

CONSERVATION NEWS
Dec 2021-Jan 2022

Meetings:

Third Wednesday of the
month, 1.00 pm

At: Caloundra Power Boat
Club, 2 Lamerough Parade,
Golden Beach

Executive:

President: Anne Wensley

Vice-Presidents: Paul Smith &
Suzanne Aspland

Secretary: Jude Crighton (Ph:
5491 4153)

Treasurer: Judy Burns (Ph:
5441 3913)

Committee Member: John
Roberts

Minutes: Jenny Gursansky

Newsletter Editor: Helen
Kershaw

Newsletter Distributor:
Kirsten Blake

Contact

PO Box 275, CALOUNDRA Q
4551

Email

sunshine@wildlife.org.au

Faunawatch

Coordinator: Dr Paul Smith

Ph: 5443 8315; email:

faunawatch@wildlife.org.au

Our thanks to Caloundra MP
Jason Hunt and staff for their
kind support in the
photocopying of *Conservation
News*



From the October & November Meetings

Margaret Watson's memorial

Jill, Kirsten, Anne, Helen and Jude on behalf of WPSQ attended a memorial organised by Margaret's daughter Amelia in Ben Bennett Park on Sunday 14 November – Margaret's birthday. Family and friends gathered, including Jason Hunt MP and his three brothers, and members of the Gardening Club. Modest and unassuming, Margaret was nevertheless a woman of strong opinions, and there were tears and laughter remembering her kindness as well as her feisty personality. Amelia compiled a lovely board of photos from throughout her mother's life, and there were spoken and written tributes. Margaret will be missed by many, and we will always remember her at wildflower time.

Bushcare Volunteers Day Out

At the annual Day Out for Sunshine Coast Council Bushcare volunteers, which included a boat trip on Pumicestone Passage, trips to bushcare sites at Currimundi Lake and Tooway Lake as well as lunch, we were pleased to see Judy and Glenn Burns awarded the Silver Mattock (or Maddock) for their 20 years of volunteering at the various sites maintained by Petrie Creek Catchment Care group, including Florabunda Pocket, Namba Creek and Gulung Gung.

Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Coastal Study

The promised forum was delivered by Council on Saturday 30 October, laying out information and feedback from the community, and some actions, short to longer-term, in an extensive series of posters covering different sectors in the study strip. Council staff engaged with attendees across three sessions. Further feedback was invited, with the final date extended to 29 November; this new time frame will accommodate Councillor briefings in December, but voting on final plans will not happen until the new year. The expressed wish by Bill Haddrill and other staff is that the study outcome (actions on dune regeneration and protection, turtle and other wildlife protection, ICOLL management, public education in natural, Indigenous and historical values, public access to coastal views and pathways, parks management, and more) will be a good precedent for Council in responding to demands on coastal areas across the Sunshine Coast and into the future.

Advance Dates

End-of-year Get-together:

Saturday 4 December, 9 am at Ben Bennett Bushland Park at the Queen Street entrance (next to Caloundra State High School). Bring a plate to share, and some of your lovely cash to buy your Christmas present books (see details in this newsletter).

Next Branch meetings:

Wednesday 19 January and 16 February (AGM), 1 pm at the Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach

Faunawatch Outings

Second Wednesday Walks,

8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens:

9 February, 9 March.

First Monday walks, 8 am:

Sites TBA:

7 February (possibly the Blackbutt Forest at Aura), 7 March.

Launch of *Piece by piece: conservation and development on the Sunshine Coast 1969-2020*



Author Elaine Green

For updates on the Study, see:

<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/shelly-beach-moffat-beach-coastal-study>

WPSQ (particularly Sue and Jude) has made a detailed submission matching Council's poster formatting, and supports others made by BushCare groups and Friends of Moffat and Shelly.

Sunshine Coast Council's Climate Action Declaration

Following a unanimous vote in Council to a motion by Cr David Law (after something of a political dance among Councillors), and our letter encouraging the declaration, we will write and congratulate Council on their decision, looking forward to their positive plans for collaboration with the community and offering our expertise in this engagement.

The declaration will no doubt support Council's application for Biosphere status, and any positive steps towards a genuine outcome in this arena is welcome.

Ben Bennett Bushland Reserve

Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade: WPSQ members and Friends met with Div 10 Councillor David Law in the Park in late October. We were able to show him the areas that will be impacted, and discussed alternatives. He also briefed us on his upcoming motion in Council for the Climate Emergency Declaration, and asked for background on the early campaigns by WPSQ founders Kathleen McArthur and Judith Wright to protect Cooloola and the Great Barrier Reef. Since the Climate Emergency vote he has indicated that he is keen to learn more about the Park.

Kim has introduced us to animal ecology student Jasmyne Case, who has set up a Change.org petition (available on the Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook page). Jasmyne organised a gathering filmed by Channel 7 at the southern end of the park as well as an interview and photo shoot by the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, and these were attended by several of our members, including Jude, to voice our concerns.

At the memorial service for Margaret Watson in Ben Bennett Park we caught up with State Member Jason Hunt, whose family had very close connections to Margaret. He took the opportunity to talk to WPSQ members about his concern that the impingement of the road into the southern park looks to be significant, and that he is having informal meetings with Council staff to investigate damage mitigation.

Visit the YouTube fly-through of transport modelling in 2026 of the Upgrade (Omrah Avenue to Nicklin Way):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHdH_ltWTHo

Here is the private community survey on this issue:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTnj00Bu3Xe7fp43qzhVPWtClS9ejxalvEXhs_hly_4czAGQ/viewform



Catching up are Prof Ian Lowe and Cr Joe Natoli (who bought extra copies for his local schools)



Judy and Jill handled the sales



Elaine signs her book

and the Facebook page of 'Value Caloundra', whose campaign for a scaled-down version of the road, with a lesser impact on the Park and the community, we support: <https://www.facebook.com/valuecaloundra> and their website www.2lanesnot4.com.au with December and January dates for protest meetings in Ben Bennett and Bicentennial Park.

Here is the link to the Value Caloundra petition to State Government: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=3592>

Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve

At a positive meeting, Sue and Jude met SMEC Holdings Ltd consultants Melissa Griffin and ecologist Kylie McPherson on 27 October, as part of their finalising Stage 1 of the Draft Master Plan. They have considered our Powerpoint submission and we discussed further the ecological values of the Reserve and the adjacent lot which would be affected by the QAM expansion plans. Offered the opportunity for further comment we stated that we would like to see the ecological values of the whole airport site enhanced.

WPSQ's book

Elaine Green's *Piece by piece: conservation and development on the Sunshine Coast 1960-2020* is published! The book was warmly welcomed at the launch at the North Shore Community Centre on 12 November by Sunshine Coast Councillors Rick Baberowski, Maria Suarez, Joe Natoli and David Law, and past Councillors Jim Cash, Gerry Gordon and Herman Schwabe. As well there were environmental advocates from earlier decades, and family of Kathleen McArthur (our founder) and her sister Judy Nelson-Gracie (also a past member). Kabi Kabi Elder Bridgette Chilli welcomed us to her Country and President Anne Wensley gave her perspective on development on the coast, informed by her long residency and activism. Elaine spoke eloquently on her purpose, and her inspiration from delving into WPSQ's paper archives, and the work of Kathleen McArthur. Prof Ian Lowe inspired us with words for the future, and launched the book.

We acknowledged the generous Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage grant of \$10,000, and copies of *Piece by piece* were presented to the Heritage Officers from Sunshine Coast and Noosa Libraries.

Warm thanks are due to members who handled the heat in the kitchen to provide the delicious Meals on Wheels morning tea and brewed coffee, those who set up the seating and handled the queues of book buyers (around \$1800 in sales). Images from the book scrolled on the big screen TV and photos were taken (thank you Paul, see left).

How to find the book: Head Office is kindly selling copies from the shop on their website: wildlife.org.au, and will post out a copy; bookshops across the Sunshine Coast and Noosa



The book production team of Roslyn Copas (indexer), Helen Kershaw (editor), Bevin Neil (designer), with Angela Marczi, Sunshine Coast Council's Cultural Heritage Officer. Our thanks to Matt Chadwick of EPM who came to our rescue when we needed to change printers.

Our congratulations and thank you to Jill Chamberlain 'for her outstanding contribution to Wildlife Queensland, to conservation and to the community'.



Jill with the Margaret Thorsborne Award, 2021

Healthy Land & Water report cards for water quality 2021:

<https://reportcard.hlw.org.au>

Maroochy and Pumicestone Passage waterways are rated B-, while Noosa continues on A-; but the environmental conditions are changing.

have been contacted (The Bookshop at Caloundra already has stock: Ph: 54 91 4836), and we have also been in touch with native plant nurseries, Noosa Parks Association and Mary Cairncross Reserve.

At the end-of-year get-together in Ben Bennett Bushland Park on Saturday 4 December there will be books for sale at \$35; we welcome your cash, however we will have direct deposit/netbanking details as well.

Faunawatch with Paul Smith

Surveys continue on Land for Wildlife lists, and new lists of sites for 2022 are in the pipeline from Council; grant funding has come through. Scott Burnett has been incorporating the new bat monitoring equipment in his surveys. Paul is hoping Healthy Land & Water will continue funds for Aura surveys next year. Paul was encouraged to apply for a Stockland Community Grant to conduct surveys and walks at the Blackbutt Forest site adjoining the Environmental Protection Zone, and we have just been notified that the application has been successful, so congratulations to him, and to Judy for her help as well.

Seventeen Faunawatchers recorded 46 bird species, evidence of Eastern grey kangaroos, and a number of insects at the recent Monday outing to the Jill Chamberlain Bushland Reserve at Little Mountain at Caloundra. Re-growth in the well-managed controlled burn areas is following with the rain.

See the side panel for Faunawatch outing dates in 2022.

Junior Wildlife Art Prize

We were unable to attend the meeting with the Friends of Caloundra Regional Gallery and Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanical Gardens staff and volunteers in November, however the Wild HeART steering group is busy organising. The CRG Friends will collect funds and create a form letter for potential sponsors. WPSQ has committed \$500, and we now need to identify those individual members also offering to donate small but appreciated amounts. We have proposed a separate category, the Kathleen McArthur Endangered Species prize, and permission has been received from her family. The WPSQ logo has been forwarded to the steering group, to be incorporated into publicity along with the Wild HeART logos in preparation by Council's graphic design team. The next meeting of the group is 1 February.

Pumicestone Passage Personal Water Craft Speed Limits

In September/October Take Action for Pumicestone Passage (TAPP) contacted a number of community groups regarding a proposed change in the speed limits for motorised craft in the northern end of the Pumicestone Passage. Twelve groups including WPSQ responded with their support.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
(*Coracina novaehollandiae*)

Other names include Blue Jay and Shufflingwing.

The Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike is one of Australia's most common birds and is found all over Australia and Tasmania. It lives in a wide range of habitats from rainforest, eucalypt forest and woodland, tree-lined rivers of the inland and farms, parks and home gardens. Widespread on the Sunshine Coast and South East Queensland, this one was photographed in Ben Bennett Bushland Park.

It is a slender, mid-grey cuckoo-shrike with a face that is black. In immature birds the black extends behind the eye and in the adult it also extends to the upper breast. The juvenile is similar to the immature but has mottling and barring on the head, breast and flank. Around 33 cm in length, the sexes are similar, with back, wings and tail blue-grey, underparts white, and tail white tipped. Eyes are dark brown and bill black.

Cuckoo-shrikes feed on insects caught mid-air or found in foliage, and small soft fruits such as mulberries and native figs. Breeding is August to February and the nest is a small bark and grass cup bound by cobwebs, usually located on a horizontal branch or fork 6-20 metres high.

It has a strong undulating flight and repeatedly shuffles its wings on landing, hence one of its common names.

The changes TAPP proposed included:

- reducing speed in the area north of Military Jetty to 20 knots (37KMP) instead of the current 40 knots (74KMP)
- extending the 6 knot (11KPH) zone (which currently incorporates the area 100 metres from the mainland shoreline) to include the shoreline of Bribie Island north of Bells Creek and that the speed in all of Bells Creek be reduced to 6 knots.

Although quite a few of the support letters, including our own, considered the reduction of speeds did not go far enough, TAPP deemed their proposal to be a start and a compromise acceptable to all groups. The TAPP submission was presented along with the twelve letters of support to the relevant State and Local Government personnel.

Last week Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) contacted TAPP with an alternative proposal. While the 40-knot limit has been reduced to 20 knots, their proposal hasn't limited the speed along the Bribie foreshore, and in Bells Creek it has reduced the speed in the lower reaches (mouth) only.

More detail about the TAPP and the MSQ proposals and how to respond to the MSQ proposal are on the TAPP website at:

<https://takeactionpumicestonepassage.com.au/news-about-pumicestone-passage/>

Birds with Jenny Gursanscky



