WPSQ Bayside Branch

Newsletter | October 2022





Next Meeting Friday 28th October 2022

Dr James Udy Talks about Science under Sail

Dr James Udy has 30 years of experience working as a marine scientist. His past experiences include being a lecturer at the University of Queensland; managing the research and development team at Seqwater; working as a chief scientist for Healthy Waterways.

James now splits his time between running SUSA's educational citizen science program and doing consultancy work that enhances the management of Australia's marine resources. This will be a fascinating talk giving a real time view on the challenges our marine environment faces in the uncertain future of climate change.

When: Friday 28th October 2022 at 7.00 pm Where: Alexandra Hills Community Hall, 131-155 Finucane

Road, near "Aldi". Entry & car parking just around corner off Windemere Road

General Public Welcome, Entry by gold coin donation, booking required for entry.

Click <u>LINK</u> for Eventbrite website. For more information, contact Steve on 0423 036 676 or <u>bayside@wildlife.org.au</u>

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President's Report

Bayside Branch | October 2022

Steve Homewood

What a great adventure we had recently when Bayside Branch celebrated WPSQ 60th anniversary by having 60 people enjoying a cruise to St Helena Island. A sea cruise celebrating "Sea Week" was for many years an annual event for the Branch and many of us had been on the "Cat 'o' Nine Tails to other destinations.

A slightly delayed departure gave everyone a chance to chat and also many of us visited the Manly food markets which are always held on the 1st Saturday in the month. The weather and journey out were fine and gave us a great perspective of the bay and its surrounds, views as far as the glasshouse mountains and the city, as well as all the other Bay Islands. A thoroughly entertaining guided tour of the lower part of St Helena Island had been organised, reflecting the difficult times the prisoners, wardens and their families endured. Plenty of photos were taken, of the birdlife, butterflies, coastal vegetation, against the stark contrast of the historic graveyards and lime kiln.

Darkening skies and a wind change caused a timely end to our tour, lunch had been organised on the boat. It was a bumpy but interesting ride back as we wrestled with the Quiz, drew raffle and lucky door prizes.

It was a great day thanks to our helpers, the boat crew, the contribution from WPSQ, prize donators and especially you, members and friends. Let us do it again sometime.

For many of us seeing the vistas and vast natural resources of Moreton Bay reinforces the need to protect these assets from the excesses of a growing population.

Onward for WPSQ and its followers to continue its 3 aims, "Protecting Wildlife, "Influencing Choices" and "Engaging Communities" into another 60 years.

A longer write up on the day can be found on WPSQ webpage.

https://wildlife.org.au/bayside-branch-celebrates-wildlife-queenslands-60th-year/

Continued on next page....



Jetty St Helena Steve Homewood



Island Beach under stormy skies
Tracey Mann



Monarch Butterfly Belinda Homewood

President's Report Cont.

Bayside Branch | October 2022

The Branch had a stall at the recent "Welcome Back to the Shorebirds event" at GJ Walter Park Cleveland site of the proposed Toondah Harbour new town in **our** Moreton Bay. Organised by Australian Conservation Foundation it was a great event highlighting the hypocrisy of various levels of government who say they are protecting our endangered wildlife but are still considering this abomination.



Recently the Federal Environment minister Tanya Plibersek announced Threatened Species Action Plan "Towards Zero", very laudable, but there have been several plans in the past, they often fail because the Federal government has little control over land clearing by the states and from a lack of funding commitment.

The government has also pledged to conserve 30 per cent of its land and 30 per cent of its sea areas by 2030 in line with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and explore the creation of new national parks and marine protected areas.

Many of our mammal extinctions have been driven by feral animals, mostly cats which kill an estimated 1.5 billion native animals every year. It is imperative that action and investment in new technologies as outlined in the plan is implemented.

Locally we continue to question projects in the shire that threaten at least two of the 110 endangered species on the new list "Koalas and the "Eastern Curlew", words are always cheap, real action is needed.

Our speaker this month 28th October is Dr. James Udy who has expertise on many aspects of our waterways and in particular the health of Moreton Bay, which is critical to our local environment.



King Parrot Alexandra Hills Photo Belinda Homewood



Echidna Bruny Island Tasmania Photo Stephanie Homewood



Eastern Yellow Robin, Bunya National Park
Photo Steve Homewood

Out and about.

New laws to strengthen environmental framework

Published Wednesday, 12 October, 2022 at 03:15 PM

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon

A new Bill has been introduced into Queensland's parliament to ensure the state's environmental framework remains modern by providing greater consultation on resource projects, ensuring EISs remain up-to-date and early certainty on clearly unacceptable projects.

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon today introduced the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (EPOLA) Bill following an extensive engagement process by the Department of Environment and Science with conservation groups, the agriculture sector and industry.

"Community expectations, technology and industry is evolving – and it's vital that our laws remain modern and reflect the changes we're seeing," Minister Scanlon said.

"Making sure that we have certainty for landowners and industry, while also making sure that we continue to protect our environment is critical to creating good jobs and protecting our great lifestyle.

Minister Scanlon said the reforms would provide greater certainty for the community and industry, including a proposed change that would give the regulator power to end an EIS process where the proposal was clearly unacceptable and would be unlikely to gain approvals or contravenes laws, as is.

"This will be done by introducing an 'early no' step in the EIS process so that community and project proponents know early in the piece that a project will not receive approvals as proposed, saving industry and the regulator time and money.

"Under the proposed legislation, we're also making sure that public notification occurs for any major amendments to environmental authorities for resource-sector projects to make sure local communities are aware and can have their say.

"During consultation with stakeholders, we saw that in some instances EISs upwards of 10 years old were being relied upon for project proposals, often with outdated information.

"This Bill will modernise the framework so that EISs remain current for three years, at which point proponents can apply to extend the period.

Minister Scanlon said where there is evidence of wrongdoing, the Bill would also update legislation to make sure responsible directors and officers can be held liable.

"We've listened to what stakeholders have told us, and we'll also see support through short-term environmental authorities for non-resource activities to trial innovations as well as measures to assist Queensland industry and individuals to meet their environmental requirements in an emergency situation.

Minister Scanlon said the Bill would also look to strengthen end of life provisions for resource projects, with measures to assist the transition to new Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plans as well as extending timeframes for estimated rehabilitated cost decisions.

"It will also give staff the ability to use body-worn cameras and drones.

Minister Scanlon said in addition to consultation already done with conservation groups, industry and the agriculture sector, the Bill would now be open to consultation through the committee process of parliament.

"This is about better protecting our environment, giving industry support by streamlining and providing greater certainty on processes, and ensuring the independent regulator can continue to be effective in its role."

https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96313

Great Southern Bioblitz #GSB22

What is GSB?

The Great Southern BioBlitz is an opportunity for all Southern Hemisphere countries to record organisms during Spring and showcase our beautiful biodiversity to the world. The event is run by a grassroots network of keen citizen scientists from across the globe.

How do I get involved?

There are two main ways to get involved in the GSB for 2022.

Become a participant

Anyone in the world is eligible to take part in the event. All you have to do is upload observations of wildlife to the <u>iNaturalist platform</u>. Observations, however, must be made somewhere in the southern hemisphere during the event time frame. Register as a participant <u>here</u> to be kept informed and to qualify for a certificate.

FAQ's and more information on becoming a participant.



Aussie Backyard Bird Count 17-23 October

From 17-23 October 2022, Australians will head into their backyards for BirdLife Australia's annual Aussie Bird Count.

Help us shine a light on Aussie birds and the Australians who love them.

https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/



Land clearing impact on woody native vegetation

State of the Environment

In 2016–2017, 356,000 hectares per year (ha/year) of woody vegetation was cleared, statewide. This represented a 9% decrease from 2015–2016. In 2017–2018, 392,000 hectares per year (ha/year) of woody vegetation was cleared, statewide. This represented a 10% increase from 2016–2017.

Queensland

Land clearing is mapped annually in Queensland by the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS). SLATS uses Landsat satellite imagery to map the location and extent of woody vegetation clearing that is the result of human removal of vegetation across the entire state of Queensland.

The total woody vegetation clearing rate for Queensland in 2016–2017 was 356,000ha/year. This represented a 9% decrease from the 2015–2016 woody vegetation clearing rate of 390,000ha/year. In 2017–2018, the clearing rate was 392,000ha/year, a 10% increase from the 2016–2017 reporting period.

Clearing of remnant woody vegetation decreased from 132,000ha/year in 2015–2016 to 78,000ha/year in 2016–2017, a 41% reduction.

This represented 22% of the total statewide woody vegetation clearing in 2016–2017. Remnant woody vegetation clearing decreased a further 5% in 2017–2018 to 74,000ha/year. This represented 19% of the total statewide woody vegetation clearing.

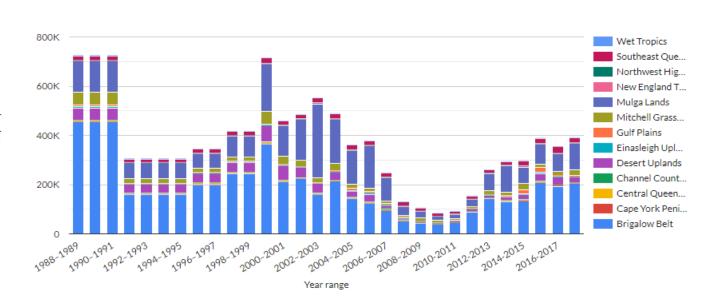
In 2017–2018, the non-remnant woody vegetation clearing rate was 318,000ha/year, 14% higher than the 278,000ha/yr cleared in 2016–2017. In 2015–2016, the non-remnant woody vegetation clearing rate was 257,000ha/yr.

Pasture has historically been the dominant land cover replacement class in SLATS mapping of land clearing, and it remained as such in both the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 reporting periods, representing approximately 91% and 93% of the total statewide clearing, respectively. Other land cover replacement classes including crops, forestry, mining, infrastructure and settlement comprised the remainder.

More information:

Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS)

https://www.stateoftheenvironment.des.qld.g ov.au/biodiversity/terrestrialecosystems/land-clearing-impact-on-woodynative-vegetation



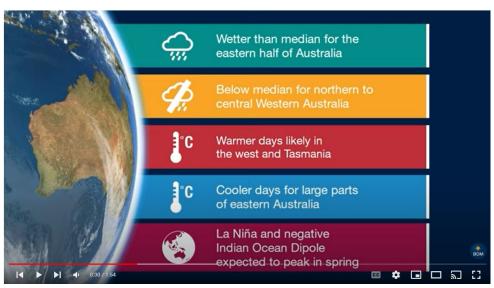
Hectares per year

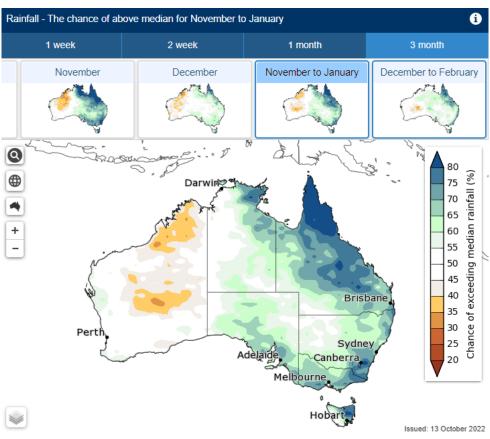
Climate Outlook

BOM is yet again predicting another wet summer for us here in the eastern states. The La Nina and negative Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to peak in spring.

For more details and interactive modeling maps go the below address and click on the rainfall and temperature links or watch the outlook video.

http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/?utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_source=youtube&utm_campaign=climate&term=cwo&utm_content=video-15092022-readmore#/overview/summary





Contacts and Important Links

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Bayside Branch

Facebook LINK

Wordpress Blog LINK

Website LINK

Curlew Watch LINK



Head office

Facebook LINK



Coastal Citizen Science

Facebook LINK

Wordpress Blog LINK



Cicada Film Festival

Facebook LINK Website LINK

Membership Application Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Memberships Types	Name
□ \$30.00 Single	Address
□ \$20.00 Concession (Pensioner/Full	P/C
Student)	
□ \$45.00 Family or Non Profit Group	Phone No
□ \$12.50 Junior	Email
Optional Wildlife Magazine Subscription	Special Interests
\$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)	Pay by Credit Card
	Card Type: □VISA □Mastercard Card No
Optional Donation \$	Exp Date
For Campaign	
(Bayside does not tax deductible status)	
Postal address: PO Box 427, Capalaba 4157	Name on Card
	Signature

Complete the form by checking boxes or typing.

Once complete, save to your computer, then return to us via email bayside@wildlife.org.au