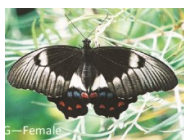


WPSQ Upper Dawson February Newsletter

Compiled by Ann Hobson upperdawson@wildlife.org.au

While the El Nino has turned on unusually heavy rain in places, some of us are only a week of fine weather away from starting the next drought. At the same time, where introduced grass growth is uncontrolled, fires may be able to spread quickly into our increasingly fragmented and heat-stressed ecosystems. Our president, Richard Moffat, will be a representative at a coming **Fire Brigades meeting** to hear what land managers think are the best ways to prevent and manage fires in this region. Strategies suggested include having adequate staff and equipment readily available to reduce fuel load through planned mosaic cool season burning, including in national parks and forests, managed grazing where suitable, and maintaining accessible fire trails. Our Secretary will write to encourage the relevant departments to properly fund, staff, and equip its environmental and emergency services.

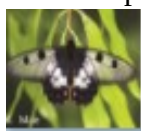
Branch members were able to attend an Open Day at the Theodore RSL Hall to view the proposed project layout for the **RWE Theodore Windfarm** about 30 km NE of Theodore 40km SW of Biloela roughly between the Crowsdale-Camboon and Defence Roads in the locality of Camboon. Our Branch looks forward to responding to the project's forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement, so we can be sure that everything possible is being done to minimise risks to the atmosphere, to soil, water, flora, fauna and the habitat they need. It is hoped that construction will be complete by 2027, and full production by 2030. We were invited to provide suggestions for the Windfarm's Community Benefit Fund. Monthly Drop-in Sessions are to follow in Theodore and Banana. Further information: T: 1800 879 435; E: theodorewindfarm@rwe.com; W: theodorewindfarm.com.au



Butterflies were the highlight of our visit to Loraine Hellyer's garden, and our butterfly nets were used to catch and identify several species, including the dominant Orchard Swallowtail (*Papilio aegeus*), chasing away even the Common Orchard Swallowtail (*Euploia cor corinna*) and Common Eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina*), though the more numerous smaller Caper Whites (*Belonois java*) and Lemon Migrant (*Catopsilia pomona*) were more nifty and often evaded the Orchard by approaching flowers from under branches and foliage. Avoiding the fracas, a bright orange Monarch/Wanderer (*Danaus plexippus*) floated past, probably not finding its favourite weed, "Balloon Cotton Bush" (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*) in the garden. *Photos courtesy Brisbanesbigbutterflycount.*



Helen Schwencke of Earthling Enterprises will be advising the Council on butterfly-attracting plants, and was able to identify that the tiny yellow dots on some of the leaves of this native "Old Man's Pipe" (*Aristolochia meridionalis centralis*) are the eggs of the Beautiful Clearwing Swallowtail, (*Cressida cressida*), so if you see this plant growing among the native herbage that has come up after the rain, she'd like some seeds.



More advice on keeping native birds safe. It seems even a discarded slice of bread can become a straight jacket!

And did you know? Never feed birds avocado, citrus, onions or garlic – these foods are toxic for birds.

While it's not recommended, for this and other advice on safe ways to feed birds, try [Feeding Wild Birds in Australia](#) from Birdlife Australia. Contact upperdawson@wildlife.org.au



I wasn't bred for this!