

CONSERVATION NEWS  
Aug-Sep 2023

General meetings: Third  
Wednesday of the month:  
16 August, 20 September at  
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  
Kershaw

**Contact:**

P O Box 275, CALOUNDRA  
Q 4551

email:  
sunshine@wildlife.org.au

**Faunawatch Coordinator:**  
Dr Paul Smith

Ph: 5443 831; email:  
faunawatch@wildlife.org.au

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



**Celebrating Our 60th Year**

How did we get here? And has anything changed? We think so, and by the efforts of purposeful individuals, the education of those who represent us in government and the uptake of good science in the administration of a natural environment that supports us all.

However, our concerns today are not so different from those of our founder Kathleen McArthur and members of the Caloundra branch of WPSQ in their founding years:

**Caloundra Weekly** 23 October 1962

**MEETING DISCUSSES BRANCH OF WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

A meeting on Wednesday 14th November at the residence of Mrs. K. McArthur, Caloundra, to discuss the formation of a Caloundra Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, was very well attended.

Mr. J. Geddes, who chaired the meeting, said: 'I would like to welcome you here tonight. Mrs. McArthur is going to tell you the objects of this meeting. This is the first effort outside of Brisbane to form a branch, and I hope this idea will mushroom on and do a lot of good'.

'This idea,' explained Mrs. McArthur, 'grew out of a letter written by David Fleay and Judith Wright, calling for more training in schools concerning the knowledge of wild life. Nothing is done in schools except through individual teachers. If our aim is to publish a magazine that would be free to schools then we must have a society to back us. We called a public meeting in Brisbane in September which was well attended, and formed the Wildlife Preservation Society'. Mrs. McArthur then read the rules and constitution of this society.

'The main work at present being done,' said Mrs. McArthur 'is the magazine. It will be published quarterly and have forty-eight pages and will be lavishly illustrated. All areas of the State will be dealt with and people will be shown what to look for at different seasons. We hope there will be many Branches formed throughout the State. Our work in Caloundra would be conserving beach dunes, preserving patches of scrub in the districts, sand spits extending out of Happy Valley, replant foreshores, plant native trees and shrubs at High School [sic] and put regular Nature notes in the **Caloundra Weekly**. Suitable native trees could be planted in the local streets and avenues and a reference section [placed] in the School of Arts Library and in School Libraries'.

'As most of you know I have been interested in research in bird life,' said Mr. Galletly, 'and there are some very interesting species in this district. A lot of destruction of rare bird life in Caloundra is caused by stray cats. Someone dumped a cat and her kittens on my property recently and the cat promptly killed a pair of pet opossums [sic] and many of my birds. I would like to

## Advance Dates

### August/September Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival

Members will again lead  
walks, including post-  
Wildlife Qld AGM:

**Saturday 19 August:** Ben  
Bennett Bushland Park, with  
an earlier activity for small  
children and parents;

**Thursday 24 August:** Isabel  
Jordan Bushland Reserve;  
**Saturday 2 September**  
Currimundi (Kathleen  
McArthur) Conservation  
Park.

Details and booking  
information are on  
Sunshine Coast Council's  
website, or contact Jude  
(her details above). Places  
are filling fast.

Sunshine Coast Transport  
local Pop-up Information  
Sessions: Meet TMR *project*  
*teams for Direct Sunshine*  
*Coast Rail Line, Sunshine*  
*Coast Public Transport*  
*project, Mooloolah River*  
*Interchange and Kawana*  
*Motorway:*

(All sessions including  
Bokarina and Buderim  
sessions in July were  
advised to members earlier  
by email)

**Wednesday 2 August**  
3 pm–6 pm  
Beerwah Meeting Place  
25 Peachester Road,  
Beerwah

**Sunday 6 August**  
8 am–1 pm  
Caloundra Street Fair  
(Markets)  
Bulcock Street, Caloundra

tell the people of Caloundra if you have any unwanted animal to get in touch with the Health Inspector and he will send the Pound Keeper to take the animal away. I understand kangaroos roaming over the golf course here have been shot and I would like to know more about this, as it is not legal to shoot in this area. Since I have been here I have recorded 145 species of birds'.

Mr. Geddes [said], 'It is obvious it is high time a Society should be started here. I belong to the Golf Club and have not heard of any shooting of kangaroos. Shooting is not allowed there'.

Mrs. Marson [said], 'I have a love of flora and fauna and the corner by the golf course is very beautiful and should be preserved'.

Mrs. Nelson Gracie [said], 'This club should do a lot to educate our children and give them a love of their natural heritage'.

Mrs. Enid Card [said], 'To develop and preserve our wildlife would be in the interest of the tourist business in Caloundra. People come here to see wildflowers that are never seen in the South'.

Mr. Geddes then introduced Mr. Babbage from the Forestry Department who said he was most interested in the formation of this Branch and that its activities would be followed with interest by members of the Forestry Department.

After a further discussion it was decided there was sufficient local interest to go ahead and form a Caloundra Branch of the Society.

Reproduced with permission of Sunshine Coast Newspapers  
© WPSQ, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc

*Caloundra Weekly* 13 March 1964

### **FIRST ANNUAL WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEETING**

Mr. John Geddes, President of the Caloundra Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society, presented his report at the first annual meeting of the Society held at Caloundra recently. He said the inaugural meeting of this branch was held on the 15th March [actually 20 March] 1963, and since that date the membership has shown a steady increase until the branch now has twenty-eight members. This is a satisfactory rate of growth, as it is our aim to gain members interested in the object of the Society rather than gain large numbers of indifferent supporters.

The Branch has held twelve meetings, four of which have been entirely devoted to lectures by the following guest speakers:

Mr. Charles Roff—Fauna Officer in Queensland  
Dr. Len Webb—C.S.I.R.O. Forest Ecologist  
Mr. Hardie Buzacott—Authority on the Cooloola Sands  
Mr. Selwyn Everist—Government Botanist

The lectures attracted a great deal of interest in the district and attendances reached a peak figure of seventy members and visitors. I have no doubt that these lectures have materially assisted in the establishment of this branch, as well as providing interesting and stimulating evenings for the members.

Another important activity of the branch has been the weekly publication of articles appearing under the title 'Wildlife and Landscape' in the *Caloundra Weekly*, the *Maroochydore Advertiser* and the *North Coast Comet*. These articles have created tremendous interest amongst the local residents in our own and surrounding districts.

**Wednesday 9 August**

10 am–2 pm

Maroochydore: Millwell Road

Community Centre

11 Millwell Road,

Maroochydore

**9 August**

Closing date for Have Your

Say **Sunshine Coast**

**Council Waste Strategy**

(see **Updates**)

**Wildlife Qld Southern**

**Branches Get-together and**

**AGM & our 60th**

**Saturday 9 September**

We're hosting the State AGM

at the Currimundi

Recreation Centre then

taking attendees on a

wildflower walk in the

Kathleen McArthur

Conservation Park.

The AGMs are a great way to

connect with other branches

and their activities and

issues across the southern

parts of Queensland, as well

as meet the wonderful

hardworking folk from the

branches and of course Head

Office.

**Book online or download a**

**form; just \$35 for the day,**

including lunch and cake and

guest speakers as well as the

guided walk.

**[https://wildlife.org.au/event/wildlife-queensland-](https://wildlife.org.au/event/wildlife-queensland-southern-branches-get-together-and-agm-2023/)**

**[southern-branches-get-](https://wildlife.org.au/event/wildlife-queensland-southern-branches-get-together-and-agm-2023/)**

**[together-and-agm-2023/](https://wildlife.org.au/event/wildlife-queensland-southern-branches-get-together-and-agm-2023/)**

I formally thank the contributors for their splendid efforts on behalf of the branch.

A further successful project was the sale of native trees, organised just before Christmas. The cost of the trees has virtually been recouped and many suitable trees have been distributed for planting in the district. Some stock remains and is being cared for by the secretary, who reports that sales are continuing. Whilst on this subject, I must mention that several members have planted trees in gardens for owners who are unable to do so themselves.

It is interesting to note that requests for advice have been received by the Branch from several groups interested in the planting. The Caloundra Golf Club and the Lions Club are two groups that come to mind. In all cases we have been able to assist, and in the latter we supplied forty-five trees and a plan for their planting.

In conclusion, I wish to thank our very hard-working secretary, Mrs. K. McArthur, for the tremendous amount of work she has done for this branch and the Society. She has, at all times, carried out her duties with great zeal and efficiency. At present she is keeping a record for 1964 of local birds observed between Bell's Creek and Noosa on the coast, to Kondalilla National Park and Mary Cairncross Park to the ranges. I shall leave further details for her to report. Suffice to say that the progress of the Society and of this branch in particular is in part due to the unsparing efforts of our secretary.

I must draw your attention to the efforts of our treasurer Mrs. J. Nelson Gracie. She has looked after our financial problems so ably we find we have none. As well as to those two hard-working officers my thanks go to all you members who have taken a keen interest in the Society and assisted in many ways. I trust you will continue to support the Society in all its activities.

The secretary, Kathleen McArthur's report will be given in later issues.

Reproduced with permission of Sunshine Coast Newspapers  
© WPSQ, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc

In the following extract from a Wildlife and Landscape column in the *Sunshine Coast Weekly Advertiser*, Kathleen makes no apology for the work of the Caloundra Branch:

**Sunshine Coast Weekly Advertiser 3 May 1972**

**Wildlife and Landscape**

**REVIEWING TEN YEARS**

...Initially, the Society was literally concerned with wildlife, ie, flora and fauna. Soon it was to be seen that this was too limiting and evolved into a concern for a broadened concept of conservation when the term 'conservationist,' then often used derogatorily, slipped into local common usage. Within the past year, under threats of supersonic transport, we have broadened our outlook still further and conservationists are rapidly becoming environmentalists. Conservative thinkers, as so many of our politicians, departmental officers and local authority officers are, find it difficult to keep up with these expansions...

...Nearer home and nearer this date are our Caloundra Branch projects over the past seven months. Although climaxing in this time, the Currimundi-Point Cartwright beach is a matter that we, as individuals, have been involved with since 1960 when the bulldozing of the Point Cartwright dunes first revealed to us that the Government

**WildHeART Student Art Prize 2023 exhibition**  
**16 September– 1 October**  
at Maroochy Regional  
Bushland Botanic Gardens

**Welcome to Shorebirds**  
**23 September:**  
**Fraser Park, Golden Beach**

**24 September: Cotton Tree**  
**Park, Maroochydore**

**Sunshine Coast Council has planned two events to welcome the shorebirds back to the Sunshine Coast.** Bring your family and celebrate the endurance and determination of these birds. There will be children's activities, stalls and a movie in the park screening *Flyways: the untold journey of the migratory shorebirds*.

had signed a contract with the developers which permitted them to destroy the beach dunes in return for a road and three bridges.

At present we are awaiting a decision on our proposal to have that beach included in our local Beach Erosion Control District, and also another proposal to have a 3-mile x 8-chain area from high water back over the dunes, to be rescinded from the Development Lease and added to the Wildflower Reserve. Two mining applications for the area, one dating back to last year, which we are opposing, will not be heard until June 19. And at this very moment of writing we are impatiently waiting to see what our Government will do about the developer who proceeded with a road closure before the final date for objections.

No mean aspect of the Branch's activity has been the bringing to Caloundra of a constant series of fine lecturers, many of world renown. The latest is Professor L. S. Hamilton of Cornell University, U.S.A., who will give an address at the Hotel Perle this Thursday, May 4, at 8 p.m. For anyone interested in a world view on conservation issues, this lecture is a must. Mike Ahern [later Premier of Qld, 1987-1989], who played a vital role in bringing the professor to Queensland, will introduce him, and Roger Jeffries will move the vote of thanks. Both Mike and Roger are Society members of long standing.

No, The Wildlife Preservation Society has no apology to make to the Queensland people after ten years of dedicated voluntary work.

Kathleen McArthur  
Caloundra Branch, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Reproduced with permission of Sunshine Coast Newspapers  
© WPSQ, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc

**The above extracts are from *When the mind opens the flowers bloom*, CD-rom published by WPSQ Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc, 2009 and soon to be available online at [wildlife.org.au](http://wildlife.org.au).**

## **From the June & July Meetings**

### **Regional Inter-Urban Break**

We will write to the State Environment and Shadow Environment Ministers, Caloundra MP Jason Hunt, Member for Glasshouse Andrew Powell, Kawana member Jarrod Bleije, and the Deputy Premier Steven Miles noting the importance of the Regional Inter-Urban Break (RIUB) and threats to its integrity, seeking their positions and urging adoption of Sunshine Coast Council's definition of the northern boundary in the SEQ Regional Plan update, and legislating to retain the definition. See **Response** and **Updates** for further information.

### **Point Cartwright**

Quentin, our skilled lobbyist for the protection of Point Cartwright, thanked members who had made submissions on the Council's Draft Plan. Although the Plan's content is on balance positive from an environmental point of view, some support has been lost by extending the off-leash area on the beach in a turtle nesting location as an 'offset'. The next step is for Councillors to assess and adopt or reject the Plan at a

## Faunawatch Outings

**Second Wednesday of the Month Walks, 8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens:**

**9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November**

**Fourth Monday of the Month walks, 8 am:**

**No outing in August due to the Wildflower Festival**

**Monday 25 September, 8 am  
Cahill's Scrub, Peachester**  
This 18-ha bushland reserve has a great mix of species. Hopefully we will get another look at a Regent Bowerbird in the sun.  
**Meeting point:** The end of Harold Place at Peachester

**23 October, 8 am  
Kawana Forest, Meridan Plains**  
This walk is part of the Climate Watch trail. We will start in Kurrajong Park before walking into Kawana Forest. With the open grasslands to the west, big eucalypts and the wallum section it should bring a good mix of species.  
**Meeting Point:** Meet at the picnic shed in Kurrajong Park, with parking along and next to Kurrajong Crescent, Meridan Plains

Council meeting. Council meeting agendas are on line so we can lobby councillors when it is coming up. The regulatory (local laws) part of the Plan is separate from the political process.

Quentin pointed out that there were no community information sessions prior to the online survey and very little time to respond to the survey.

Quentin also made a positively received presentation to Noosa Parks Association, and addressed a meeting of the Beach Matters group on the environmental aspects of the Draft Plan. This was attended by CEO Emma Thomas, Environment and Liveability head Bill Hadrill, and Debra Robinson. However, following vociferous representations from the La Balsa Bow Wows dog off-leash lobby, he got the impression that some aspects of the Plan may be watered down.

It was resolved at our July meeting that WPSQ would write to Emma Thomas and Bill Hadrill to express our concerns over the potential loss of an area that should be protected and to include information based on science about the lowland rainforest, and dog behaviour impacts on flora and fauna. See **Response** for further information.

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

We will write a follow-up letter to council expressing our opposition to the proposed four-lane road. See **Updates** for further information.

### **Shelly Moffat Study**

It was resolved that we should contact Environment and Liveability head Bill Hadrill re an update on Council's EPBC submission.

Our involvement at the shared **World Environment Day** event with the Currimundi Catchment Care Group at Bancroft's Red Gum Environmental Reserve in June led to 'a happy engagement with the local community'. Pop out for a short walk at the Reserve opposite Daintree Boulevard, Little Mountain.

## Faunawatch

The second year of Council-funded surveys have now been completed on 27 Land for Wildlife properties over 62 days, with good results. The funds will be acquitted by the end of August and the September property list is due shortly, allowing a head start on surveying.

Paul is currently sifting through hours of on-site camera footage and will present his findings in a 'slide show' at the August meeting. On one property at Belli, there were platypuses, koalas, brush-tailed phascogales, spiny-cheeked honeyeaters and rose robins.

### **Faunawatch walks:**

June's walk recorded the now wonderfully ubiquitous platypus presence in the Obi Obi in Maleny, and the walk went ahead

**27 November, 8 am**  
**South River Park, East,**  
**South River Drive,**  
**Mooloolah Valley**

After another two years of re-growth it will be interesting to see how the area is progressing.

**Meeting point:** By the playground on South River Drive, Mooloolah

**Next WPSQ Branch planning session:** There will be a follow-up to our recent session, with a likely date towards the end of the year.

in Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park in July despite the first rain in weeks. Forty bird species were recorded, including the Australasian gannet, Shining bronze cuckoo and Rufous whistler, as well as two Golden orb weaver spiders.

See **Side column** for upcoming Faunawatch walks.

## Response

### **Regional Inter-Urban Break**

Concerns re impacts on the environment and subsequent impacts on native species have been expressed in our submission to the Federal Department of Environment regarding Stockland's recent referral under the *EPBC Act* of their proposed residential development at Aura South (Hall's Creek). WPSQ supports Sunshine Coast and Moreton Councils on the exclusion of Halls Creek from the RIUB, contrary to State Government intentions for accommodating population expansion in South-east Queensland. Vice-President Sue's detailed submission of 24 July focuses on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) re the Mt. Emu oak, the Wallum Sedge Frog, Remnant Wetlands, and the Water Mouse, as well as the proximity of Stockland's proposal to the Glass House Mountains National Park and the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

### **Stockland Referral Response: Inter-Urban Break**

'The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ), Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Inc. strongly supports the long-standing objection of Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council to the Queensland State Government's historically mapped Inter-Urban Break boundaries (Queensland State Government South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan 2017 (known as Shaping SEQ)). We therefore in principle object to the proposed extension of the current urban development at Aura expanding into the surrounding local Councils' Inter-Urban Break mapped area. While recognising the potential need for additional urbanisation of agricultural and pastoral lands within both local authority areas we believe that, given the proposed increase in population density, the protection of areas and species of national significance within the Moreton and Sunshine Coast Regions is critical. Accordingly, our response to the Stockland proposal/referral is within this context.

### **RAMSAR wetlands—Pumicestone Passage and Hall's Creek**

In January 2022 the ocean broke through the protecting influence of Bribie Island creating a new, ever-widening entrance to the Pumicestone Passage RAMSAR wetlands. As far as we are aware, this significant event and the ongoing changes within RAMSAR-listed Pumicestone Passage and the surrounding creek catchments have not initiated research to identify any significant impacts that have occurred, or are occurring, within the RAMSAR wetlands boundaries and creek catchments.

Before any increase in urban or recreational use in adjoining lands is permitted we believe that research is required to

## 60 Years

The link to *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* on the Wildlife Qld website will be sent out to members in August on completion of the technical task, with thanks to Paul Smith and Head Office staff Amanda Little. Thank you also to Myra for graphic design.

identify and monitor potentially significant changes within both the RAMSAR boundaries and creek catchments to identify threats to significant species' use of this nationally significant wetland.

### **Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)**

The proponent Stockland has indicated that two MNES species have been identified through field research within the proposed development site:

#### ***Allocasuarina emuina* Mt. Emu oak**

WPSQ Sunshine Coast Hinterland Inc. strongly supports the indicated preservation and long-term protection of this isolated population within the proposed development area. This species has a limited distribution and population density within the Sunshine Coast region with the closest identified populations being located at Beerwah Forest Reserve and Forestry Road (*A. emuina* Recovery Plan 2007, p 10). The Recovery Plan, p 14, identifies that, 'The presence of naturally established plants usually indicates that local environmental conditions are suitable for maintaining the population dynamics of this species through all life history stages. That this species has survived despite historical use of the Aura South site use for pine plantations and grazing indicates the resilience of this small, isolated population. We believe that the identification of this small, isolated remnant within the referral site may therefore be an easterly extension of the Recovery Plan's recognised distribution range. Given the identified limited number of individuals within the Aura South population, and isolation from other populations, it is critical that protection and management address the following identified threats. We have aligned our threat abatement and population maintenance responses to those identified within the Recovery Plan, pp 21-24:

- Genetic diversity will play a critical role in maintaining and enhancing populations of this species into the future. (Recovery Plan, pp 7-8) WPSQ therefore respectfully suggests that additional research is undertaken to confirm that this small population genetically aligns with other populations, or is potentially a source for genetically modified material that may provide a future source for achieving outcomes identified in the Recovery Plan.
- Urban development and subsequent modification to landforms, water tables, fire regimes and increased nutrient and introduced weed levels are threatening processes for this listed species and all heathland species. (Recovery Plan, pp 14-16). WPSQ therefore recommends:
  - adequate buffering of the proposed remnant and rehabilitated heathland from surrounding residential development, ie, a minimum of 50m on both boundaries rather than the mapped buffers. NB: The Referral indicates 50m in documentation but only 30m on the mapping;
  - as indicated in the Referral, ensure WSUD/HES basin controls are implemented and maintained to ensure preferably elimination or at least minimisation of urban nutrient-high waters from the proposed wetland/heathland remnants;

## How's your membership?

Your membership fees (\$12.50 - \$45) allow for the smooth running of our branch and are the life blood of Wildlife Queensland's Head Office. The scientific expertise that defines WQ's excellent submissions to government comes from passionate volunteers, but equally dedicated paid part-timers provide the administration, and state-wide communications to all branches via the website and Facebook.

If you haven't received an emailed or posted reminder from Head Office about an overdue membership, please give them a ring (07) 3844 0129 or email [wpsq@wildlife.org.au](mailto:wpsq@wildlife.org.au). All memberships are paid to Head Office, and funds are disbursed to branches.

- develop an approved propagation and site revegetation plan for *Allocasuarina emuina* within the Aura south heathland and buffers;
- develop an approved Fire Management Plan for the proposed heathland remnant contained within the Green Network Precinct to ensure heathlands and the species population's long-term viability. (Recovery Plan, p 8).

### *Litoria oblongburensis* Wallum Sedge Frog

WPSQ acknowledge that much of the current habitat for this species is located within historic-use created habitats and supports the re-creation of offset habitat adjoining the new south-eastern wetland habitat. The 2006 National Recovery Plan indicates key threats as being 'inappropriate fire regimes, use of biocides in weed and mosquito control, habitat disturbance, competition with ecologically-similar species, exotic disease and vehicular traffic.' (p 4)

To ensure that threat minimisation and protection of this newly recreated habitat and potential new populations of the species is sustainable into the future WPSQ respectfully suggests that:

- active or passive recreational uses should be excluded from the entirety of the wetland remnant and newly recreated Wallum Sedge Frog habitat, and in particular pathway installation and use for dog activities either on-leash or off-leash should be excluded;
- traditional use of fire management to maintain wetland habitats is preferred over the use of machinery;
- chemical use for weed and invasive species control should be minimised or preferably totally restricted;
- basin controls are implemented and maintained to ensure preferably elimination or at least minimisation of urban nutrient-high waters from the proposed wetland/heathland remnants (as indicated in the Referral WSUD/HES).

The National Recovery Plan also indicates as desirable that stakeholders and the broader community are engaged in the recovery of wallum frog species, and that degraded wallum frog habitat is rehabilitated and data on population trends are collected for all wallum frog species in areas of undisturbed, disturbed and rehabilitated habitat and used to guide management actions.

- WPSQ strongly encourages and supports, with appropriate training and supervision, the use of the community in undertaking population surveys and ongoing monitoring of the newly recreated population and habitat.

### Remnant wetlands

We notice that there is currently a stand-alone 'island' of wetland indicated to the west of the mapped remnant wetland. WPSQ suggests that:

- incorporating the 'island' into the larger protected wetland would minimise edge effects of this 'island' design, and reduce the requirement for buffers and maintenance;
- as indicated previously, traditional fire management be used to maintain ecosystem and species diversity rather than mechanical methods;
- controls are implemented and maintained to ensure preferably elimination or at least minimisation of urban nutrient-high runoff waters into the proposed wetland/heathland remnant.



### ***Xeromys myoides* Water Mouse**

Bells Creek, immediately to the northern boundary of the Referral site, is identified and mapped habitat for the Water Mouse.

WPSQ recognises that this habitat is outside of the proposed development site, and only partially adjoins the Green Network Precinct, but we wish to draw attention to the species' known presence in the surrounding creek line. The species' range may include freshwater and/or saline and intertidal coastal habitats with a diverse flora species range within these ecosystems. Within the 2010 Recovery Plan some of the key actions required for the recovery of the Water Mouse include 'confirming and documenting the current distribution of the species; mapping known populations and their habitat; assessing the impact of known threatening processes'. The Plan also identifies that 'habitats important for the water mouse are influenced by a number of natural and artificial physical processes including fluctuations in sea level that result in altered patterns of vegetation zoning between mangrove, saltmarsh and terrestrial communities. As a result of the Bribie Island breach in 2022, we believe that additional research may be required to ascertain if significant changes of around +/- 0.50m in the tidal patterns within Bells Creek have forced this listed species to relocate nesting and foraging sites to areas normally outside their habitat range.

### **Pumicestone National Park**

Pumicestone National Park adjoins the development site on the south-eastern corner. In order to provide maximum protection for this significant natural area and its species diversity, WPSQ would like to suggest and support:

- the extension of the MNES wetland rehabilitation to cover the currently indicated small SE section of IUB buffer;
- a coordinated management regime fire management within the MNES wetland/rehabilitation area, conducted in liaison with Qld Department of Environment staff;
- the implementation and maintenance of controls to ensure preferably elimination or at least minimisation of urban nutrient-high runoff waters from the proposed wetland remnant and recreated Wallum Sedge Frog habitat into the National Park.

### **Moreton Bay Marine Park—Bells Creek**

Bells Creek forms part of the Moreton Bay Marine Park. While this creek line and MSES listed wetlands are outside the proposed development site WPSQ believes that potential impacts on the waterway, critical habitats and listed species should be considered.

### **Green Network Precinct**

The Referral indicates that 'Approximately one-third (over 440 ha) of the project area will be dedicated to land uses designed to protect and enhance these vegetation communities, including a Waterway Wetland/MNES Rehabilitation Area and a regionally significant Green Network Precinct'.

WPSQ applauds the intent to set aside this area for long-term conservation of listed species and ecosystems. We wish to highlight that, to fulfil this intent, the identified Green Network Precinct should be a designated conservation zone fully focused

## Good Reads

*Underground lovers: encounters with fungi* by Australian Alison Pouliot is an accessible, well-informed book investigating fungi around the world, and gives weight to the role of fungi in conservation, bushcare and landcare.



A couple of Red Stinkhorns (*Aseroe rubra*) emerged out of the leaf litter in a Moffat Beach backyard in July. The ripe, rotting meat smell of the brown slime attracted flies and native bees. Midyim (top) and Tuckeroo leaves provide scale. The pale, mottled stem can just be seen.

Find more information at the Queensland Mycological website:

<https://qldfungi.org.au/fungi-id/garden-fungi/garden-fungi-what-is-that-fungus-in-my-garden/garden-fungi-aseroe-rubra>

on the protection of listed species, ecosystems and restored wetlands habitat, and as such that passive and active recreation should be excluded.

Management and maintenance of this area should be focused on the restoration, rehabilitation and recreation of core habitat for listed species and ecosystems.

## Community Engagement

WPSQ, as an organisation heavily involved in bushland and coastal dune rehabilitation and revegetation works, strongly supports the indicated use of community involvement in the ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance works within these remnant and rehabilitated ecosystems and buffer zone.'

## Point Cartwright

With detailed input from member Quentin, based on months of his work, we have responded in a submission to the Sunshine Coast Council draft masterplan for Pt Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park:

'Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland. Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Inc. (WPSQ) considers that, given increasing urban development within the adjoining suburbs, this reserve and its remnant rainforest should be maintained to provide a quality, quiet and tranquil retreat for residents and visitors.

We therefore support passive recreational use only and would support Council adoption of the Point Cartwright Master Plan as described, with the following concerns and reservations:

**1. EPBC listing:** We understand that the remnant littoral rainforest in the Point Cartwright Reserve is a nationally significant stand. As such it warrants protection under the national recovery plan for littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets. To do this Council must ensure that minimal disturbance is permitted either by increasing any form of active recreational access within this remnant or providing additional hard infrastructure within or fringing the remnant ecosystem.

**2. Coastal Pathway and Internal Path Network:** We strongly object to the notion of having the proposed "Coastal Pathway Network" enter the Reserve at all due to potential impacts on cultural heritage sites and littoral rainforest edges. It has been shown in other Queensland areas that dissecting littoral rainforest, and other remnant ecosystems, can lead to a decline in species diversity, reduction in species density and the increasing introduction of weeds into the ecosystem margins. This in turn required increased management to maintain the ecological integrity of these ecosystems. WPSQ do not support the splitting of the littoral rainforest remnant ecosystem to provide a formal access track, in the location shown as location 4 on the map. WPSQ would support a reduction of the current internal track network, provided it is done in a manner similar to those used to maintain remnant bushland conservation outcomes, ie, informal paths such as Ben Bennett Bushland Reserve.

**3. Remnant Bushland:** An essential component of our support is that there must be a clear commitment to ensuring dogs do not enter remnant and heavily vegetated areas of the site. To

maintain essential habitat it is essential that these areas be proactively revegetated and managed.

**4. Revegetation:** WPSQ fully support the proposed revegetation areas. However, we understand these provisions may be only a draft and Council has not fully endorsed this draft. WPSQ believe that the draft should be endorsed by Council.

**5. Management:** Management within the littoral rainforest remnant should be carried out to ensure that it is protected and retains species densities and diversity consistent with Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets (LRCVT) species compositions.

*Dog Use:* WPSQ members acknowledge that dog owners would like off leash dog areas for exercising their pets. We consider that these activities should be confined to areas where they will not unintentionally or intentionally impact on the ecological values of the Point Cartwright reserve, beaches and adjoining rocky shoreline and impact on native wildlife, shorebirds and marine turtles.

WPSQ members believe that, based on experience on other Sunshine Coast beaches, dog on leash restrictions and/or access time restrictions are not always effective and do not achieve the desired ecological outcomes.

*Buddina Beach Off-Leash Area:* We do NOT support the new provisions to extend the dog off leash area along Buddina Beach between The Pocket and Alan Walker Park at Beach Access 205, as this area has the highest number of endangered Loggerhead Turtle nests on the Sunshine Coast.

*Traditional Owner acknowledgement:* We strongly support and encourage Council to engage with Kabi Kabi representatives to increase the protection for remaining cultural heritage artifacts and sites. We would like to suggest that they could assist in increasing passive educational opportunities offered within the open space areas of Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park.

**6. La Balsa Park:** We strongly support the use of La Balsa Park for more active recreational activities, ie, cycling, playground upgrades. Potentially additional natural shaded areas throughout the park and along the riverside could be provided to enhance picnicking opportunities. We would support the continuance of the Coastal Pathway from the beach around the southern external edge of Point Cartwright reserve to La Balsa Park and continuing on to the river. We do not support vegetation removal to construct this path.'

**Draft Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan**  
WPSQ responded on 15 June, fully endorsing and supporting the purpose of this excellent plan to stop population decline and achieve a population increase by 2122, and the outlined implementation of strategies, actions and assessment. The following summarises our response:

WPSQ offers our assistance to Council and TurtleCare, particularly in the delivery of educational and citizen science programs 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](mailto:sunshine@wildlife.org.au)

We fully support the TurtleCare initiative and this is reinforced through a significant number of our members being both past and active volunteer members of the program, and of DuneCare. Maintaining a viable, cross-generational volunteer program is critical to maintaining current activities into the future and focusing on activities and programs identified in the implementation plan.

We would actively support and encourage engagement with school and university students, within the appropriate age demographic, to seek their participation in the volunteer program, and our members may seek to become involved in the delivery of educational information to residents during turtle emergence and post-emergence work to assist volunteers in this valuable activity.

**Re Funding,** WPSQ believes that any funding should be targeted at supporting and enhancing volunteer skills within the Turtle Care program, and we fully support and consider a priority the indicated intent of engaging a full-time staff person to liaise with and deliver the TurtleCare program.

**Re Community engagement and education,** we fully support the maintenance and ongoing future preservation of critical nesting habitats across the Sunshine Coast. We believe it is critical to provide consistent messaging and education to Sunshine Coast Residents. While education is highly desirable, we assume it should not encourage residents to visit nesting beaches seeking to view nesting and hatchling emergence activities without the assistance of skilled volunteers.

As identified in the Implementation Plan it is vital that educational material to visitors to the region ensures that undisturbed, successful nesting and hatchling emergence can occur. We assume it should not encourage visitors to expect a marine turtle visitor experience similar to that provided at Mon Repos.

The initial identified proposal for a coffee table book is a good but costly initiative. Could funding support be gained through available grants programs and from Sunshine Coast tourism-focused businesses to assist with progressing this publication?

WPSQ currently participates in and delivers a diverse number of community educational programs focused on the protection of our coastal lands, waterways, flora and fauna. Many are in partnership with Council or organisations such as Take Action for Pumicestone Passage and Sunshine Coast Environment Council at environmentally-focused annual events. WPSQ members may become more actively engaged with additional education and Citizen Science on-ground activities identified in this Plan, and further assist Council and TurtleCare in the delivery of educational programs and information services at community events or to visitors during holiday periods.

WPSQ actively acknowledges and engages with representatives of the Kabi Kabi First Nations culture on a diverse range of WPSQ projects, encourages the delivery of First Nations people’s

cultural education to the community, and members may seek to become more actively engaged with the Kabi Kabi people in assisting to deliver additional education and on-ground activities identified in this Plan.

**Re Threat abatement,** WPSQ fully supports the strategic direction and actions included in the Plan and Implementation Plan to reduce light pollution on nesting beaches. We believe that now and into the future this will be a critical factor in maintaining nesting beaches as habitat on the Sunshine Coast. Members may seek to further assist with any citizen science programs targeted at assessing and monitoring dunal ecosystems on nesting beaches.

Council's earlier publications targeted at motorised and other watercraft users, owners of off-leash dogs and alerting waterway users to marine debris could be redesigned and distributed to visitors and residents on an ad hoc basis during some weekends and holiday periods. Members residing on beachside and Pumicestone Passage areas could assist in this occasional delivery of educational materials.

**Re: Infrastructure:** In other coastal management plans and submissions WPSQ has indicated it would not support the use of 'hard engineering' solutions to coastal erosion on nesting beaches and we are pleased to see this desirable outcome identified in the Plan.

While in principle supporting the sand replenishment proposal, WPSQ considers that it is vital to ensure that sand stores accessed to carry out sand replenishment should be sourced from sources which have the same, or very similar, characteristics to the subject beach.

## Updates

### Regional Inter-Urban Break

Consultation is now open until **20 September** on the State Government's Draft ShapingSEQ 2023 Update. Have your say at:

<https://shapingseq.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au>

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council reports that ShapingSEQ 2023 is due to be finalised by the end of this year, and that the 'protection of the Regional Inter-Urban Break and Pumicestone Passage requires community support and strong representation', urging support of the community groups who have formed the Protect Our Regional Inter-Urban Break Alliance (PORIUBA):

[https://www.scec.org.au/protect\\_our\\_regional\\_inter\\_urban\\_break](https://www.scec.org.au/protect_our_regional_inter_urban_break)

**PORIUBA** (the alliance includes SCEC, TAPP, WPSQ and other organisations) provides background information and a brochure for downloading and distribution:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/mc9d6w76anlrban9mckk5/PORIUBA-brief-FINAL.pdf?dl=0&rlkey=rhcbkksoae92mi9ludcyxsxgp>.

TAPP advises that comments about Halls Creek in the Potential Future Growth Areas (PFGA) section of the document *Shaping SEQ Regional Plan 2023 Update* will be of interest (see page 204), where consideration is given to extending the IUB to include some of the Halls Creek area.

Ken Mewburn's italics highlight points of particular interest:

**Halls Creek Potential Future Growth Area**

Potential Future Growth Areas Halls Creek is the only PFGA in the Northern sub-region that may be suitable for future urban growth. The suitability of Halls Creek for urban development has been under investigation for some time and is subject to approval under the EPBC Act. *Another consideration for Halls Creek is the timing for delivery of the Beerwah East MDA [Major Development Area].* Following completion of these investigations and assessments, a determination will be made about which parts of Halls Creek are suitable or appropriate to accommodate urban purposes in the future. Until this time, Halls Creek will remain in the RLRPA [Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area] to limit development and protect land from further fragmentation that would prejudice the ability for land to accommodate future urban development. *Following an outcome of these investigations, it is intended that the NIUB {Northern Inter Urban Break} will be extended to include all parts of Halls Creek that are not deemed suitable for urban purposes.*

Or search for Halls Creek in the online document:

[https://hdp-au-prod-app-dsdilgp-shapingseq-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/9616/9089/8698/DRAFT\\_Shaping\\_SEQ\\_Regional\\_Plan\\_2023\\_Update.pdf](https://hdp-au-prod-app-dsdilgp-shapingseq-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/9616/9089/8698/DRAFT_Shaping_SEQ_Regional_Plan_2023_Update.pdf)

The Queensland Conservation Council is also pushing back against changes to RIUBs in south-east Queensland.

**Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Study**

The reports and other documentation are available at:

<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/shelly-beach-moffat-beach-coastal-study>

As noted above, Council has referred its plan to the Federal Department of Environment under EPBC Act requirements and we await the public comment period.

There has been positive interaction with council staff in the selection and placement of supporting vegetation in the grassed area inland of the dune fencing at north Shelly Beach. The unofficial walkway is to be closed.

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

Jude and other Stakeholder Interest Group (SIG) members accompanied Transport and Main Roads staff in the previously postponed walk-through Ben Bennett Park. TMR proposals for the alignment will be made available by them in due course. Jude meanwhile is requesting results of the recent environmental surveys.

You will have noticed media reports on the pushback to compulsory acquisition of the last property in Oval Avenue, and a petition:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=3914&fbclid=IwAR2OQTPY9PKr-VM3Hf7yXIUtYmerwvx7bWx8R-bMBr65VGUv9I5TNpKJVQg>

Further to members' observations in the park of spray-painted, widespread, offensive graffiti with often wrong assumptions about the extent of the current CTCU plans, Jenny has posted on the Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook page and Jude has contacted Div 2 Cr Landsberg and State Member Jason Hunt disassociating WPSQ from this action and noting that we do not condone vandalism.

Keep in touch with wildlife in the park via the Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofbenbennett>

### **Pumicestone Passage & Bribie Breakthrough**

At a recent BushCare weeding session at Golden Beach, members had the opportunity to talk with Georgia Keeshan, Council's Chief Engineer, re Council's intention to use small-scale dredging to create very-low-profile beaches in areas of foreshore highly eroded by the breakthrough (northern Golden Beach). The intended result is safe water access for families, and prevention of further erosion of foreshores by beach-goers. The asbestos remains near Onslow are to be covered with geotextile and the bank rockwalled. Geotextile groynes elsewhere will be replaced with rocks (local basalt), where synthetic textiles are equated with massive micro-plastic pollution on breakdown.

TAPP is undertaking water quality testing in the northern end of the Passage in association with USC and a local medical doctor, and would like to see more action by the State Government on this issue. Threats appear to be stormwater run-off (up to 20,000 L/day) from the built-up areas, apart from low mixing due to the shallowness of the old bar.

**Welcoming migratory Shorebirds back to the Sunshine Coast**  
Council's Dr Simone Bosshard leads the Shorebirds team monitoring resident and migratory species on the Sunshine Coast, an important feeding and resting place. Migratory birds fly over 10,000km to enjoy our summer weather, and can be seen feeding in the internationally recognised RAMSAR

wetland of the Pumicestone Passage, Golden Beach and the intertidal sandbanks of the Maroochy River.

Sunshine Coast Council has planned two events in September to welcome the shorebirds back to the Sunshine Coast, offering outside screenings of the excellent film **Flyways: the untold journey of the migratory shorebirds.** See Advance dates for details.

### **Jason Hunt's Energy Expo**

Unfortunately, attendance was low at an interesting and technical presentation on the State's *Energy and Jobs Plan to 2035*. WPSQ ran a stall with information bookmarks, and sold one copy of *Piece by piece*. Despite shades of *Utopia* there appeared to be much will and expertise brought to bear in the Plan. Queensland has the only state-owned grid; upgrades are required over the next 13 years to accommodate a mix of pumped hydro, solar and wind, batteries and domestic EV charging; a trained (and re-trained) workforce will be required.

The goal of pumped hydro at Borumba Dam is to generate electricity for 2 million households. The existing 'top' dam is to be increased in capacity (with negotiations underway re power line placement and with inevitable implications for the integrity of impacted flora and fauna), and a 'bottom' dam built on existing 'cleared' land. Water will be pumped to the top dam using sun and wind power, then run down through the generating turbine. We will watch with concern the impact of these major engineering works.

Q & A's included:

- the source of water for Green Hydrogen: 'sustainable' sources, ie, recycling and desalination
- nuclear energy: studies show this is 10 times the cost of renewables, plus other negatives
- agreement on the need for improved building standards re heating and cooling.

The Plan, and Ernst & Young details on the economic impact in the move from coal to hydrogen exports are at:

<https://www.epw.qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan/about>

### **Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, Sunshine Coast Public Transport project, Mooloolah River Interchange and Kawana Motorway**

Quentin has applied to represent us on the Stakeholder Interest Group pertinent to the State Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Sunshine Coast Major Projects (road, rail and public transport: Have Your Say) appeal:

**[www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects](http://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects)**.

Quentin has put together the following information to assist important individual responses:



The Have Your Say feedback can be provided by **20 August 2023** by completing a survey or adding pins to an interactive map:

<https://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-public-transport/scpt-corridor-route-map>

<https://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/direct-sunshine-coast-rail-line>

In addition to the 'have your say' website, a noteworthy webpage is the Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy at: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/about-us/corporate-information/publications/southern-sunshine-coast-public-transport-strategy>

and the pdf document:

[https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/\\_media/aboutus/corpinfo/publications/southern-sunshine-coast-public-transport-strategy/southern-sunshine-coast-public-transport-strategy.pdf](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/_media/aboutus/corpinfo/publications/southern-sunshine-coast-public-transport-strategy/southern-sunshine-coast-public-transport-strategy.pdf)

See **Advance Dates for local Pop-up Information Sessions with the project teams on *Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line*** (the new name for CAMCOS, or heavy rail connecting Beerwah to Maroochydore) and the other proposals re the *Sunshine Coast Public Transport project, Mooloolah River Interchange and Kawana Motorway*.

All will have impacts on the natural environment, and interestingly the CTCU link off the Nicklin Way into Caloundra is not included in the list of major road projects.

### **Sunshine Coast Waste Strategy 2023**

Sunshine Coast Council is inviting your input into the Strategy, and member Quentin has attended the information session on 31 July on WPSQ's behalf. The closing date is **9 August**: <https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-waste-strategy-2023>

The strategy has been developed to align with Commonwealth, State and South East Queensland region policies and plans. Each local government is required under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act* (2011) to prepare, adopt and implement a plan for managing waste in its local government area, in a way that best achieves the objectives of the Act.

We have been urging the Council to proceed with organic waste recycling, as stated in their objectives.

### **WildHeART Student Art Prize 2023**

The Branch has 'Gold' status as a donor for prizes, through our contribution and that of several members. The exhibition dates are 16 September to 1 October. Details are here:

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

**Double-barred finch**  
(*Taeniopygia bichenovii*)

Also called the Owl Finch due to its distinctive facial markings, this delightful little seedeater is found throughout most of Queensland, the Top End and into New South Wales. Although now not common around the Sunshine Coast, in 1974 it was common around Golden Beach – then beautiful natural bushland beyond a couple of streets back from the foreshore. Habitat destruction forced the local extinction of this species. This one was recently photographed at the Emu Swamp section of Noosa National Park.

Queensland Conservation Council is calling for stronger mechanisms to protect Koalas in Queensland subsequent to the State Government changing their status to Endangered. Their petition, closing on 22 October is at: [https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/protect\\_endangered\\_koalas](https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/protect_endangered_koalas).

Don't forget your booking for the Wildlife Qld Southern Branches Get-together & AGM! <https://wildlife.org.au/event/wildlife-queensland-southern-branches-get-together-and-agm-2023/>

Expect lunch and celebratory cake and excellent and often entertaining reports from other branches, as well as guest speakers and a guided wildflower walk in the nearby Currimundi Conservation Park, all for \$35.

**Birds with Phil Bender**

