WPSQ Bayside Branch

Newsletter | May 2022

Source: www.nativebeehives.com/

Next Meeting 3rd June 7:00 PM

Keeping stingless bees is easy and you don't need to be an expert!

Melissa demonstrates how a hive can be introduced into a backyard!

The native bee is stingless and family friendly which makes this bee a very popular addition to the backyard. Most keepers of the native bee do not keep the bees for the honey but rather for the conservation of this little bee whose population is declining because of human development.

Our expert speaker will demonstrate how a hive can be introduced into the garden and maintained. Melissa is an author, educator, documenter and has recently appeared on "Better Homes and Gardens". She has a passion for this tiny insect. Come along, be inspired to learn and maybe consider a hive for the garden with all its benefits.

When: Friday 3rd June at 7.00 pm
Where: Alexandra Hills Community Hall, 131-155 Finucane Road, near "Aldi". Entry & car parking just around corner in Windemere Road
General Public Welcome, booking required for entry

Click LINK for Eventbrite website.

For more information, contact Steve on 0423 036 676 or bayside@wildlife.org.au

In this edition

President's Report

Bayside Branch | May 2022

Steve Homewood

May is going to be an interesting month especially as we are in the middle of a federal election. On that subject it concerns me that the environment seems to be a low priority amongst the major parties and some minor ones, there are aspirational targets but apparently no fundamental shifts in the way we do "business" in this vast country.

Locally there appears to be no consideration for the Environment when we want to bury hectares of life-giving land under concrete, Shorelands, Birkdale community land and of course Toondah. The proposed debasement of forested land, wetlands that are a carbon sink, a habitat and haven for all forms of wildlife, an oxygenator, will have a seriously detrimental and permanent effect on our natural ecosystems.

Those concerned in the community, which will be greatly affected by these "20" year projects, will continue to rally against these appalling projects, maybe a new government might stop this unwanted destruction of community land. There is an opportunity to comment on the Birkdale Community Precinct on this link on "your say Redlands", there are also proposed open days on the 27th and 28th May.

In our last Newsletter we had information about the styrofoam debris from pontoons that washed down the rivers during the recent floods, environmental standards are poor, but a working group is being set up to come up with solutions. In the meantime, pontoons are being replaced with the same product attached to the base!!

WPSQ is celebrating 60 years of wildlife advocacy this year and we will be holding a celebration ourselves to highlight the achievements of the Society, its branches and members. It will be a waterborne event on Saturday 1st October, it will bring back memories, so clear the decks and reserve that day in your diary now. Further details in the June newsletter, Members will have priority booking.

Don't forget to recycle your containers, there are various depots in the shire proceeds can be donated to the Branch to help with funding, our ID is: Container ID C 10044396 Wildlife Preservation Bayside

We will be holding a brief AGM prior to Native Stingless Bee talk on Friday 3rd June, we need as many members as possible to attend so that we have a quorum or if you cannot be there, email in your proxy. Forms are in the Newsletter.

Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the bumble bee, the small child and the smiling faces. Smell the rain and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential and fight for your dreams. – Ashley Smith

Bunyip Birds
Australian Bittern Needs urgent help.

Australasian Bitterns are so evasive and good at hiding that they are rarely spotted and not much is known about them. They're heard more often than they're seen.

In fact, the booming call of male Australasian Bitterns during the breeding season is believed to have led to the legends of the Bunyip – a mythical swampland creature. And these special birds are at risk of becoming legends themselves, if we don't act urgently to save them.

While they're masters of disguise, there are some dangers our intriguing '**Bunyip Birds**' cannot hide from... and sadly, the threats they face are increasing.

Can you make a donation today to help save endangered birds like these?

Their habitat is decreasing and drying up at an alarming rate, as the escalating impacts of climate change combine with pressures to drain wetlands and divert water for irrigation. And what remains of these birds' homes is facing ruin from habitat destruction, pollution, and past and ongoing changes to landscapes and hydrology.

As climate change increases the risk and frequency of devastating droughts and fires, safe refuges are even more critical for them.

Fewer than 1,800 adult Australasian Bitterns are thought to remain... which is why urgent, ongoing research into the needs of this endangered species is so important to save them.

There's no time to lose – can you donate to give them a fighting chance of survival? Threatened waterbirds like our mysterious Bunyip Bird need your urgent support to rear chicks safely and ensure their future generations can thrive.

https://birdlife.org.au/current-appeal

Source: https://birdlife.org.au

Source: https://birdlife.org.au

Visit Birdlife reserves

BirdLife Australia has four bird observatories and reserves BirdLife Australia has four bird observatories and reserves across Australia, at Gluepot (SA), Clarkesdale (Vic.) and Broome and Eyre (WA). They're all wonderful places to visit, with plenty of things to see and do — why not drop by some time?

Cephalopods, too smart to be calamari?

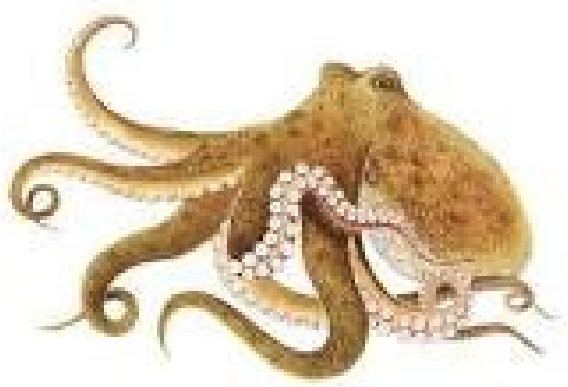
If you sit down to lunch next week and there's a octopus on the table, know that the creature in front of you once may have had feelings.

That's according to a **recent announcement by the UK government**, which **recognised cephalopods, such as octopuses, squids and cuttlefish as "sentient beings**."

"The science is now clear that decapods and cephalopods can feel pain." Click here to read UK Govt. commissioned report. Refer to Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill following LSE report on decapod and cephalopod sentience.

A highly intelligent group of ocean dwelling creatures, the living cephalopods include the eight-armed octopuses, the ten-armed squids and cuttlefishes, and the shelled chambered nautiluses. Early in their evolution, cephalopods relied on the sturdy protection of shells, but over time many eventually lost the outer shell and instead relied on new adaptations like heightened intelligence, a talent for hiding, and strong, flexible arms. The largest—the giant squid—measures longer than a school bus, while the smallest ones—like the pygmy squid and California lilliput octopus—could sit on the tip of your finger. Cephalopods have long fascinated humans and were frequently mentioned by Aristotle, and this fascination shows no signs of diminishing today.

Octopus are famous for their sophisticated intelligence; some scientists even argue that cephalopods were the first intelligent beings on the planet. They are able to untie knots, open jars, and toddler proof cases, and are generally expert escape artists. There is increasing evidence that cephalopods have unique personalities—one octopus may be shy and reclusive, another curious and playful, or possibly mischievous and cranky. Perhaps, being defenseless, with soft bodies and living in a competitive environment with stronger, more agile bony fish led them to evolve especially sharp minds for problem-solving.



Intelligence requires big brains. A cephalopod brain is divided into many different sections called lobes. The squid Loligo has at least 30 different lobes. The lobes are specialized centers that, among other things, process information from the eyes, control camouflage, and store memories. Though structured similarly to other molluscs, a cephalopod nervous system far surpasses the nervous systems of their closest molluscan relatives—the California sea slug has about 18,000 neurons while the common octopus, Octopus vulgaris, has roughly 200 million neurons in its brain.

Humans have many more, just under 100 billion, but a cephalopod is on par with dogs and some monkeys since they also carry about two-thirds of their neurons in their arms, not their head. Unlike humans and other mammals, the cephalopod brain will grow one and a half times its original size from the moment of birth to adulthood. Watch a video about octopus intelligence.

Cephalopods contd.

With intelligence comes the ability to learn. Scientists first realized cephalopods had a talent for learning after the publication of a ground breaking study by a German researcher named Jakob von Uexkull in 1905. Uexkull starved a group of octopuses for fifteen days and then presented them with hermit crabs carrying anemones on their shells. The famished octopuses readily attacked the hermit crabs, though after a few stings from the anemones they soon avoided the crabs altogether. It was clear octopuses were cleverer than once believed and, as a result, scientists in the early 1900s began testing the limits of a cephalopod's learning capacity.

Early studies found an octopus can be trained to perform specific behaviours using food rewards and shock punishments, showing they are capable of making associations. When presented with a foreign but harmless object they will initially explore and investigate, but after consecutive introductions, they quickly lose interest, a sign they remember the object and its now unremarkable nature.

Cephalopod literally means "head foot" in Greek, a reference to the way the cephalopod's head connects to its many arms. The basic cephalopod body plan includes two eyes, a mantle, a funnel (also called a siphon), and at least eight arms. The earliest ancestors of today's cephalopods appear in the fossil record around 530 mya, at a time of intense animal diversification during the Early Cambrian.

Surprisingly, though, octopuses are not the best when it comes to tackling mazes—they fail to even remember a simple sequence of turns. However, in one experiment, the species Octopus maya quickly learned whether to take a right or left in a simple "T" maze to escape the dry maze and find their reward—the reprieve of a seawater tank. Levers are also tricky for octopuses and, for the most part, tests trying to teach octopuses to feed themselves using a lever mechanism have been unsuccessful.

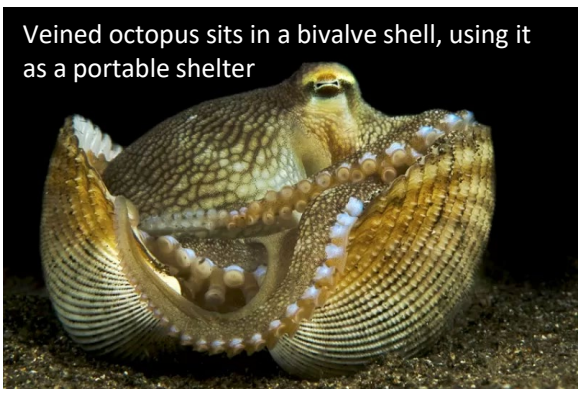
It may come as a bit of a surprise that although they are reclusive and solitary creatures, octopuses may be able to learn from one another.

In a 1992 study, scientists trained a group of octopuses to discriminate between two coloured balls. Choosing a red ball elicited a tasty snack while choosing a white ball elicited an unpleasant shock. As this group of octopuses learned to associate colour with reward and punishment, a second group of octopuses was allowed to observe from separate tanks. Next, these observers were given the choice—red or white. Without reward or punishment, the second group chose the red ball more quickly than the initial group.


Dumbo Octopus

Playing behaviour is also attributed to intelligent organisms like mammals and some birds, but recent studies suggest octopuses may also like to have a little fun. A 1999 study at the Seattle Aquarium found that two of ten octopuses squirted water at weighted pill bottles, pushing the bottles against a filter current. After waiting for them to float back the octopuses squirted them again, almost like bouncing a basketball. A 2006 study suggested that octopuses will play with blocks as well.

Source including images: https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/invertebrates/cephalopods#element_557


Veined octopus sits in a bivalve shell, using it as a portable shelter

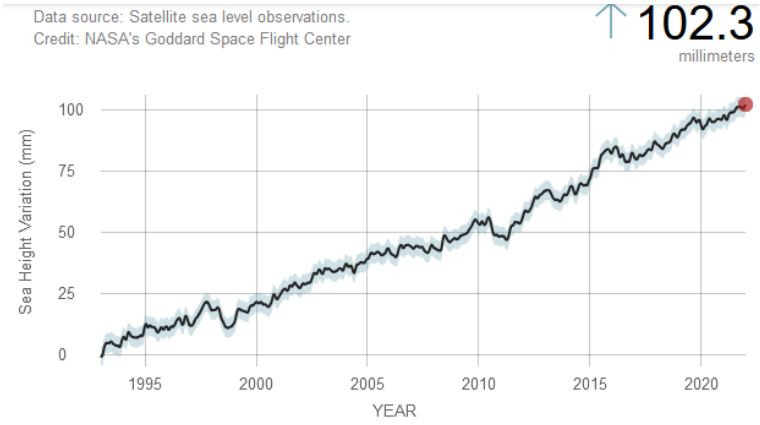
Climate Change 2022
Sea Level Rise 102 (± 4.0) mm

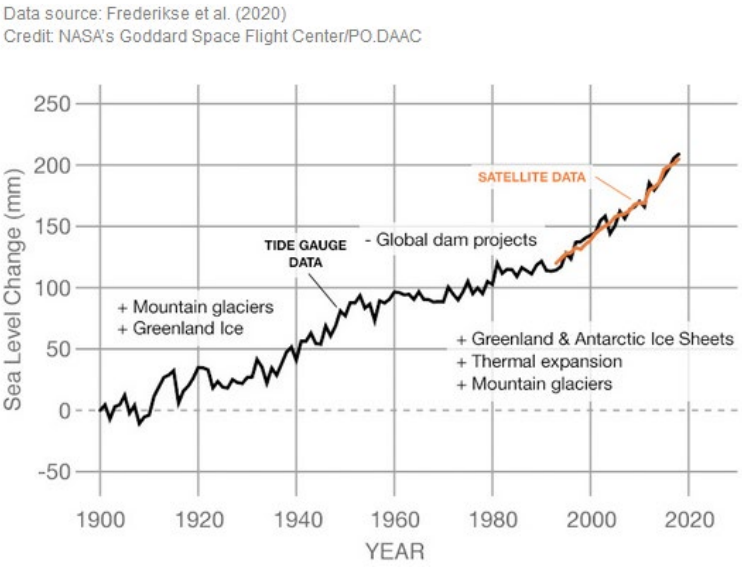
Global sea levels are rising as a result of human-caused global warming, with recent rates being unprecedented over the past 2,500-plus years.

Sea level rise is caused primarily by two factors related to global warming: the added water from melting ice sheets and glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. The first graph tracks the change in sea level since 1993 as observed by satellites.

The second graph, derived from coastal tide gauge and satellite data, shows how much sea level changed from about 1900 to 2018. Items with pluses (+) are factors that cause global mean sea level to increase, while minuses (-) are variables that cause sea levels to decrease. These items are displayed at the time they were affecting sea level.

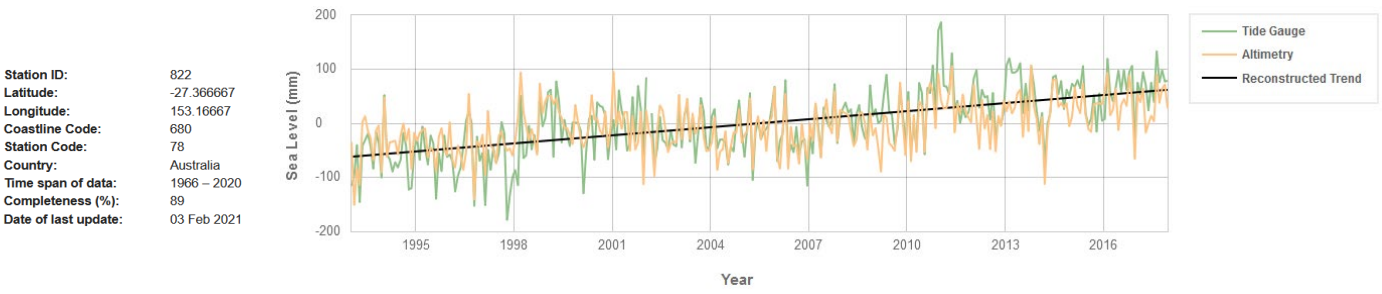
The data shown are the latest available, with a four- to five-month lag needed for processing.





Sea Level Evaluation and Assessment Tool

https://sealevel.nasa.gov/data_tools/16/



Happy International Compost Awareness Week

Compost!!

Such a wonderful thing, it's free to make, excellent to use and best of all saves valuable resources from going to landfill to create methane.

How is your compost at home going? Doe sit need some love? Some water? a quick aerate? Would you like to start composting? If you can remember ADAM – you can compost!

A – ALIVE

A biodiverse compost system will have lots and lots of critters, some you can see (worms, spiders, slaters, grubs) and many, many that you cannot (microbes, fungi, bacteria, nematodes).

As with any ecosystem, the more kinds of animal life you have, the more resilient and efficient the systems. So if you start to see many of just one thing e.g. Cockroaches, you may need to look at other areas of your compost.

D – DIET

Compost critters need both carbon and nitrogen food types to do their job well.

Carbon ingredients (brown)
- Dry leaves
- Sticks/twigs (broken up small)
- Dry grass clippings
- Sugar cane
- Wood chip/shavings

Nitrogen ingredients (Green)
- Food scraps!!
- Leaves and prunings
- Fresh grass
- Coffee grounds/tea leaves

Just like us, we need a diverse diet, so do the composters. Give about a 50/50 volume ratio of the above materials to get great compost results

A – AIR

A compost pile must be AEROBIC (with oxygen). Otherwise, you have just made yourself a nice microscale landfill. Keep the pile oxygenated by mixing or allowing air through via pipes with air holes, or holes in the side of the bin.

A heavily compacted pile will not break down the way you want it to. Add some materials with more structure like sticks and twigs will create space between the materials too.

M – MOISTURE

Compost should have about 50% moisture content. This feels as damp as a wrung out sponge or looks like a nice clod of damp solid when squeezed in your hand. If water runs out over your fingers it is too wet, and if the humus falls apart and flakes off your hand it is too dry.

Time and Temperature

Hot composting can take about 6-8 weeks to start to mature and can get up to about 60°C during the hot phase. This hot phase can start after just 48 hours and is dominated by 'thermophilic' microorganisms munching away on the materials.

Options

There are plenty of options when deciding how to compost.
- Bays
- Trenches
- Compost towers
- Compost tea
- Compost bins

Check out gardening Australia for some ideas.
https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/get-composting/9437492
https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/compost-101/12654882
https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/building-a-compost-bay/9432330
https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/hot-compost/9440272

Weed Spotters Network Queensland

Bulletin April 2022

The first records of naturalisation of an unusual tree have very recently been made in coastal south-east Queensland.

The **autograph tree**, *Clusia rosea* is a small, crooked-trunked tree reaching about 8 m tall, with very large and conspicuous dark glossy green, paddle-shaped leaves. When broken, stems and leaves exude a copious yellow sap, that hardens into a resin-like substance, that is mildly toxic.

The plant is named from the curious fact that leaves can be written on using a pencil, and the resulting message remains like green calligraphy on the living leaf, so long as the thick leaf persists.

The pink and white flowers are large (to 8 cm across), developing from ping-pong ball-sized buds. Larger trees can produce aerial roots, that have distinctive lenticels (corky patches) along their length. These look rather like large Pandanus stilt-roots. The large fruits split to reveal many reddish seeds.

Examples of this plant have escaped cultivation in the Coolum district and have spread into adjacent bushland. Hardworking Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers have identified and removed up to 20 individuals in recent months, from the popular Mount Coolum National Park and several other nearby areas. We have them to thank as effective Weed Spotters for detecting this new weed species.

Clusia rosea has been clearly demonstrated to invade coastal plant communities in the Hawaiian Islands of Maui, Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island, and has become weedy in some Sri Lankan ecosystems. There is also evidence of weediness in parts of South Africa. The species is problematic, as it can germinate high in the forks of trees, and become hemi-epiphytic, sending down roots that eventually strangle the host tree. This arboreal habit makes it difficult to detect, and therefore harder to control than most other tree weeds on the Sunshine Coast.

Many people are now looking for this newly invading plant species across coastal Queensland, including QPWS rangers, habitat restoration workers, professional botanists, and local council Bushcare officers. The species is not listed as either restricted or prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014. However, autograph tree is now proven as the latest environmental weed within south-east Queensland. Early detection and control will prove much more cost-effective than waiting for this species to become as widespread as it has now become in parts of the Hawaiian Islands.

Autograph tree is being considered for listing as a 'locally significant' invasive plant species under a proposed review of the Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Plan. Other councils may also be considering listing as part of their local government Biosecurity Plans.

If you live in coastal areas of Queensland, keep on the lookout for autograph tree seedlings or plants. Record images, record location details and contact the Queensland Herbarium on (07) 3199 7671, email a photo to Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au, use the weed spotter app for Android smartphones or contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Who are Weed Spotters?

Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective means of dealing with potential, new and emerging weeds in Queensland.

The Weed Spotters Network Queensland aims to find, identify and document those new occurrences of potential weeds at an early stage so that preventative actions can be taken.

It seeks to continue a community-based weed alert system in Queensland, based on the model developed by the previous Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management.

The cost of weeds to Australian agriculture now exceeds $4 billion per year. No estimate has been made of the cost of weeds to the environment.

Book Club

CHAPTER 1

What You Eat is Made out of Thin Air (and a Tiny Bit of Dirt)

When I was a kid living in the suburbs, my parents kept indoor plants. One in particular, a fiddle-leaf philodendron, did something very odd. It was a single-stemmed vine that shot up from its pot behind the telly. It grew so tall that we'd pin it up to the wall, then later against the ceiling, as it climbed. Over the years it rose right over the huge windows at the front of the house and across to the other wall, spanning the entire width of our lounge room.

We never fed this philodendron. We'd tip a little water into its terra-cotta pot every few days, which eventually rotted the carpet underneath. But we never added anything to the soil. And the soil level didn't drop. As each year brought increasing growth, the amount of plant material clinging to the walls and ceiling eventually outstripped the amount of soil in the pot. It seemed odd, because all the solid plant matter didn't come from the earth in which the vine grew, but from somewhere else. To be honest, it didn't engage my brain too much. It just seemed bizarre and left a question in my mind that took decades to answer.

This book is about soil. Except it's not. It's about soil *and* all the things soil does for us, including how it fuels our bodies. Even more

In honour of international Compost Awareness week. Let's talk dirty!

'Soil is everyone's business and this book pulls no punches. It lays bare our reliance upon the intricate life beneath our feet. A must-read in every school, local library, community garden, university and for your bookshelf.'
COSTA GEORGIADIS

What we do to the soil, we do to ourselves.

Soil is the unlikely story of our most maligned resource as swashbuckling hero. A saga of bombs, ice ages and civilisations falling. Of ancient hunger, modern sicknesses and gastronomic delight. It features poison gas, climate collapse and a mind-blowing explanation of how rain is formed.

For too long, we've not only neglected the land beneath us, we've squandered and debased it, by over-clearing, over-grazing and over-ploughing. But if we want our food to nourish us, and to ensure our planet's long-term health, we need to understand how soil works - how it's made, how it's lost, and how it can be repaired.

In this ode to the thin veneer of Earth that gifts us life, commentator and farmer Matthew Evans shows us that what we do in our backyards, on our farms, and what we put on our dinner tables really matters, and can be a source of hope.

Isn't it time we stopped treating the ground beneath our feet like dirt?

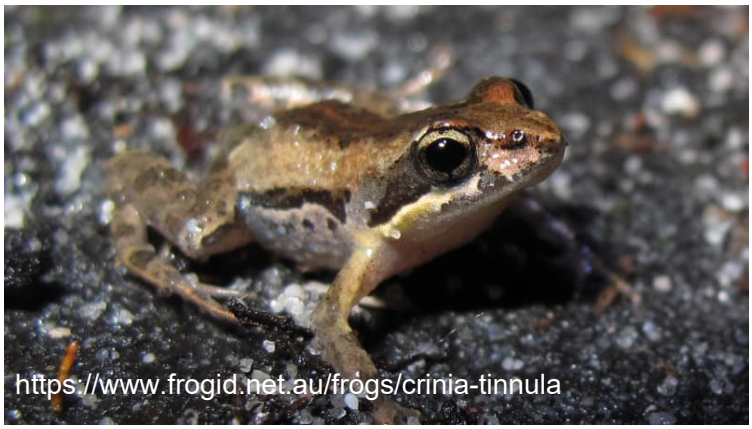
About the Author

Matthew Evans Matthew Evans is Australia's favourite tree-changer. A former chef and food critic, Matthew is now a Tasmanian smallholder, food writer and food activist. He fattens pigs, milks cows, tends a garden and writes about food from his office on Fat Pig Farm, in the gorgeous Huon Valley.

Matthew is the star of the long-running SBS TV series The Gourmet Farmer, as well as the recent documentary on seafood, What's the Catch?, in which he advocates for a change to Australian food labelling laws.

Link to Booktopia

Wildlife Diary



Wallum Froglet *Crinia tinnula*

Heard in Capalaba, Coolnwynpin Creek.

“The wallum froglet is a nocturnal, terrestrial and cryptic species. Males call from secluded positions at the waters edge or from among sedge tussocks near the water level.” – DES 2022

Expect to hear more wet loving species in the coming weeks with expected high rainfall.

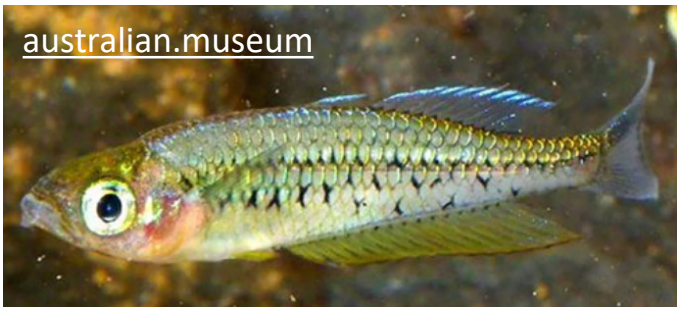
Beak and Feather diseased Lorikeet

Seen in a Capalaba backyard

A disease that robs lorikeets of their ability to fly, is highly contagious, and has no cure. Birds will present as though they are flightless.

If possible, capture bird and take to a vet as it is best to euthanise as even birds that survive can chronically shed the virus and infect others.

While not transmissible to humans, be diligent with your own hygiene and do not allow interaction with any pet birds.



Ornate Rainbowfish *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*

Ornate rainbowfish spotted in Mt Cotton

What have you seen around the bayside?
Send in your wildlife pics to bayside@wildlife.org.au or tag us on facebook!

Social Networks

IndigiScapes Centre
Happy Mother's Day. We hope all your joey's big and small are showing you just how much they appreciate all that you do everyday of the year.

wildlifequeensland
Happy Mother's Day to all the mums out there!
♡

This gorgeous Papuan Frogmouth and her baby were spotted by @lidostudio.photography

wildlifequeensland
Some marvellous monotreme moments captured at Obi Obi Creek in Maleny on Queensland's @sunshinecoasthinterland ♡

☜ @sandyiamg

frogidaus
May your Easter eggs be as brightly coloured as this Crucifix Frog (Notaden bennettii)!

Please record any frogs you hear calling over this long weekend. We would love to hear them.

📷: Tom Parkin

NOMINATION FORM

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch (Qld) Inc. (WPSQBB)
Annual General Meeting 3rd June 2022- Election of Office Bearers

NAME OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED FOR A POSITION …… POSITION NOMINATED FOR…….. NOMINATED BY NAME……I am a financial member of WPSQBB SIGNATURE……Date / / NOMINATION SECONDED BY NAME……I am a financial member of WPSQBB SIGNATURE……Date / / ACCEPTANCE OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED I am a financial member of WPSQBB and am willing to accept the nomination. SIGNATURE……Date / /	Positions that may be nominated for President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Executive member

THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BAYSIDE BRANCH (QLD) Inc

PROXY FORM AGM 3rd June 2022

I,.....……of.....……
……Postcode……...

being a financial member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Bayside Branch hereby appoint
.....
as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the (Annual) General meeting to be held on (date)……..

Signature :- . .....

Is this proxy a general proxy? (Yes/No).
If 'No', indicate if this form is to be used against or in favour of the following specific resolution:
.....
.....
Strike out whichever is not desired.

Contacts and Important Links

Committee & Contacts

President	Steve Homewood	0423036676
V President	Don Baxter	
Secretary	Simon Baltais	baltais@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Maureen Totten ham	0418 197 160
Executive	Tracey Mann Janelle Devery	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Alix Baltais/Simon Baltais	

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au
Web: http://www.branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside

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
- ❒ $30.00 Single
- ❒ $20.00 Concession (Pensioner/Full Student)
- ❒ $45.00 Family or Non Profit Group
- ❒ $12.50 Junior

Optional Wildlife Magazine Subscription
- ❒ $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)

Optional Donation $_____
For Campaign _____
(Bayside does not tax deductible status)
Postal address: PO Box 427, Capalaba 4157

Name _____
Address _____
_____P/C_____
Phone No _____
Email _____
Special Interests _____
_____

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