

CONSERVATION NEWS
April-May 2023

General meetings:
26 April (instead of 19 April), 17 May, 1 pm,
Caloundra Power Boat Club

Executive meetings: TBA

Executive:

President: Claire Brown

Vice-Presidents: Paul Smith
& Suzanne Aspland

Secretary: Jude Crighton
(Ph: 5491 4153)

Treasurer: Judy Burns (Ph:
5441 3913)

Committee Member: John
Roberts

Minutes: Jenny Gursanscky

Newsletter Editor: Helen
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Our thanks to Caloundra MP
Jason Hunt and staff for
their kind support in the
photocopying of
Conservation News



Our 60th year

We farewell Anne Wensley as President after two years of excellent guidance based on her 60 years of participation in branch activities and her depth of environmental and social knowledge, of the Caloundra area in particular. In her annual report, Anne states:

‘I believe we should be extremely proud of our endeavours for the environment. In the 60 years of our existence there has been a big shift in thinking about our natural environment. It is now understood, almost universally, that if you tamper with the environment you will pay for it somehow, sometime. I have personally been involved in environmental issues for that 60 years and I can vouch for that shift. We were once seen as ‘those green eccentrics’, however, now, whether it is stated or not, it is obvious that we have been correct in all our assertions – witnessed by the many, many changes in our local councils’ policies and attitudes over these years. I like to think we have slowly educated them, even if it was a drip feed to start with. Now, they listen!

I think we forget to give ourselves positive feedback. Let’s change that in 2023 and keep a list of our wins.’

Please see Anne’s full report, including a commendable networking list, below.

We congratulate **Claire Brown** on her nomination and election as President for 2023, and other office-holders – Secretary Jude, Vice-Presidents Paul Smith and Suzanne Aspland, Treasurer Judy Burns, Committee Member John Roberts, Minutes Secretary Jenny Gursanscky and Newsletter Editor Helen Kershaw – for continuing in their roles.

A big thank you is due to **Kirsten Blake**, who, over quite a few years, has wrangled the copying, folding and postage of more than 400 copies of the newsletter annually. Now, snail-mail has shrunk to a handful, and Kirsten can relax in the knowledge that members received their *Conservation News* in good time.

Jill Chamberlain, esteemed past-Secretary and President, is retiring from her assiduous monitoring of Sunshine Coast Council’s Development.i. Her submissions in response to development applications are a model for articulate and well-informed environmental concern. Jill will pass on her skills to younger members.

<https://developmenti.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au>

Advance Dates

18 April - 30 April, 10 am - 2 pm:

Sentience in the natural world: a handweaving exhibition by Suzy Furness, plus two weaving workshops April 21, 22, & 23; April 28, 29, 30 at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens: furness@powerup.com.au

22 April, Drop-in any time between 9 am - 1 pm: Sunshine Coast Council's Shelly Beach-Moffat Beach Coastal Study outcomes information session

Endeavour Room, Rumba Resort, 10 Leeding Terrace, Caloundra

Bookings are necessary via Council's Have Your Say website (see main text)

26 April, 1 pm

Pt Cartwright talk by Quentin Brown, followed by our General Meeting Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach

29 April - 1 May
Maleny Wood Expo

Volunteers are needed to mind the shop for WPSQ for a few hours over the three days: please contact Jude. We have free passes!

4 May, 11 am to 2 pm
State MP Jason Hunt's Environment and Energy Forum, Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach
We'll have WPSQ information available.

From the February & March Meetings

Sunshine Coast Council's FOGO waste roll-out & the future of soft plastic recycling

We have written to Sunshine Coast Council in support of Council's proposed Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection roll-out, urging action and the possibility of *bagged* soft plastics being placed in current yellow-lid recycling bins.

See also the Boomerang Alliance campaign requesting legislative action on the issue of soft plastic waste recycling:

https://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/please_dont_go_soft_on_plastics?utm_campaign=dear_tanya_01&utm_medium=email&utm_source=boomerangalliance

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

As a member of the Transport & Main Roads Stakeholder Interest Group (SIG), Jude, plus other WPSQ members, were invited to take the TMR project head and their environment officer through our issues, in the park. We were joined by a representative of Cycling Without Age, a social enterprise charity that addresses social isolation and community engagement for the elderly and those with limited mobility, who regularly cross into the park from West Terrace. Minutes taken at the meeting by TMR will be made available at the next SIG meeting. TMR stated that the purpose of the meeting was to understand how WPSQ and Friends of Ben Bennett use the Park, and what we value about it. They were certain in one respect in that Energex will not allow construction under the high-voltage powerlines (Caloundra's main source of power), which may have the effect of the road impinging further on certain areas of Ben Bennett Park. Protecting the Lowland Rainforest is recognised as necessary, but they appear to have no other environmental assessment information.

Council's new Caloundra area Roving BushCare group, which includes WPSQ members, has visited Ben Bennett Park since our meeting, planting Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines in an area containing one thriving plant and suitable alluvial soil, and also weeded along the fence line with the high school.

Point Cartwright

Member Quentin, and driver of the Point Cartwright Community Reference Group, gave a short update on the campaign to preserve the natural values of Point Cartwright. Since 2019 any littoral (coastal) rainforest greater than 1000 sqm is deemed nationally significant and the Federal Government wishes to preserve remaining and restore degraded areas of this rainforest. WPSQ supports this push. The Sunshine Coast Council masterplan for Pt Cartwright is prepared and the new Town Plan is with the State Government for checks, however it is unclear if conservation zoning for Pt Cartwright may be achieved.

4 May, 2 - 3.30 pm
The State of Our Species Forum with presentations on Sunshine Coast fungi (Wayne Boatwright), flora (Spencer Shaw) and fauna (Dr Beth Brunton), followed by a Q&A session for audience participation. Free! We'll have WPSQ information available.
Arts & Ecology Centre, Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens

May (date, location TBC)
Workshop by Matt Cecil (Council staff) on Richmond Birdwing Butterflies

June (several days and locations)
World Environment Day events

16 July
Entries close for the WildHeART Student Art Prize, with the exhibition from 16 September to 1 October

August/September
Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival

9 September
Hosting the State AGM

The recent Queensland Conservation Council and State Government ministerial roundtable did not provide sufficient time to discuss the issue of littoral rainforest zoning, and a special meeting will be held, which may affect the outcome. **Quentin will do a presentation on the rainforest, shorebirds, butterflies and First Nation People's heritage at our General Meeting on 26 April for WPSQ and other local conservation groups and interested people.**

Recommended reading is the Commonwealth EPBC Act document on Littoral Rainforest: 'a nationally threatened ecological community':
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/littoral-rainforest.pdf>

Drones and birds

WQ Head Office has been contacted re any existing or developing policy or guidelines associated with the impact of drones on wildlife.

Bribie Island breakthrough

Sue Aspland reports in her capacity as the WPSQ member of the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Management Body that – unfortunately – there is no political will to have another heavily funded group such as the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. The group is looking to reassess its role and will likely re-form as the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Advisory Group. Two key original members have left the Coast, and Sue has been working with Ken Mewburn from TAPP on a proposal to go firstly to a PPCMB meeting and if endorsed, to State and Federal Government authorities after that.

Observations by our members on areas closed to the public due to asbestos findings are that Council signs encouraging dog control on beaches at low tide could be moved to more prominent access points. Wording could be stronger than 'keep dogs under control'. We will contact Council and member Allan will contribute a piece to the Golden Beach Progress Association's newsletter on the issue. There is some social media evidence that beach users are becoming more aware of the negative impact on birdlife of dogs off-leash on the RAMSAR-protected sandbanks. The Waders Study Group is also contacting Council re more impactful signage.

Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Study update

The report will be presented to participating interest groups on 19 and 21 April. **A drop-in session on Saturday 22 April will cover all areas and is open to any interested members of the public. See venue details and times in Advance Dates. Bookings are required:**
<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/shelly-beach-moffat-beach-coastal-study>

Faunawatch Outings

Second Wednesday of the Month Walks, 8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens: 12 April, 10 May, 14 June,

Fourth Monday of the Month walks, 8 am:

Monday 24 April:
Emu Mountain, Coolum, at the end of Havana Road East (access off David Low Way) next to Coolum State School.

This is a really good walk through coastal wallum in the Noosa National Park, and if we don't see a Peregrine Falcon then we should at least see some endemic flora.

Monday 22 May:
Koala Park Rosemount, meeting in the car park at 123 Panorama Drive, Rosemount

We'll try our luck again for a koala in this 16-ha park on the eastern side of Nambour.

Vale Chris Smith, who passed away on 19 February at the age of 81. Chris was a bird lover who began a group that became Birdlife Sunshine Coast. He was also a keen spider-watcher. Chris supported 'Rhythms of Life', initiated by Cliff and Peg Whiteoak, and it was this group that later became Faunawatch.

Maleny Wood Expo, 29 April - 1 May

Volunteers are needed to help mind the shop and engage with browsers about our activities and maybe recruit some new members at our stall in the environment tent. We'll have a Square ready to take card payments for *Piece by piece*, Kathleen McArthur's card sets and second-hand wildlife books, and Elaine will present a short talk on 60 years of WPSQ, including the background to development and conservation in her book *Piece by piece*, in a program of talks within this tent on the Sunday and Monday. **Please contact Jude or email sunshine@wildlife.org.au if you can help out for a few hours on any day.**

<https://malenywoodexpo.com>

WildHeART Student Art Prize 2023

The exhibition dates have been released: 16 September to 1 October with entries closing on 16 July. If you would like to personally contribute any amount of money to augment the branch allocation of \$250, please contact Jude. Details of the event and entry forms are here:

<https://botanic-garden.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/see-and-do/wild-heart-student-art-prize>

Inter-Urban Break/Green Belt

TAPP and SCEC convened a meeting attended by WPSQ representatives on 22 March to further a united community response to maintaining the IUB. The outcome, Protecting Our Regional Inter-Urban Break Alliance (PORIBA) will spearhead a campaign to restore the full status of the Inter-Urban Break to that prior to the Campbell Newman government's watering down of protective legislation for areas from the Glasshouse Mountains to the Pumicestone Passage, including Halls Creek (bordering on the Passage and south-east of Aura).

PORIBA will focus on educating the public in the value of a Green Belt between population areas of Brisbane and the Coast, and influencing the State Government to legislate prohibition of development in perpetuity in the Inter-Urban Break as defined by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Council, over an extended time, has been against 'Growth areas' within the IUB. To further its aims, PORIBA will identify other relevant community groups and approach them to enlist support, providing a background document prepared by SCEC from material put together by TAPP and the CRA.

Social media and other communications and a public forum will follow. WPSQ will assist in getting information out to members and our wider group of supporters.

Faunawatch

We wish our birding specialist Rob Kernot a full recovery from his recent illness.

The mid-term progress report for the Land for Wildlife property surveys has been submitted, with surveys on target.



Be in good company!

Develop citizen science skills on expertly guided Faunawatch outings to environmental reserves across the Sunshine Coast.

Appreciate the diversity and beauty of local flora on Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival guided walks.

Contribute your particular skills to branch campaigns, projects and educational events.

Read our bi-monthly Conservation News, find meeting and Faunawatch dates, and become a member of our branch

www.wildlife.org.au
sunshine@wildlife.org.au

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
 Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc. has been working with governments and the community to preserve wildlife habitat since 1963, inspired by founder artist, author and activist: Kathleen McArthur (1915-2000).



Kathleen McArthur
 Christmas Bells *Blenhoveia grandiflora*

Survey results from the Backbutt Forest were presented at the Aura Community Consultation Group meeting, and Stockland is keen to commission new Aura surveys. Four sites will be proposed, bearing in mind that access to all sites may be difficult due to current construction.

While Stockland promotion was inadequate last year, Aura Environment Day will be scheduled for the end of June, with SCEC engaging with Stockland.

Faunawatch walks: At **Ben Bennett Bushland Park** a highlight was the sighting of a pair of Fairy Gerygones, which are rare in southern Queensland and may not be present at all times in this reserve. In response to climate warming, this species is moving south from its observed limit of the Bundaberg area, and has been recorded south of Brisbane. Its habitat is littoral and coastal rainforest, and eight pairs have been reported breeding at Pt Cartwright for 20 years, ranging down to Kawana. Tallies for Ben Bennett included 45 birds, one sluggish Lace monitor with a decent bulge in its stomach, 14 butterflies, five Eastern sedge frogs, two Striped marsh frogs, two dragonflies, at least four spiders, and three cicadas. At the **Coochin Creek outing at Beerwah** there were 52 species of birds, and a special sighting of a Buff-banded Rail. See Jenny's photos on our Facebook page:

https://m.facebook.com/people/Wildlife-Queensland-Sunshine-Coast-Hinterland-Branch/100067149263194/?refsrc=deprecated&_rd=1

See **Side column** for Faunawatch walks.

60 Years

We celebrate the new life given to our 2009 CD-rom *When the mind opens the flowers bloom: Kathleen McArthur (1915-2000) – Queensland wildflower artist, author, environmental educator and conservation advocate: a selection of paintings, writings and photographs*. The link from the Wildlife Qld website will be sent out soon to members on completion of the technical task, with thanks to Paul Smith for his skill in converting the work to a web format, to Head Office staff Amanda Little and Wenda Surety for their web support, and to Myra Murtagh for graphic design.

Myra has also designed our new information bookmark (see left), ready for our upcoming events. Thank you to Phil Bender for the Blue Triangle butterfly.

Workshop to Review Branch Operations, 23 March

Outgoing President Anne, who initiated the member survey in 2022, has encouraged the branch to review how we do business. Elaine kindly recruited Susie Chapman, previously of Healthy Land & Water, to lead a workshop to gain a clear consensus on the way forward in our 60th year. We thank Susie for her excellent facilitating skills, and for her gratis

contribution, and for Elaine and Sue who followed up with the report and an event plan. Here are the main points:

Updating (but not diminishing the intent of) language from the 1960s

Revised Mission statement

To advocate for the protection and conservation of Queensland's native terrestrial and marine plants, mycology, animals and landscapes by educating and engaging communities, influencing decision-making, advancing solutions and connecting people with nature primarily within the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland region of Queensland.

Revised Vision statement

People value, respect and support the conservation of Queensland's biodiversity.

Revised Objectives:

- Preserve the biodiversity of Australia by lawful means
- Educate the community in an understanding of the principles of conservation, preservation of the natural environment and climate change
- Discourage, by all legal means, the possible destruction, exploitation and unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment
- Encourage rational land use and proper land planning of existing and future development, and the use of the natural environment and its management
- Collect sound data and use citizen science to advance knowledge of biodiversity
- Respect the knowledge of, and collaborate with, First Nations People

Publicity

It was generally agreed that more publicity is desirable, and a need for members to take on various aspects of promotion was identified. Towards this end the Facebook page has been reactivated and social media is seen as a pathway to increasing memberships, especially by and for a younger demographic.

Further discussion identified two types of publicity: advocacy for environmental issues (the 'battles') and promotion of walks and events. The media tends to pick up the 'battles' and more promotion of branch activities is desirable.

Although more than half of survey respondents supported holding meetings outside of Caloundra, the active members expressed strong support for continuing to hold regular meetings in Caloundra. It was agreed that consistency is required and staying with the third Wednesday of the month in the afternoon suits the majority of members.

The importance of avoiding burnout by Executive Committee members and sharing the workload of attending networking

meetings was discussed along with streamlining agendas and meeting procedures.

Susie, now assisting USC Animal Ecology students to find placements, can channel student expertise to WPSQ.

Community engagement and member education

Guest speakers: To grow membership and be able to vary meeting event location around the Sunshine Coast region, the subject of a program of speakers separate to the regular monthly meetings drew enthusiastic support, with the following points made:

- Talks could be held in other areas apart from the Caloundra district, and Council buildings may provide accessible venues, as could Sea Life at Mooloolaba
- Talks could be held on weekends to allow working people and families to attend and could coincide with special environmental calendar events
- A list of priority topics was generated: turtles, shorebirds, wildflowers, bats, backyards for biodiversity, coastal littoral rainforest protection with likely presenters being Council staff and member and other local specialists

Events

The branch is already committed this year to events that include SCEC Roundtables, Maleny Wood Expo (April/May), World Environment Day (June), Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival walks (August/September), hosting the State AGM on 9 September, and Turtle Day in October. Faunawatch events are held twice a month. New events need to be timed to complement and not conflict with these, and Sue is compiling a spreadsheet of these and other events to assist planning, and offered to organise several speakers.

Strategic annual planning

It was agreed that a strategic planning day should be held each year to identify and prioritise issues and reach agreement whether to 'lead, collaborate or support', on the understanding that issues can arise at any time. Claire will follow up with a date for the first one.

Succession planning and skills development

Areas of expertise and experience were identified, particularly re development application responses and the newsletter.

Key actions

Actions and delegation of responsibilities have been identified, and a planning day will be organised, and annual plans into the future.

Weeds never sleep: weeding opportunities in 2023

Join a BushCare group near you, including the new **Roving groups** being set up by Council to cover – in the Caloundra area – Sharyn Bonney, Ben Bennett, Jill Chamberlain reserves and more. Check out the Council's BushCare website.

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 (run by National Parks & Wildlife)

Watson Environment Park (Shelly Beach): 1st Friday (Thursday if Friday is a public holiday)

Golden Beach Foreshore: 2nd Thursday

Tooway Lake: 2nd Friday

Shelly Beach Foreshore: last Saturday.

Enquiries to
sunshine@wildlife.org.au

Kathleen McArthur Lunch Hour Theatre Podcasts

The January issue, *People's Protest*, dramatises the fight for Cooloola, and signals the beginning of the Caloundra Branch of WPSQ:

'When Kathleen McArthur and Judith Wright stood on the top of Mount Tinbeerwah behind Noosa in 1953, they immediately saw the fascinating system of sand mass with related river and lakes would make a unique National Park.'

<https://shows.acast.com/kathleen-mcarthurs-lunch-hour-theatre-scripts-podcast/episodes/peoples-protest>
or wherever you get your podcasts.

Antarctic Bottom Water

Further to Joline's attendance on the expedition south, a report in *Nature* looks at the effects of the slowing circulation of 'bottom' and 'top' water in the Antarctic, including a reduction of the upflow of nutrients to feed marine creatures.

Commentary on the *Nature* article:

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2023/03/30/antarctic-ocean-currents-study/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-30/dramatic-south-ocean-circulation-changes-study/102154690>

Joline has kindly offered to present a talk on the work of the expedition, and we will notify members of details.

President's Annual Report

Anne Wensley's Report, 14 February 2023: Our 60th!

Introduction

Sixty years ago in 1963, Kathleen McArthur started the Caloundra Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. The group met in her downstairs room. The State WPSQ had formed in the October of 1962 and coincided with the release of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Her book was the 'originator of ecological concern' (Doris Lessing). That we are still in existence 60 years later is testament to the passion and persistence of our members past and present.

Apology

2022 has been a difficult year for me and I apologise for my inconsistent attendance to chair meetings, however, with support from our trusty executive – Jude, Judy, Sue, Paul, John, Jenny and Helen I was able to have a little time out. Thank you to you all.

Bribie Island Breakthrough

This time last year, after rough weather, a breakthrough occurred at the far north end of Bribie Island. Over 12 months the size of the breakthrough has become larger, and caused enormous sand banks in the Passage that have affected

Caloundra Coastguard's ability to navigate the Passage. At low tide at present it is possible to walk to North Bribie over the sandbanks.

WPSQ has been involved at many levels. Our Vice-President Sue has presented an historical overview to Noosa Parks Association with Help from TAPP and John Groves. Sue has also attended meetings of the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Management Body, whose aim is to have *one* voice for Pumicestone Passage and especially to streamline action within layers of legislation.

In October 2022 Jason Hunt, MLA for Caloundra, organised a meeting between WPSQ, Department of Environment & Science, Marine Services Qld and the Caloundra Coastguard. WPSQ has suggested that dredging in the naturally occurring North-South channel may reduce the high number of people accessing the National Park at low tide.

Kangaroos

After the breakthrough in Bribie Island we became aware that a few kangaroos were stranded on the northern island without water. National Parks were contacted and they were re-sited. Elaine Green advised us that Council had announced funding for a Macropod Conservation Plan and that SCEC was liaising, and that Beth Brunton was undertaking studies for the Council.

Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve

After years of meetings, letters and lobbying, in November 2022 we were informed that IJBR would be excluded from the Caloundra Aerodrome Master Plan expansion area. One win!

Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade and Ben Bennett Bushland Park

This ongoing issue which proposes an off-ramp of 2 or 4 lanes off Nicklin Way has moved to a new level. After a public meeting organised by the Caloundra Residents Association (CRA) and Value Caloundra, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has agreed to a Stakeholders Interest Group; groups include WPSQ represented by Jude Crighton, CRA, Value Caloundra, Active Transport advocate Prue Oswin, and a representative for elderly people who use Ben Bennett Park. We have been told that there will be only a 2% effect on Ben Bennett Park.

Jason, Hunt, Member for Caloundra, is supportive of the '2 lanes not 4' concept as he wishes to see traffic kept away from sports grounds, walkers, cyclists and school children. In late 2023 that design is to be completed and work is proposed to start in 2024.

Green Belt/Inter-Urban Break

Members of WPSQ as well as members of TAPP and SCEC met with Moreton Bay Regional Council to push for the maintenance and legislation to preserve a green belt between Brisbane and northern towns. Sunshine Coast Council is also supportive. It appears conservation groups will have to raise public awareness about this as Stockland is concerned that pushback would affect their Hall's Creek development.

Wildflower Festival

Our four walks in Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve, Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, Golden Beach Mangrove Board Walk, and Ben Bennet Bushland Park were quickly booked out. Many thanks to members Jude, Jenny, Sue, Dee and Helen for conducting these, and to Jo and Claire and others for their assistance.

State AGM & Southern Branches Get-togethers

In September Jude and Helen attended the AGM hosted by the Gold Coast Branch.

On Saturday 9 September 2022 our branch will host the 2023 event as a one-day event at the State Recreation Centre at Currimundi. We will finish it off with a Wildflower Walk through the Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park. This coincides with our 60th anniversary.

Kathleen McArthur Lunch Hour Theatre Podcasts

Karen Harper and her team from the Sunshine Coast Heritage Library have been working on making some of these scripts into podcasts.

Kathleen ran monthly events with actors and music in the 1970s and Karen has chosen a selection. The launch was held at the Nambour Library with Kathleen's son Hugh and his wife Anne in attendance. The podcasts are being released weekly.

WildHeART Student Realistic Art Competition

WPSQ became a sponsor of this competition – the Kathleen McArthur Threatened Species Award at 3 age levels. 489 artworks were entered. It was a great awareness-raising event - and especially rewarding to see the deep interest many children as well as their families had in Australian wildlife. We will continue to support this competition in 2023.

Margaret Thorsborne Award

The backbone of our group, Jude Crighton, received this award for her 'tireless work for the environment', not only in WPSQ but also in many other groups.

World Environment Day, June-July 2022

We shared two events with TAPP at Central Park at Pelican Waters, and Aura Environment Day at Baringa Forest Park.

Shelly Beach-Moffat Beach Study

Outcomes from Sunshine Coast Council are to be shared with groups in late February 2023.

Clean Up Australia Day

Jenny Gursansky organised WPSQ's contribution at Ben Bennett Bushland Park.

University of Sunshine Coast annual prize

WPSQ awards this annual prize to an outstanding ecology student. The 2021 recipient, Matt Mooney, gave a short presentation to us on *Rainforest resilience and frontiers of fire*.

Survey of Members

Early in the year we sent out a survey to our 60+ membership to see if we could come up with some new ideas to move forward in a more interesting, active way. Sadly, we had only 11 responses, but within these were some interesting ideas. It was resolved that we have a special meeting of those interested after the AGM to perhaps map out some new

initiatives on how to attract new members. It is worth noting that many of our members have a high level of commitment in other environmental groups to do with wildflowers, dune care, bush regeneration, turtle care, shorebird counts, etc.

Our networking skills

Over our 60 years we have built up a very strong network of like-minded groups and other organisations, and been involved in plans, feedback and meetings:

Sunshine Coast Council, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Aura (Stockland) Community group, Land for Wildlife private properties, Take Action for Pumicestone Passage, Sunshine Coast Regional Gallery (Caloundra), Climate Emergency, Caloundra Residents Association, Value Caloundra, Caloundra Aerodrome and Master Plan (re Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve), Shelly Beach Moffat Beach Study, Sunshine Coast Mass Transit, Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme, Create Caloundra CBD, Clean UP Australia Day, Maleny Wood Expo, Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival, Healthy Land & Water, BushCare groups (Shelly Beach, Watson Park, Tooway Lake, Golden Beach, Nambour), Mass Transit Intergenerational Forum, liaison with government representatives (Federal: Andrew Wallace, State: Jason Hunt, Council: Terry Landsberg, Peter Cox, Rick Baberowski, Maria Suarez and others); Ben Bennett Bushland Park Facebook page; Caloundra Greens, Shorebird Study Group, Friends of Mary Cairncross, Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, World Environment Day, Night Eyes, Golden Beach Residents Association, Currimundi Lake Catchment Care Group.

Sea Turtles

WPSQ member Claire, also a member of TurtleCare, alerted us to a State Government Planning Policy *Sea Turtle sensitive area Code*, intended to be a model for local government. We have expressed our opinions to Council on artificial lighting, especially at Shelly Beach.

RedCycle collapse

Redcycle has previously recycled soft plastics into outdoor furniture, bollards, etc, however the system has collapsed with large warehouses full of the collected waste bales. We have written to Sunshine Coast Council to suggest an investigation into accepting bagged soft plastics in yellow bin waste collections.

Point Cartwright Master Plan

Member Quentin Brown keeps us informed on the Point Cartwright Community Reference Group, whose latest proposals to Council include the protection of rocky shores for shorebird habitat, and concerns about drones and sea and other bird interaction.

Jill Chamberlain - submission-writer extraordinaire

Thank you, Jill, for your extremely detailed and researched submissions to development applications, which by now I am sure Council regards with admiration. On our behalf, Jill objected to an application for a tourist park at Meridan Plains. Council's reply was detailed and Council agreed with us that the application be refused. Jill's process is ordered and we feel she has created a model for others to follow. In our

TAWNY FROGMOUTH
(Podargus strigoides)

A much-loved and probably the most familiar nocturnal bird in the country, Frogmouths are often observed trying to look like a broken branch whilst at their daylight roost, posturing with tight feathers, stretched out with eyes 99% shut, the other 1% a tiny slit that sees exactly what's going on.

They feed on ground-dwelling frogs, insects, small mammals and birds. Nest architecture isn't their forte as the nests are rather flimsy affairs roughly made with sticks where two, sometimes three, eggs are laid. Incubation is about 30 days and the young fledge in about 4 to 5 weeks. These are fantastic birds to have around, especially if they decide to nest in your yard and you get to see the ever-so-cute baby Frogmouths at different stages of their development.

member survey it was noted that two of our members expressed interest in this area.

Membership & meetings

We have 65 financial members, and meetings were held in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, with a core group of around 15 - thank you so much; you know who you are.

Special thank-you's

Jude: having a finger on the pulse of everything and knowing every name, organisation and position, as well as her networking skills

Judy: meticulous bookkeeping

Paul: Faunawatch and Council's and other organisations' grant management

Jenny: Minutes secretary, keeper of the Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook page, Clean Up Australia Day

John: liaison with TAPP and Green Belt (Inter-urban Break) issues

Sue: dedicated research to the Bribie breakthrough issue

Helen: professional, easy to read, bi-monthly newsletter

Conclusion

I believe we should be extremely proud of our endeavours for the environment.

In the 60 years of our existence there has been a big shift in thinking about our natural environment. It is now understood, almost universally, that if you tamper with the environment you will pay for it somehow, sometime.

I have personally been involved in environmental issues for that 60 years and I can vouch for that shift. We were once seen as 'those green eccentrics', however, now, whether it is stated or not, it is obvious that we have been correct in all our assertions – witnessed by the many, many changes in our local councils' policies and attitudes over these years. I like to think we have slowly educated them, even if it was a drip feed to start with. Now, they listen!

I think we forget to give ourselves positive feedback. Let's change that in 2023 and keep a list of our wins.

Birds with Phil Bender

