

CONSERVATION NEWS  
Oct-Nov 2022

October & November  
meetings:

Executive: Monday 17  
October & 14 November,  
1 pm

General: Wednesday 19  
October & 16 November,  
1 pm at Caloundra Power  
Boat Club, Golden Beach

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Vice-Presidents: Paul Smith  
& Suzanne Aspland

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Jason Hunt and staff for  
their kind support in the  
photocopying of  
*Conservation News*



**Wildlife Qld's Margaret Thorsborne Award 2022 goes to –  
Jude Crighton!**

In her nomination, Jill Chamberlain characterises Jude as 'a tireless worker for the environment' throughout her roles since 2016 as Secretary and President of the Sunshine Coast & Hinterland branch. Jill continues:

'Jude is a member of the Sunshine Coast Council's volunteer Turtle Care group, attending Mon Repos Turtle Care facility specifically to inform herself about all aspects of turtle care. She is coordinator of the Watson Park Bushcare group, under Council staff direction, and a member of the Shelly Beach Dune Care, Tooway Lake and Golden Beach groups. She has met with Council staff regarding the Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Hazard Reduction area, with input to their recommendations.

During the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival Jude organises and leads free public guided tours through Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, Ben Bennett Bushland Reserve and Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve in Caloundra.

Pre-Covid19 she organised Wildlife Queensland information stalls at Maleny Wood Expo, World Environment Day Festival, and Noosa Festival of the Waters.

Jude has assisted teaching staff taking Caloundra High School students and Caloundra Community Kindergarten students through Ben Bennett Bushland Reserve, as part of their environmental studies.

She has engaged with all levels of government in pointing out the importance of conserving areas of native bushland for both wildlife habitat and passive recreation.

Jude represents Wildlife Queensland on developer Stockland's Aura Community Reference Group discussing environmental issues.

She meets with Representatives of SMEC (consultants for the new Caloundra Aerodrome Master Plan) and members of the Air Museum Committee, to try to protect the nearby Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve, a significant area of wildflowers, from any proposed extension of the Air Museum, with possible success. She has had meetings with the local State MP and Councillors in Ben Bennet Bushland Reserve, to prevent the loss of significant vegetation and wildlife habitat through the implementation of the proposed *Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade*, a new four lane highway.

Jude was also a finalist in this year's Council Australia Day Environmental Award.'

Our congratulations Jude, and thank you for your networking genius and persistence in campaigning!

## Advance Dates

**Saturday 8 Oct 2022 to 6 November: NatureArt Lab: Celebrating Nature Connections** at the Arts & Ecology Centre, Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens. Bookings on the NatureArt website.

**15, 16 October:** Upper Dawson Branch of WQ: Butterfly days at Taroom and Theodore. *See details in AGM & Southern Branches Get-together*

**Monday 17 October & 14 November**, 1 pm: Executive Meetings at President Anne's place (please come along if you'd like to contribute).

**Wednesday 19 October & 16 November**, 1 pm  
General meetings, Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach

## Faunawatch Outings

**24 October**, 8 am  
**Floydia Nature Reserve, West Woombye.**  
Floydia is a 34-ha site that was originally cleared farmland. After revegetation works it now consists of low open forest and lowland subtropical rainforest. With 300 species of plants it will be good to see what fauna we can find.

## The Wildlife Qld AGM and Southern Branches Get-together

Held over the weekend of 9,10 & 11 September, the event was hosted by the Gold Coast branch to celebrate WQ's 60th year. Jude and Helen attended on the Saturday, and Jude presented our annual branch report along with other attending branches, also receiving her Margaret Thorsborne Award. We were informed of President Peter Ogilvie's wife Sue's ill health, and wish her well in recovery.

Young folk doing great things were given presentation time, one of great interest being Christopher Spade, a botanist and restoration ecologist running his own business, Aspect Ecology. Christopher detailed his drone-based observations and satellite mapping of fire fronts in the Tuntable Falls rainforest areas in NSW during the bushfires of 2019-20, and of damage in the later floods. Data was given to the Rural Fire Services, allowing faster responses.

Population pressures, with increases pushed by the State Government, are affecting the **Gold Coast** as well as our region. There, rate payers are subsidising half of the development, with developer contributions halved. Council purchase of land from their environmental levy ceased with Mayor Tate's election, however now continues. Working with the state government, there are now better environmental outcomes planned for the Lower Coomera. The issue of beach bars is not resolved, and there may be implications for the Sunshine Coast if approved. Their branch, with its membership dwindling, works with local groups to maximise its impact, and this is common across all branches.

In the **Upper Dawson**, water resources are a big issue, with pressure from Santos's 'Fairview Water Release Scheme', plus up to 6000 coal seam gas wells. The Upper Dawson Branch is promoting its free **Butterfly Weekend** in Taroom on 15 October, with a repeat in Theodore on Sunday 16th. Details and bookings at: <https://wildlife.org.au/event/dawson-valley-butterfly-weekend-taroom/>

**Capricorn Branch** is focussing on ecological restoration at the Mt Etna Caves, the home of Ghost bats, whose food source (vine thickets) and hence populations were devastated in the 2018 fire. The Branch works with QPWS to instal and maintain fire detection and sprinkler systems. At Yeppoon, Girl Guides contribute to dune planting for turtle nest shade. Central Queensland has the highest rate of land clearing in the state, and as Rockhampton Council doesn't want to manage environmental reserves it has asked WPSQ (five members) to take over! Other issues include a proposed coal mine adjacent to Taunton National Park, with hydrology changes a concern. Fitzroy Delta contains islands that shelter Greater Gliders, however weirs threaten the viability of both.

The **Kedron Brook Branch** lies in an urban catchment supporting a range of wildlife. The group monitors water quality and undertakes bird counts, supports a Student Community Immersion Program (tertiary level) and runs a bushcare group. The closure of the Toombul Shopping Centre

Meeting Point: Meet us on White Cedar Place, 300 m past Menary Lane.

**28 November, 8 am  
Blackbutt Forest, Aura.**

This is a really interesting forest on the coast. We have currently identified over 70 species here and it should be active at this time of year, particularly with a good chance of hearing acid frogs in the neighbouring low areas.

Meeting Point: Meet in the car park next to the playground and dog park towards the end of Eden Drive, Baringa (Aura).

Second Wednesday Walks, 8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens continue 12 October, 9 November, and possibly 14 December.



WQ President Peter Ogilvie presents Jude with her Margaret Thorsborne Award

after the floods is seen as an opportunity for restoration of the Brook.

**Bayside** branch ran talks, the Cicada Film Festival for young film makers, and raised funds through container recycling. **Redlands** still have Toondah Harbour to contend with, and another ‘shocker’ – ‘Shoreline’, a 5000-people proposal. Council, they find, largely ignores feedback on the ‘Your say’ platform.

All the branch reports, including Jude’s, are in a flip book at: <https://wildlifeqld.aflip.in/BranchReports22>

**President Peter Ogilvie** addressed 40 attendees on the issue of commercial operations in national parks, with the state Minister for the Environment *still not amenable* to changing this. Peter sees that in Queensland, with the lowest number of national parks and highest levels of clearing in Australia, ‘land is for anything that politicians and the tourist industry want’. The Department of Tourism (the tail) is wagging the Department of the Environment (the dog). As seen in Tasmania, commercial operations in national parks means people protection, and attendant roads, helicopters and threats of fire.

**The State executive welcomed two new highly qualified Council members, Doctor Gordon Guymer**, retiring as Director of the Queensland Herbarium, and Emeritus Professor **Marc Hockings** from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Queensland and Vice-Chair (Science) with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Councillor and management consultant David Wright is looking at the sustainability of Wildlife Qld and the magazine. It is certain that branches do good work, but it was acknowledged that keeping going is increasingly difficult for most. However, it is planned that revisions of WQ’s organisation structure, constitution, communications and meeting procedures will flow on to the branches, minimising workloads. David was pleased to accept our survey results as a snapshot of a current branch’s operations and membership involvement.

Head Office is promoting wills as an adjunct to grant funding to ensure campaign continuity, and also advised that individual branches can be identified as a beneficiary using the branch’s ABN.

With a view to next year’s WQ AGM and Southern Branches Get-together, it may be that our branch will host the event; and from discussion at our September meeting we have Claire and Jenny interested in looking into the practicalities.

### **From the August & September Meetings**

**Appropriate design and development to protect sea turtle nesting and hatching**

Council responded to our request for adoption of this standard and stated that they already impose a high standard of light mitigation in approving new buildings. It is heartening to hear that the owners of the large new house on the dune at Dicky



From the WildHeART exhibition

Beach have joined Turtlecare and are keen to work with them to protect nests and turtles.

### WildHeART prize

Our thanks to Anne for her work on the coordinating committee for this wonderful exhibition, short-listing 40 exceptional artworks in various media from over 500 entries across the state. Children up to 18 years in three age categories showed an informed understanding of (and love for) their chosen subjects – birds, animals, insects and plants. Council's Cathy Money at the Maroochy Gardens will be approached about digital copies of the art works being available on the Sunshine Coast Libraries and/or Caloundra Regional Gallery websites. Should the exhibition proceed next year, we will require WPSQ promotional material.

**North Moffat dune revegetation proposal:** Our proposal to plant on the top edge of the dune was rejected by Council, with reasons that fencing is not supported due to erosion issues and that there are plans for an eventual rock wall. As the road reserve, on which the Norfolk Island pines are planted and which previously serviced the now re-located Dicky Beach Surf Club, is redundant, the meeting agreed to write to Council requesting that the 'reserve' status be converted to 'foreshore' and be managed by the environment department and not parks and gardens.

Quentin (Save Pt Cartwright campaign) provided information about the history of Norfolk pines in Australia. Indigenous people have seen these pines as a negative reminder of the destruction of their culture following colonisation. Quentin successfully lobbied Council about replacing this species on the water tower at Point Cartwright with Bunya pines. Should we form a position on Norfolk Island Pines? Historically they were planted in early Sydney and along the coastline to indicate ports, and in the 1930s and onwards to signify beachside holidays, with attendant loss of dunes and endemic vegetation. Many plantings now have heritage status. Pandanus could be a replacement.

### Bribie Island breakthrough

In Sue's absence, Jude will represent WPSQ at a meeting on 21 October with Jason Hunt (Caloundra MP), the Department of Environment and Science, Marine Services Qld, and the Caloundra Coastguard. Sue has prepared excellent discussion points, making a case for wildlife protection, resident and visitor safety, Biosphere and RAMSAR status protection, dredging minimisation, and community education. SCEC's Narelle McCarthy has met Rob Comiskey, owner of the recently purchased Coochin Fields, a future music festival site on Coochin Creek.



Kathleen McArthur Lunch Hour Theatre Podcast actors at the September launch



Kathleen's son Hugh McArthur and nephew Michael Nelson-Gracie



Elaine Green & Jill Chamberlain at the Podcast launch

**Kathleen McArthur Lunch Hour Theatre Podcast launch**  
WPSQ representatives and McArthur family members, as well as cast members attended the Sunshine Coast Heritage Library event at Nambour Library, however it was disappointing that a live performance was not enacted. Cr David Law's speech acknowledged the role of Kathleen's work in his environmental awareness, and was introduced by Karen Law's version of the *Cooloola* song. The first and second podcasts (weekly launchings) are drawn from *Bread and dripping days*, Kathleen's reminiscences of her childhood in the 1930s.

**Access:**

<https://shows.acast.com/kathleen-mcarthurs-lunch-hour-theatre-scripts-podcast>

or wherever you get your podcasts.

**Shelly Moffat update**

There are no announcements yet despite requests for updates from Council. It appears there may have been further poisoning, however costly analysis and indeterminate results has deterred Council from testing, and a sign has been erected. Cr Landsberg is frustrated with lack of progress. We will check if Council has put in a referral re turtles to the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Marine couch grass (*Sporobolus virginicus*) should ideally be removed before turtle nesting season begins.

**USC Environmental Student Prize**

Dual winners have been notified, and we have received a request from USC for renewal of the prize for the next three years. This, and any increase in the prize amount, will be a financial decision, also taking into consideration our commitment to the WildheART Junior Art Prize should it continue next year.

**Inter-Urban Break**

John, as a member of TAPP and WPSQ, is keeping a finger on public and government discussions on the defining of the break between the southern boundary of the Sunshine Coast and a line north of Caboolture. The greatest threat to its integrity is development of the Hall's Creek area. Cr Rick Baberowski, reported in the local press as a strong supporter of the IUB – as is the Sunshine Coast Council, addressed a TAPP meeting on Tuesday 4 October reiterating his support.

**Ben Bennett Bushland Park/Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade (CTCU):**

Members of the community have finally been offered to submit a CV for selection by TMR to a Community Reference Group. WPSQ, Value Caloundra, Caloundra Residents Association & others, including individuals, have made their case for inclusion in the Group. Articles in recent editions of the online *Sunshine Coast News* have highlighted pressure for the inclusion of a 2-lanes option.



*Pultenaea myrtooides* at Ben Bennett Bushland Park; photo by Anne Pappadarlo



*Acacia hubbardiana* at Ben Bennett Bushland Park; photo by Charmaine Thomas



Dee checks Allan Carr's book on the wildflower walk at Ben Bennett Bushland Park; photo by Anne Pappadarlo



*Hovea acutifolia* in Ben Bennett; photo by Helen Kershaw

### Save Point Cartwright update

The Save Point Cartwright hard copy petition with 1600 signatures has been accepted by all but one Councillor, and it will now be forwarded to the CEO. Media coverage has been strong. If you have not already signed the continuing Change.org petition, here is the link, with more information on the values of this area: <https://www.change.org/p/save-point-cartwright>

Dogs are a large part of the issue, and the goal to repeal the 2016 Bylaw would take off-leash areas out of the forests and rocky foreshore. It is looking like the recent dog poisonings may have been environmental.

A presentation to us and other invited groups by our member Quentin Brown, the driving force behind the campaign and a member of Council's Community Reference Group on Point Cartwright, is a possibility following the CRG's October meeting.

### Wildflower Festival

Jude, Jenny, Dee, Sue and Helen led out the walks this year, after members Claire, Jo and Jennie checked in groups of enthusiastic walkers and sold copies of Allan Carr's *A field guide to native plants of Bribie Island and nearby coastal South-east Queensland*, kindly supplied directly by Allan, who joined us for the Isabel Jordan walk. Most attendees opted to receive our newsletter and notices of Faunawatch and other outings. We were able to switch the Kathleen McArthur walk to the afternoon, but were lucky with the weather on the other walks, including at the Golden Beach Mangrove Boardwalk. Here the mangroves are suffering under a deep deposit of sand; we will run another walk for members and interested others in autumn next year, which is when the mangroves bloom, and see how they are faring.

### Faunawatch

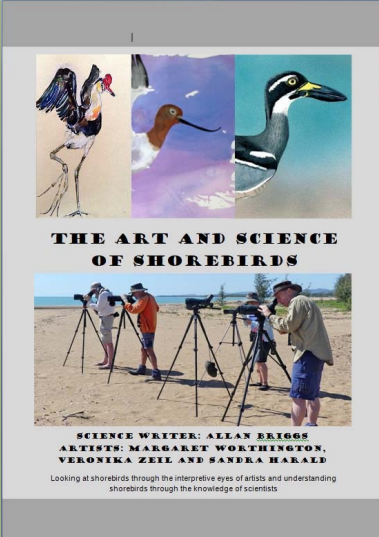
Council's new liaison officer for Land for Wildlife, Kylie Gordon, has a list of properties to survey, and dates are being negotiated with landowners. Five to seven surveys could be completed before Council funds come in, and the September general meeting approved the use of branch funds (sales of *Piece by Piece*) with a La Nina weather forecast making 'sooner rather than later' a good approach. Paul presented the statistics for LFW surveys.

Another survey in the Blackbutt Forest at Aura has been completed for Stockland and it was noted that signs allowing dogs on leash are missing from other gates, prompting off-leash roaming in the forest. The meeting voted to write to Council's environment department and Cr Baberowski requesting permanent signage and enforcement of dogs on leash.

Paul has resolved the technical issue with the now outdated software that ran the images of Kathleen McArthur's wildflower paintings on our 2009 CD-rom *When the mind opens the flowers bloom*. WQ has 60th anniversary funds available to support the new format, and the whole will be

**Good Reads**

*The art and science of shorebirds*, by Allan Briggs (science writer) & Margaret Worthington, Veronica Zeil and Sandra Harald (artists)



‘After four years of work Allan Briggs, Margaret Worthington, Veronika Zeil and Sandra Harald have published their book titled ‘The Art and Science of Shorebirds’. The book features a description of the evolution, ecology, migration and habitats of shorebirds as well as descriptions of 36 migratory and 18 resident species of shorebirds. Each species has a painting that depicts the artist’s interpretation of the bird, a description and a photograph. Most of the photographs were contributed by BirdLife Capricornia members so the book is a truly collaborative work. The publication of the book was funded by the Australian Governments Reef Trust programme and supported by the Fitzroy Basin Association. It was printed by Gladstone Printing Services.’  
**Source: Brolga, Vol 10 No 3 September 2021, Birdlife Capricornia**

accessible on the WQ website and also on the Sunshine Coast Libraries Heritage Library website.

Rob Kernot led the Pt Cartwright survey on 26 September, with a surprisingly low bird count that did not include the Fairy Gerygone. However, there were Richmond Birdwing butterflies (four males and one female), and whales offshore!  
**Faunawatch walks:** See Advance Dates for details of Locations in the next few months.

**Response: Jill’s Submissions on Development Applications**

Jill’s forensic response to a proposal for a Tourist Park at Meridan Plains details misplacement of the Study Area in the southern Sunshine Coast and Hinterland region, missing vegetation covenants, alienation of rural and agricultural land, threats to wetlands with possible Christmas Bell presence, inadequate addressing of bushfire, flooding and acid sulfate soils, and negative traffic impacts on Caloundra Road and Kawana Way. Here is her response in full:

**Re: MCU21/0073**

**Development Permit for Material Change of Use of Premises to Establish a Tourist Park and Short-term Accommodation On: Lot 6 RP913729 17 Westaway Road, Meridan Plains**

‘...We note that, according to the proposed plan of development, only the southern, partially cleared, portion of the site is intended for development into Tourist Park and Short-term accommodation. The northern forested portion consisting of Regional Ecosystems (REs) 12.3.13, Least Concern, 12.3.11, Of Concern, 12.3.5, Least Concern, and RE 12.3.6, Least Concern, is considered “protected” by the various consultants. However, we can find no mention of a Vegetation Covenant, or equivalent, being provided over that portion of the site. We consider Vegetation Covenant protection to be critical for the future conservation of that portion of the land for its natural habitat, connectivity and biodiversity values.’

In that regard, as an encouraging aspect, the ecological consultants have stated: *Although the Endangered coastal Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community does not occur on site at present on the basis of not meeting the relevant criteria, due to die-back, we note that it is likely that the community existed on site prior to die-back, and that it may regenerate over time.*

We note that the land is zoned Rural, containing Class A and B agricultural land. We are totally opposed to the continuing alienation of rural, agricultural land to practices not aligned with rural pursuits nor compatible with rural character, and to ever increasing urbanisation.

In our opinion, this site should not be developed for Tourist Park/Short-term accommodation purposes. As mentioned, the land is zoned Rural, not designated as a tourist focus/urban area. The site is also not located in the southern Sunshine Coast hinterland area, the Study Area defined by Council.

**Ecological Assessment**

The consultants, Evolve Environmental Solutions Pty Ltd (Evolve) state that the land can be broken down into two main sections for ecological function and description. The southern portion, the Site,

And get in early for Christmas gifts with copies of 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.

being a rural horse agistment with scattered native trees, mainly *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, and assorted dams and paddocks.

The site is dissected by Currimundi Creek. The northern portion north of Currimundi Creek is a complex mix of Wetland and low-lying wet sclerophyll forest.

There are seven (7) flora species growing within the Site that are recognised as flora wetland indicators by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, evidencing consistently damp on-site conditions. Evolve state that approximately 20.5% of the species identified within the Site bounds were wetland indicator species.

We understand that although Christmas Bells, *Blandfordia grandiflora*, 'Endangered' under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, were not identified during the survey, being cryptic plants when not in flower, there is the possibility they may exist on the Site.

It is interesting to note that the network of tracks through the area north of Currimundi Creek were waterlogged during the survey period with the presence of Woolly Frogs' mouth, *Phylydrum lanuginosum*, and other wetland indicator species indicating long term persistent waterlogging of the area.

Again, further north, *A high proportion of wetland indicator species were identified (40% of total species present), including water snowflake, Nymphoides indica, growing in the wet track, indicative of consistent waterlogging.*

Although they were not discovered during the survey, there is potential habitat for the 'Vulnerable' frogs (Nature Conservation Act) Wallum Froglet, *Crinia tinnula*, and Wallum Sedge Frog, *Litoria olongburensis*, throughout the pools and dams on site.

With the consistent waterlogging in the north of the site, there is every likelihood of inundation flowing through to the proposed camp site during times of even moderate rainfall.

We are of the opinion that this is unlikely to provide a suitable site for a Tourist Park.

#### **Needs Assessment**

We understand that Council has requested that the focus of this assessment (the Study Area) be the southern Sunshine Coast hinterland region.

In defence of the need for additional tourist accommodation the consultants, Urban Economics, quote the Sunshine Coast Destination Tourism Plan 2020 - 2025 which estimated that there is demand across the Region for an additional 6 holiday parks, with at least 250 sites per park.

In developing this needs assessment, the consultants place great emphasis on the site's proximity to nearby attractions and facilities, including the soon to be developed Honey Farm Sporting and Recreational Precinct and the Sunshine Coast Turf Club, as being able to offer adjacent affordable accommodation to patrons of those facilities.

They state that there are no other sites that are appropriately zoned, with access to Caloundra Road and proximate to the Bruce Highway, that would provide overnight visitors with convenient access to the array of local attractions and facilities within the Study Area.

We understand that the site is not yet "appropriately zoned" for their needs, being currently zoned "Rural" for agricultural pursuits. As mentioned, we are opposed to continual urbanisation of rural lands.



The Department of Environment & Science is looking for our comments by 28 October 'on a proposal to amend the: Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan (the Koala Conservation Plan).

**Summary of proposed changes to the Koala Conservation Plan**

The proposed amendments would:

- Clarify that when rehabilitated koalas are being released to the wild, release must be as close as practicable to the site from which they were rescued.
- Increase the current 5km maximum release distance from the koala's rescue site to 10km for adult koalas (and up to 50km for hand-reared orphans).
- Establish that meeting the standards and prescriptions of the relevant code of practice would be an acceptable way to comply with the relevant requirements in the Koala Conservation Plan. (Noting that the code of practice is currently under consideration for review also.)

The primary purpose of these changes is to address situations where release site options may be very limited, for example in highly urbanised areas, while continuing to ensure that koalas are released as close as possible to their known home range and preferred feed trees, and that all releases occur according to the code of practice to enable the best possible outcomes for released koalas.'

Moreover, we feel that as the Study Area is to focus on the southern Sunshine Coast and hinterland region, the proposed Tourist Park should be located closer to the Hinterland and its many attractions. Tourists intending to visit the hinterland are not looking for access to Caloundra Road or proximity to the Bruce Highway. We are of the opinion that the site will not *provide overnight visitors with convenient access to the array of local attractions and facilities within the Study Area*, being some distance away from the nearest attractions, Ewen Maddock Dam recreation areas, the Big Kart Track and Australia Zoo.

The site is also subject to constraints, notably the likelihood of bushfire and inundation.

**Bushfire Management Plan**

The consultants, Bushfire Risk Reducers, acknowledge that the likelihood of wildfire at some point is regarded as likely, and the location of the hazard is partly aligned with the direction of worst-case fire weather conditions.

Recommended strategies/mitigation measures for the safety of guests, buildings/structures and other assets are provided, but we have concerns over some aspects of visitor safety.

**Section 3.0 - Bushfire Hazard Assessment**

We understand that the site has a Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) designation overall of "Medium" potential fireline intensity, with the narrow strip of vegetation along Honey Farm Road rated "High", due to its Surface and Near Surface fuel load.

**Section 6.2 - Anticipated direction of bushfire attack**

The consultants state *Unplanned "wildfire" attack is possible from the north, south or east ..... partially aligned with the direction of worst-case weather conditions for the region, this being westerly to north westerly.*

As stated, *bushfire attack comes in a number of forms: direct flame, radiant heat, embers, smoke and wind.* Research shows that over 80% of houses lost to bushfire in Australia can be attributed to ember attack within 100m of bushland.

In this regard, we disagree with the consultants' suggestion that *if the bushfire is close to, and advancing towards the site it is likely that sheltering in place is a preferable response to an attempt to evacuate. The hotel convention centre and central facilities building are obvious shelter points for site guests whilst the incident passes.*

The consultants also state that the person acting as Site Operator/Fire Warden should make the decision to Stay and Defend or Go Early. We would recommend the Go Early option, as, in the case of a bushfire it is practically impossible to predict the speed, direction or severity of the fire, especially when smoke obscures clear vision. Unfortunately, this option also adds to the risk, see our comments in Section 7.3 and 8.0 below

**Section 6.3 - Anticipated severity of bushfire attack**

In defence of calculating a lower flame temperature for Area 3, parallel to Honey Farm Road, apparently to avoid a building setback of 46m, the consultants state:

*It is argued that the site use involves able bodied guests who are readily able to move away from the edge of unmanaged vegetation with readily available shelter points, and so should not be considered a "vulnerable use" in the same way that aged care or child care may be so considered.*

As mentioned, we are opposed to the suggested “shelter points”, and we are of the opinion that the site use should be considered a “vulnerable use” due to the inherent risk of unplanned bushfire. We are at a loss to understand how it is calculated that the site use will only involve physically mobile guests. Holiday parks also’ attract families with young children, elderly persons with mobility aids, disabled persons, the visually impaired, and others with physical or mental impairment.

Another concern is that the site provides only one access/egress road, which the consultants appear to stress as being acceptable.

**Section 7.3 - Access and Egress Management**

*The site is within approximately 7km by road of the nearest Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Caloundra Fire Station)*

*The site has a single access/egress route, which is only temporarily exposed along Honey Farm Road (to the Racecourse Road interchange) Such exposure should not be considered unacceptable risk*

**Section 8.0 - Assessment of proposal against Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 (Part 8.2.4 Bushfire overlay Code)**

**Access and Evacuation Routes - Acceptable Outcome A06.1 is applied to the extent that the road layout provides a relatively (the underlining is the writer’s) safe route for access and egress by residents and Emergency Services alike.**

We are of the opinion that this route poses an unacceptable risk to residents and Emergency Services alike in times of wildfire.

**Flood assessment**

As mentioned, the site is situated on the wider Mooloolah River floodplain with the local Currimundi Creek dissecting the property, and is impacted by Riverine Flooding from Currimundi Creek and the Mooloolah River floodplain.

The assessment has demonstrated that the development will cause small increases in flood levels that are unlikely to result in actionable nuisance to properties external to the site, but we are concerned over possible adverse effects on the adjacent Palm Lakes Lifestyle Resort.

The existing site has the potential to be inundated during both regional Mooloolah River and local catchment flood events.

Given the waterlogged areas mentioned in the Environmental report, there is every likelihood that even a medium rainfall event would cause inundation.

On many occasions flooding of that area has spread from the Turf Farm at Glenview, flowing through culverts under the Bruce Highway, spreading over the adjacent area. Inundation flows south of the Ring Tank, compounded by flood waters from the waterways dissecting the site, and run off from Corbould racecourse. During those events access/egress to rural properties has only been possible by farm tractor.

With the increasing likelihood of climate change-generated extreme weather events, as have occurred this year, three times in almost as many months, there is every possibility that the site will suffer frequent periods of inundation.

While the adjacent Honey Farm Sporting and Recreational Precinct is able to allow for unavoidable inundation, similar provision may be difficult for the proposed Tourist Park. There is also the possibility of difficulty of evacuation as mentioned in the previous section.

Get your weeding gloves on!

There are plenty of opportunities to join a BushCare group near you. Check out the Council websites. Here are some monthly sessions closest to southern-based residents, most commencing at 8 am, with weeding and planting for a couple of hours followed by a welcome morning tea and chat:

**Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Reserve:** 1st Wednesday

**Watson Environment Park (Shelly Beach):** 1st Friday

**Golden Beach Foreshore:** 2nd Thursday

**Tooway Lake:** 2nd Friday

**Shelly Beach Foreshore:** last Saturday.

Enquiries to [sunshine@wildlife.org.au](mailto:sunshine@wildlife.org.au)

### Traffic

The proposed Tourist Park is intended to cater for a large number of visitors. This will inevitably increase the congestion on Caloundra Road and Kawana Link Way. In the future, heavy vehicles along the proposed haulage route of Westaway Road from the approved extractive resource area of Meridan Plains is likely to impact on the Park's amenity, as well as adding to roadway congestion.

### Acid Sulfate Soils

Another constraint on this proposed development is the high level of soil acidity found on site.

The survey carried out by CORE Consultants Pty Ltd, (CORE), found very High or extremely High levels of ASS.

*Of the 12 samples analysed, net acidity exceeded the relevant QASSIT 'Action Criteria' (for bulk earthworks) in all samples indicating that management and/or lime neutralisation treatment will be required if soils are disturbed.*

*Given the anticipated volume of soils that will be disturbed and required lime treatment, management of lime treatment at this site would be classified as either **VH (very high)** or **EH (extra high)** treatment in accordance with Queensland Soil Management Guidelines V4.0 - Table 4.2 (i.e >5 to 25 tonnes, or > 25 tonnes of aglime).*

The Queensland Soil Management Guidelines V4 require that for Categories **EH** treatment a stand-alone Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan (ASSMP) must be provided.

We note that CORE have provided recommendations on strategies to be included (as a minimum) in an ASSMP for the site, including neutralizing excavated soil with good quality agricultural lime as recommended in the *Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual, Soil Management Guidelines (Ver. 4.0. 2014*. This would appear to be a considerable constraint.

In view of these issues and our concerns, we ask that this application be refused.'

In another response, Jill has homed in on inadequacies in the developer's proposal re bushfire (poor escape routes and QFES access within sloping cul de sacs), koala habitat (conflicting statements - *see below*), trapping of fauna prior to clearing (amphibian/frog surveys undertaken in a dry period, and no provision for a qualified spotter/catcher), and vegetation offsets (hopefully close to the proposed development).

Re: RAL22/0047

Development Permit to Reconfigure a Lot (4 lots into 17 lots) 766, 774 & 780 Eudlo Road & 9 Bamboo Road Palmwoods Lot 5 RP207582, Lot 4 RP207581, Lot 8 & Lot 9 RP856631

In this extract, re koala habitat, Jill writes:

'We note that the land is classified as Koala priority area, suitable for koala restoration:

**Figure 1-3 Site context of proposed development on 766,806 Eudlo Rd, 9 Bamboo Rd Palmwoods including SCC layers-native vegetation, bushfire hazard, riparian protection area and koala habitat (DES)**

Yet in **TABLE 7 CODE 8.2.3 - CRITERIA FOR ASSESSABLE DEVELOPMENT - Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 - Biodiversity Waterways and Wetlands Overlay Code** - under PO5/AO5, the consultants state that: *Site is not within a priority Koala area and doesn't contain any koala habitat areas.'*

## Flowers with Phil Bender

### Maroochy Nut (*Macadamia ternifolia*)

Also known as the Small-fruited Queensland Nut and the Gympie Nut, this small subtropical rainforest tree was historically found from the Pine River north to Kin Kin, and is now limited to an area between Mt Pinbarren near Pomona (northern extent) and Mary Cairncross Park near Maleny (southern extent), a distance of almost 50 km.

My tree was grown from a seed collected on the Mooloolah River and this year its gorgeous reddish-pink new leaf growth was followed by light pink flowers, now just finished – and what a show it was! Native bees and honey bees were in attendance as were a couple of species of butterflies. The seed kernel is cyanogenic and bitter and regarded as poisonous and therefore not for eating. The EPBC listing (2000) and the *Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020 (Queensland)* April 2022 list status are both 'Vulnerable', and the IUCN has it listed as 'Endangered' (*Global Status: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: 2021.3 list*).



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