

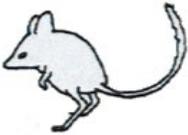
Newsletter

February 2020

Next Meeting.

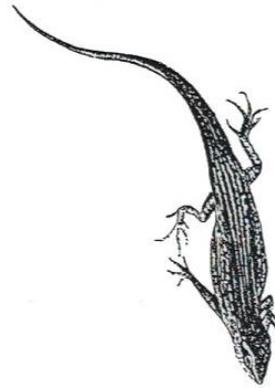
Friday 28th February 2020 at 7:00 PM

**Get up close and personal
with wildlife.**



Martin Fingland from
**Geckos Wildlife
Presentations**

gives you the opportunity to
not only see but also touch.



A fascinating display of live
native animals combined with an informative talk on
our unique and wonderful Australian wildlife and the
value they bring to our lives. Hosted in Martins own
easy and educational style.

Both children and older folk will all be enchanted.
General Public Welcome

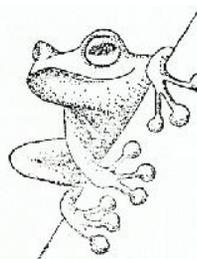
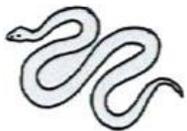
When: **Friday 28th February at 7.00 pm**

Where: Redlands Multi Sports Club

Entry by gold coin donation
Light Supper provided.

For more information phone Steve 423036676

Or email bayside@wildlife.org.au



In this edition

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President's Report **STEVE**
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Recycling
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Brisbane Branch Public Lecture
Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 7.30pm

Speaker: David Exton talking about Jellyfish - Phylum Cnidaria

From the Executive Team...

Presidents Report

Much has happened since my last report in November there had been little rain for months and bushland was looking stressed and consequently our wildlife was suffering, at least we have had a couple of reasonable rain events that have greatly improved the situation. I have green frog and stripey marsh tadpoles in my pond after a two-year gap, hopefully the frogs will emerge to more normal weather conditions. Unsurprisingly Australia in 2019 had the driest and hottest year on record (120 years), these temperatures disrupt the life cycles of our wildlife, full consequences are unknown but must be leading to population decline. The raging bushfires and continuing drought conditions are changing vegetation and decimating our wildlife ecosystems.

After a 5 month delay a report from the QLD government panel on the Koala Conservation Project finally arrived which gave the community 2 weeks just before Christmas to comment on the new Koala mapping. Close examination of the maps revealed that some 20,000 hectares of habitat in Redland and Moreton bay shires had been ignored, basically where Koalas want to live and are living e.g. Toondah, Cleveland, Thorneside, Birkdale, not where they are programmed to live. Most areas where the community has planted thousands of trees and now has a viable population have been ignored. The consultation process did not allow for areas to be added, only removed. The 5 year Koala Conservation Strategy closed for comment on the 31st January, it is a capitulation on the past, with weak future targets on clearing, habitat restoration, tree planting, development - mapping lines are already set and forget and now yet more talk, but ignore the facts. Koalas have declined due to unsustainable human activity.

Interesting to note that the mayors of Redlands, Moreton Bay and Lockyer valley are expressing their concerns with the mapping protocols and want them redrawn.

Have attended many meetings over the past few months with our local representatives and perspective candidates for forthcoming elections. There may be an Environment Impact Statement re Toondah harbour later this year, looking forward to Indigiscapes re-opening.

The proposed new Sports Precinct at Heinemann Road has 70% set aside for conservation been talking to their planning officers; awaiting outcomes from the Birkdale Commonwealth land consultation; with the Eastern Escarpment Conservation area WPSQBB and others have issues with proposed Mountain Bike tracks in remnant rainforest.

Climate change is on everyone's mind, much discussion on emission targets by reducing fossil fuels, but where is a moratorium on land clearing, reducing air travel, targeting zero population growth and a re think of agricultural processes.

Continued next page

Container recycling scheme has been a great success our Branch has managed to recycle 37878 containers since 1st November 2018, keep up the good work, remember our Code number is C10044396, more depots have been opened.

Clean Up Australia Day will be Sunday 1st March from 8.00 am Sel Outridge Park end of Peel Street Redland Bay, will be low tide. Required, hats, enclosed footwear and gloves (can be supplied). If you want to fossick in the Mangroves bring your wellies
We will be continuing at the Redlands Multi Sports Club for our monthly speakers.

- Friday 28th February 7.00pm Martin Fingland Wildlife Presentation
- Friday 27th March 7.00pm Darryl Jones on “Feeding birds at your table”
- Friday 24th April 7.00pm Rob Clemens “Powerful Owl Project”



World Wetlands Day GJ Walter Park



Participation World Wetland Day Event



Love the rain Photo R. Short

“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” – Warren Buffett

Protected Areas Matter A 1-DAY SYMPOSIUM
Protected areas and the future of wildlife conservation: threats and opportunities

14 March 2020
Mt Coot-Itha Auditorium,
Brisbane

 **Wildlife Qld**
Preservation Society of

<https://wildlife.org.au/protected-areas-matter>

Beach-nesting birds

We tend to think of beaches being covered in clean white sand, but not all beaches are sandy. Beach-nesting birds live on many different types of beaches. Sooty Oystercatchers prefer rocky coasts, where they search for food among the rocks. Pied Oystercatchers are more likely to be seen on sandy beaches where there are a few rocks about as well. Beach Stone-curlews usually live on sheltered beaches with muddy sand and mangroves growing nearby. Red-capped Plovers are often seen on sheltered muddy shores, but they also occur on sandy ones, and are abundant around wetlands, both saline and freshwater.

Beach-nesting birds, including Hooded Plovers, lay their eggs directly on the sand in a simple, shallow nest scrape. The nest can be anywhere above the high-tide mark, on the beach or in the dunes.

The greatest threat to Australia's beach-nesting birds is disturbance from people visiting the beach. This disturbance is greatest in spring and summer, when beach-nesting birds usually lay their eggs, coinciding with the peak period of recreational use of beaches.

Hooded Plovers are the most threatened of them all, as they are the birds which inhabit the beaches most people like to visit. Their eggs are small (about the size of a 20-cent piece) and very well camouflaged, so they are easily trodden on by accident. If the incubating adult is scared off the nest by passers-by, the eggs may literally bake in the sun, or become too cold in the cool weather; either way, it kills the chick developing in the egg, and the egg will not hatch. Similarly, when people disturb a fluffy chick, it quickly runs into the sand dunes and hides. While it is running, the chick uses up valuable energy, and while it is hiding it is unable to feed (they usually forage at the water's edge), so that a chick that is forced to run and hide throughout the day could easily starve.

<https://youtu.be/ID9KJ4kps78>

Former Australian fire chiefs say Coalition ignored their advice because of climate change politics.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/nov/14/former-australian-fire-chiefs-say-coalition-doesnt-like-talking-about-climate-change>

Report Littering



On your mobile or on the web

<https://report-littering-dumping.ehp.qld.gov.au/>

The top 10 most littered items are...

1. Cigarette butts
2. Glass bottles (alcohol and soft drink)
3. Plastic bottles/ PET drink bottles
4. Aluminium cans (alcohol and soft drink)
- 5. Plastic bags**
6. Plastic chips and confectionary bags
7. Plastic bottle caps
8. Metal bottle caps
9. Small paper pieces
10. Metal foil confectionary wrappers

PRECYCLE! PROACTIVE RECYCLING



- BUY ITEM THAT WILL LAST
- REUSE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
- USE A REUSABLE COFFEE AND TRAVEL MUGS
- USE WASHABLE PLATES/UTENSILS INSTEAD OF DISPOSABLE
- AVOID EXCESS PACKAGING
- USE RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES
- AVOID EXCESS PACKAGING
- AVOID NON-RECYCLABLE PACKAGING
- MAKE DOUBLE SIDES COPIES WHEN YOU HAVE TO PRINT
- DONATE USED TOYS
- BUY LOOSE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES INSTEAD OF PACKAGED
- BORROW OR RENT ITEMS YOU ONLY USE OCCASIONALLY
- USE CLOTH NAPKINS INSTEAD OF PAPER



Species extinction and the ethics of resurrection: bringing back extinct frogs.

The Hervey Bay library presentation on 18 October 2019 by David Flack, curator of Alexandra Park Zoo, and Bundaberg area coordinator for the Queensland Frog Society was both scary and challenging.

Following a level of success in cloning the Gastric Brooding Frog (Platypus Frog), due consideration of ethics and morals should give rise to precedent legislation for controlling such technology. This issue was the subject of much discussion following this fascinating and informative presentation.

Of the two species of the *Rheobatrachus*, *Rheobatrachus silus*, the **Southern Gastric Brooding Frog**, once thrived in SE Qld, in a habitat ranging 2,000km long at an elevation of between 350 and 1400m. As its name suggests, spawn and tadpoles gestate in the frog's stomach and emerge as fully developed juvenile frogs from the frogs mouth.

Unfortunately due to human impact (forest clearing, pollution and subsequent fungal disease caused by changes in a vital and sensitive ecosystem) both *Rheobatrachus* species have become extinct. In 2013, the University of NSW established a team of researchers to work on the Lazarus Project, using cloning techniques to replicate the DNA tissue from a 35 year old frozen tissue sample of the frog. They succeeded in producing an early stage cloned embryo of *R.silus*, providing the genetic material for future research.

David went on to summarise other de extinction techniques. Projects currently underway use a cloning technique for the (Tasmanian) Thylacine and a selective or back breeding technique for the (African) Zebra.

It is possible that research and deextinction might inevitably include species such as the long extinct Woolly Mammoth; extinct as a consequence of evolution and climate change.

There is an argument that humans have a moral obligation to resurrect species which have become extinct through human malpractice. This is pertinent to relatively recent species such as the Gastric Brooding Frog and the Thylacine in particular. The leading question is what should be the limits to this enterprise?

The points raised by David in the presentation and the ensuing discussion focused on essential habitat environment requirements. For example, it would be a totally wasted effort and very unethical to de-extinct the frog unless its natural environment was completely restored for the long term. The effort involves time and money that could be otherwise spent ensuring an adequate environment to prevent fast approaching extinction of many other species.

While the idea of having Woolly Mammoth roaming the plains of Siberia again is a complete novelty geared towards making money, how would these creatures fare in the longer haul and would they be free or in total captivity? In other words, an unethical, toy mentality towards living species could be initiated.

In concluding, David emphasizes that even if the critical habitat for extinct species was restored, the essential and unique microbiome (gut flora and associated fluids and environment) of the species would need to be cultured for its continued survival. A difficult task after a long time lag. Jackie Henrion

2019 Was the 2nd-Hottest Year on Record

2019 was the second warmest year since modern record keeping began, according to NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate experts. We work with NOAA to track temperatures around the world and study how they change from year to year. For decades, the overall global temperature has been increasing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10H2ILuXjO8&feature=youtu.be>

2019 - Australia's warmest year on record

2019 was Australia's warmest year on record. Australia's area-averaged mean temperature for 2019 was 1.52 °C above the 1961–1990 average, well above the old record: +1.33 °C in 2013.

Mean maximum temperatures were the warmest on record at 2.09 °C above average, also well above the previous record, which was +1.59 °C in 2013. Mean minimum temperatures were 0.95 °C above average, the sixth-warmest on record. The national temperature dataset commences in 1910.

http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/aus/?utm_source=edm&utm_medium=org&utm_campaign=sm-004-0007&utm_content=it

Fungi, fires and mutualism

Fungi are essential components of all ecosystems in roles including symbiotic partners, decomposers and nutrient cyclers and as a source of food for vertebrates and invertebrates. Fire changes the environment in which fungi live by affecting soil structure, nutrient availability, organic and inorganic substrates and other biotic components with which fungi interact, particularly mycophagous animals.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261411714_Fungi_and_fire_in_Australian_ecosystems_A_review_of_current_knowledge_management_implications_and_future_directions

Pyrophilous (fungi) taxa were found as endophytes of bryophyte and club moss; *Pyrophilous* taxa were found as **endolichenic** fungi of lichens; *Pholiota highlandensis*, a known *pyrophilous* fungus, was cultured from bryophytes; *Pyrophilous* fungi were found in moss species using culture-independent techniques... *Pyrophilous* fungi produce sporocarps after a fire but little is known about their ecology prior to or after a fire event.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1754504819300716?via%3Dihub> Lichens are the result of a stable mutualism between a fungal and a photosynthesising partner (alga or cyanobacterium). In addition to the fungal partner in this mutualism, lichens are associated with **endolichenic** fungi which reside inside their thalli. The **endolichenic** fungi appear to have evolved with the lichen and many of them are a source of novel metabolites vested with unique bioactivities.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21501203.2017.1352048>

Koala Mapping

Property-scale maps – including new koala habitat areas and Koala Priority Areas – can be accessed by downloading a free vegetation management report on the Queensland Government website.

Koala habitat mapping is also available via the [Queensland Globe](http://QueenslandGlobe), an interactive map where users can view a range of spatial layers. To view the new koala habitat mapping: <https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/>

Zoom in to the area of interest on the map, or use the search function.

On the left-hand side of the screen, click Layers. An All Layers panel will appear.

At the top of the panel, click Add layers.

Click the down arrow next to Environment to expand that layer.

Select Koala plan.

Select the map/s that you want to display (note: select both koala habitat area (core) and koala habitat area (locally refined) to see the areas of koala habitat protected in your area).

GIS-software users can download the relevant data via QSpatial.

How to use the NAFI site - Video Help

Covers the basics of viewing current fire activity.

https://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi3/views/help/Help_video.html

2019 Moreton Bay intertidal seagrass report

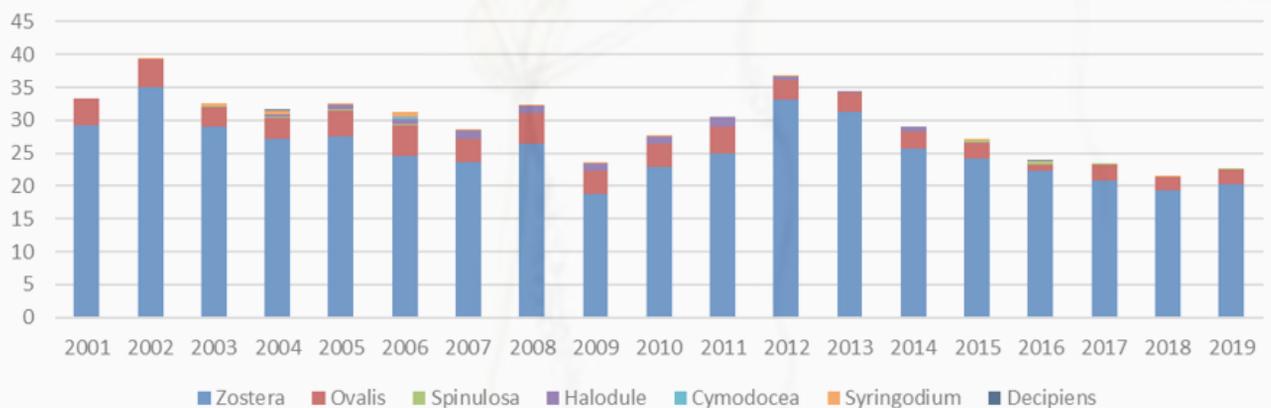
Moreton Bay supports seven seagrass species (*Zostera muelleri* ssp. *capricorni*, *Halophila ovlias*, *Halophila spinulosa*, *Halophila decipiens*, *Halodule uninervis*, *Cymodocea serrulata* and *Syringodium isoetifolium*), totalling about 25,000 ha, which occur in intertidal and subtidal areas (Hyland et al., 1989, Blackman and Craven, 1999, Davie et al., 2011)

Results show that *Zostera muelleri* ssp. *capricorni* continues to be the most dominant seagrass species found amongst intertidal seagrass found in Moreton Bay, particularly on the Western sections of Moreton Bay.

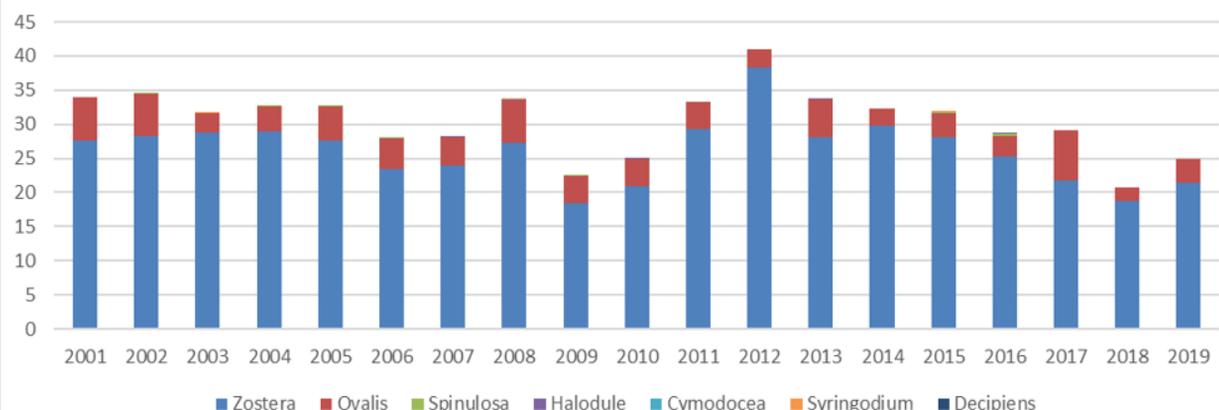
Although there may have been some distributional shifts within seagrass meadows, sites very rarely move from supporting seagrass to being completely devoid or vice versa. There has been an interesting case where seagrass appeared in an area where it was once devoid (DB1) and another where seagrass almost completely disappeared (AB1). This year intertidal seagrass was found at Bramble Bay (BB1) for the first time since records have been kept by this seagrass monitoring program (2001).

For the full report about the health of intertidal seagrass in Moreton Bay in 2019 go to <https://wpsqccs.wordpress.com/updates/>

Total average intertidal seagrass % cover by species for Moreton Bay from 2001 - 2019



Intertidal seagrass % cover Western Moreton Bay 2001- 2019



From today, more koala habitat will be protected by stronger regulations.

From today, the Palaszczuk Government is increasing protections for koalas in South East Queensland, with strict new planning regulations to protect koala habitats.

Minister for Environment Leeanne Enoch said koala populations were under intense pressure and the impact of a prolonged drought and recent bushfires meant we need to act now to prevent further habitat loss.

“In December 2019, we released the draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy for public consultation,” Ms Enoch said. Throughout that consultation period we have heard from thousands of Queenslanders who are calling for stronger protections for koalas in South East Queensland.

“While the full strategy is finalised, we are acting swiftly by releasing new mapping and stronger planning regulations.

“More than 690,000 hectares has now been mapped as koala habitat under these new regulations.

“That is an increase of more than 421,000 hectares on what existed previously for state protected koala habitat.

“Over 577,000 hectares in South East Queensland is now identified as Koala Priority Area, which includes habitat and areas identified for rehabilitation – that’s an area twice the size of ACT,” Ms Enoch said.

Koala Priority Areas are large, connected areas that include koala habitat as well as areas that are suitable for habitat restoration.

Clearing of koala habitat areas within Koala Priority Areas is prohibited under the new regulations. Some exemptions to the clearing prohibitions will apply, including a once-off 500m² allowance per premises, as well as an allowance for the removal of dangerous trees, and the creation or maintenance of firebreaks adjacent to infrastructure.

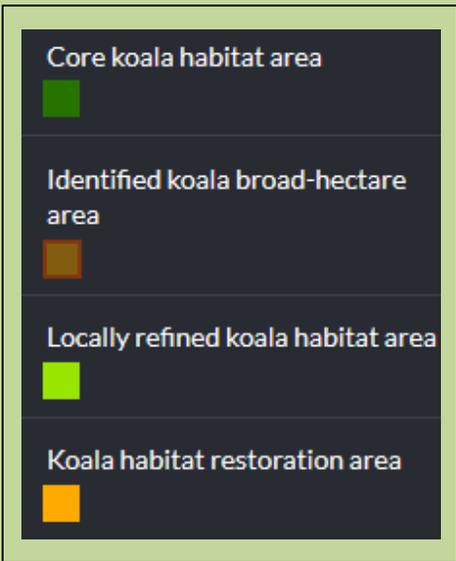
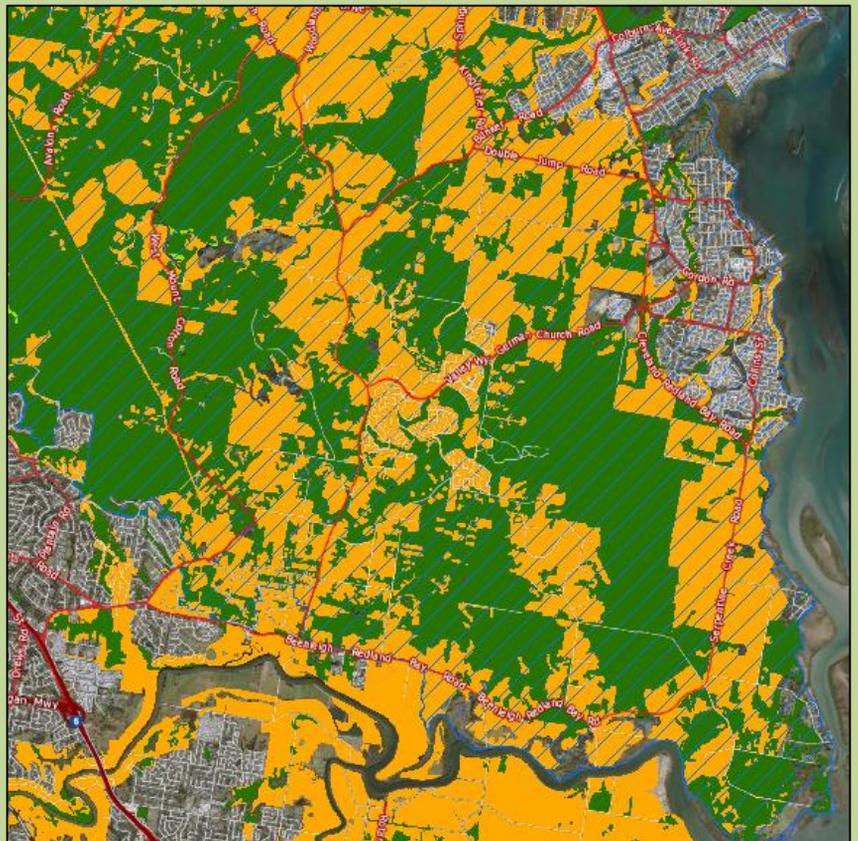
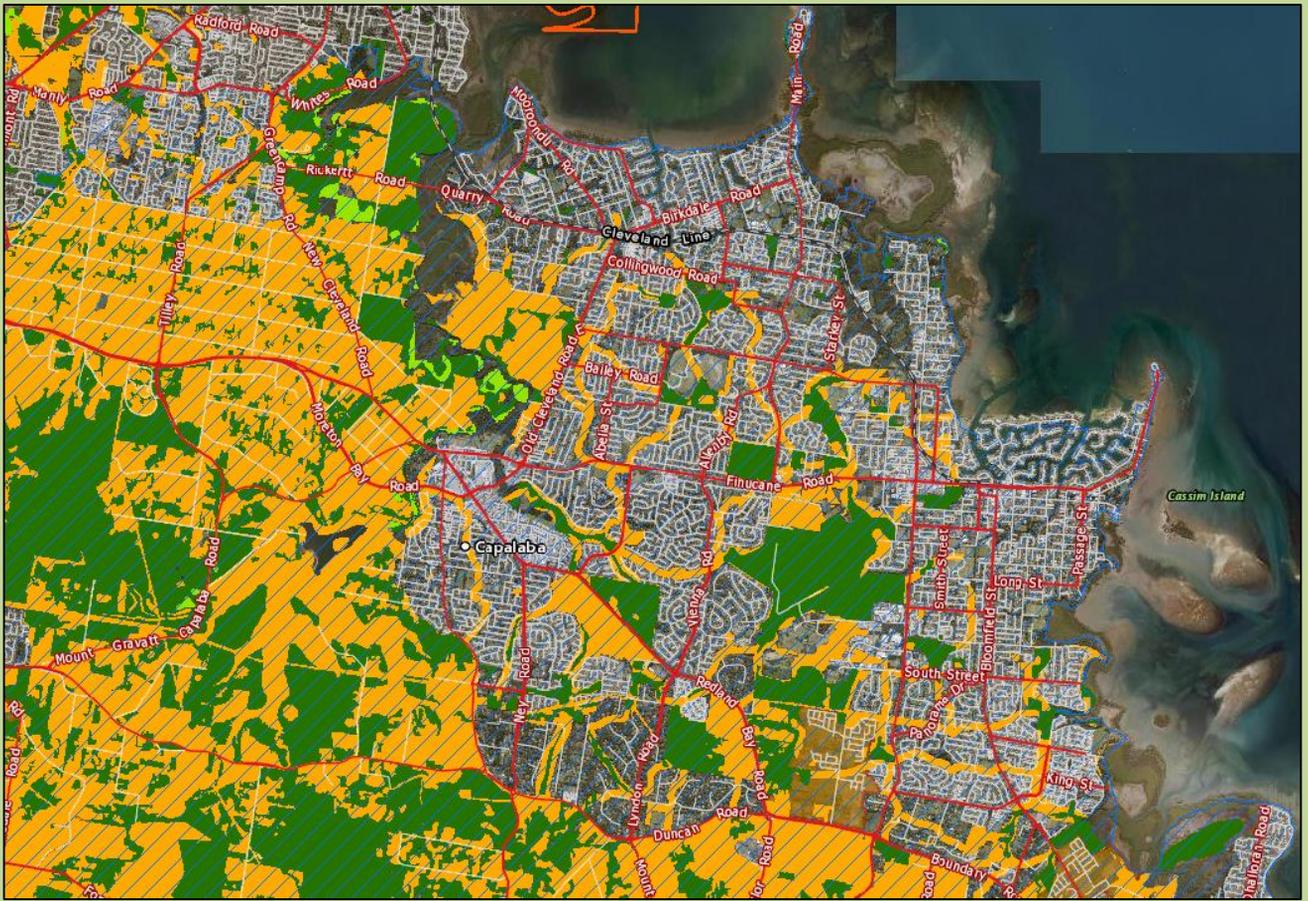
Ms Enoch said the new koala planning framework will deliver a more strategic and consistent approach to koala conservation across local government boundaries and give more certainty to the community and industry.

“The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Koala Protection) Amendment Regulation 2020 delivers on the Queensland Government’s commitment to ensure the continuation of koala populations in the wild,” Ms Enoch said.

The new koala habitat mapping has been updated following a map validation process in December 2019, to remove any areas that had previously been developed.

More than 440 requests were made to validate mapping across that period, and many Queenslanders expressed a desire to ensure that their local areas of vegetation were protected.

Click here to read more <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/2/7/from-today-more-koala-habitat-will-be-protected-by-stronger-regulations>



Backyard natives

Across the bayside there are many species who live in and around our backyards and local parks, here are some.

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae Australasian Grebe

Source: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/australasian-grebe>

The Australasian Grebe is usually confined to freshwater wetlands, and can often be seen swimming singly or in twos on farm dams. They build floating nests — a platform made from green aquatic vegetation — into which bluish-white eggs are laid, sometimes by two females. When the young hatch they have striped down and proportionally oversized webbed feet, and are able to swim almost immediately. Not becoming independent for eight weeks after hatching, they follow their parents about, and they sometimes nestle onto the back of a swimming adult to rest.

The Australasian Grebe is a small waterbird with two distinct plumage phases. The non-breeding plumage of both the male and female is dark grey-brown above and mostly silver-grey below, with a white oval patch of bare skin at the base of the bill. During the breeding season, both sexes have a glossy-black head and a rich chestnut facial stripe which extends from just behind the eye through to the base of the neck. At this time, the eye becomes darker and the patch of skin at the base of the bill becomes pale yellow and more noticeable. When approached, Australasian Grebes usually dive under water.

Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern

Source: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/australasian-bittern/>

Australasian Bitterns specialise in living in dense beds of reeds and rushes, where they are surprisingly difficult to see, as they are particularly well camouflaged. Added to this, when alarmed, they stand still with neck stretched upwards and bill pointing skywards. Sometimes they even sway in the breeze, in time with the surrounding reeds. This combination makes them blend in remarkably well with the surrounding vegetation. It is hardly surprising that the species is seldom recorded.

The Australasian Bittern is a heavy-set, partially nocturnal heron with upperparts that are patterned dark brown, buff and black, and underparts that are streaked brown and buff. The eyebrow and throat are pale, and the side of the neck is dark brown. The bill is brown and the legs are greenish. The Australasian Bittern is also called the Australian Bittern or the Brown Bittern.

The Australasian Bittern is found in coastal and sub-coastal areas of south-eastern and south-western mainland Australia, and the eastern marshes of Tasmania.

The Australasian Bittern frequents reedbeds, and other vegetation in water such as cumbungi, lignum and sedges.

Protected Areas Matter A 1-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Protected areas and the future of wildlife conservation: threats and opportunities

14 March 2020

Mt Coot-tha Auditorium,
Brisbane



<https://wildlife.org.au/protected-areas-matter>

Wildlife Queensland presents
PROTECTED AREAS MATTER

A 1-day symposium

Protected areas are the cornerstone of efforts to safeguard biodiversity; they are the best available means to ensure the recovery and survival of our threatened native animals and plants.

This special [1-day symposium](#) brings together some of Australia's top conservation and wildlife experts to explore and discuss the importance of protected areas for wildlife conservation.

Speakers include:

- Martin Taylor, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Katie Walters, Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
- Shauna Chadlowe, Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)
- Peter Ogilvie, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)

When: Saturday, 14 March 2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Where: Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 152 Mount Coot-tha Road,
Mount Coot-tha, Brisbane

Tickets: Members: \$35.00 | Non-members: \$45.00 (includes lunch, morning/afternoon teas)

More information and bookings: <https://wildlife.org.au/protected-areas-matter/>

Don't miss this important event. Reserve your seat now!

protecting wildlife • influencing choices • engaging communities

Resources

Page 6: <http://www.bom.gov.au>

Page 4 & 10 <http://www.birdlife.org.au>

Page 6: <https://www.researchgate.net>

Page 6: <https://www.sciencedirect.com>

Committee & Contacts

President	Steve Homewood	0423036676
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Executive	Don Baxter Janelle Devery	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Alix Baltais/Simon Baltais	
Wildlife Diary Editor	Simon Baltais	
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Web: http://www.branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside		

Keep Up to Date Online!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WPSQBB/>

Blogs:

Wildlife Queensland Coastal Citizen Science

<https://wpsqccs.wordpress.com/>

Wildlife Bayside

<https://wildlifebayside.wordpress.com/>

Curlew Watch

<https://curlewwatch.wordpress.com/>

Websites:

Wildlife Bayside

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

Cicada Film Festival

<https://cicadafilmfestival.com.au/>

Membership Application

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Memberships Types

- \$30.00 Single
- \$20.00 Concession
(Pensioner/Full Student)
- \$45.00 Family or Non Profit Group
- \$12.50 Junior

Optional Wildlife Magazine Subscription

- \$47.00 per year inc GST (Four Issues)
- \$90 for 2 years inc GST (Eight Issues)
- \$70.00 per year (International Post)
- \$135 for 2 years (International Post)

Optional Donation \$ _____

For Campaign _____

(Bayside does not have a tax deductible status)

Postal address: PO Box 427, Capalaba 4157

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