



Wildlife Trafficking in Australia

Illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest form of international organised crime behind drug, human and arms trafficking. It is a multi-billion-dollar industry valued at between \$US7 and 23 billion per year, and the illegal export of native Australian reptiles can involve high levels of criminal organisation and sophistication. Wildlife trafficking is frequently seen as a low-risk, high-reward criminal activity and Australian reptiles are overwhelmingly the most commonly trafficked native animal, with native lizards and snakes highly sought after across Europe, Southeast Asia, East Asia and North America.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P) conservation officers Warren Christensen and Michael Devery will present on how the QPWS&P Division of the Queensland Department of Environment and Science works collaboratively with other International, National, State and Territory regulatory and policing agencies to disrupt and deter native wildlife poaching and trafficking.

General Public Welcome,

When: **Friday 25th August 2023 at 7.00 pm**

Where: [Alexandra Hills Community Hall](#),
131-155 Finucane Road, near "Aldi". Entry & car parking
just around corner in Windemere Road.

Please click [here](#) to register for event.

Entry by gold coin donation.



For more information
phone Steve 0423 036 676 or
email bayside@willdlife.org.au

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President's Report

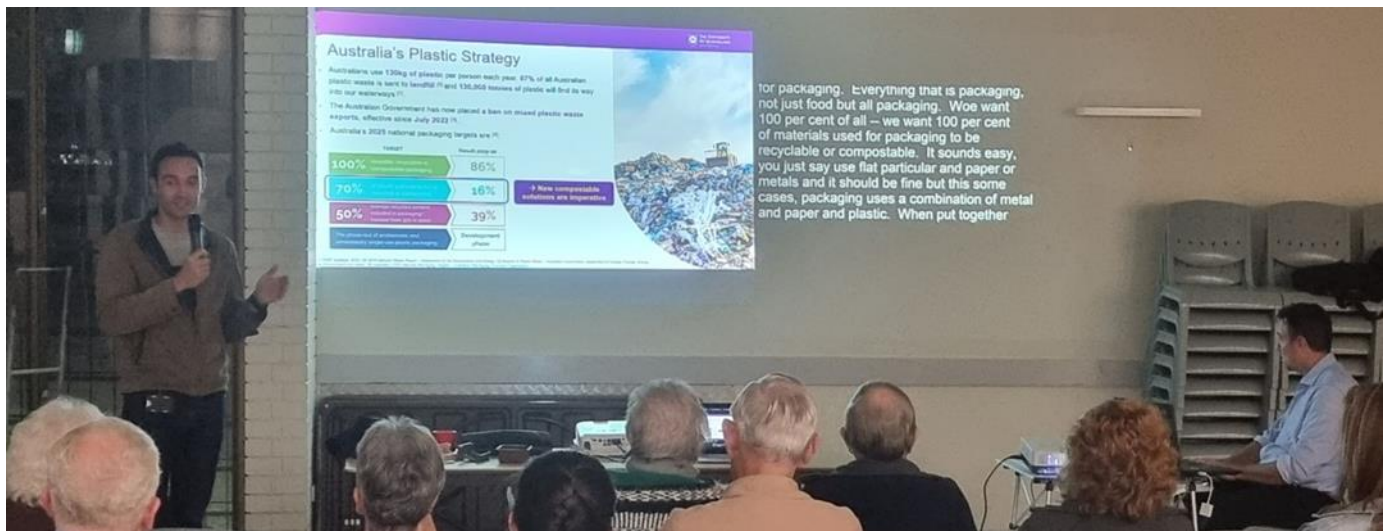
Bayside Branch | August 2023

Our speaker last week on Bioplastics gave us an insight into how Australia is faring with combatting the use of plastic by developing products that are biodegradable and/or compostable. Whilst there has been great progress and we see that in many disposable items, such as packaging, crockery, cutlery, bowls and straws, complications arise on disposal. Normal landfill does not allow Bioplastics to degrade properly, clearly there needs to be stronger regulation and investment in education for consumers to correctly distinguish between products for recycling. The failure of "redcycle", soft plastic recycling, highlights the fact that Australia currently only recycles 16% of plastics against a target of 70%. Using government subsidies, industries need to be created to correctly process this tide of plastic that threatens to engulf our environment.

Also, at our meeting for the first time we used "Real Time Captioning" next to our presenters' slides to help the hard of hearing. It was deemed a success, I thank member Shirley for facilitating the whole process, it is likely we will have another captioned presentation at a later date.

Already we are soon heading into Spring and what is forecast to be a very hot Summer, looking at the fuel loads in our Bushland areas I would hope these predictions are exaggerated as our Wildlife has enough to contend with without a devastating wildfire.

Community groups are still waiting for clear decisions on the Draft EIS for Toondah Harbour currently being reviewed by the proponent before being sent to Tanya Plibersek, Heinemann Road Sports Complex now being referred to the EPBC act by Redland City Council and Birkdale Community land under threat of degradation from constructing the proposed Olympic Whitewater Centre and associated infrastructure. All these proposals, decades long, will have irreversible effects on our Wildlife, Bushland and Ecosystems.



A legacy that most of us do not want to leave for future generations.

Please sign this petition against Olympic Whitewater Rafting at Birkdale.... [Click here](#)

Our next meeting is on Friday 25th August we have officers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service talking about the Trafficking and Poaching of our native wildlife. A unique presentation on a subject we have never covered before, not to be missed, reserve that date in your Diary now. See flyer for booking link to the event.

Out and About

Indigiscapes next Eco market is on Saturday 2nd September from 8.30 am Bayside Branch will not be participating this time.

WPSQ is holding its Southern Get together and AGM on the 9th September from 8.30am at Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast, book online at [Eventbrite](#), meet fellow members enjoy lunch and a walk after proceedings.

For a good flat water view walk, try the paved pathway along Orana *Esplanade* at Point O'Halloran, vistas across to Coochiemudlo and North Stradbroke Island. A view that will be destroyed if Toondah Harbour Town is ever built out in the bay.

New exhibition at [Old Schoolhouse Gallery](#) from 3rd August

"Wildlife is something which man cannot construct. Once it is gone, it is gone forever." –

Joy Adamson.

"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will." –

Theodore Roosevelt.



Bee feeding on Wattle flowers Scribbly Gum Reserve



View from pathway Orana Esplanade Pt. O'Halloran



Humpback whale just off the Gorge Stradbroke Island



Lazy wet day at the Gorge Stradbroke Island

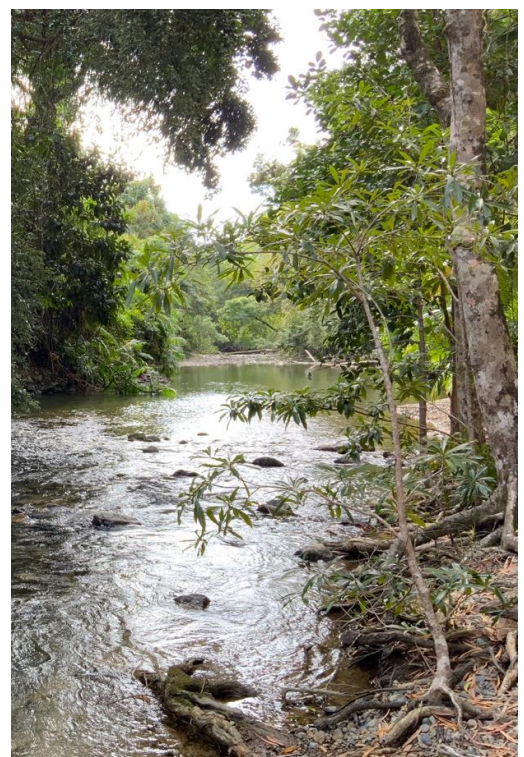
Wildlife Diary

If you have recently photographed wildlife and you would like to share with others send an email to us with your photograph/s. email bayside@willdlife.org.au

Wildlife of Cape Tribulation, Daintree National Park -

Cape Tribulation, Daintree National Park (CYPAL) features long sandy beaches, rocky headlands and steep mountain ranges intersected by numerous creeks and rivers. One of Australia's last extensive stands of lowland rainforest is found here. Impenetrable ranges, rising steeply from the coast, are blanketed with dense upland rainforests supporting many ancient plants and animals.

The Cape Tribulation section (about 17,000ha) of Daintree National Park (CYPAL) stretches in a narrow, intermittent strip from the Daintree River in the south to the Bloomfield River in the north. The McDowall Range, rising steeply from the coast, forms the western boundary. Source: [click here.](#)



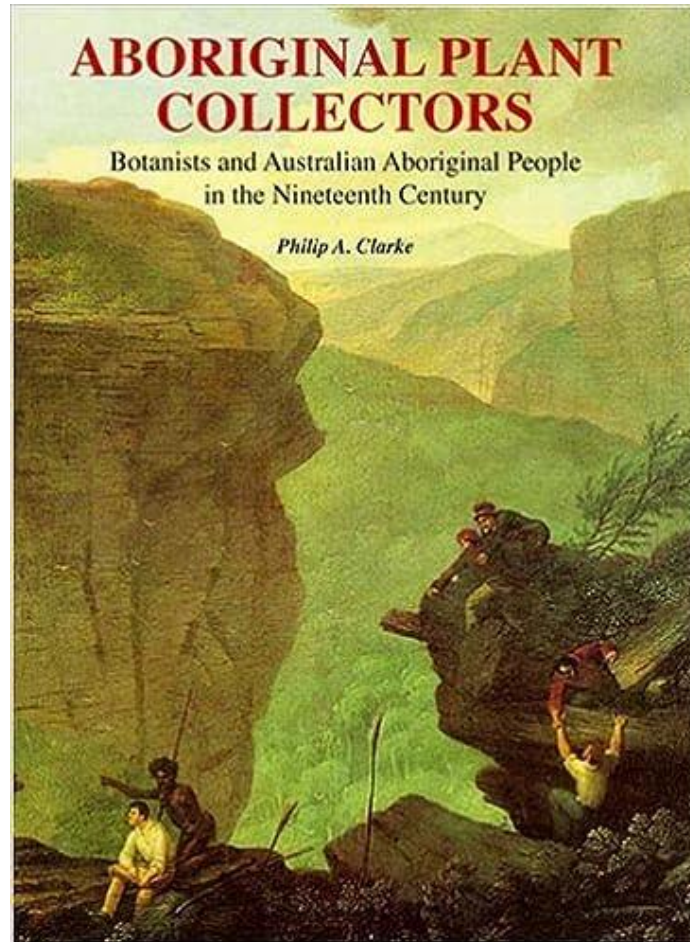
Indigenous people and art – helping in botanical discovery

Aboriginal Plant Collectors: Botanists and Australian Aboriginal People in the Nineteenth Century written by Philip A. Clarke explores the impact of indigenous people upon the European discovery of Australian plants, spanning the period from the expansion of world exploration in the seventeenth century to the beginning of systematic scientific studies in the late nineteenth century.

In the published accounts of the colonial period, indigenous people working with European explorers and plant collectors have too often been portrayed as silent partners. In order to readdress this imbalance, the present work investigates the role of particular Aboriginal groups and individuals in the botanical discovery of Australia. Source: [Click here.](#)

Early European artists can also help us understand our natural history, in some instances capturing in a visual form the state and type of native vegetation and wildlife that existed over 150 years ago. Have a look at the below lithograph depicting the Clydesdale Sugar Mill on Doughboy Creek (now known as Bulimba Creek) at Hemmant (February 1873).

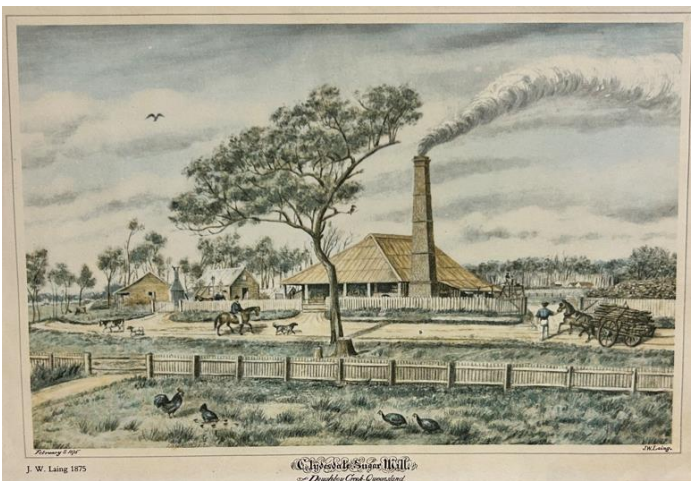
The word “lithograph” is derived from two ancient Greek words: “lithos” meaning “stones,” and “graphien” meaning “to write.” The practice is defined as a style of printing that makes use of the immiscibility of grease and water when they come into contact with one another. While other printing methods require etching and other forms of imprints, lithography is unique because it more closely resembles painting.



[Click here to learn more.](#)

This lithograph was based up a sketch created by James William Laing b. c.1811, he was an artist (Draughtsman) . Laing apparently came to Victoria during the gold rush. Laing later moved to Queensland about 1868 and travelled around the colony drawing pencil views of properties and buildings. Clydesdale Sugar Mill at Hemmant was one. [Click here to learn more.](#)

It is evident land clearing has been extensive and judging by the stack of timber on the right of the lithograph and the cart loaded with timber, many of the trees perhaps have or are about to be used to drive the steam-based machinery of the mill. The trees appear to be tall and slim eucalypts, but a large tree stump on the far left perhaps suggests big trees once existed. A Kookaburra (centre) and large bird (top left) can be seen.



Mammal eating dinosaur

Sometime during the Cretaceous Period, 125 million years ago, a feisty mammal the size of a domestic cat encountered a dinosaur three times its size and thought it looked like a tasty meal.

A fossil unearthed in northeastern China captures the two creatures — a badgerlike animal called *Repenomamus robustus* and a species of plant-eating dinosaur known as *Psittacosaurus* — forever locked in mortal combat.

It's a dramatic instant in time that challenges the idea that the earliest mammals lived in the shadows of dinosaurs, said paleobiologist Jordan Mallon, a research scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature.



The mammal preserved here is among the largest mammals of the time, and you're only talking about an animal the size of a house cat. They didn't get any bigger than that. There was very little overlap in size between mammals, which were, you know, orders of magnitude smaller, and dinosaurs, which were an order of magnitude bigger," said Mallon, who is coauthor of a new study that published Tuesday in the journal *Scientific Reports* about the striking fossil.

"The inherited wisdom has been that the ecological interactions were unilateral: The bigger dinosaurs ate the smaller mammals. This discovery now upends that, it seems like these mammals could take down a bigger dinosaur if it was hungry enough or desperate enough."

The discovery is not the first evidence that early mammals preyed on dinosaurs — the remains of a *Psittacosaurus* were found in the stomach of *R. robustus* in a discovery documented in January 2005.

What makes this fossil exceptional is that the mammal is caught in the moment of attacking the almost fully grown dinosaur.

It's extremely rare to find fossils that preserve an animal interacting with another and shed light on the predatory behavior of extinct creatures, according to Mallon.

A *Psittacosaurus* was a small beaked dinosaur that would have been common in the region at the time — a bit like sheep today, Mallon said. The predator and prey were almost fully grown when the attack took place.

Mallon said the two creatures would have died while fighting — buried together suddenly by a mudslide in the aftermath of a volcanic eruption.

Source: CNN, [click here to read more.](#)

Positive Headlines

A giant water battery inside a mountain will help Scotland hit net zero.

The Scottish government has given the green light to expand a hydro storage plant in the west of the country.



Renewable developer Drax wants to build a new £500 million (€581 million) development in their existing Cruachan facility.

Authorities have approved the plans, which will also help Scotland in its bid to reach net-zero targets.

But the power company says UK government policy needs to change before construction begins to make the project attractive to investors

Located in the area of Argyll, Drax's underground power station is housed in a vast cavern excavated from inside the mountain Ben Cruachan.

The subterranean station has become known as 'Hollow Mountain'.

The Cruachan plant was inaugurated in 1965 becoming the first large-scale reversible turbine storage energy scheme of its kind around the globe.

Pumped storage power plants, also known as water batteries, are a kind of hydroelectric energy storage. The plant comprises two large water reservoirs located at different heights.

Turbines pump water from the lower pool to the upper to 'charge' the battery and store energy.

When electricity is needed, the water is released and the flow rotates a turbine which generates hydroelectric power.

The EU is pushing for a global pledge to phase out the unabated use of fossil fuels "well ahead of 2050" at COP28, according to climate chief Frans Timmermans..

At a meeting of the bloc's environmental and energy ministers in Spain he said he hopes to get countries to sign up for three interlinked parts of this pledge.

The first is that the annual deployment of new renewable energy needs to triple between now and 2030. Secondly, he said that the world must double the rate at which energy efficiency is improving compared to the last decade.

The final pledge calls for the world to "phase out unabated fossil fuels well ahead of 2050". Timmermans explained that this would mean eliminating emissions from the oil and gas sector and products sold by oil and gas companies. It will also require an end to the use of coal.

"I know these are ambitious proposals but they are necessary," he added.

"They can provide a strong signal on climate action to decision makers, investors and civil society."

His remarks also included carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, which Timmermans said should only play a minimal role in the phaseout of fossil fuels.

"These need to be residual and only in hard to abate sectors. And the sector carries the burden of proof in demonstrating this is achievable and proposing credible investment strategies in carbon abating technologies."

"We need to do it because time is running out. We also need to push further for a strong outcome on mitigation ambition so we can say truthfully that we keep the 1.5 degrees temperature limit alive."

Source: [euronews.green](https://www.euronews.com/green)

Pied Currawong, *Strepera graculina*

The Pied Currawong is a large, mostly black bird, with a bright yellow eye. Small patches of white are confined to the under tail, the tips and bases of the tail feathers and a small patch towards the tip of each wing (visible in flight). The bill is large and black and the legs are dark grey-black.

Both sexes are similar, although the female may sometimes be greyer on the underparts. Young Pied Currawongs are duller and browner than the adults.

The Pied Currawong prefers forests and woodlands, and has become well adapted to suburban areas. Throughout its range it is common and familiar.

Pied Currawongs are found throughout eastern Australia, from northern Queensland to Victoria, but is absent from Tasmania.

Outside the breeding season large flocks of Pied Currawongs form, but at most other times these birds are seen alone, in pairs or in family groups. In the north of their range they tend to stay in the same areas year round, while in the south, they may move from the higher areas to the lowlands, especially in the colder regions.

Pied Currawongs feed on a variety of foods including small lizards, insects, caterpillars and berries. They also take a large number of small and young birds, especially around urban areas where suitable cover is scarce. Larger prey, up to the size of a young possum, is also taken, and birds will occasionally hunt as a group. Prey may be stored in a 'larder' (hung on a hook or in a tree fork or crevice) and either eaten straight away or, in the case of larger prey, over a period of time.

The main call is a loud "currawong", which gives the bird its name. Other frequent sounds include deep croaks and a wolf whistle.

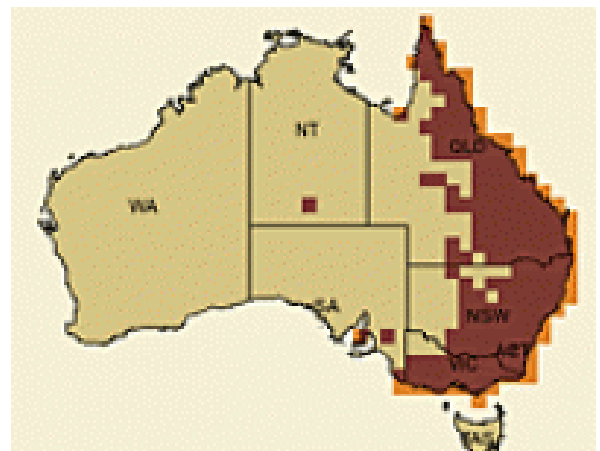
The Pied Currawong's nest is a bowl of sticks, lined with grasses and other soft material. The material is gathered by both sexes, but the female builds the nest, which is placed in a high tree fork, up to 20 m above the ground. The female incubates the eggs, and the male feeds her. The male also supplies food to the female for the first week after the chicks hatch and she feeds the chicks. Source: [Australian Museum](#).

Fast Facts

Classification

Genus	<i>Strepera</i>
Species	<i>graculina</i>
Family	Artamidae
Order	Passeriformes
Class	Aves
Subphylum	Vertebrata
Phylum	Chordata
Kingdom	Animalia

Size Range
44 cm to 51 cm



Source: [Birdsbackyard](#)

Protecting our biodiversity - insects

Declines and losses of insects throughout the world have wide ramifications for the sustainability of terrestrial and inland water ecosystems, and for humanity. Recent accounts and estimates of declines in insect richness and abundance in many parts of the world pose serious concerns for the future of global biodiversity.

Understanding insect diversity, devolving largely on 'counting species', depends critically on agreement of what constitutes 'a species' and the criteria that define such boundaries and facilitate definitive enumeration and recognition. Debates continue over the values of DNA-barcode differences in revealing unexpectedly high numbers of 'cryptic species', and how this approach vastly increases estimates of species diversity over more traditional morphological categorisations. It also introduces previously unexpected ecological variety, with a trend for many species regarded as generalists to be revealed to comprise complexes of hitherto unsuspected specialists, so increasing concerns for their conservation as key participants in restricted ecological interactions. Interpretations of geographical and other purportedly intraspecific variations in appearance and biology (such as those that define designated subspecies) can become controversial, and introduce many problems for designing credible conservation programmes.

Insect conservation in Australia, and elsewhere in the southern hemisphere has a far shorter history of concern than in the northern hemisphere regions, and is based on far less documentation of the fauna and historical background to recently observed changes. Australia's geographically isolated insect fauna is taxonomically and ecologically diverse, highly endemic (and, so, unique) and also very imperfectly known, so that establishing numerical and distributional templates for insect diversity against which to measure changes must generally rely on very incomplete information, which is being refined continually as more refined estimates of diversity are made. Many species are clearly narrow-range endemics and vulnerable to localised changes to specialised restricted habitats. Characteristic 'flagship' species facilitate conservation progress and help to display the peculiarities of the fauna.

Australia is one of only two megadiverse countries in which conservation concerns for native insects can be addressed responsibly and where will exists to do so, through means such as managing single threatened species, protection and remediation of key habitats, threat mitigation and increased awareness of need. The great variety of key environments for insects spans tropical to cool temperate biomes, with varying pressures and vulnerability, and varying chances of effective conservation action.

Promoting insect conservation in Australia depends on wider appreciation of insect variety, importance and vulnerability, and that their conservation cannot be pursued comprehensively by professional scientists alone, or by the current financial and other logistic resources available, or that are likely to become available. Continually increased interest and appreciation from the wider populace, including young people, is a key component of rendering insect conservation both socially acceptable and potentially successful. Examples of **'citizen science' involvement in insect surveys and related conservation activities have already done much to increase and stimulate conservation in Australia**, with attention both to diversity and individual 'flagship' species major contributions toward that objective. They are discussed in the context of increasing awareness of insect diversity and understanding the richness and vulnerability of numerous native taxa and their restricted environments, whilst acknowledging that information on insect richness and ecology is still far from complete.

Progress will depend on improvements in both conservation policy (notably assuring consistency between Commonwealth and State/Territory legislations) and practice. Lessons from individual species focus must be accompanied progressively by wider perspectives to embrace wider insect diversity across all major ecosystems and involve all relevant interest groups; in part this may be encouraged by incorporating insects into wider conservation agendas that primarily address attention to landscapes, such as reducing habitat isolation, the roles and extent of protected areas, habitat restoration, the recognition and alleviation of threats, and considering insects (together with other biota) in environmental impact assessments. Together with education and basic documentation on insect diversity and its ecological importance, such measures may be integrated to help protect Australia's unique insect heritage. Source: [Insect Diversity, Declines and Conservation in Australia](#)

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Six Australian cold weather frogs and their weird mating calls

[Click here to learn more](#)

Recycling station at Indigiscapes – Great Idea, Blister Packs, Toothpaste etc.,
How many blister packs do you throw away



South East Qld Regional Plan – Shaping SEQ

Three topics of Shaping SEQ will be addressed. Ms Stephanie Wyeth, representing the Australian Institute of Planning is an urban planner, researcher and strategist who specialises in the social dynamics of cities and communities. **Ms Wyeth** will speak on the plan itself.

Professor Hugh Possingham FAA (Fellow of the Australian Academy) is currently the Chief Councillor of the newly created Biodiversity Council and Chief Scientist of Accounting for Nature, and has recently been Queensland Chief Scientist 2020 - 2022 and Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy. Professor Possingham will speak on the topic of biodiversity.

Ms Fiona Caniglia, the Executive Director of Q Shelter since 2018, will speak on the topic of housing.

Registration: [Click](#) here to register. Hosted by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd

29 August, 5.30pm light refreshments – doors open @ 5.15pm Q&A Forum 6.00 – 7.30pm. Mingling 7.30 – 8.00. Address: Gregory Place, Leve 1/28 Fortescue St. Spring Hill.

Contacts and Important Links

Committee & Contacts

President	Steve Homewood	0423036676
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Treasurer	Maureen Tottenham	0418 197 160
Executive	Tracey Mann Janelle Devery	
Bayside Newsletter Editor	Alix Baltais/Simon Baltais	



Bayside Branch

Facebook [LINK](#)
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Website [LINK](#)
Curlew Watch [LINK](#)

Head office

Facebook [LINK](#)

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au

Web: <http://www.branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>

Membership Application

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Memberships Types

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

Optional Wildlife Magazine Subscription

- \$47.00 per year Inc GST (Four Issues)
- \$90 for 2 years Inc GST (Eight Issues)
- \$70.00 per year (International Post)
- \$135 for 2 years (International Post)

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