presentation by John Dee.

We had hoped to organise a two-day symposium, but that plan dissolved when our request for some Government assistance was rejected.

Consequently, the symposium was reduced to an afternoon, followed by a dinner and guest speaker. Our IT consultant, a company known as 1ICT, donated \$1000 for which we are very grateful.

Climate change issues are receiving some air time at the moment; in particular, matters relating to the Great Barrier Reef, vegetation clearing and Adani. I don't propose to canvass these important matters here, and Wildlife Queensland has been vocal on all of them. However, I do need to highlight the disturbing figure that has recently been released (resulting from the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study) for tree clearing in Queensland over the 2015-16 period – 395,000 hectares. This is a staggering increase of almost 100,000 hectares on the previous year. The astronomical figures for both years are a direct consequence of changes to the Vegetation Management Act by the Newman Government.

Unfortunately, the terminology used (tree/vegetation clearing) doesn't convey the full impact of this destructive activity. It is not only the plants that are cleared, but also a diverse range of animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates). And the consequences for those animals are frequently fatal. Their homes are totally removed. Even if they survive the clearing exercise, moving to a new location populated by others of their kind (particularly if they are territorial species) is often not an option.

This is not a condemnation of all land clearing, as there are justifiable reasons for some such clearing to occur. However, it is a plea for the Queensland Parliament to reinstate, at very least, the sensible checks and balances that had to be complied with in the Vegetation Management Act prior to its legal castration by the Newman Government.

On another matter, I am concerned about the emerging trend in Queensland to throw national parks open for tourist development. The Newman Government amended the Nature Conservation Act to allow tourist resorts to be built inside national parks. The amendments allowed such developments to take place regardless of the cardinal principle of national park management which states that such parks shall be managed "to provide, to the greatest

possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition....". In other words, even though that priority principle still exists in the legislation, the amendments simply rendered it impotent in relation to tourist facilities (and certain other matters that were previously subservient to it). This situation has not been rectified by the present government, and indications are that it has no intention of doing so.

No tourist resort is presently located on any national park in mainland Queensland. There are three resorts on national park land on islands, though one of these (on Hinchinbrook Island) is in a derelict state and has not operated for years. These island resorts date back to the days when national parks were administered under the Forestry Act. The argument has always (since the 1930s) been that tourist facilities should establish on private land contiguous with or adjacent to national parks, not on park land.

The first move away from that approach is presently being authorised in Main Range National Park. Two facilities, called ecocamps in the documentation, are in the process of being authorised. These are not camp sites, but permanent structures with road access, overnight accommodation and food preparation facilities. These structures will only be available for use by clients (long distance walkers) of the developer seeking to build them. The State approval is still subject to clearance under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act because the national park is part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

I will have more to say about this operation in the future as it is the start of a trend that flies in the face of national park administration in Queensland since a coherent State-wide management regime for national parks was introduced in the 1930s.

In my previous newsletter report I referred to Wildlife Queensland's financial circumstances and why it was important that we remain in the field. Unfortunately, I'm not able to report any positive change in relation to finances, despite substantial reductions in staff time. There is, however, a limit to such reductions beyond which very little can be achieved and staff need to look elsewhere for employment. In this era of minority governments and diminishing emphasis on wildlife conservation, it is even more important that independent environmental advocates are able to tell it how it is. So, please give us whatever support you can.

Best wishes,

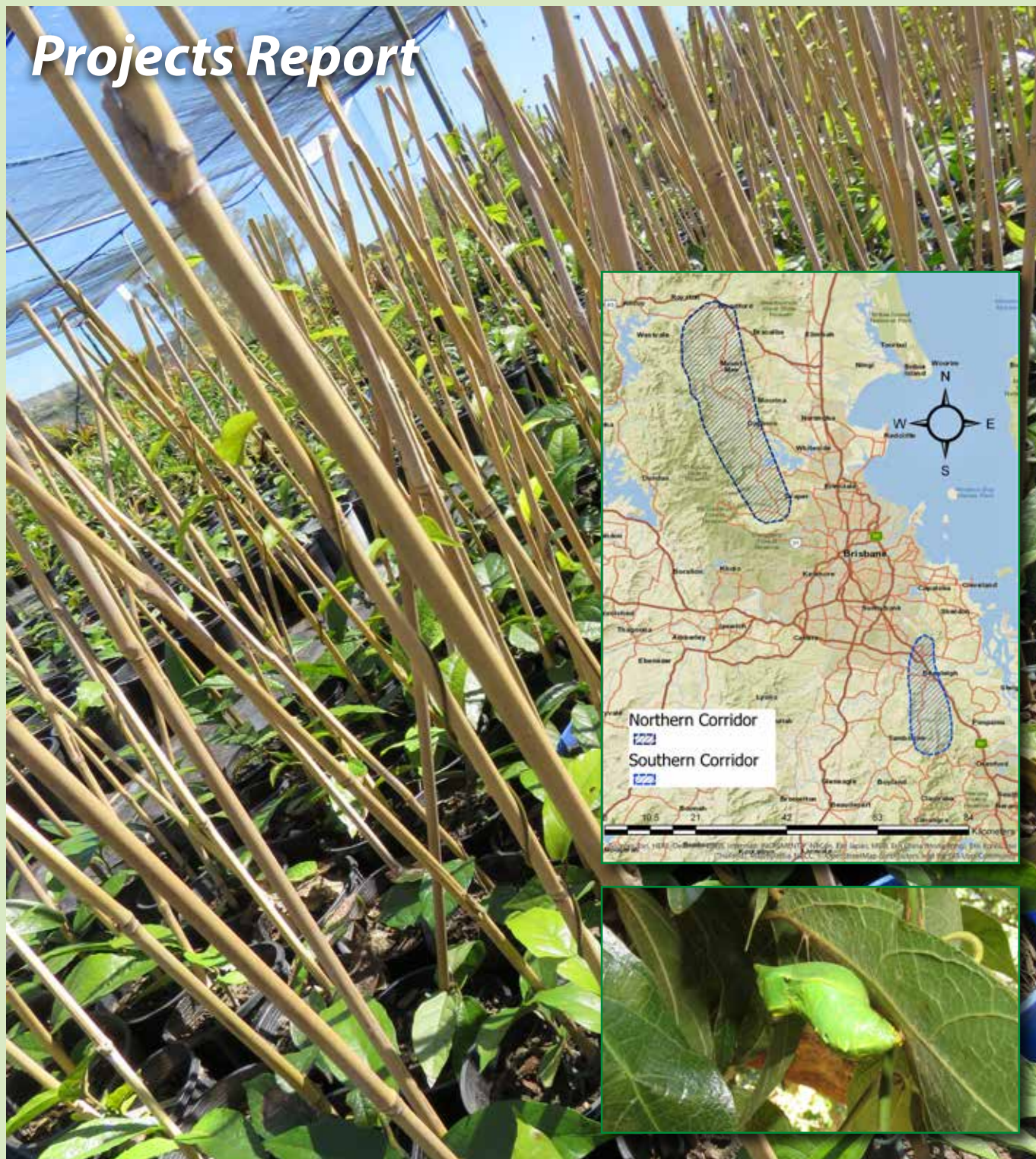
Peter Ogilvie
President
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Thank you to our generous donors

We passed our target for the 'Let's Bring Back the Birdwing with 500 Vines!' appeal. Progress of this vital project will be reported in future newsletters.



Projects Report



Birdwing butterfly vines growing in the nursery in preparation for building Richmond birdwing butterfly corridors.

Insets: — top: The RBCN plans to develop two vine corridors to link the two regional populations of Richmond birdwing butterflies. bottom: Richmond birdwing butterflies are now emerging from their overwintering pupae, so keep your eyes out for this magnificent butterfly. Images: Wildlife Queensland

Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network

The missing link that separates Richmond birdwing butterfly populations on the Sunshine Coast from those on the Gold Coast is the current focus of the RBCN. To continue the work of future proofing our Richmond birdwing populations, filling this gap with birdwing butterfly vines has become a priority.

Past RBCN project efforts have focused on conserving our existing populations of the butterfly to address and reduce in-breeding problems within the population.

Now, it's time to work on linking our two regional populations by developing two vine corridors, the first between Samford and Woodford and the second from Mount Cotton to Tamborine Mountain. In each corridor, planting sites are being established to grow vine populations, creating habitat stepping stones for the birdwing to move across.

These corridors will take time to develop, but it is important that a start is made.

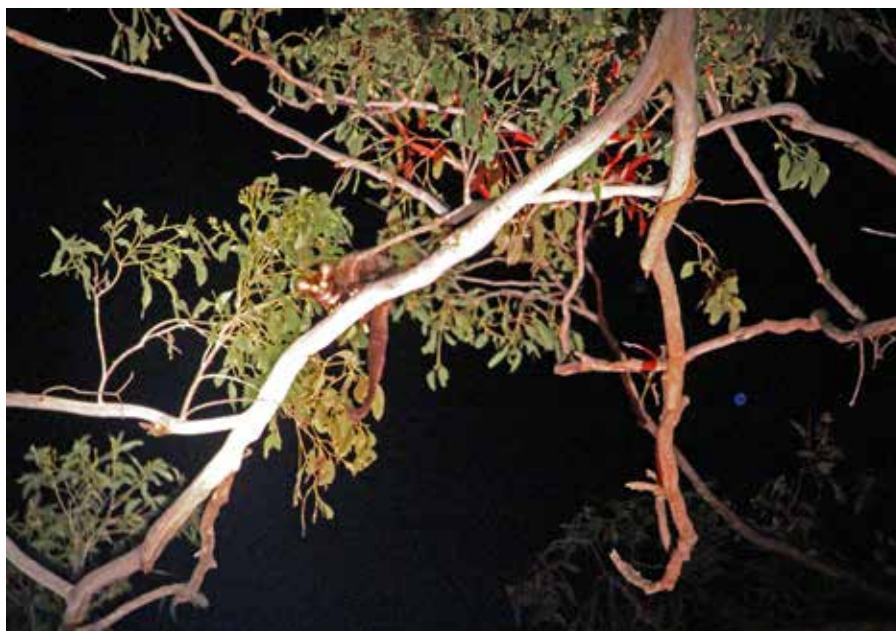
Queensland Glider Network

Locations have been narrowed down and trees chosen to install nest boxes targeting greater gliders in conservation reserves in Redland Bay and Caboolture. By the end of November, 44 nest boxes will be installed within three sites and the monitoring underway to learn more about how the species uses these man-made homes. We are going to need your help monitoring these boxes over the 12-month period, so if you are interested please email glider@wildlife.org.au.



As part of the project, the QGN team visited one of the chosen reserves in search of greater gliders. Fortunately numerous individuals were spotted and the site represents a fantastic opportunity for nest box installation.

It is also great news for the greater glider population of south-east Queensland.



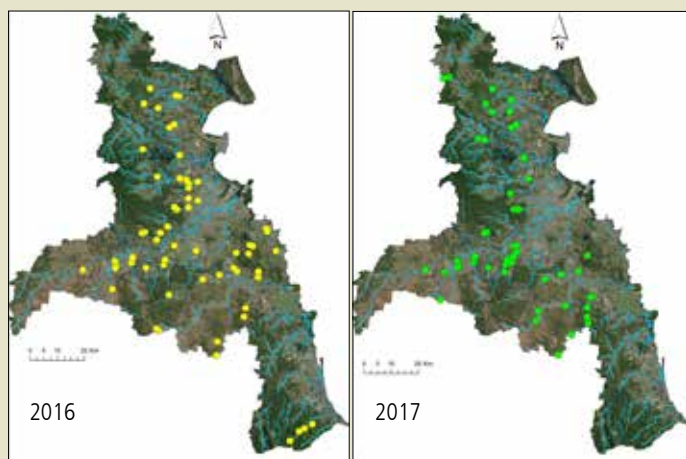
Left: This greater glider was spotted on a recent survey of a bushland reserve in south-east Queensland.

Above: The things you see when spotlighting. This antechinus proved to be a highlight for the QGN team on a recent spotlight survey.

both photos © Penelope Webster

PlatypusWatch Network

The team has worked hard to survey over 49 creeks to analyse water samples for platypus DNA in order to gain a better understanding of the platypus population around south-east Queensland. The good news is there are still platypus in the region, but as expected, creeks within urban areas appear to have suffered over time and some creeks may have even lost the species altogether. Our results will be compared against historical sightings data to find out where the species is no longer found. eDNA has greatly assisted the PlatypusWatch Network in surveying such a large area and we look forward to the continuation of this project in 2018.



The PlatypusWatch Network has collected and analysed 92 samples for platypus DNA across 49 waterways in south-east Queensland.

QuollSeekers Network

The search for spotted-tailed quolls in south-east Queensland continues. QSN has monitored sites within the Scenic Rim and Logan regions again this winter. Plenty of amazing wildlife has been captured on camera but again despite our efforts, we have not managed to locate a spotted-tailed quoll. Even so, the network continues to receive and follow up on occasional, credible sighting reports of animals fitting the description of a spotted tailed quoll.



Despite not finding spotted-tailed quoll, the monitoring cameras always reveal which interesting animal species inhabit an area. Here a squirrel glider investigates the scent lure. © JQSN



More butterflies for your garden

The secret to butterfly gardening is simple. Grow more of the plants that the caterpillars feed on. Each butterfly is adapted to use just one or a few different but related plants. While some butterflies also have very particular habitat requirements there are many that can happily breed in suburbia.

The easiest plant to start with is something in the Citrus family. Maybe a Mandarin if you want a bit of yummy food for yourself or maybe a Finger Lime if you are an experienced gardener with gourmet tastes. Both these plants provide food for the caterpillars of the Orchard Swallowtail and Dainty Swallowtail butterflies.

Another easy plant is the groundcover Emu Foot (*Cullen tenax*). You'll need a few of these to establish a dense planting so that there will be enough food for lots of caterpillars of the Chequered Swallowtail. The plant prefers to grow in full sun. The butterfly is fast flying and restless and your best chance of seeing one is near its host plant.

Another useful groundcover is the Love Flower (*Pseuderanthemum variable*). It does best in shade or semi shade. It comes in a wide variety of forms and its flowers vary from white to pink to lavender. It is the favourite host for the Leafwing butterfly and also the Blue Argus. Blue-banded bees pollinate the flowers along with hover flies and small butterflies.

If you have a moist but sunny spot it would be hard to resist planting a Native Mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*). There are separate male and female plants and the female trees have the small white berries. In my garden only the Scaly Breasted Lorikeets came to eat the berries while the Rainbow Lorikeets dined elsewhere. The small Speckled Line-blue butterfly will become a resident.

Every few years the Jezebel Nymph will emerge from its rainforest hideaways to breed in suburban gardens. Eggs are laid in batches of about forty and you will have lots of butterflies for a little while.

Once a year there is a migration of Caper White butterflies and in a good year millions of butterflies make their way across the landscape, usually around October/November. They are looking for Caper plants (*Capparis spp*) on which to lay their eggs. You can play a part in this epic spectacle by planting your own Caper tree and providing food for hundreds of caterpillars. In the years when there are few migrants your tree will also provide food for various Pearl Whites and the Caper Gull. While there are several species of suitable Capers I prefer the Thornless Caper (*C. lucida*). This is the fastest growing Caper and more child friendly than the spiky ones.

A chain wire fence in a sunny location would provide a perfect support for the native Blunt-leaved Passion Vine. It is a host for the Glasswing butterfly. It is not a nervous flyer like other butterflies because it produces cyanide related chemicals which make it unpalatable to birds. The flowers are large and start off pink turning to red. They are pollinated by Noisy Miners. The fruit are not appealing to human taste buds but are relished by Blue Tongue lizards who then spread the seeds around.

Not everyone needs to try just the easy butterflies. If you are an eccentric genius you would, of course, start with the mistletoes. These semi-parasitic plants are often unfairly maligned but are important contributors to biodiversity. In ancient times Druids would harvest the plants with golden sickles onto white sheets. Nowadays we should leave the leaves where they are so that the various butterflies with exotic sounding names like the Azures, Jewels and Jezebels can breed in peace. My favourite mistletoe is the Apostle mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe vitellina*) mainly because there are twelve different

butterflies that can breed on it.

An important thing to remember when designing your butterfly garden is to avoid the use of pesticides which will kill the caterpillars. This includes the organic ones as well as the chemical ones.

The joy of a butterfly garden isn't only about appreciating the beauty of nature. It also gives you an opportunity to intimately observe nature. You may see an Assassin Bug lurking in the shadows waiting to pounce on an unwary caterpillar. You may see male Blue Tiger butterflies collecting chemicals from the leaves of the Monkey Rope plant to make them more attractive to females. You may notice that the flowers of an Apostle Mistletoe only open when tapped by a honeyeater bird rather than a bee. And who knows what else!

by Frank Jordan

Further reading

Butterfly Host Plants of South-east Queensland and Northern New South Wales

compiled by John T. Moss

Create More Butterflies

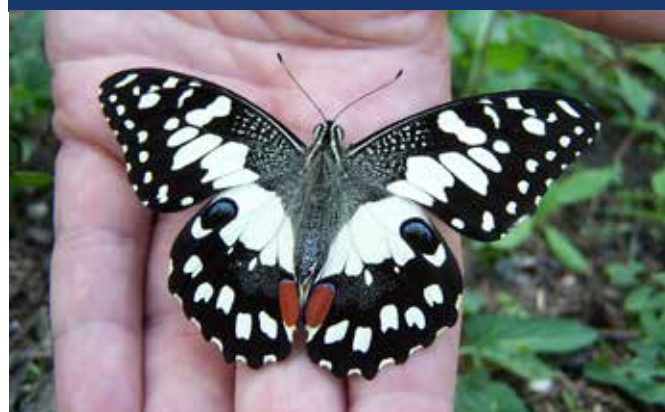
by Frank Jordan and Helen Schwencke

The Mistletoes of Subtropical Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria

by John T. Moss and Ross Kendall



Blue Argus © Frank Jordan



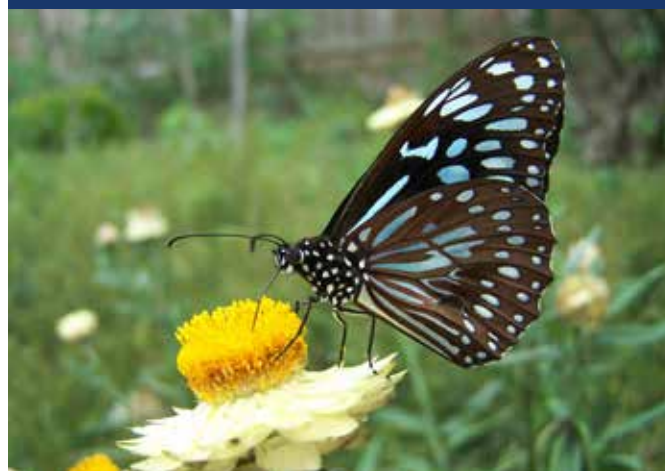
Chequered Swallowtail © Frank Jordan



Leafwing © Frank Jordan



Chequered Swallowtail chrysalis © Frank Jordan



Male Blue Tiger © Frank Jordan

Southern Branches Get Together (SBGT) & AGM



Branch reports prove popular but not as much as biscuits
photos by Steve Honewood

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland was held on Sunday 10 September 2017 at the Lithuanian Hall, 49 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill and was organised and hosted by head office.

The day was attended by representatives from nine branches which was very good coverage for this southern region of Queensland. Moreton Bay branch had the highest representation closely followed by Bayside and Brisbane branches.

The day started with informative presentations from branches including Brisbane, Bayside, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Capricorn, Kedron Brook Catchment, Logan, Upper Dawson and Gold Coast. Many of these were really inspiring with small groups showing that they are able to achieve so much. The reports also engendered some robust discussion on methods of achieving desired outcomes.

Following the branch reports lunch was the next item on the day's agenda. This was followed by President, Peter Ogilvie presenting the Margaret Thorsborne Annual Award and the Project Award. (See separate item on the Awards.)

The President, Peter Ogilvie, formally welcomed members and guests and thanked the staff and volunteers for organising the 54th AGM. The president's then presented his report on the society's activities and projects for the 2016-2017 year and detailed some of the plans for the future.

Copies of the Annual Report and Branch Reports were distributed together with the Financial Report and minutes of the last AGM.

The Annual General Meeting followed during which all positions were declared vacant. The election of council members was then held and the following positions were filled.

President: Peter Ogilvie

Vice Presidents: Andrew Dinwoodie, Robert Standish-White, and Michael Lusi

Secretary: Des Boyland

Treasurer: David Keogh

Councillors: Keith McDonald and Nina Hardie

Welcome incoming councillor Michael Lusi. And thank you to retiring members Sally, Lynn, Steve, Helen and Joanne. Your contributions have been greatly valued.

A small raffle run on the day was won by Geoff Simmons from Capricorn branch.

Later in the afternoon attendees were free to attend the Wildlife Land Fund Limited Annual General Meeting or explore South Bank parklands.

Many thanks to retiring councillor Helen Thomas for providing the biscuits for morning tea and slices for after lunch. Thank you also to Janelle and Doreen for organising the venue, equipment, tea/coffee and lunch.

Wildlife Matters: in a Climate of Change

This Symposium was held on 9 September 2017 at Riverside Receptions, New Farm. The event was voted a great success. We are very grateful to our sponsors and supporters. Many thanks for your contribution to the success of this event.



Our IT support company 1ICT generously assisted with financial support.

Pam McGrath attracted a lot of attention with her

display of art. Pam kindly donated 50% of sales on the day to the society.

Thank you to all who contributed to and / or supported the raffle. Great prizes were provided by Steve Parish Photography, Binna Burra lodge, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Australia Zoo, Deep Grey photography, CruiseAlong Pty Ltd, Batty Boat cruises, WPSQ and staff.

Prizes went to Revel Pointon, Richard & Carol Green and Adrian Mortimer.

We need your help!

WPSQ will run a BBQ at Bunnings Manly West on 23 December.

If you can spare a couple of hours please call Janelle on 3844 0129



Congratulations to the winners – Awards for the year July 2016 to June 2017



Greg Miller & Leanne Bowden receive their award from Peter Ogilvie © S Homewood

The Margaret Thorsborne Award was announced at the AGM & southern branches get-together. All present agreed that the award was well deserved.

Greg Miller and **Leanne Bowden** of Brisbane Branch were a popular choice for this award and both were on hand to receive it.

The Margaret Thorsborne Award for an outstanding contribution by a financial member of Wildlife Queensland (WQ) is named in honour of our Patron, Margaret Thorsborne, to acknowledge members who have made an outstanding contribution to Wildlife Queensland, to conservation and to the community.

Leanne Bowden and Greg Miller have been stalwarts of Brisbane branch for over 20 years and have taken on many roles and responsibilities during that time. Leanne has been on the committee 15 years, five as president a position she still holds. Greg has been on the committee 14 years and continues to fulfil the role. They helped organize both the 2010 Southern Branches Get together and the 50th Anniversary celebration of Wildlife Queensland.

Leanne organizes meeting guest speakers and has done so for 12 years. Both she and Greg have also been speakers themselves. For many years they have fund raise via the Entertainment book sales. They have lead field excursions on walks in Brisbane and surrounds as well as trips to Moreton Island. Leanne and Greg have been regular volunteers on Batty Boat Cruises for over 10 years with Greg also doing the commentating on a number of cruises.

The couple participate in the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat program at Richard Underwood Nature Reserve near St George. Leanne and Greg have demonstrated their commitment to Wildlife Queensland, conservation and the community in so many ways over many years and continue to do so.

The Project award for a new or ongoing Wildlife Queensland project involving the community went to Fraser Coast for its Wildlife Friendly Garden Workshops.

The success of this project showed real interest from urban dwellers in our wildlife. To reach the community on a more personal and practical level, in 2014, the branch partnered with the Community Environment Officer, Tina Raveneau to hold workshops in the local council nursery.

Presentations were made by members with relevant expertise including Audrey Sorensen Tina, Ruby Rosenfield and Linda Idiens.

Member Cr. George Seymour organised publicity in the local paper. Due to demand more workshops were held in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

So far this year, two wildlife friendly gardens workshops have been held in Hervey Bay and two more are planned at Maryborough and at Howard. Using Council facilities allows a huge cost saving. A small income being generated for the branch.

The workshops bring the environment down to the personal and household level. They demonstrate that everyone can do their bit to encourage and enjoy our beautiful birds, butterflies and other native wildlife. It allows positive interaction between FCWPSQ and Fraser Coast residents.

Bunnings BBQ

At the end of June head office held an official thank you event for Geoff & Sandie Bryant who were hanging up their cooking utensils and heading off for a well-earned extended holiday. Of course there was a cake and it was fashioned to look like a sausage on bread with onions and sauce on top.

For nine months Geoff and Sandie Bryant got up early on Friday morning to set up and run a BBQ at Bunnings at Manly West. They had regular helpers at peak times but essentially it was those two who made it happen.

Why did Geoff and Sandie do this? Because they wanted to help raise funds for Wildlife Queensland.

They wanted to give to the organisation their daughter Holly had worked for.

This was a monumental task they set themselves because it wasn't just Friday they were giving. There was also the shopping for ingredients and preparation work such as chopping onions on the day before. And on the day if they ran out of anything it meant a quick run to the shop. Plus afterwards there was the accounting for the funds raised. But the work load did not faze them. They got on and did it cheerfully and in the process raised much needed funds for our society.

Thank you Geoff and Sandie. Your efforts have made a difference.



WILDLIFE LAND FUND**LIMITED**

The Wildlife Land Fund AGM held on 10th September 2017 was attended by 23 members.

The Chair, Matt Cecil, advised that the Wildlife Land Fund Limited begins its 17th year in a sound position to build on the hard work and contributions made by all of the volunteers who give so much to the ongoing success of our organisation. This recognition includes the team in the office who ensure administration tasks associated with running the organisation are completed, and our dedicated and hardworking field volunteers who maintain and improve our properties.

WLFL has benefitted through our Voluntary Conservation Agreement established with the Sunshine Coast Council to fund weed management at both the Witta and Reesville properties and benefits the local community via WLFL's choice to issue weed control contracts to local companies. WLFL will continue to engage local businesses for future work on both properties.

During 2017-2016 Witta received the lion's share of volunteer effort. This coming year it is hoped Reesville will share these efforts - complementing the ongoing works by Brush Turkey Enterprises.

A number of Directors and members enjoyed a few nights camping at Bukkulla Conservation Park. The visit gave them a chance to explore some of the property and inspect infrastructure including fences and

windmills. It was a very positive experience. The Board has elected to place future plans for Bukkulla on hold until the Australian Department of Defence finalises their expansion plans for Shoalwater Bay training facilities. Bukkulla Conservation Park may not be impacted but the Board is reluctant to spend funds on addressing issues while there is a possibility that our sole trusteeship may be terminated.

Maintenance on Bukkulla has been undertaken by Jeff Simmons; the Board and members genuinely appreciate Jeff's efforts. Improvements have been made to access tracks and the safety of the camp site. Facility improvements have also been high on Jeff's maintenance list and the camp now has a generator box to protect any generators brought to site.

The financial report for the year showed an operating loss of about \$21,000. However this loss was not of a material nature that would impact the viability of the organisation. There was one contributing factor to the operating loss. When Rosedale was gifted to WLFL the holding was entered into our assets at the unimproved land value which may not be market value. After several inspections and consideration of the cost to rehabilitate Rosedale, the Board decided it would be in the best interest of the company to put it on the market. The accepted offer on the holding, while below the unimproved value, was reflective of similar local sales. Donations were down by almost 50% on the previous year and also grants were less successful. However WLFL is fortunate in finding itself in a sound financial position as a result of the sale of Rosedale and the bequest from the late



Reesville

Elizabeth Sharp. The overall asset value of WLFL has decreased by 0.02% compared to the previous year.

One of WLFL's biggest challenges is membership. WLFL desperately requires more members. Membership is at 83.

The focus in 2017/2018 is to continue to build the organisation's capacity to deliver sound environmental management to the land under our care. It is anticipated that the following major outcomes will be achieved:

- Environmental management plan completed for the Neil Holloway Reesville Nature Refuge;
- Website upgrade; and
- Redevelopment and updating of the corporate plan

WAMBALIMAN celebrates 50 years

Wildlife Queensland's Fraser Coast branch hosted a function in August to celebrate 50 years of the production and publication of their newsletter WAMBALIMAN - first published in 1967. As wildlife and conservation groups have come and gone in the region, ownership of the newsletter has shifted.

The celebration was attended by four of the past editors. There have been only five editors over that time. Well known Maryborough identity Fay Smith, the second editor, passed away in 1993. The other four editors, John Sinclair, Pam Soper, Jenni Watts and Rodney Jones each spoke about the experience and how it had shaped their lives. "The celebration of WAMBALIMAN is also the 50 year jubilee of my journey as a conservationist" remarked John Sinclair. John started WAMBALIMAN in 1967 as the newsletter



Three past editors, Pam Soper, John Sinclair, Jenni Watts and the current editor Rodney Jones

of the Maryborough Field Naturalist Club, and later the Maryborough Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. It is currently the newsletter of Wildlife Queensland, Fraser Coast branch.

A number of the regular contributors to the

newsletter were also in attendance. The current editor Rodney Jones commented that the longevity and regard that WAMBALIMAN has is largely due to the quality of the contributions received from local naturalists and environmentalists.

The evening also celebrated the release of a booklet called *This Wambaliman Life*, which details the history of WAMBALIMAN from its early days right up to this year. Written by Jenni Watts, it encompasses many of the battles fought by local conservationists, including sand mining and logging on Fraser Island, Walla Weir and Paradise Dam on the Burnett River, and Traveston Dam on the Mary River.

WPSQ in Action

A snapshot of advocacy work on your behalf

Submissions & Significant Correspondence

July

Appeared before the Queensland Parliamentary Agriculture and Environment Committee on 12th July re Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. Presentations were provided on both the ban on single use plastic shopping bags and the Container Refund Scheme.

Meeting with Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef advocating amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 the banning of intentional mass release of helium filled balloons and plastic bait bags during the debate on the Bill.

Meeting with Dr Christian Rowan MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection advocating amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 the banning of intentional mass release of helium filled balloons and plastic bait bags during the debate on the Bill.

August

Letter to Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef re future plans for reduction of plastic waste and the reintroduction of a waste levy.

September

Submission to Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy on the Coral Sea Draft Management Plan.

Letters to Minister Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef Dr Christian Rowan, Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection, Mr Steve Dickson, One Nation, Mr R Katter, Katters Australia Party and Policy Coordinator, Australia Greens re flying fox policy

Wildlife Queensland HQ:

Who's who

State Council

President: Peter Ogilvie

Vice-Presidents: Andrew Dinwoodie, Robert Standish-White, and Michael Lusi

Secretary: Des Boyland

Treasurer: David Keogh

Councillors: Keith McDonald and Nina Hardie

Council Observer: Paul Sutton

Regular volunteers: John Hutt, Warren Johnson, Beth Pegg, Jenny Thynne, Maryann Kennedy, Linda Sulakatku, Rensche Schep, Steve Homewood and Diane Lam. Plus the wonderful teams who help with mail-outs, projects and surveys

Staff:

Policies and Campaigns Manager: Des Boyland

Operations Manager: Janelle Devery

Membership Support Officer: Doreen Payne

Projects Officer: Matt Cecil

Communications Officer: Natasha Bryant

Book-keeper: Madeleine Hodder

Newsletter: graphic designer: Joy Hinckley; editor: Doreen Payne

Meetings have included

July

Appeared before the Queensland Parliamentary Agriculture and Environment Committee on 12th July re Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. Presentations were provided on both the ban on single use plastic shopping bags and the Container Refund Scheme.

Meeting with Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef advocating amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 the banning of intentional mass release of helium filled balloons and plastic bait bags during the debate on the Bill.

Meeting with Dr Christian Rowan MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection advocating amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 the banning of intentional mass release of helium filled balloons and plastic bait bags during the debate on the Bill.

August

Meeting with Lindsay Delzoppo, Acting Executive Director and Dr Bev Clouston, Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Policy from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to discuss flying fox policy. Crocodile and cassowary management, Special Wildlife Reserves legislation and current policy with regard to release of wildlife following research on native wildlife and implications for Animal Ethics Committees were discussed briefly.

A meeting with relevant staff of School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Queensland concerning the ongoing partnership providing opportunities at Wildlife Queensland for industry placement students to participate in policy and campaign strategy development as well as work in the Project Division.

Meeting of national, state-wide and regional conservation groups convened by QCC to discuss the coming election and matters of concern for the various groups.

September

Meeting of the Fraser Island World Heritage Scientific Advisory Committee.

Discussions with the kangaroo Industry and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection with regard to cluster fencing and impact on wildlife.

October

Ministerial Round Table with Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef and senior Departmental staff.

Conservation Groups state-wide. Pre and Post Round table meetings to discuss strategy and outcomes from the meeting and the coming State election

*WPSQ head office will close on
Friday 22 December and reopen
on Tuesday 2 January 2018.*

*We wish you all
a happy festive season.*



What does it take to make koalas at home among the gum trees?

By Hui Ying Wu

We know that koalas depend on eucalyptus for their food, water and shelter, but what makes them choose one tree over another? And do they need other resources as well?

To us, many gum trees look suitable for koalas as long as they are green and shady. A koala will see (or smell) them differently. The chemicals in eucalyptus leaves play an important role in this process. Eucalyptus leaves are high in tannins and fibre but low in nutrition. Moreover, they produce lots of toxins to deter leaf eaters.

Koalas are one of only three mammal species that can live on eucalyptus leaves. They have evolved to absorb nutrients and water from gum leaves and metabolise the anti-nutrients. To survive on this marginal food source, they have developed the ability to sense the difference in leaf chemicals between trees.

In spite of such amazing skills, koala numbers in Queensland are decreasing rapidly due to habitat loss and degradation. Compared to habitat loss, habitat degradation can be subtle and hard to monitor because we cannot see leaf chemicals. As the environment in Australia changes over time, eucalyptus will respond by changing their leaf chemical concentrations. My research measures koala habitat use and diet, leaf chemicals and environmental factors at a landscape scale across three field seasons in different rainfall conditions to evaluate changes in

leaf chemistry.

Surveys were done at ten grazing properties near Charleville, Augathella, Bollon, Surat and Meandarra in southwest Queensland. I visited 34 study sites three times during 2015-2016 to search for koalas and collect leaf samples and koala faecal pellets. Leaf samples of 267 trees were collected to analyse leaf moisture contents, digestible nitrogen and formylated phloroglucinol compounds (FPCs - a group of toxins). We found fresh koala faecal pellets at 15 study sites.

The results show that koalas prefer habitats close to creeks dominated by river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*). River red gum turned out to have higher leaf moisture and digestible nitrogen levels than poplar box (*E. populnea*) which dominates floodplains. However, the nutritional quality of these riverine habitats changes between seasons. Although digestible nitrogen did not change significantly, leaf moisture was positively related to rainfall during the previous 6 months. When seasonal rainfall is below average, leaf moisture in riverine habitats decreases to match that of floodplain habitats. This means that in dry seasons, leaf moisture becomes a restrictive nutrient in koala food trees. Extremely low leaf



A koala drinking from a water bowl during droughts in Jan 2014 at Hannaford. Photo provided by the Cover family who helped this koala

moisture in droughts may not meet koalas' water needs.

Increasing droughts and heatwaves are a serious threat to koalas. A previous study estimated the koala population in the region had decreased by 80% from 1995-2009, strongly linked to these two causes. Although we cannot stop global warming immediately, we can help koalas by providing water. Koalas mostly obtain water from leaves but they do drink from surface water when leaf moisture is not enough. In a hot and dry summer like this one, a bowl of water may be a life-saver to koalas. If you are living in an area with koalas, please put water bowls in the bush which will benefit koalas and other wildlife.

River red gum and Wallam Creek in 2014; and the same River red gum next to Bollon campground in 2015. © Hui Ying Wu

