Congratulations to winners of 2019 Australia Day Awards

Recognised in Redland City Council awards as a high-achieving worker, Amy Glade is a volunteer for a number of community groups. Amy, who has been a member of and volunteer for Wildlife Queensland Bayside branch for many years, received the Council’s Environment and Sustainability Award.

In a recent interview with the Redland City Bulletin Amy was quoted as saying, “There have been many battles with the Redland City Council about preserving the very things that bring quality of life to people when it appears the council has been intent on destroying the area with endless land clearing and allowing concrete to spread like some rampant disease or wild fire, just like the Gold Coast”. At 88 years young Amy is still fighting for the environment.

The Australia Day Environment Award presented by the Moreton Bay Regional Council 2019 went to Richard and Carole Green. The award recognised their significant contributions to the region’s environment including the restoration and preservation of John Oxley Reserve. Richard and Carole have been stalwarts of Wildlife Queensland in their region for many years, and in 2017 they were awarded the Wildlife Queensland’s Margaret Thorsborne Award for their work both on the ground, within the community and in educating the public.

Amy with her award: https://www.flickr.com/photos/redlandcity

Richard and Carole Green receive their award © Beverley Miles
Hi Everyone

I’m the new part-time Communications Officer at Wildlife Queensland. I’m excited to be working with such an amazing team of passionate people and helping to preserve our precious wildlife.

My background is in digital communications and content management. Most recently, I worked with Tourism Australia (2014–2016) and Redland City Council (2016) before moving to freelance web content writing and editing work, which is what I do the rest of the week when not at Wildlife Qld. I also have two children, 12 and 10 years, who keep me out of mischief.

My favourite things are: landscape and wildlife photography, spending time at the beach and in the ocean, bushwalks, events, acai bowls and great coffee … oh, and my two children.

I have big plans to enhance WPSQ’s communications and better deliver the information you want, when and how you want it. I welcome your continued feedback so please drop me a line anytime.

I look forward to working with you, communicating with you and, hopefully, meeting many of you.

Sincerely, Amanda

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Update on the next step in the plastic waste campaign.

The Queensland Government has rejected our pleas to ban the release of helium filled balloons stating it is a littering offence already. However, they have committed to endeavouring to make the fact that the release of balloons is a littering offence more widely known.

Approaches will be made to Local Government Association of Queensland to see how they intend to approach lobbying the Queensland Government to ban the release of helium balloons. All Local Authorities have agreed to ban the release of balloons at any events they run. Our part-time contracted plastic campaigner (Toby Hutcheon) continues to actively pursue means of reducing plastic waste for the benefit our environment and our wildlife.

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Farewell Natasha

Staff, volunteers and Councilors held a dinner to farewell Natasha Bryant in January. Tash (as she was known in the office) joined our wildlife ‘family’ in March 2014 and was responsible for the ebulletin, website updates, appeals and all communications from (and on behalf) of the office and Council. During her last year she juggled her part time role with us and her role as a drama teacher at a local school. The offer of more teaching hours provides Tash more time with her family and for herself – a better life balance.

Tash we miss you!

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Date Claim

WPSQ AGM and Southern Branches Get-Together

Hosted by Head Office, this year’s event will be held on Saturday 7 September 2019.
President’s Report

When I sit down to prepare my report, I initially search for a good-news story relating to wildlife and nature conservation in Queensland. Sadly, I am rarely able to find one. Inevitably, my text is submitted well after the editor’s deadline, and I use the excuse that I was waiting for a good-news story.

Unfortunately there is no shortage of bad-news stories. For example, the recent (13 November 2018) damning report by the Queensland Auditor-General into whether the public sector is effectively identifying, protecting and conserving threatened species. It found that: The Department of Environment and Science does not proactively nominate species for listing or encourage Queensland’s community of conservation researchers and stakeholders to make nominations. Furthermore it found: The department has no strategy or framework for conserving or managing threatened species. Along with many concerning conclusions, the report stated: Overall, the Department of Environment and Science’s response to conserving threatened species lacks cross program coordination and is unlikely to effectively conserve and recover many threatened species.

This depressing review has taken place at a time when it is widely recognised that Australia is facing a faunal extinction crisis. Even the politicians at the federal level seem to be aware that something needs to be done. In June 2018, the Senate asked the Environment and Communications References Committee to undertake an enquiry and report on Australia’s faunal extinction crisis. The reporting date is presently 29 May 2019. Hopefully the report won’t be displaced by the impending federal election.

Wildlife Queensland made a submission to the Committee in September 2018, and Des Boyland and I were subsequently invited to appear before the Committee when it held hearings at Parliament House in Brisbane on 1 February 2019. Among other matters, we stressed the importance of the protected area system, particularly national parks which have stronger protective measures than other classes of protected area. We also highlighted the threats from feral animals, invasive plants, vegetation clearing and climate change, as well as emphasising the importance of establishing recovery groups and, where appropriate, funding the actions those groups recommend.

There is actually one good-news story in relation to an endangered species that was thought to be extinct, but was rediscovered in 1973 in an area near the town of Dingo. This area subsequently became Taunton National Park (Scientific). The species in question is the bridled nailtail wallaby. There is a process in train to translocate a number of wallabies into two New South Wales national parks that are within the historic range of the species. They will be released initially into predator-proof areas in those parks. I represent Wildlife Queensland on the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby Recovery Group.

On 21 and 22 February, I attended the joint meeting of the two advisory committees (community and scientific) for the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. One day was devoted to presentations and a workshop relating to the effects of climate change and the adaptive measures that may need to be taken in response to those effects on the key values for which the property received its World Heritage status. For example, an increase in the incidence and intensity of wildfires is a likely consequence of climate change. This could be disastrous for rainforests which normally don’t burn, and are not adapted to fire.

One frightening consequence in north Queensland was the recent deaths of perhaps 20,000 spectacled flying foxes, a listed vulnerable species, in the recent protracted heatwave when temperatures at their roosting sites exceeded 42 degrees Celsius.

The one bad-news story that is exercising my mind at the moment is the proposal to build two so-called ‘ecotourism facilities’ in Main Range National Park which is part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. In addition, the government has sought expressions of interest for private operators to build similar facilities in three other national parks, all of which are located in World Heritage Areas. These will potentially be authorised by the issue of 60-year leases. The areas are Hinchinbrook Island, Whitsunday Island and Cooloola.

In my November 2018 letter to Minister Enoch on this matter, I pointed out that in the 110 years national parks have existed in Queensland, no privately owned permanent accommodation has been authorised on any national park on mainland Queensland. I have discussed this matter previously, and the letter to the Minister is available on our website. However, I will quote one paragraph here: For goodness sake, these parks are our primary defence against the loss of our native wildlife. To contemplate weakening or even walking away from the protection they provide is frightening. A frequent response to that statement is to say that only a small area is involved, so what is the problem? Well, history has shown that the type of development contemplated can presage a cancer-like growth where ultimately the private facilities dictate the management direction of the park. Such facilities will also consume park staff time and effort, distracting them from their primary purpose.

The reason for highlighting this again is that, on 18 January this year, the Commonwealth announced its decision on the controlled action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for the Main Range proposal. That decision approved the proposal, but specified a number of conditions that must be met by the proponent. Wildlife Queensland has formally requested a statement of reasons in relation to that decision under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977. Also, an online newspaper has published that the State Government has now approved the development. No information has been forthcoming from the relevant department on whether that is the case and what authorities (leases or licences) have been, or will be, issued.

I will keep readers advised of developments in relation to these proposals as they are symptomatic of a disturbing trend by politicians to see national parks merely as recreation areas, totally disregarding their primary legal and ethical purpose to protect samples of our native flora, fauna and landscapes.

Best wishes

Peter Ogilvie
WPSQ President
Queensland Glider Network

Wildlife Queensland, through the Queensland Glider Network (QGN) has long managed the glider monitoring programs in South East Queensland. Since 2011 the Queensland Glider Network, in conjunction with industry placement students from the University of Queensland, has been monitoring nest boxes to increase our knowledge on Brisbane’s glider populations. The information collected includes box occupancy (and with what fauna species), tree species, ecosystem type, box height, the orientation on the tree and the internal box temperature. Consistent, longitudinal monitoring helps QGN to understand trends in glider populations and nest box use, as well as providing information on how best to implement the installation of new nest boxes so they appeal to gliders as potential new homes. Nest boxes are an important piece of the habitat puzzle in urban areas as they provide shelter and breeding spaces in the absence of hollow-bearing trees that urban non-remnant bushlands often lack.

During a routine monitoring visit to a site along Oxley Creek the QGN team discovered that all ten nest boxes at one site were damaged beyond repair. Data collected during previous years showed that gliders had been present and inhabiting several of the nest boxes. QGN contacted the owners of the site, BMI Group, and put forward a proposal to replace the damaged nest boxes with new boxes. BMI Group were very supportive of the project and committed to funding the purchase and installation of replacement boxes. Now, ten new rear entry glider boxes are in place and providing homes for gliders. BMI Group will continue to support the next box monitoring program and we are looking forward to the next monitoring event to learn how the glider population has settled into their new homes.

Queensland Glider Network has been assisting Springfield Lakes Nature Care Inc. with a nest box monitoring program in bushland reserves at Springfield Lakes, to encourage native hollow dependent fauna back into the heavily modified urban landscape. A variety of species specific Hollow Log Homes nest boxes were installed and to date over half of the boxes either had wildlife inside, or signs of wildlife activity. Occupants included squirrel gliders, brush tail and ring tail possums. QGN will continue to work with Springfield Lakes Nature Care Inc. to have additional boxes installed around the Springfield Lakes area to continue conserving our hollow-dependent fauna.

Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network

The RBCN projects team has continued monthly watering of birdwing butterfly vines planted as part of the network’s Albert River vine corridor. Dry weather throughout the summer has given cause to provide extra ‘tender loving care’ to make certain these vines remain alive. Encouragingly, despite limited new growth, very few vines have died from water stress. Up until now, the process has been a laborious task with team members using buckets to collect water from nearby creeks to water the vines. However, the projects team have just purchased a small transportable Honda water pump which will greatly improve the efficiency of the watering process. The Logan City Council is again planting more vines to enlarge the Albert River vine corridor. A family-focused event has been planned as a Mother’s Day celebration, encouraging families to plant a vine or two at Noyer Park in Windaroo. The planting day will be held on Saturday 11th May 2019, for more information visit https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/environmental-programs/environmental-events-and-activities.

Development of the Woodford – Samford vine corridor is steadily progressing. The project has the full support of the Moreton Bay Regional Council, who are assisting with our project planning efforts. The RBCN will officially launch the corridor project on June 9th 2019 at the Samford Eco Corridor, as part of World Birdwing and Swallowtail Day. The event is planned to showcase the corridor project to interested property owners and stakeholders, with presentations on the Richmond birdwing butterfly to be given by species experts. Plenty of vines will be planted within the Samford Eco Corridor, so please pencil this date into your diaries and come along on the day to lend a hand. We would love to see as many RBCN and Wildlife Queensland members supporting the conservation of the species at this event.
PlatypusWatch Network

The PlatypusWatch platform is a great way to encourage independent environment groups across Queensland to develop their own platypus survey program under the PlatypusWatch banner. PlatypusWatch provides a simple survey method with all the follow-up support necessary to get local groups looking out for platypus. A perfect example of how successful this initiative can be is on the Gold Coast.

The PlatypusWatch Gold Coast program is put together by the Gold Coast Catchment Association Inc and supported by the City of Gold Coast. The team ran a total of 9 surveys throughout 2018 and were fortunate enough to record 41 platypus sightings in 5 different rivers and creeks. The survey events attracted an astonishing 182 volunteers, 150 repeat attendees and 30 newcomers. Altogether, the volunteer attendance accumulated 546 hours of survey effort! Just a fantastic effort.

PlatypusWatch Gold Coast survey for platypus occurred in five waterways: Currumbin Creek, Mudgeeraba Creek, Nerang River, Coomera River, and the Albert River. The Albert River was newly included in the survey program during the latter half of 2018 and the team are currently fine tuning the monitoring sites.

Volunteers are often rewarded with platypus sightings, and as if this isn’t enough reward for braving the early mornings, a lucky few were mesmerised on two separate occasions by observing platypus pairs mating, both recorded in Mudgeeraba Creek. Please follow the link to see the two loved up duck-bills: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqZPHiJyFhg&feature=youtu.be&t=85.

The Gold Coast team are excited to head out in March/April 2019 to hopefully record some juvenile platypuses! The survey dates are as follows:

- 30/03/2019 Currumbin Creek
- 31/03/2019 Nerang River
- 06/04/2019 Albert River
- 13/04/2019 Mudgeeraba Creek
- 14/04/2019 Coomera River

If you would like to attend a survey, please get in touch by emailing: gcplatypus@gmail.com

Follow PlatypusWatch Gold Coast on Facebook (www.facebook.com/platypuswatch) to keep up to date on survey results and other news. Also, you can find more information on their website: www.goldcoastcatchments.org/platypuswatch
How can we allow platypuses to drown in Queensland?

Tamielle Brunt (PHD Student), Doug Gimesy (Conservation and Wildlife photographer) and Josh Griffiths (Wildlife ecologist) shed light on the tragic but largely avoidable deaths of an iconic species.

The thought of any animal trapped underwater, slowly drowning while it frantically searches for an escape, is horrific. Knowing that we allow this to happen to one of our most iconic and unique species, the platypus, for the sake of a few yabbies, is simply disgraceful.

And yet this is what happens every year with people using enclosed yabby traps (such as opera house nets and drum nets) and other types of enclosed nets in our freshwater waterways. These nets indiscriminately and frequently trap and drown platypuses (as well as other air breathing animals such as turtles).

In Queensland there is confusion around the current regulations, as well as a lack of awareness of the risks posed by these nets so let’s clarify a few common misunderstandings:

1. “What are the current regulations in Queensland?”

A funnel trap must be no longer than 70 cm or no more than 50 cm in width or height. The trap entrance must be made of rigid material. If the trap does not have a mesh made of rigid material, the size of the mesh must be no more than 25 mm.

The use of certain funnel traps east of a line following the Great Dividing Range and east of the Gore Highway (Highway 39) is prohibited outside of certain impoundments.

This means that:

- funnel traps with a rigid opening size of up to 5 cm maximum in all its dimensions can be used in all non-tidal waters
- funnel traps with a rigid opening size between 5 cm and 10 cm can only be used in listed impoundments east of a line following the Great Dividing Range and south of the Gore Highway (Highway 39) or in non-tidal waters west of the aforementioned boundary.

2. “I have traps with the small trap entrance size”.

Platypuses are smaller in Queensland and when juveniles emerge from the nest in February they can weigh as little as 300 – 400 grams. They (as well as rakali) are small and streamlined and will squeeze through a 5cm opening for food.

3. “There aren’t any platypus in this stream, I’ve been coming here for years and haven’t seen any.”

As platypuses can be quite elusive and mainly active at night, not observing one in your local waterway certainly does not mean they are not present. Platypuses inhabit many large and small waterways throughout eastern Queensland, and long-term residents
are sometimes quite surprised when they are told they have some platypus neighbours. For someone unfamiliar with the waterway, it is virtually impossible to tell if platypuses are present.

4. “I can use them in my farm dams.”
Platypuses are regularly found in farm dams. In fact, some on-stream dams can provide excellent foraging habitat for them. They can also travel across land to reach off-stream dams or travel along drainage channels after rainfall. Rakali, native freshwater turtles and water birds are widely distributed across Australia.

5. “I live west of the Divide, there are no platypuses out there.”
The distribution of platypuses does not extend west. However, the distribution of rakali, freshwater turtles and water birds are across the state.

6. “I use these nets safely as I check them regularly.”
Platypuses and rakali are mammals like us. They only have a few minutes of air when diving, and if they are frantically searching for a way out of a trap, they will use this up even quicker. Checking nets regularly will not prevent their drowning.

7. “But they are sold in my local camping store so surely I can use them?”
Yes, and that’s part of the problem. While most responsible stores will inform customers of the regulations and risks, many don’t. These nets are also available in large fishing and outdoor stores and online, where no staff are available to share this information. The problem is compounded by the fact that many nets sold have little or no labelling.

8. “I wasn’t aware of the restrictions on nets used in freshwater waterways in Queensland.”
The great news is, now you do, and you can share this information, so others know.

9. “I’m unsure of the difference between an enclosed yabby trap, such as an opera house net, and a hoop or drop net?”
Queensland Fisheries Authority has good information available on their website. Go to www.daf.qld.gov.au

10. “The hoop or drop nets don’t catch as many yabbies”.
Yes, they pretty much do. Yes, there is the chance that some may find their way out, but you will not go home disappointed.

How do we prevent this?
We’re sure that most people would be absolutely devastated to be responsible for the death of a single platypus. How terrible would it be to pull out a net with your kids and find a drowned platypus in it? Or two? So, what to do?

• We want owners/users to immediately stop using enclosed yabby traps and switch to the safer alternatives such as hoop or drop nets.
• We’d like to see retailers acknowledge the problem, show some corporate responsibility, and simply stop selling enclosed yabby traps immediately. Wouldn’t it be great if they considered a product recall or implemented an in-store discount/swap out scheme for safer nets?
• We’d like legislation and regulations in Queensland to be changed so the sale, ownership and use of enclosed yabby nets in any waterway is prohibited. There are platypus-friendly alternatives that are just as effective, such as hoop or drop nets.

What can you do?
Spread the word
Many people are simply unaware of the regulations or about the risks that these nets pose, so please pass this information on. If you find any trap being used illegally, immediately report this to the relevant authorities. In Queensland you can call Fishwatch hotline 1800 017 116.

Talk to retailers
If you go into a fishing/outdoor store, ask if they sell enclosed yabby traps, and if the answer is yes, explain the issue to them, and then ask them if there is a good reason they won’t stop?

Engage with those who make policy
Contact your local or state politicians, and politely ask them to support a change in regulations which ban the sale, ownership and use of enclosed yabby traps, and explain why. A key minister responsible for both fisheries and animal welfare related regulations is Minister Mark Furner, email: agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au The Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch can be emailed at: environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au. Or simply sign our petition at www.change.org. Search for ‘Enclosed yabby traps drown platypuses – ban their sale, use and possession in Queensland’.

Report a sighting
If you are ever lucky enough to see a platypus in the wild, please register the sighting with the Platypus Watch Network platypus@wildlife.org.au or by using the platypusSPOT app available at www.platypusspot.org. The more we know about their distribution the better.

What are we (and others) doing?
In Queensland, a concerned group has been established (the Queensland Alliance for Platypus), and we are working hard with relevant government authorities and like-minded organisations to try and get the use of enclosed yabby traps in all waters banned, as well as raise awareness around the issue. You can find us on Facebook and will update with developments.

At the end of the day, we must ask ourselves, “Are a few yabbies worth causing the traumatic drowning death of our most iconic wildlife?”

We think the answer has to be a resounding ‘NO’, and call on all people who use them to stop, all retailers who sell them to stop, and all the relevant authorities with the power to do something, to change the regulations.

Vale John Sinclair

Dr John Sinclair was one of Australia’s leading nature conservationists and Fraser Island advocate.

In September 1967 John Sinclair, who had founded the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club only two months earlier, persuaded that club to become the fourth Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland along with Caloundra, Gold Coast and Innisfail. He later helped establish the Bundaberg Wildlife Branch. He was Secretary of Maryborough-Moonaboola Branch for 10 years was a successful leader of the campaign to stop Fraser Island sand mining.

Immediately on moving to Brisbane in 1977, John became active on the WPSQ Council. In 1980 he became the Society’s third President.

Although John relinquished the Presidency in 1985 to move to Sydney where he lived for the next 19 years, he continued leading the campaign to protect Fraser Island, and his work on the national conservation scene.

Amongst all the many deserved accolades John has received, his great achievement was his leading role in protecting Fraser Island (K’gari), lobbying for two decades to stop sand mining and logging on the Island, before it was World Heritage listed in 1992.

Thank you, John Sinclair, for your tireless work protecting Queensland’s natural environment and your inspiration, efforts and mentoring of so many.

Containers For Change

Wildlife Queensland has registered with Containers For Change and our Scheme ID is: C10002920. You can help us, help the environment and help our threatened wildlife by recycling your used drink containers and donating your refund to us – we would be so grateful for your support.

What you need to do

1. Snap a photo of the image below with our ID number to your phone for quick and easy reference when you’re at the drop off point.

2. Take your empty drink containers to one of the Containers For Change drop off points in your area and nominate to have the funds donated to Wildlife Queensland. Simply enter our Scheme ID number. C10002920

3. That’s it! So easy!!

Each container earns 10c which adds up really quickly! Maybe you could collect containers at your workplace as a ‘green’ initiative!

Thank you for your support and for helping us be a voice for wildlife.

If you would like more information on how it all works or to find your nearest drop off point, please head to the Containers For Change website: https://www.containersforchange.com.au
Moreton Bay Expo

WPSQ Bayside Branch had a display at the Moreton Bay Expo at Manly which was held to highlight the efforts that are being made to clean up the Bay areas and educate the public in correct disposal of rubbish. Nearly 200 people spent the morning on St Helena Island clearing rubbish that had been accumulating over many years. 800kgs heavy duty rubbish had been collected the previous day, also on display was a shredder that is capable of reducing rubbish to a more manageable size.

The static displays attracted many of the casual walkers out enjoying the scenery, the level of interest was high and we were able to disseminate plenty of information on wildlife and about WPSQ endeavours. The event was organised by Ocean Crusaders.

World Wetlands Day

Bayside branch celebrated World Wetlands Day in February by participating in an event hosted by Redlands 2030. The day commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention in 1971 and draws attention to important global wetlands sites such as Toondah Harbour and Moreton Bay and the need to ensure their preservation.

The event included paddling in Toondah Harbour plus presentations in the park. Bayside members Simon Baltais presented on the importance of Ramsar sites and the international legislation in reference to Toondah Harbour while Geoff Redman spoke about the importance of protecting mangroves.

Later in February Bayside branch members also participated in the Moreton Bay Environmental Expo at Manly aimed at advertising the importance of Moreton Bay plus the St Helena Island clean up.

A Conversation Conservation

In November Wildlife Queensland held their annual dinner, A Conservation Conversation, at the Bulimba Golf Club.

Our panel of respected conservationists included Melbourne University’s Enterprise Professor of Environmentalism Don Henry, Senior Solicitor for EDO Qld Revel Pointon, and Griffith University Ecology Honours student Cara Parsons. It was hosted by Professor Darryl Jones.

Darryl posed a series of thought-provoking questions to our panellists, and asked them to share their own environmental message. Their responses ranged from becoming vegan to being persistent and never giving up (or in!). Wildlife Queensland is grateful to Professor Jones and each of the panellists who gave their time and shared their knowledge to make the night so entertaining and informative.

The night closed with the drawing of the lucky door prize and multi draw raffle. Thanks to our supporters for coming along, our donors for the great prizes and to Bulimba Golf Club for the good food and great service. The night was a great success in spite of the wild weather!
The Wildlife Land Fund Limited (WLFL) is a non-profit, limited guarantee, public company established in 2001. Wildlife Queensland founded, fostered and promotes WLFL. While WLFL is a separated legal entity, it maintains strong links to and receives ongoing support from Wildlife Queensland.

Volunteer activity on Wildlife Land Fund Ltd conservation properties is limited during the hot summer months. However, local contractors continue to chip away at restoration activities across both the Neil Holloway Reesville Nature Refuge and the Witta Nature Refuge. Barung Landcare have been issued a contract to continue to undertake regular maintenance of morning glory and other weeds on the Witta Conservation Reserve, while Brush Turkey Enterprises are continuing to work on privet and other weeds at Neil Holloway Reesville. The yearly issuing of works contracts funded in part by the Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the Sunshine Coast Council is continuing to pay dividends. WLFL’s strategic weed control and maintenance programs across both holdings are working well and we will no doubt see this positive situation continue.

In January 2019 WLFL and Brush Turkey Enterprises successfully completed a project on the Reesville property, co-funded through a Nature Refuge Grant to accelerate the recruitment and dominance of native vegetation through control of environmental weeds, facilitating natural regeneration for the benefit of the local wildlife, including koalas. Much work has previously gone into the ecological restoration of an adjacent area and the additional effort has enabled WLFL to increase the area under actively managed regeneration to 8.5ha. The ongoing conservation initiative to rehabilitate this particular area has been undertaken to provide important useable habitat for wildlife, in particular the local and well-studied koala population. Wildlife Land Fund Limited is committed to the improvement of our holdings for the benefit of native wildlife.

On a recent visit to the Witta Nature Refuge a number of female Richmond birdwing butterflies were spotted and eggs and larvae were located on vines, both old growth and planted, across the property. It is fantastic to see this threatened butterfly species inhabiting the refuge in solid numbers.

The WLFL board will continue to work towards establishing a new strategic plan and will look to implement a calendar of activities for 2019. WLFL continues to be viable, trading and meeting its obligations. To assist in ongoing rehabilitation and environmental enhancement WLFL continues to seek grants and it is likely we will be successful with at least one of our applications. The Directors are not aware of any future significant liabilities for the company that cannot be met.

To help WLFL continue to conserve habitat for native wildlife, this report includes a plea for increased membership. Membership is one of our greatest challenges and surely it is a challenge that can be addressed. Membership is edging its way up to 80, but we need to do better. The membership annual fee remains at $20 and there is a once off joining fee of $5. This has not changed since WLFL was established back in 2002.

Please help. Visit www.wildfund.org.au or follow us on Instagram @wildlife_land_fund. The WLFL facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/Wildlife-Land-Fund-Ltd-186405612029207/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Shop and help protect our native wildlife

Have you looked at our shop lately? There is a selection of great gift ideas that will cater for shopping for that special occasion. You will be amazed at what we have listed and there are items to suit all ages. Shop now!

Go to https://wildlife.org.au/store/
Science indicates that the Queensland Government has rejected pleas to ban the emergency provisions, compliance and enforcement, Third Party Accreditation including listing or non-listing and where to list, Risk based decision making, been given to list what aspects of the legislation are under discussion. Matters years. The discussions and recommendations are confidential but approval has to undertake a review of the Act with regard to efficiency and efficacy within 3. The Minister was required review is during the passage of the Biosecurity Bill 2013 it was highlighted that as a member of the Biosecurity Legislative Reference Group. The reason for the number of meetings held on this subject is due to the large number of stakeholders involved. Wildlife Queensland supports the call to stop commercial netting. There is most important roosting and feeding sites for migratory wading birds, populations of marine turtles and dugongs and seagrass beds. Commercial netting for fish may impact particular sites and cause unintentional damage. Wildlife Queensland supports the call to stop commercial netting. There is provision for non-intensive aquaculture to occur in certain zones and Wildlife Queensland would prefer that was not an option. The Great Sandy Marine Park is a significant part of various First Nation peoples living cultural landscapes and their concerns and aspirations need to be appropriately considered.

Meetings of note
November 2018

· Wildlife Queensland participated in meetings with conservation groups prior to the Ministerial Roundtable meeting with Minister Enoch. The President attended the Ministerial Roundtable. A new format has been introduced that involves participants (now limited to one representative from invited conservation organisations) being formed into discussion groups on topics that were the subject of submitted briefing notes. This meant that the Minister was able to dodge certain issues if she chose to.

November 2018-February 2019

Wildlife Queensland has been participating in the review of Biosecurity Act 2014 as a member of the Biosecurity Legislative Reference Group. The reason for the review is during the passage of the Biosecurity Bill 2013 it was highlighted that there were several fundamental changes proposed that would have unquantifiable impacts on both stakeholders and Governments. The Minister was required to undertake a review of the Act with regard to efficiency and efficacy within 3 years. The discussions and recommendations are confidential but approval has been given to list what aspects of the legislation are under discussion. Matters include the General Biosecurity Obligations, prohibited and restricted matter including listing or non-listing and where to list, Risk based decision making, emergency provisions, compliance and enforcement, Third Party Accreditation and Administration. The final report to the Minister is scheduled for mid-year.

January 2019

Plastic Waste Campaign. Advice from the Department of Environment and Science indicates that the Queensland Government has rejected pleas to ban the release of helium filled balloons stating it is a littering offence already. However, they have committed to endeavouring to make the fact that release of balloons is a littering offence more widely known. Approaches will be made to the Local Government Association of Queensland to see how they intend to approach the matter of lobbying the Queensland Government to ban the release of helium balloons, as at the recent Annual Meeting a motion was carried directing the LGAQ to undertake such action. All Local Authorities have agreed to ban the release of balloons at any events they run. Approaches have been made to LNP for a meeting to determine their attitude. Our part-time contracted plastic campaigner (Toby Hutcheon) continues to actively pursue means to further address means of reducing plastic waste for the benefit our environment and our wildlife.

· The President attended a meeting of the advisory committee established by the Department of Environment and Science to advise on the review of wildlife regulations. Discussions have related primarily to procedures for keeping native wildlife for recreational and commercial purposes. Committee has representatives from Qld Museum, Pet Industry Association, Qld Council of Bird Societies, RSPCA, QCC, Aust. Arachnology Society and Qld Fauna Lobbyists. Significant changes are being proposed.

· Wildlife Queensland attended the QCC Gathering of Greater Brisbane Environment Groups on Jan 30, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to enhance liaison among the various groups and explore ways to work together when opportunities presented.

February 2019

The President Peter Ogilvie and Secretary Des Boyland were invited to appear before the Senate Standing Environment and Communications Committee at the Brisbane Public Hearing on Australia’s Faunal Extinction Crisis. The need for the Commonwealth Government to step up and be more involved in ways to ensure protection of Australia’s unique biodiversity was emphasised. Wildlife Queensland called for the reintroduction of the National Reserve System Program and associated funding abandoned in 2013 as well as expansion of the Protected Area Estate and enhanced management in accordance with IUCN categories. Wildlife Queensland highlighted the need for the preparation of Recovery Plans but also their implementation and the requirement for systematic fauna surveys so that it can be established that strategies being applied are in fact delivering the desired outcomes was emphasised. The Committee’s attention was drawn to the establishment of Land and Sea Rangers in Queensland with particular reference to the recently established Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers caring for K’gari (Fraser Island) and appropriate mainland country.

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Who’s who
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President: Peter Ogilvie
Vice-Presidents: Michael Lussis
Secretary: Des Boyland
Treasurer: David Keogh
Councillors: Andrew Dinwoodie, Robert Standish-White and Nina Hardie
Council Observer: Paul Sutton

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

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