

WAMBALIMAN

The newsletter of the
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
Fraser Coast Branch



THIS ISSUE:

- Annual Branch Report for 2020-2021
- Quarterly Activity Report
- Nature Walks
- Library Talks
- Ecotourism for Cooloolo NP
- Flying Fox management

SPRING 2021

WAMBALIMAN since 1967

In the language of the Butchulla people, who are custodians of land that includes the Fraser Coast, 'wambaliman' means 'to carry', and refers to the messages that the Newsletter is communicating.



**WILDLIFE PRESERVATION
SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND**

known informally as

WILDLIFE QUEENSLAND

FRASER COAST BRANCH

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SCHEME

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contact Phone: 0428 980 019

Nature Walks

The committee—John Williams, Frank Ekin, Sam Raveneau, Max Hunter, Cassy Ironside

Contact John if you want to be on mailing list for the walks information

john.williams17@bigpond.com, 0428 980 019

Library Talks

Organised by Diane Christensen

Bookings—FCRC website / Library

Backyard Bioblitz

The committee—Vanessa Elwell-Gavins, Scott Gavins, Tony van Kampen

Contact Vanessa

vanessa.egavins@gmail.com, 0428 624366

Wildlife Matters—articles in local papers

Organised by-

Diane Christensen and Ruby Rosenfield

Diane dianec.49@hotmail.com, 0418 884 917

Ruby coryndennett1@dodo.com.au, 41234765

Schools Program

The committee—Diane Christensen, Lesley Bradley, Jane Barnes, Linden Alston, Cassy Ironside, Josie Morphett

Contact Diane (as above)

Fundraising

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Contact John (as above)

Membership—Jenni Watts

EAG & MLES rep—Vanessa Elwell-Gavins

Facebook—Peter Duck

Newsletter Wambaliman

Publisher: WPSQ Fraser Coast Branch

Editor & Production: Jenni Watts

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USC Partnership - Vanessa Elwell-Gavins, Sara Gerdson, Carol Bussey, Rodney Jones, Bruce Dick, Cassy Ironside

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WAMBALIMAN

e-copy in colour
hardcopy in black and white

Let us know if you want the e-copy only.

Contributions for Wambaliman

We welcome contributions from WPSQ members and supporters. Articles can take the form of reports, observations of nature, anecdotes, quotes, humour and so on. Send contributions to:

ggduckz@gmail.com

**Submissions for the next issue
are due by Friday 21 January 2022**

Opinions expressed in Wambaliman are not necessarily those endorsed by the Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland, Fraser Coast Branch unless specifically attributed to them.

What's On

contacts for activities page 2

Branch meetings

Usually - 3rd Sunday bi-monthly 2:00pm
Halcro St Community Centre, Pialba
Next one—November 21

END OF YEAR BREAK-UP

ARKARRA TEA GARDENS

Sunday 5 December 8am-
(see page 5)

NATURE WALKS

WONGI STATE FOREST
SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

WILDLIFE TALKS IN THE LIBRARY 1-2PM

Cultural burning

-Boyd Blackman & Conway Burns (QPWS)
15 October—Hervey Bay
29 October—Maryborough

Plastic pollution and turtles.

-Dr Kathy Townsend
19 November Hervey Bay
26 November Maryborough.

Bookings essential—see FCRC website

Anarra Wildlife Rescue Workshop

Sunday 24 October

(See page 17)

**FRASER COAST
SPRING BACKYARD BIOBLITZ
Weekend 23–24 October**

Don't forget to LIKE us on

www.facebook.com/

[WPSQFraserCoast](https://www.facebook.com/WPSQFraserCoast)

Check out our page on

<https://wildlife.org.au/fraser-coast/>

From the Executive



Executive members for 2021-22.

From left: Bruce, John, Pat, Peter and Tina. Absent: Kris and Jacky.

It is with pleasure that I introduce the new executive to you. The recent AGM marked a turning point for the Branch with Vanessa taking a step away from her pivotal role in the Branch. She has been our most prominent member in the last eight years, serving as Secretary for five years and President for three. Such was her pre-eminence that there were a few nervous nellys that doubted our Branch could survive in a post-Vanessa era. It even filtered through to head office, with State President Peter Ogilvie writing to our members in a very pessimistic manner. Later Peter wrote and acknowledged the good work of the Branch and that he was reassured about our future.

The new Executive has two continuing stalwarts in John Williams and Bruce Dick ready to steady the ship, two returning former Executive members in Tina Raveneau and myself, and three enthusiastic new bloods in Pat Currie, Kris Page and Jacky Withy. Pat and Kris have been members for some time, and Jacky joined the Branch early last year.

Also encouraging is the number of additional members (including three younger members) stepping up to take on non-executive roles, complementing the talent pool we already have performing an extraordinary range of tasks. The year ahead is shaping as another busy one for our Branch. There appears to be plenty of opportunity for the Branch to contribute purposefully to the broader debate around the protection of wildlife and the health of the natural environment.

While much of what we do as a Branch is about the cause of nature conservation, and at times can be challenging and not without disappointments, we should not underestimate the value of the camaraderie, networking, and personal support that our group provides. To this end, in 2022 the Central Branches Get-together we are due to host will be an opportunity to demonstrate these values. If you want to be part of the team looking at planning the event (location, program, food and more) let me know. It usually is held around August or September, a nice time for other Branches to visit the Fraser Coast.



At our November meeting we have a couple of items that require resolution. One is a motion for the Branch to donate \$1000 that was fundraised several years ago for Koala conservation to the University of Queensland's Koala monitoring program at Tandora, and there is also a proposal that our Branch re-affiliate with Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council.

Hope to see many of you at our end of year break-up at Arkarra Tea Gardens on Sunday 5 December. After we are finished with the festivities, we'll have a look at the newly installed memorial seat overlooking Arkarra Lagoons. The seat celebrates over fifty years of nature conservation on the Fraser Coast, honouring the contribution of the Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Fraser Coast Branches of WPSQ. It was funded from Joan Coult's bequest. Special thanks to Vanessa and Jenni for seeing the project through to this gratifying culmination.

✱*Peter Duck*



END OF YEAR BREAK-UP

Sunday 5 December 8am - 10am at the Tea Gardens
afterwards walk, talk, birding and botanising in the wetlands

10am group photo opportunity at the new seat!!

RSVP Jackie jikihen.7@gmail.com or 0407 172 874

WELCOME TO NEW BRANCH MEMBER Susan Lane

WILDLIFE MATTERS-Budding wildlife writers needed!

Our Branch is a regular contributor to several local publications including the glossy magazine **The Fraser Coast Beacon**, local papers, **Hervey Bay Advertiser** and **The Maryborough Sun** and smaller local news sheets.

Members are invited to submit articles for consideration by our editorial team. For a copy of the criteria or information contact Diane or Ruby (see page 2)



Vanessa, as Branch president, presented the third of our \$500 annual awards to USC student Ben Mackereth in August.

Ben is a mature age student enrolled in his third year of a Bachelor of Animal Ecology. He is a dedicated student, with a current GPA of 6.8 (out of a possible 7.0), and a very worthy recipient of the prize.

Please pass on our thanks to all members of Wildlife Qld Fraser Coast for your support of USC and our students.

Kind regards Melissa Price USC

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE BRANCH 2020-21

Fraser Coast Branch managed to have a successful year, largely unmarred by the lockdowns and restrictions experienced by so many people elsewhere in Queensland, and interstate. Our membership base has oscillated, but overall has remained comparatively stable. We had already moved to bi-monthly general meetings and have now experimented successfully with out-of-session decision-making.

We started the financial year, post the initial 2020 Covid lockdown, with a social bang on a golden July afternoon: afternoon tea outdoors at Arkarra Tea Gardens with an optional walk around the lovely melaleuca wetlands at Arkarra Lagoons. Arkarra was reserved by Council about 20 years ago, in part because of the lobbying efforts of our Branch. It's a rewarding site for bird-watching, frogging and spot-lighting.

Our signature activity, the *nature walks*

program, restarted in August 2020 after its lock-down lull, and has continued to be a wonderful source of energy and information as we explore our local environment. Destinations were varied and unfailingly interesting. The walks team of Tina Raveneau (2020), John Williams, Frank Ekin, and now Sam Raveneau has done a wonderful job, with walks meticulously researched and well-marked with Frank's sometimes annotated pink tape to keep (mainly) the botanical and birding laggards from going astray. The walks program continues to be our biggest recruiter of new members.

Peter Duck and Jenni Watts ran an outstanding 'mangroves walk' as part of Council's 'World Wetlands Day Month' in February. This attracted over 50 people so a repeat was organised.

We continued our quarterly *Backyard Bioblitzes*, instigated in May 2020 while we were in Covid lockdown, and they

have maintained a core of dedicated participants. As this program relies on participants' ability to use a camera and upload images (and/or recordings) onto the iNaturalist website, we offered an introductory workshop at the end of April, delivered by the organising committee (Charmaine Savage, Tony van Kampen and Scott Gavins) to help folk gain the necessary skills. It's a great way to find out more about the rich diversity of life around us - and to develop a profound respect for people who can take great photos of birds and other things that rarely stay still.

With limitations on numbers allowed indoors, our perennially popular *Library talks* program did not resume until May 2021, when it hit the ground running in both Hervey Bay Library and Maryborough Library. Diane Christensen has done a great job devising an interesting program.

Our *Schools* program has continued, but was affected by the inability of our schools to accept visitors until recently. Thanks are again due to Diane, and to her Schools team.

Perhaps the most 'important' feature of our work this year has revolved around participating in consultations for several important 'planning' projects: the *review of Council's 2014 Planning Scheme*, Council's *Coastal Futures* Project and the review of the (State Government auspiced) *Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan*. These all involved meetings and submission-writing. I am very grateful to those members who participated in meetings and provided comments on draft submissions. I took over from Peter Duck in representing the Branch on Council's Environment Advisory Group, and we also participated in consultations on the Tiaro By-Pass and the windfarm proposed for

the pine plantations between Maryborough and Gympie.

There was a round of letters too, mainly to Fraser Coast Regional Council, addressing poor and declining water quality in urban wetlands, appalling management of a large resident kangaroo population when land was cleared for development on Dougan St in Point Vernon, removal of foreshore native vegetation by local residents to enhance their water views, an off-leash dog park in a sensitive area...

Thanks to a generous bequest to the Branch in 2020, we have modified and expanded our partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast. We will now sponsor two students of Wildlife Ecology to conduct their Honours projects in 2022, one on Eastern Grey Kangaroos in urbanising environments, and one on greater gliders in our region. Branch discussions and the decision to support these projects, project scoping and leg-work occurred in 2020-21. One project is now under contract, with both expected to start in 2022. Carol Bussey, Sara Gerdson, Bruce Dick and I have led the 'negotiating team' working with USC staff.

Spoiler alert: The Branch did have a USC prize-winner for 2020, advised only after the end of 2020-21. Ben Mackereth was the successful first-year student of Wildlife Ecology (in 2019) who won the Branch's final \$500 prize. Due to Covid the prize was not physically awarded in 2020 as it would have been in normal circumstances. Ben had to wait till August 2021 (after this reporting period) to receive it!

Thanks to the initiative and energy of Vice-President John Williams, ably assisted from time to time by Pat Currie and Jane Barnes, we have successfully raised funds through a regular raffle at the Beach House Hotel.

Communications continue to be important. Our quarterly journal, *Wambaliman*, is much appreciated and well supported with contributions. Many thanks to editor, Jenni Watts, for maintaining a consistently high quality 'look and feel' to *Wambi*.

Peter Duck has ably continued to manage our *Facebook page* which is regularly seen by a large number of 'followers'. It appears to reach a different, presumably younger demographic from our 'normal' one.

Our *Wildlife Matters* columns have become a feature each month in the region's free newspapers. These have proliferated since the closure of the regional Newscorp papers during 2020. Thanks to Carol Bussey and now Diane Christensen and Ruby Rosenfield for keeping these going.

As for the future, there is a clear on-going need for the Branch to try and keep all levels of government, particularly our Council, honest when it comes to development, which is proceeding apace across Fraser Coast, particularly in the coastal zone. A key problem is not the quality of the planning scheme or Council policies and local laws per se, but a failure to implement them, or to apply any penalties to developers and residents who flout them.

I want to particularly thank my fellow Executive members John Williams, Kerry Alston and Bruce Dick for their dedication and support during 2020-21, and our many other members who have cheerfully and ably taken on diverse tasks and/or participated in our program during 2020-21. Special mention and thanks should also go to Jenni Watts for her services as Assistant Treasurer for managing our finances and preparing our annual budget, and to Jackie Henrion for various admin support roles.

It has been a very great privilege for me to serve Fraser Coast Branch and our local wildlife over the last eight years through being on the Executive, submission and letter writing, and various other roles. The Branch has never been needed more, and the road forward sometimes seems steeper than ever, but I do feel that we are (sometimes) being listened to, perhaps even with a bit of respect. I firmly believe that no-one is indispensable, though, and that it is now time for an injection of fresh energy and ideas to enable the Branch - and our wildlife - to prosper in the future.

✿ *Vanessa Elwell-Gavins, President*

Branch logo and shirt options



• *The original colour and design chosen was a "Bizcool" – all acrylic – Wasabi coloured polo \$24 and an extra \$6 if you want a pocket . (from Morgans)*

Other options include:

- *Cotton (65%) blend shirt in apple green.*
- *"Claremont" 95% cotton shirt in apple green is available from BullAnt Designs in Pialba - \$30 with the logo.*
- *You can get the logo on any shirt for \$9.50 at Morgans Sewing*

Branch shirt for sale: brand new, small - medium \$25 Ph. 0418 884 917

Branch Activity Report July-October 2021



All looking very efficient and interested in the AGM—Cassy, The outgoing Executive—Vanessa, Bruce, John and Kerry, and new volunteers—Max and Pat.

Another busy quarter for my final activity report! As always, many thanks to all those who organised, contributed to or participated in the work of our Branch during this rather busy quarter.

Submissions and correspondence

- We made a submission to Council as part of the review of local laws. Several members attended community or stakeholder consultations on the local laws.
- We made a submission to the federal Government on the Draft Koala Recovery Plan for Queensland, NSW and the ACT.
- We wrote to the Australia Koala Foundation to ask about koala habitat mapping in the Fraser Coast and had a gratifyingly immediate and positive response.

Communications

- Winter Wambaliman was published in July.
- Wildlife Matters, the monthly newspaper column in the free Fraser Coast community newspapers has continued
- Our Facebook page continues to be viewed by lots of people.
- I took advantage of an opportunity to speak about wildlife issues on Radio FM107.5 on 23 August

Branch Meetings

- The Executive met on 22 July, mainly to discuss succession planning and the AGM in September, approve assets to sell, give away or write off, and keep ourselves up-to-date with Branch finances including considering what should be in a draft 2021-22 Budget and possible 2020-21 cash flow needs.
- The Branch held a general meeting on Sunday 15 August.
- The 2021 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 19 September, with a new Executive being successfully elected. The guest speaker was Lindsay Titmarsh, talking about the University of Queensland koala re-homing project
- A short general meeting followed the AGM
- The new Executive met on 10 October

Branch Social Get-together

In place of a July meeting members were invited to a guided walk in Parraweena Park, Point Vernon. Our Branch (through a grant) helped fund the cost of bollards on the walking track and new signage some 12 months ago. The walk / talk was followed by afternoon tea. 34 members and friends attended. (see page 16)

Nature walks

Three excellent nature walks combining the 'old' and the 'new' were held this quarter:

- Saturday 7 August: Glastonbury west of Gympie, combined with a visit to David and Paula Rowland's ANARRA property a few km west of the first walk site, where we saw lots of gliders, wallabies and possums in care, a koala, a small koala food tree plantation and had a great walk up a rainforest gully on the property. These were new sites for our nature walkers.

- Sunday 5 September: Burrum River section of the Burrum Coast National Park

- Saturday 2 October: Pirri Reserve at Booral

Library talks

- Friday 16 July: another Alan Peebles wildlife video at the Hervey Bay Library

- Friday, 30 July: our very own Ruby Rosenfield talking about interesting insects at the Maryborough Library

- The planned talk on sharks on Friday 13 August by Dr Bonnie Holmes from University of the Sunshine Coast (Sippy Downs campus on the Sunshine Coast) was cancelled

- Friday 20 August: Jess Dean talking about the Mary River Cod at the Hervey Bay Library was cancelled

- Friday, 27 August: our very own John Williams talking about his Indian Myna work at the Maryborough Library

- Friday 17 September: Tina Ball from Department of Environment and Science (DES) talking about crocodiles at the Hervey Bay Library

Friday 24 September: Penny Flaherty also from DES talking about crocodiles at the Maryborough Library

Other activities/ happenings

- The Winter Backyard Bioblitz was held on the weekend of 31 July-1 August 2021. Twenty observers that weekend made 200 observations of 151 species, including Lace Monitors, various butterflies and birds. The most commonly observed species was *Litoria fallax* (Eastern Dwarf Treefrog)

- I attended Council's Environment Advisory Group meeting on 23 July (see separate report)

Fund-raising

- John Williams has continued his terrific fund-raising efforts at the Beach House Hotel with weekly raffles. We will give the Hotel a certificate of appreciation.

- We encourage you to contribute to our container deposit fundraiser

USC Partnership

In August I attended the awards ceremony for 2020 and 2021 for USC student prize-winners, and was delighted to be able to present our final (of three years) \$500 prize to Ben Mackereth, the outstanding first year Wildlife Ecology student for 2019.

Carol, Sara, Bruce and I had another Zoom hook-up with Beth Brunton and Romane Cristescu from USC, Matt Cecil from WPSQ head office and Rachel Lyons to discuss the proposed Honours student Greater Glider project.

I have now signed the contracts with USC for both the Eastern Grey Kangaroo project and the Greater Glider project, with both projects now expected to start in 2022.

✱ *Vanessa Elwell-Gavins*

STOP PRESS

Matters of Local Environmental Significance (MLES) Expert Panel

As part of its Planning Scheme Review, FCRC is undertaking a MLES project. An integral part of this project is the formation of an Expert Panel to provide input into the special MLES values across the Council region and to review biodiversity corridor mapping outputs.

Vanessa Elwell-Gavins has been accepted onto the MLES Expert Panel, representing our Branch. Several other Branch members are also on the panel as individuals. The first of two workshops will be Monday, 18 October 2021.

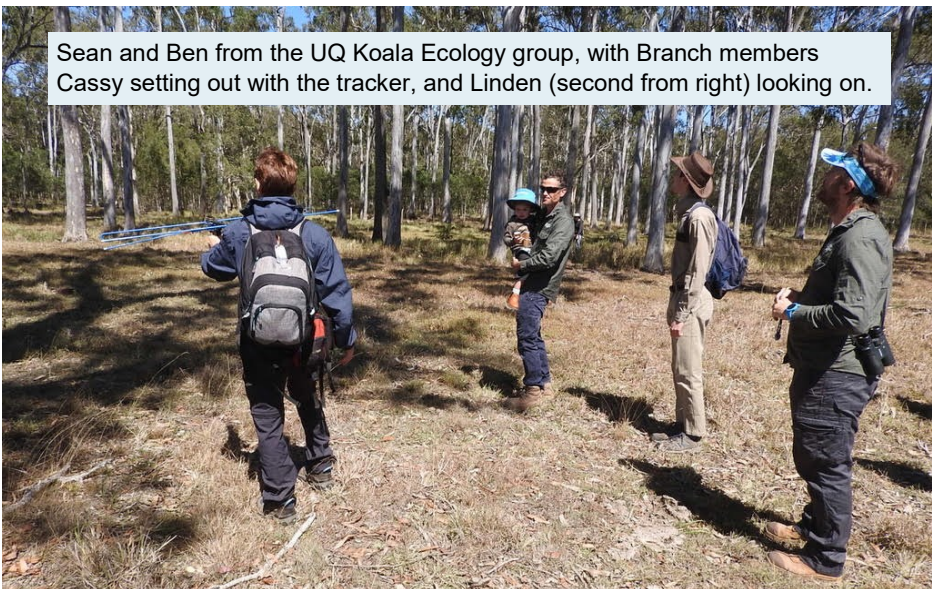
Kit, one of the original koalas released at Tandora, is showing off her solar-powered tag on her collar with its unique code enabling her to be tracked from up to 1 km away. It's still a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack but it works very well!

Six Branch members were lucky enough to meet with the University of Queensland Koala Ecology Group koala monitoring team at Tandora on 15 September, for an hour or two of koala tracking. Using the tracking equipment we located two koalas. The tracking equipment was vital in such a large landscape! Even so, one of the koalas was still quite tricky to see, high up in her tree.

✿ *Vanessa Elwell-Gavins*



Sean and Ben from the UQ Koala Ecology group, with Branch members Cassidy setting out with the tracker, and Linden (second from right) looking on.



Environment Advisory Group

I attended the second EAG meeting for 2021 in Maryborough on Friday 23 July, chaired by Cr David Lewis.

Having started discussions at the previous meeting, this meeting was able to finalise and pass several important motions for Council consideration:

1. Council to consider implementation of the methodology that was used by South East QLD Koala Conservation Strategy as part of the planning scheme review.
2. That Council develops a discussion paper on opportunities to allocate adequate, reliable, and ongoing funding to all aspects of the environmental planning, management, and delivery. It should include the benefits and challenges of reintroducing an environmental levy to be applied to all rateable properties of the Fraser Coast, a green infrastructure fund and other budget planning strategies.
3. The Environmental Advisory Group provides their support to the development of an Environmental Strategy that includes a subordinate Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan.
4. The Environmental Advisory Group recommends that Council establishes a prioritisation framework for strategic investment in the acquisition of environmentally significant land. In the interim the Environmental Advisory Group recommends the acquisition of strategic environment land in the next budget.
5. The Environmental Advisory Group recommends that Council reinstate a dedicated Environmental Planner to oversee and review all environmental and biodiversity related reports and to monitor development implementation and compliance to approved conditions.

The group was also informed of the recent Council resolution to *'elect to produce a discussion paper to define the extent of impacted wildlife, and where Council can potentially provide support for wildlife rescue and response.'* with discussion focusing on the requirements of the discussion paper's intent.

Members received updates on the Coastal Futures project and the review of the planning scheme, and discussed several other matters:

- need for greater oversight for high conservation values within utility easements
- draft revision of the existing Tree Management Policy to include protection of trees on rural roads
- Draft *Respecting our Natural Environment* brochures developed by Tina Raveneau in collaboration with a local artist and environmental education consultant.
- Draft Water Supply Security Strategy, draft Recycled Water Strategy and Biosolid Strategy, all of which are available for feedback on Council's engagement hub
- review of the Mary Basin Water Plan
- collation of all environmental values of Point Vernon as a pilot project, in response to numerous issues raised by the community and the strong potential for impact on the natural environment
- Council has some funding to track feral animals, including feral cats outside urban areas
- Approximately 600 African tulip trees have been found in the region, of which about 50 are on Council managed land. Council is taking a methodical approach to their removal and also developing a business case for their management. Broad Leafed Pepper Trees are also being targeted for removal.

✿ *Vanessa Elwell-Gavins*

Urgent action needed!!

Ecotourism project for the Cooloola Great Walk

From: *Susan Riddett* <secretary@cooloolacoastcare.org.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 August 2021

Recently, you may have heard about the Ecotourism project being implemented for the Cooloola Great Walk. A private company will be leasing sections of the National Park to build accommodation on these leases. This project entails building:

- *three high-end glamping tent sites comprised of six 24m² eco-tents and a larger tent for communal gathering, cooking and dining; and
- *two luxury cabin sites comprised of ten 38m² cabins and a communal structure for gathering, cooking and dining.

These sites will be owned and operated by a third party, for-profit company called CABN. Initially, access to these high end sites will be limited to people who pay upwards of \$5,000 for three to five day guided tours. One of the glamping sites is adjacent to the Noosa River and a section of patterned fens. One of the luxury cabin sites will be placed adjacent to Poona Lake and the other will be placed on top of Double Island Point.

Many of you may want to have your say or just would like further information about this development. The Queensland Department of Environment and Science is still taking public submissions on the Cooloola Great Walk Ecotourism Project by email at ecofacilities@des.qld.gov.au. There is no set format for submissions, just send your comments in an email or as an attached pdf. Comments are open until "late 2021".

Below are links to other reference materials that will give you additional information:

[Cooloola Great Walk Ecotourism Project Page](#)
[Why You Need to Do the Cooloola Great Walk](#)
[Folder of Documents Collected by Coastcare Members](#)

For those who are opposed to this project going ahead inside the National Park, you can sign the e-petition started by a concerned citizen in opposition below and send it to anyone you know who might be interested.

Read about it at [E-Petition Rationale and Details](#)

some interesting reading:

Turtles and Plastics

['Game changing' study of turtles and plastics on Great Barrier Reef - ABC News](#)

ABC Wide Bay by Johanna Marie - Posted Sun 5 Sep 2021

Mining in the Wide Bay Burnett

[Mixed views on mining in the Wide Bay Burnett, as talk of coking-coal project resumes - ABC News](#)

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome - call for Citizen Scientists!

A recent University of Sydney webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=dOPYfz7aHl8> looks at Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome which affects mostly Rainbow Lorikeets in a specific geographical location – northern NSW and SE Qld (north to Monto/Bundaberg). Previously thought to be a transmittable virus there is now speculation that it may be linked to plant toxin. The University is calling on citizen scientists to make observations to help them. Go to <https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/our-research/research-areas/veterinary-science/lorikeet-paralysis-syndrome-project.html>



Queensland's Threatened Species Crisis: Landmark Report Prompts Calls for Change for Flying Fox Roost Management

MEDIA RELEASE-13 October 2021

Today sees the release of a landmark report highlighting the impacts of the Queensland Government's Flying Fox Roost Management laws. Half of all flying fox species in Queensland are listed as threatened species, but the current laws allow for potentially harmful dispersals and disruptions to roosts with no environmental assessments at all.

'Along with the insights on roost management, this carefully researched report provides a clear direction of how to correct the current flying fox management strategies to arrest the decline in flying fox populations, and the report is strongly supported by Wildlife Queensland,' said Des Boyland, Wildlife Queensland's Policies and Campaigns Manager. Furthermore, the report also addresses various misunderstandings and misconceptions that have posed barriers to coexistence over time.'

As this landmark report was released, the Australian Government also released a proposal to axe 184 recovery plans from the federal legislature, abolishing any requirement to recover populations of

threatened species and effectively walking away from their legal responsibilities to prevent extinction and biodiversity loss. Included among the scrapped recovery plans is the Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Plan, despite this Endangered species being a keystone pollinator and seed disperser for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Cairns and Far North Environment Centre facilitated the gathering of First Nations Australians, conservation groups, animal rights groups and land managers across Queensland to call for change.

'United, we are calling for the Queensland Government to have implemented a new framework for roost management and have it operational by December 2022. Additionally, we are calling for the Australian Government to keep all recovery plans and to properly fund the recovery of threatened species to reverse the current extinction trend.'

The report by the Environmental Defenders Office and Cairns and Far North Environment Centre provides key recommendations to the State Government to establish a modern framework. With case stud-

ies from First Nations Australians, scientists, conservationists and wildlife carers, the report demonstrates the impact of the laws on the spectacled flying fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), which may now require relisting as Critically Endangered. The species is on an extinction pathway, and current laws are increasing stressors, rather than acting for its recovery.

‘The spectacled flying fox is not the only threatened species in Queensland. In South East Queensland, three flying fox species navigate the night sky — the black, the little red and the vulnerable grey-headed flying fox,’ adds Boyland. Grey-headed flying foxes are distributed along Australia’s south-eastern coastline. ‘Only a small portion of this range is occupied at any one time as this species travels over 60km foraging for food, pollinating various plant species and dispersing seeds along the way. No wonder they have been called flying gardeners, as they perform priceless environmental services. Yet these vulnerable species are subject to Damage Mitigation Permits (DMPs).’

The essential role flying foxes play in ensuring biodiversity and regeneration of our forests cannot be overstressed. UNESCO sites, such as the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Gondwana Rainforest Reserves, rely on flying foxes for pollination and dispersal services. Now, groups across the state are working for the recovery of flying foxes and calling for state and federal governments to ensure they are also acting in the best interests of conserving these essential species.

‘It could be construed that the Palaszczuk Government’s recent Flying-Fox Roost Management – Local Government Grants Program indicates a level of concern for flying fox welfare,’ says Boyland. ‘However, commitments given years ago have not been delivered upon. The state government needs to do more. Repealing the local government authority to manage roosts and stopping the issuance of DMPs would be a step in the right direction.’

✳️ *Des Boyland,*

**Policies and Campaign Manager,
Wildlife Preservation Society of QLD**

Sign our petition calling on Bunnings to stop selling rodent poison products that are killing native birds and wildlife

[BirdLife Australia - Rat Poison — Act for Birds](#)

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) kill not only the rats and mice they are targeting, but also any bird or other animal that might eat a dead or dying rodent. This secondary poisoning is much less likely with first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) as they break down in the rodent’s body very quickly.

There is mounting evidence that native birds like Southern Boobooks and threatened species like Powerful Owls are being severely impacted by SGAR poisoning.

BirdLife Australia has previously called for use of these products to be strictly limited to licensed professionals, but a review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority last year failed to deliver stronger regulation.

***Dr Holly Parsons, Urban Bird Program Manager, BirdLife Australia,
conservation@birdlife.org.au***

Branch Social / Walk—Parraweena Park 18 July

We were new to Australia in 1975. Somehow, on a holiday from Brisbane and without Satnav or Google maps, we managed to go camping at Carnarvon Gorge and later along a largely gravel road to Hervey Bay. We noticed the foreshore, the scattering of trees and the rainbow lorikeets. Some of the shops back then still exist. But little did we imagine that we would settle in this region and little did we imagine the struggles that would ensue in order to preserve small areas of the natural environment that makes Hervey Bay unique.

It is heartening then to visit Parraweena Park, (Parraweena meaning parrot's nesting place), at Point Vernon. In the 50s-80s a family sought to preserve and enhance not only their extensive property but the adjoining public land. Although the private land was eventually given over to housing, some 0.58 hectares of the subdivision was added to the 5.1 hectares of public land, all of which is now Parraweena Park.

Over the decades, Council reduced mowing thus allowing natural regrowth and undertook various replanting projects. Parraweena Park has matured, and its value is being appreciated more and more by walkers, cyclists and those who appreciate the tranquility of a remnant of Hervey Bay's natural environment.

In July 2021, Jenni and Peter led a group of 34 people around the Park. The history was explained in greater detail, including the Council's draft management plan from 2005. Most importantly we heard that local residents have joined the Friends of Parraweena Park (A Council Community Environment Program).

Jenni and Peter explained some of the intriguing marvels in the Park. *Melaleuca dealbata* which is a locally threatened species is slow growing with little regener-

ation. The Tuckeroo was pointed out and that it hosts multiple lichens and at times hundreds of butterflies, likewise the Burny Vine hosts the Purple Crow butterfly, the Passion vines host the Glasswing butterfly, and the Forest Grape hosts the beautiful Joseph's Coat Moth. The Kurrajong plays host to Tailed Emperor and White-banded Plane butterflies. So, it was emphasized that a single plant is a home for multiple forms of natural life.

We saw the splendid Hoop Pine which Peter explained provided timber for housing. A few examples of classic Queensland trees: Ironbark, Bloodwood, Blue Gum, Moreton Bay Ash and Rock Fig were seen.

Not only does the mixed habitat encourage beneficial insects but also habitat for birds. Indeed in the area some 70 plus species can be sighted in a few hours.

It is an enormous credit to local residents who combined into Friends of Parraweena Park that the Park survives and thrives. Pedestrian paths have been mowed and marked with yellow capped stakes to make for easy access to this largely natural remnant area. Now, this jewel is enjoyed by many walkers and cyclists at Point Vernon and adds so much to the attractiveness and value of Point Vernon.

To finish our intriguing visit, Jenni and Peter treated us to afternoon tea, cake and biscuits while we sat and gazed across the landscape, foreshore and beautiful Gataker's Bay. We should reflect and thank those, who over the decades, have sought and succeeded to preserve this small area of natural environment for everyone to enjoy and encourage the local CEP members on their wonderful effort. **Frank Ekin*



Do you want to help rescue and care for injured, sick or orphaned wildlife?

ANARRA Wildlife Rescue is hosting two introductory workshops in Maryborough on Sunday 24th October 2021 which are an essential first step to become a wildlife rescuer/carer.

WILDLIFE RESCUE WORKSHOP

free for ANARRA members
\$20 for non members.

Contact ANARRA

anarrawildlife@gmail.com

or call 0408 170 102

Nature Walk—Anarra Wildlife Rescue, Glastonbury 7 August

The name Glastonbury conjures up images of old rural settings, perhaps with mountains and streams too. Indeed, it is this image that greeted the Nature Walkers when meeting at Glastonbury Campground.

The rugged, largely gravel road runs through hilly country, small farms, and mature forest. Glastonbury Creek runs into the Mary River west of Gympie. It borders the Glastonbury Campground after one turns off the Wide Bay Highway onto Petersen's Rd.

The group met at the campground; some having spent the night there sparing an early rise to do the 1hr 40min drive from Hervey Bay. Sam led the way on the first walk which was a well-marked and trodden path through a section of magnificent trees. While the colour, diversity and the size of the trees were impressive, a closer eye saw the severe infestation of Cat's Claw Creeper smothering very many of the trees. Indeed, some called that section Cat's Claw Forest. Cat's Claw is a rampant and aggressive climber which can overwhelm even the biggest trees. Sam's knowledge was tested by the questions he fielded.

There was an area of bare rock exposed by soil erosion. This in turn was likely to have resulted from former forest vehicles.

Had CJ brought his geological hammer he could have told us a lot more about the exposed rock. The point he made was that the exposed rock was covered in a myriad of different lichens and microscopic vegetation preventing a geologist making a full identification and thus geological history.

The route took us past several hollowed rocks a metre or so high. Judging by the disturbed ground and floor within the hollows they seemed to be some animal's home, possibly an echidna.

This 2.5km walk finished back at the campground in time for morning tea. Being remote and without an ablution block and laid-on electricity, the campground was spared luxury caravans and large shiny 4WDs along with attendant audio players. It was a most pleasant place for long morning tea.

Then we drove on to David and Paula's property (Currum Gundu Dhar—Butchulla language meaning Wild Home Land) which is the hub for the Australian Native Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation Association (ANARRA) Wildlife Rescue operations. We followed John's rural instructions, that is, turn left, cross four cattle grids, and look out for a notice. He knew there were three words on the notice though he did not know what they were,

but guessed they were Aboriginal words. Being a new Australian and aware there are something like 400 Aboriginal languages and that I did not know any of them, it was lucky we found David and Paula Rowland's property.

This was a revelation. David led us around a succession of cages and runs of different sizes and shapes to accommodate the various animal and bird species in rehabilitation. David's presentation was clearly that of someone who had enormous experience and knowledge of local fauna and sadly animal trauma too. It was evident that Paula and David had made a huge effort in construction of the place. Not once did they mention the effort required to set up the centre or of ongoing maintenance. In addition, they undertake even more effort to treat, rehabilitate and embark on the prolonged releasing program for successfully treated animals and birds.

Paula and David showed us some of their charges. They had tiny wallabies, gliders and even one Whistling Kite. Some of these animals need many months of care, simply to grow up from babyhood or to recover from trauma.

After a picnic lunch David led us on a further tour of the property showing forest rehabilitation, and for want of a better term, he showed us his "koala training ground" where koalas could practice climbing and be protected from predators.

The tour led us to a unique orchard of animal food producing trees. Like all trees these needed their own management practices. So not only are Paula and David animal rehabilitation experts but also silviculturist experts too.

Glastonbury is outside of our usual area for walks, but it was valuable to introduce a new location, though near for our more southerly members. On leaving the Rowlands' some of us took a side trip to Point Pure and Eagle Nest lookouts where we had expansive views of a little appreciated and glorious part of Queensland. The highlight of the long day was without reservation to be introduced to the Rowland family and to see the Anarra Wildlife Rescue centre. The "giggle and chatter factor" measuring appreciation, value and pleasure registered a record-breaking score.

Thank you to the Rowlands, and to Vanessa and John who had the idea and took the initiative to visit Glastonbury.

✿ *Frank Ekin*

Burrum River National Park— Burrum River section 5 September

Perfect Queensland Spring weather was enjoyed by the Nature Walkers for their September walk. Quite quickly the Spring air electrified the energetic walkers to stride ahead. The more leisurely botanically minded walkers lingered. The few bird watchers oscillated between the energetic fast walkers and the sedate pace of the studious botanists. On the return leg of the walk the two most committed bird watchers favoured the sedate pace of the botanists.

Seven species of mangrove were identified along a 30m stretch of the Burrum River where we had morning tea.



Melaleuca sieberi has an unusual form—we agreed it looked “oriental” and well shaped. It is one of five *Melaleuca* species we saw.

Records show that Carol introduced this walk in 2014. That walk was 14kms, perfect for the marathon hikers like Marlene or Max. But the walks are in part a social event; so walk and talk saying hello to other walkers whom one does not ordinarily meet. To encourage a more attentive interest in the park’s natural richness the walks team preferred a shorter walk, as such, to be more in keeping with the Wildlife objective to increase the understanding of the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment.

For the benefit of some, the ever patient botanists pointed out repeatedly the identification of same trees, or shrubs. But the botanists did have other challenges as much of the park has mature and very varied trees and plants though with few textbook photo specimens. A case in point was to distinguish the three bloodwood species *Corymbia trachyphloia*, *gummifera* and *intermedia*. To distinguish them one must consider the bark, leaf features, bud distribution and gum nuts.

The bird of the day was a female Shining Flycatcher. It was not spied by one of the birdos with their binoculars but by Scott the botanist. He noted a bird with a black head and glorious milk chocolate-coloured wings. But herein lies a lesson, that is, learning to quickly notice identifying features whether it is of birds or in Scott’s case tiny plants, for the same skills are useful in many different situations. However, one of the birdos, Barbara, identified another interesting bird, the Brown Treecreeper. In all 41 species of bird were identified. The total species identified on several walks over the past month is 51.

Morning tea was enjoyed at the halfway point on the bank of the Burrum River. The tardy botanists arrived long after the spirited walkers had finished their tea and muffins and were raring for the walk home. True to form the botanists spent more time discussing and identifying mangrove trees than munching their muffins. Seven species of mangrove were identified though for some specimens with some difficulty and discussion.

Ruby pursued her enthusiasm for insects and got a superb photo of the Orange Ringlet. Some of the walkers simply enjoyed the pleasure of being in the natural forest and others the walk was hugely profitable from the botanical and ornithological points of view. ● **Frank Ekin**



Orange Ringlet by Ruby



A Brief Introduction to a Unique Genus

Ficus rubiginosa is the most common fig around Hervey Bay. These figs grow aerial roots which are often pruned off specimens in our parks such as this magnificent one on Pialba foreshore.

Of all the phenomenal and diverse array of nature's ecosystems, the evolution of the ancient *Ficus* tree is remarkable. Thought to have evolved some 41 million years ago, the *Ficus* has developed a very distinctive pollination cycle.

The Australian east coast is home to the Moreton Bay Fig (also known as a Strangling Fig or Australian Banyan), *Ficus macrophylla*. These trees have a long life span when allowed to grow, reaching over many hundreds of years and occupying a large area due to their numerous aerial root systems.

The *Ficus macrophylla* is a monoecious plant. The small fig fruit or syconium can yield both tiny male and female flowers arising from within the same fruit on the same tree. Instead of external flower displays for pollination, pollination occurs within the fruit. This distinction has enabled the *Ficus* to reproduce even where there are isolated trees. An example of this is on Lord Howe Island where the Moreton Bay Fig evolved.

For this unique pollination, *Ficus macrophylla* has evolved in symbiosis with its own specialising pollinating Fig Wasp, *Pleistodontes froggatti*. The tiny female wasps burrow into the syconium (fruit) and lay their eggs in the maturing food supply of flowers. The hatching progeny mate, the male wasps die, and the new generation of female wasps collect pollen from the maturing male flowers. These wasps then burrow out from the fruit to seek another identical *Ficus* species (or



the same tree) bringing the male pollen and thus completing the pollination cycle.

Many *Ficus* bear fruit asynchronously, enabling a continuous supply of fruit for the wasps for most of the year. Fruiting is more abundant in February to May however.

Very few pollinated seeds survive to grow into mature trees despite a prolific supply of pollinated fruit. The fruit is essential food for many rainforest and sclerophyll forest wildlife species such as birds, gliders, flying foxes and possums. The *Ficus* is also host to other species of wasp and the Long-horned Beetle.

Some famous examples of the size and longevity of *Ficus* are the Curtain and Cathedral Figs of north Queensland and the tallest Moreton Bay Figs near Egg Rock, Numinbah Valley and Mt Keira near Woolloongong. There are also notable very large specimens in New Zealand, North America, Hawaii, Portugal, Spain, and South Africa. Local beauties are found in Hervey Bay, Maryborough and along the Mary River.

The evolution of the *Ficus* tree is very complex. This article is intended to provide an interesting, brief introduction to such a marvellous facet of nature.

✿ **Jackie Henrion**

Library Talk—Be Wise in Croc Country

Tina Ball from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) presented a few interesting facts and some wise guidelines for observation when exploring river and estuary systems in the Wide Bay region at a recent Hervey Bay library talk session.

Estuarine and freshwater crocodiles are an important part of north and central Queensland's wetlands, freshwater, and marine areas, helping to maintain the overall health and balance of these ecosystems. Generally, estuarine crocodiles are the largest predator living in river tidal reaches, freshwater lagoons, swamps, and waterways up to hundreds of kilometres from the ocean. They can be active at any time of the year and are also found along some beaches and around offshore islands.

Main habitats in Queensland range from Gladstone to Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria. However, according to reports there have been significant sightings as far south as Bundaberg and the mouth of the Mary River where QPWS have been active placing warning signs and safety advice. With the march of global warming and associated weather pattern changes, it is fairly likely they

will colonise waterways further south. The best advice is to always be on the lookout if participating in water activities or camping near estuaries or the like. Safe practices include never leaving food and no scaling fish near the water's edge.

Where crocodiles have become a problem and pose a threat to the safety of other life, relocation is usually attempted. Due to their high-level territorial instinct, they often return, even over large distances to the same place they were captured. Unfortunately, this results in relocation to farms where their fate can no longer be regulated. They are protected in the wild.

The skin colour of estuarine crocodiles varies from black to grey and olive brown with dark mottling patterns, depending on their size and habitat. The head, being often the only visible part at water level, is broad and knobbly.

Tina showed a few slides of the type of warning signs to watch for and where there have been sightings in the vicinity of Wide Bay. People can assist by reporting sightings: the number to call is **CrocWatch 1300 130 372**.

✿*Jackie Henrion*

As a follow up and out of interest, I have researched additional facts as follows.

More on Crocs

At 17 years of age and approximately 3.3 metres in length, the males reach sexual maturity and the females at 12 years of age and approximately 2.3 metres long. Courtship begins during October/November resulting with nesting from December to April, important times to avoid their habitats.

Estuarine females build a mound nest of vegetation usually within a range of 10 metres of permanent water but above flood levels. The female deposits 40-70 oval shaped eggs (about 8cm long) into the mound, guarding and protecting the nest from other crocodiles, goannas, feral pigs, and humans.

The eggs hatch after about 90 days and mother gently scoops them into her mouth and carries them to the water, where they form a creche for up to 5 weeks before beginning to disperse independently.

In contrast, freshwater crocodiles are smaller with narrow snouts and four distinguishing scales on their necks just behind the head. They breed from July to August and nest from August to September. Nesting occurs in a short period of time (pulse nesting), not over several weeks. Eggs are deposited in simple holes dug into the soil at the water's edge, hatching after 65-90 days at the start of the wet season in October/November.

The temperature and duration of incubation for both estuarine and freshwater crocodiles determine the gender of the young. Freshwater crocodiles rarely guard their nests nor display maternal care. Often due to flooding, only 70% of the eggs will hatch and 12% hatchlings survive beyond the first year.

SOURCES : www.wildlife.operations@des.qld.gov.au, www.ehp.qld.gov.au

✿ *Jackie Henrion*

What is RedCycle?

I cringe when I see customers in supermarkets tear off those flimsy plastic bags to hold their produce. Somehow, it has not become obvious that you can place items unpackaged in your trolley or in your own bag.

I cringe when I see the superfluous packaging encasing everyday items.

I cringe when I see huge plastic bags and blocks of foam spilling from skip bins behind electrical shops.

However, the vision has become brighter after I observed St. Helens State School students sorting their rubbish into specified bins. They hopefully will carry the lessons learnt throughout their lives, influencing others.

Many of us are ignorant of how to dispose of "tricky" rubbish and so we dubiously toss. Thankfully, a solution is now possible with the introduction of RedCycle in the major supermarkets, with bins situated at the front of the stores. All plastic bags, such as bread bags, cellophane wrappers, including biscuit and lolly packets, chocolate bar wrappers (the ones resembling foil), soup and coffee bag sachets as well as crisp packets (also foil-like) and cereal plastic bags pass the RedCycle test.

It's not always possible to trace the destination of RedCycle. The *War on Waste* attempted to find the destination of our household recycling with dubious results. Repurposed plastic products, like outdoor seats, create a practical solution.

Reducing landfill helps maintain a healthy planet. A lot of kitchen waste can be composted. Less buying of packaged materials also means less landfill - problem solved by filling YOUR container from bulk stores! I've proved you can wash your hair with soap, to avoid another plastic bottle.

RedCycle is helping to reduce landfill.

✿ *Diane Christensen*

some RedCycle items



Our Waste Free Story – St Helens State School

In 2019, we began a Waste Free Day, once a week, to reduce the amount of landfill produced from our lunches. We soon decided that every day should be waste free, so looked at what waste streams we had available to us.

Through some experimentation with different sorting buckets, and with the help of a variety of grants we purchased three sets of coloured waste sorting bins for each eating area in our school and a green waste caddy for each classroom. Our waste streams go to RedCycle soft plastics, school compost, Containers for Change and FCRC recycling. Our landfill collection each day was a 7-litre waste caddy in each eating area.



We established our Eco Superstars to help with the implementation of sorting bins. After some time, we realised that all children needed to be involved in sorting waste, so a new role called Bin Bosses began. Each class from Years 3 to 6 were rostered on to help for one week a term.

This term, we have decided to streamline our bin sorting process as it was becoming labour intensive. We reduced bins to one central set. RedCycle and Containers for Change are by far the largest waste stream, so we are now using larger bins for these. In just one week, our work load has decreased incredibly.

Our Eco Superstars are rostered on during eating times to assist other students with waste sorting.

Since 2019, our land fill bins have reduced from 11 to 3 a week. We are now working on classroom waste and are putting 80 litre yellow wheelie bins in each room to ensure paper and cardboard are not put in general waste, so envisage landfill to reduce even further.

Our sorting project has been challenging,

however, we know that good things take time and patience. It is heart warming to see the children automatically sort their waste and help younger students with their bin choices. Their lunch contents don't change much from day to day, so it has become easier as the years roll on.

We considered sending all waste home, however this could mean that it would ultimately end up in landfill. Making the job simpler and enabling this positive independence for our children is our ultimate goal. Our younger students are increasingly coming to school completely waste free, so hopefully this becomes a growing trend and the new normal as far as lunch boxes go.

Our challenges for the future are making sure the children understand why we are doing this and keeping the interest of our Eco Superstars as they get older by giving them increasing responsibility. We also want to create a purpose-built recycling hub for our bins to be housed, but for the moment, we will just celebrate the success of the program in just 3 years.

✿ **Maxine Crawford**



The objectives of Wildlife Queensland are to:

- (1) preserve the fauna and flora of Australia by all lawful means;
- (2) educate by all means possible all sections of the community, particularly the young, in understanding the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment;
- (3) discourage by all legal means possible the destruction, exploitation or unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment;
- (4) encourage rational land use and proper planning of development and use of the natural environment and management thereof.

Want to join Wildlife Queensland?

<https://wildlife.org.au/shop/membership/membership-3/>

\$30 Individual

\$45 Family / non-profit group

\$20 Concession

\$12.50 Youth

Once you have joined Wildlife Queensland you may elect to be assigned a Branch such as Fraser Coast.

Wildlife Queensland and its branches are not wildlife rescue or care organizations.

However, we thank you for caring for our wildlife and

if you wish to report sick, injured or orphaned wildlife contact:

RSPCA Qld on 1300 ANIMAL or preferably contact our local rescue service.

Our local services have the expertise and will eliminate delays in taking action.

For all wildlife

WILDLIFE RESCUE FRASER COAST Phone 4121 3146 (24 hrs)

FRASER COAST WILDLIFE Phone 0477189221 (24 hrs)

ANARRA (Gympie region) Phone 5484 9111

WILDCARE (operates from Pomona) Phone 54272444

For snakes CJM WILDLIFE SERVICES 0409474440

For marine strandings ring the QLD Government Wildlife Hotline 1300 130 372