

Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch



Wildlife Diary

February 2020

Great finds

Eastern Sedgefrog, *Litoria fallax* have been active.

Striped Marsh frogs, *Limnodynastes peronii* have also been very active.

Common Green Treefrog, Common Green Treefrog, *Litoria caerulea*, heard around Capalaba near tributary of Coolwypyn Creek.

Population matters

David Attenborough: The planet can't cope with overpopulation.

World Economic forum

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/10/david-attenborough-warns-planet-cant-cope-with-overpopulation/>

World Wetlands Day 2020

Wetlands are rich with biodiversity and are a habitat for a dense variety of plant and animal species. Latest estimates show a global decline of biodiversity, while wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests. This year's theme is a unique opportunity to highlight wetland biodiversity, its status, why it matters and promote actions to reverse its loss.

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally. Inland wetlands include marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, floodplains, and swamps. Coastal wetlands include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and even coral reefs. Fish ponds, rice paddies, and saltpans are human-made wetlands..

Did you know

Did you know there are over 1,600 species of "true blue" Australian native bees. Commercial honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are not native to Australia. They were introduced from Europe in about 1822. Australian native bees can be black, yellow, red, metallic green or even black with blue polka dots! They can be fat and furry, or sleek and shiny. The smallest Australian native bee is Cape York's minute *Quasihesma* bee. It is less than 2 mm long. Australia's largest native bee is the **Great Carpenter Bee** of the tropical north and northern NSW. It is up to 24 mm long. Most Australian bees are solitary bees which raise their young in burrows in the ground or in tiny hollows in timber. Australia also has 11 species of social native bees (genera *Tetragonula** and *Austroplebeia*) which do not sting! Stingless bee honey is a delicious bush food and stingless bees can be good crop pollinators. So stingless beekeeping is becoming increasingly popular. Native bees are also important pollinators of Australia's unique wildflowers and are a vital part of our Australian bushland.

<https://www.aussiebee.com.au/keyfacts.html>

Great Walks

There are some wonderful wetlands in the Bayside area. Chelsea Road gives you access to the marine environment, Days Road, Redland Bay and Black Swamp are great places to enjoy the wildlife of the freshwater wetlands.

WWW

Toondah petition ignored by Council

<https://redlands2030.net/category/toondah-harbour/>

Cicada Awards

<https://wildlife.org.au/bayside/>

Climate Council – briefing paper

‘This is Not Normal’: Climate change and escalating bushfire risk.

1.Key Findings

1.The catastrophic, unprecedented fire conditions currently affecting NSW and Queensland have been aggravated by climate change. Bushfire risk was exacerbated by record breaking drought, very dry fuels and soils, and record-breaking heat.

2.Bushfire conditions are now more dangerous than in the past. The risks to people and property have increased and fire seasons have lengthened. It is becoming more dangerous to fight fires in Australia.

3.The fire season has lengthened so substantially that it has already reduced opportunities for fuel reduction burning. This means it is harder to prepare for worsening conditions.

4.The costs of fighting fires are increasing. Australia relies on resource sharing arrangements between countries and states and territories within Australia. As seasons overlap and fires become more destructive, governments will be increasingly constrained in their ability to share resources and the costs of tackling fires will increase.

5.The government must develop an urgent plan to (1) prepare Australian communities, health and emergency services for escalating fire danger; and (2) rapidly phase out the burning of coal oil and gas which is driving more dangerous fires.

Climate change is driving worsening bushfires in Australia.

The burning of coal, oil and gas is driving up global temperatures, leading to hotter Australian conditions. Since the mid-1990s, southeast Australia has experienced a 15% decline in late autumn and early winter rainfall and a 25% decline in average rainfall in April and May. Across Australia average temperature has increased leading to more record-breaking hot weather. Extreme fire danger days have increased

Climate change has worsened the current bushfire crisis.

This year bushfire risk in parts of northeast New South Wales and southeast Queensland has been exacerbated by drought, very dry fuels and soils, and heat. All of these factors have been aggravated by climate change. for January to August 2019 was the lowest on record in the Southern Downs (Queensland) and Northern Tablelands (New South Wales). For example, Tenterfield and Stanthorpe were 77% below the long-term average. Vegetation has been very dry with parts of New South Wales and Queensland experiencing record low soil moisture. The low soil moisture is symptomatic of both the recent intense dry conditions, as well as longer-term below average rainfall since 2017. Drought means vegetation is more flammable and therefore more likely to support extreme fire behaviour and spot fires. Heat is a factor too, both exacerbating dry conditions and enabling sparks to take hold. For instance, virtually the whole of the Murray-Darling Basin has experienced record-breaking heat this year. [Click here](https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CC-nov-Bushfire-briefing-paper.pdf) to read the full briefing <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CC-nov-Bushfire-briefing-paper.pdf>

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead



Published by
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February 2020