

CONSERVATION NEWS
June-July 2022

June meetings: Executive
Monday 13 June, 10 am at
President Anne's house;
General meeting Wednesday
15 June, 1 pm at the
house/garage of member Allan
McKay, 10 Kennedy Parade,
Golden Beach.

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



From the May Exec & General Meetings

Member survey revisited: We'll have another go at surveying members following just a handful of positive responses from active members and a kind offer from Head Office to format the survey in SurveyMonkey. This should allow an easier response, and we encourage members to have a go at a revised version when it is sent out in a few weeks.

Meeting timing:

Discussion produced no firm decisions on frequency or time of the day and week of meetings, with attendees offering varying solutions to the inevitable difficulty of settling on a time that suits most members and meets our constitutional requirements. However, a monthly General meeting is favoured to maintain momentum, with the third week in a month preferred and Thursday mornings a possibility. There was some support for holding the Executive and General meetings on the same day, and support also for the current arrangement of the Executive meeting a few days before the General meeting.

Venues:

The Power Boat Club is not favoured by some, and other venues such as the Indoor Bowls Club at Golden Beach are being investigated. Allan has kindly offered his garage for the June meeting (see side bar for details).

Faunawatch

Surveys: The last couple of Maroochy Botanical Gardens surveys have had to be cancelled due to severe weather. The Land for Wildlife surveys are due to be completed by the end of June. Cameras are in place and being monitored by Paul and Rob. The Blackbutt Forest surveys are also proceeding well. The Stockland grants team has been in touch about funding. A surplus remains from the Healthy Land and Water Aura funding, enough for another survey bloc, but future funding is unknown at present.

There has been no progress by Aura on signage in the Blackbutt forest, scheduled for November last year; frog walk progress is also delayed.

Kangaroos: Nick Clancy from Council's Land for Wildlife has advised contact with National Parks about the kangaroos on north Bribie; Nick seems confident they would relocate them, and also offered the name of a contact at QPWS. Adding Eastern grey kangaroos to Council's 'significant species' list would allow Council to add weight to arguments to preserve land and kangaroo habitat. Julie O'Connor (now ex-Council) has studied and reported on kangaroo road-kill patterns plus protection and risk reduction for kangaroos in the Council

Advance Dates

Sunday 5 June: World Environment Day get-together of local environmental and community groups. WPSQ will share a stall with Take Action for Pumicestone Passage.
Venue: Central Park at Spitfire Banks Drive, Pelican Waters, 9 am to 2 pm.

Monday 13 June, 10 am: Executive Meeting at President Anne's house, 2 Cormorant Court, Caloundra: (please come along if you'd like to contribute).

Wednesday 15 June, 1 pm General meeting at the house/garage of member Allan McKay, 10 Kennedy Parade, Golden Beach. Bring your own afternoon tea/thermos/cup and stay for a chat.

Sunday 26 June: World Environment Day self-guided walk at Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve; WPSQ members will assist Currimundi Catchment Care Group on an information booth in this area regenerated with native plants over nine years. See scec.org.au for WED details and bookings.

Faunawatch Outings

27 June, 8 am, Lamerough Creek

This walk follows the Creek into the Environmental Reserve, with a mix of Paperbark and Eucalypt forest and associated wildlife on this eastern side of Aura and Blackbutt Forest. Meet at the northern end (100) Tweddell Drive, Pelican Waters.

area. We will follow up to ensure this work progresses now she has left Council. Surveys by Elizabeth Brunton (ex-USC) are also available.

Motion from the meeting: Paul will contact Council to see what needs to be done to get Eastern grey kangaroos listed as a 'significant species' within the Sunshine Coast Council area, and report back to the Branch.

Faunawatch walks: The walk at Lamerough Creek on 23 May was cancelled due to rain and will take place in June. See Advance Dates for details and July and August locations.

Information on our major issues

Bribie Island breakthrough

Sue continues her research on historical weather events affecting the island and sand distribution in the Passage for her presentation at a Noosa Parks Association Friday Forum in July. The Jason Hunt (Caloundra MLA) Office has suggested we might like to repeat the presentation in Caloundra and offered their assistance with publicity.

Sue attended a meeting of the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Management Body (PPCMB), which is recruiting community group and individual members for their local knowledge. The aim of this Body is to work towards one voice for the Passage, from its southern to northern end, and to inform and streamline action within the layers of legislation at Federal (eg, RAMSAR Wetlands), State (eg, Marine Park) and Moreton and Sunshine Coast Council (permits) levels. Ken Mewburn (TAPP) presented a report, and noted:

'Pumicestone Passage and Catchment is currently regulated by 40 pieces of legislation and 80 policies all controlled by 15 different government departments. The intention of the Management Body is to streamline the management with a single point of contact and local input. It is not intended to diminish the rules applicable to management. It is also not intended to undermine the actions and operation of the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Network created in 2011 by the Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast Councils. The PPCMB will endeavour to create an Authority, based on a similar model to that of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority with around 80% of the Act for this Authority applicable to Pumicestone Passage.'

WPSQ Meeting with Jason Hunt, MLA for Caloundra

Jude, Helen and Jennie Curry met Jason and his assistant Charli at his office in Caloundra on 3 May. Matters discussed: **CTCU:** Jason is sympathetic to the arguments of 2LanesNot4 and to wildlife and habitat protection, but wants to see reduced congestion and is unwilling to support options that may put more traffic past schools and sports fields. In the interests of our request for accurate information being made available to the public on current and predicted traffic volumes, Charli will endeavour to source 'unit' counts on roads including the Nicklin Way, as well as information about the Energex easement. Caloundra Road roundabout conversion to traffic lights was discussed, including estimated costs of up to \$40 million. He understands that school bus transport

25 July, 8 am, Floydia Nature Reserve, West Woombye

Originally cleared farmland, this revegetated area now provides low open forest and lowland rainforest of over 300 species; there should be plenty of wildlife. Meet at White Cedar Place, 300 metres past Menary Lane.

22 August, 8 am, Fairview Walk, Wetland Section, North Maleny

We'll update observations made a few years ago in this revegetated area. Meet at Parklands Drive (via Porters Lane, 400 metres past Barung Landcare Native Nursery).

Second Wednesday Walks, 8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens continue 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November.

17 July, 9 am-1 pm (postponed from May): Aura Environment Day, Baringa Forest Park: shared event with TAPP & Healthy Land & Water. Possible walk with Paul. Further information closer to the date.

July: Noosa Parks Association Friday Forum, day TBA. Sue Aspland to present on the Bribie Island Breakthrough.

Wildflower Festival proposed dates (TBC):

Saturday 20 August: Ben Bennett Bushland Park

Tuesday 23 August: Mangrove boardwalk at Golden Beach

Thursday 1 September: Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve

Saturday 3 September: Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park

Blackbutt Forest at Aura is a possibility for next year.

(contracted out to private operators by Transport & Main Roads) is not been fully taken up by the public.

Bribie break-through: There is scope for another public meeting to cover State plans and actions.

Shelly Moffat Coastal Study: We expressed our concern that no further updates are available from Council.

Southern Sunshine Coast Transport Strategy/CAMCOS/ Lot 480/ Halls Creek: Jason had large scale maps of these natural areas and we discussed how these places link up, and the threat to their function and integrity from population growth and related infrastructure. Since the meeting, Jason's office has forwarded a response from the State Resources Department re Lot 480:

- Lot 480 is unallocated state land under the control of Department of Resources.
- This parcel of land is included in the Kabi Kabi First Nation native title claim negotiations.
- The lot is unable to be allocated a tenure until the claim has been determined, which is expected over the next 12 months.

Commercial development in National Parks: We passed on our concern that commercial developments in National Parks, eg. Cooloola, should not be approved, maintaining the cardinal principle of national parks as biodiversity preservation.

Ferny Forest: The delay in an announcement about logging of Ferny Forest near Ewen Maddock Dam indicates a move towards preserving the integrity of the forest prior to its scheduled declaration as a National Park.

Ben Bennett Bushland Park/Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade:

CTCU meeting: Emma Rees for Value Caloundra, Jackie Steele for Caloundra Residents Association and Jude for WPSQ met Leah McKenzie and Dimitri Scordalides from Transport & Main Roads, North Coast Region at Maroochydore on 19 May. TMR is keen to involve all three groups in a Community Reference Group. An 'options analysis' looking at number of lanes, etc, is to be commissioned *prior to* detailed design by the end of 2022. The Environmental Impact Statement is to be updated as part of the detailed design process. Energex is 'flexible' about how their infrastructure fits into the design. Speed limits and safe crossing and intersection design were discussed. The Caloundra Road roundabout signalisation is a priority, but is not in the current funding period. There is to be a project webpage, and media releases.

Inter-Urban Break meeting: John Roberts and Paul Harney from TAPP, Narelle McCarthy from SCEC and Jude representing WPSQ met with the team from Sunshine Coast Council tasked with protecting the Inter-Urban Break and putting the case for Beerwah East as an alternative to Halls Creek. They updated us on their work, indicating that there has been no response from State Government to date. Resolution of a Native Title claim and future of an HQ

Coast 4D: Jude attended a 'workshop' with Javier Leon from USC who is setting up a citizen science project using Turtlecare volunteers to map changes in beach profiles using advanced GPS techniques. Results may be relevant to turtle nesting conditions on Sunshine Coast beaches and on North Bribie. At present Council undertakes a survey twice a year, and Javier would like more data input covering the full year year.

10. Council's planned burns: Guy Morgan from Sunshine Coast Council is keeping us in the loop about planned cool burns in Ben Bennett Bushland Park, Jill Chamberlain Reserve, and other locations.

Elaine Green's *Piece by piece: conservation and development on the Sunshine Coast 1969-2020*

Catch up at a meeting or Faunawatch outing and buy your copy for just \$35.

Can't make it to a meeting or outing? Wildlife Qld is selling Elaine's book on their website and will post you a copy.

The Bookshop at Caloundra has stock: Ph: 54 91 4836) as do the native plant nurseries at Mooloolah River Landcare, Florabunda, Coolum Native Plants, and the centre at Mary Cairncross Reserve.

Or ask at your local bookshop; we are ready to stock their shelves in response to demand.

Plantation area is awaited. Stockland is pressuring the government re Hall's Creek access, however road infrastructure requires a Cabinet decision. Also discussed was the Comiskey Group's proposal for a music festival venue on the Roy's Farm site that borders Pumicestone Passage.

Other matters

For your young artists, don't forget the 17 July deadline for the **Wild HeART Student Art Prize**

<https://botanic-garden.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/See-and-do/Wild-HeART-Student-Art-Prize>

BRAD Recycling!

<https://banish.com.au/pages/recycling-program>

Here's a list of what you can pack off to Sydney for recycling into useful products (and receive a \$15 voucher to spend in their online shop – all sorts of sustainable stuff).

Beauty

- Toothpaste tubes, floss containers and old plastic toothbrushes
- Electric toothbrush heads
- Medical ointment tubes
- Hair gel tubes and caps
- Hair paste plastic jars and caps
- Lip balm tubes
- Face soap dispensers and tubes
- Lotion bottles, tubes, dispensers, and jars
- Shaving foam tubes (no cans)
- Plastic razors and blades
- Lip gloss tubes
- Mascara tubes
- Eye liner pencils and cases
- Eye shadow tubes
- Concealer tubes and sticks
- Medical blister packs

Household

- Filters
- Spray or pump from cleaning products
- Coffee pods
- Plastic bottle top lids
- Single use coffee cups and lids
- Party supplies and dining disposables (single-use cutlery and straws)
- Prescription drug packaging (blister packs)
- Plastic bread tags
- Writing pens, highlighters, biros and markers
- Correction fluid pots and tape (empty only)

**Eastern Sedgefrog
(*Litoria fallax*)**

The Eastern Sedgefrog, sometimes called the Dwarf Tree Frog, is a small species of tree frog approximately three centimetres in length. It can vary considerably in colour from pale brown to green, with a distinctive white jaw stripe and dark band that runs between the nostril and eye, and a bright orange thigh. Found coastally from north Queensland to southern New South Wales, it is also known as 'the banana frog', as specimens frequently become accidental travellers in banana bunches and other plants and produce. Living in a wide range of habitats – although not rainforest – it is generally found on vegetation around water bodies. It is common in suburban gardens on the Queensland coast, particularly when there is a nearby source of water.

Eggs are laid in small clumps on the surface of the water and attached to aquatic vegetation. Its call is a long 'wreeek' followed by two 'pips'.

This Eastern Sedgefrog was photographed at the edge of the pond in Ben Bennett Bushland Park in Caloundra.

Frogs with Jenny Gursanscky

