



Wild places and wildlife of the Nullarbor Coast

by Simon Baltais.

Simon and his partner spent 3 months caretaking one of Australia's most remote research stations located in Nutysland Nature Reserve in Western Australia situated between the Great Australian Bight and Nullarbor Plain. During this time, they explored and photographed the regions unique & beautiful landscapes & wildlife. It is a region sometimes described by travellers as flat & boring, Simon will show it's quite the opposite.

"Towering cliffs, deserted beaches & coastal dune systems, mallee, bluebush, caves each supporting cultural, historic & natural features. One need only explore the 4WD tracks leading off the Eyre Highway to experience this beautiful diverse landscape & amazing wildlife in a remote setting visited by very few people, it is a region worthy of strong protection".

General Public Welcome, booking required for entry.

When: **Friday 26th May 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 | May 2023

We had a great speaker at our April meeting detailing the efforts being made to create new reefs in Moreton Bay using restaurant oyster shells. These mini-reefs attract thousands of marine animals, creating new protected habitat and augmenting the food supply for native fish. We've lost about 95% of the Reefs around Australia and there is an immediate need to protect and grow them, volunteers are always needed to help out at Manly, we also donated \$250 from our container recycling to help this innovation. More information can be found on volunteering and the project at [OZfish](#), hopefully funding will be continued in these times of fiscal restraint, as the benefits to the marine environment are immense.

Whilst we are talking about reefs, 21st June marks 10 years since the RCC and the State government created the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area, we have still not heard when the revised EIS from the proponent will be given to the Federal government. If this disgraceful project ever goes ahead what will the "downstream" effects dredging an estimated 530,000 Cubic metres of saturated soil do to our water quality and ultimately the remaining fringing coral reefs, we have in the Moreton Bay Marine Park. The marine parks' reefs are found adjacent to the mainland at Wellington Point and Cleveland. Fringing coral reefs grow around King, Green, St Helena, Mud, Peel, Goat, Coochiemudlo and Macleay islands.

The Branch will have a display tent at Indigiscapes Community market on Sunday 3rd June from 9.00am celebrating World Environment Day, normally a great family day come and see us and say G'Day.

Our next meeting 26th May has Simon presenting a pictorial of his latest trip to WA, for those who may never have a chance to visit these remote areas the pictures are guaranteed to be stunning with great commentary. Come along, see and maybe dream.

As a pre-amble to the meeting, we will be holding a short AGM to vote in office bearers and approve the financials. If you are interested in nominating please call or email me., forms are at the end of the Newsletter.

Members do come along to our meeting, to ensure that we have a quorum and of course enjoy a great presentation, otherwise we need your proxies.

I am thinking of organising a spotlight in the Glider Reserve in the next couple of months, it would be a Friday or Saturday night from say 6.30 pm. One of our members has seen 3 Greater Gliders over recent months. To gauge interest please email me if you might be interested in the event, initially would be restricted to members only and perhaps 20.

Steve



WORLD BEE DAY

20 May – Australia

World Bee Day celebrates our hard-working little pollinators. Find an event near you or host your own to help raise awareness of the importance of bees.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Out and About



“Practically the whole world depends on coral reefs, so if the coral reefs get all killed, then the ocean will start going out of whack, and if the ocean goes out of whack, something might happen on land”.

[Alexander Gould](#)

Short-Tailed Stingray

East Gippsland - Steve



Regional marine cloud brightening is a potential management tool for our Great Barrier Reef, offering an opportunity to shade and cool a full range of habitats across the reef ecosystem. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Pacific Gull East Gippsland - Steve



An international team of scientists has discovered the relic of a reef on the Nullarbor Plain, preserved for millions of years. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Eastern Yellow Robin

East Gippsland - Steve

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 Lamington National Park –

Lush rainforests, ancient trees, spectacular views, extensive walking tracks, exceptional ecological importance and natural beauty make this Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area an outstanding place to visit. Its 110km south of Brisbane.

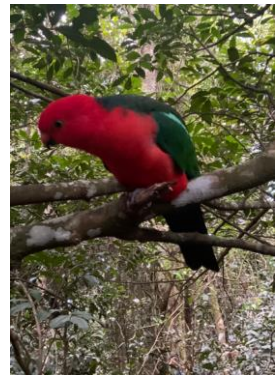


Satin Bowerbird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*.
Photo: Simon Baltais



Source: <https://www.dreamstime.com/photos-images/lyrebird.html>

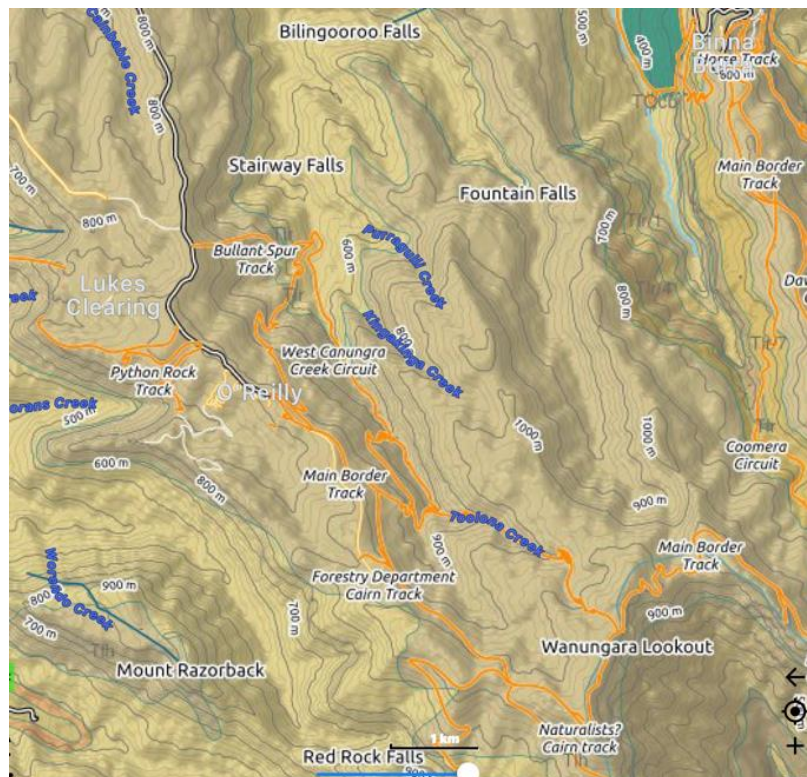
Australian King-Parrot,
Alisterus scapularis. Photo
by Simon Baltais



Red-necked Pademelon, *Thylogal thetis*. Source:
<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/mammals/red-necked-pademelon/>



Crimson Rosella,
Platycercus elegans
Photo by Simon Baltais



What is carbon neutral farming

While the Agriculture sector is our second highest greenhouse gas emitter when measured on a carbon dioxide equivalent basis, the specific greenhouse gases emitted in the sector include those that are more potent than carbon dioxide, **making agriculture by far the largest emitter.**

Methane, of which cattle gut fermentation is a major source, has 25-30 times the greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide. Nitrous oxide has 300 times the greenhouse potential of carbon dioxide, and nitrogen fertilisers are the largest source of that. **The livestock sector has a large greenhouse footprint, producing 59 percent of all methane and 86 percent of nitrous oxide in Australia.** Nevertheless, sustainable farming practices could play a major role in the mitigation of global warming and promote productivity.

Agricultural soils are a major source of carbon dioxide, which is not a problem providing output balances input i.e., from plant uptake or addition of carbon. The problem is when output exceeds uptake, as has been the case historically in Australia and most of the world. Soils contain the Earth's largest pool of organic carbon: 20 tonnes in the top 10 cm of a typical Australian professional sports field, for example. Yet decades or centuries of conventional farming in Australia have depleted and continue to deplete this resource. Microbes decompose the soil carbon, releasing it to the atmosphere. The lost carbon can be replenished via careful management, and doing so offers numerous benefits.

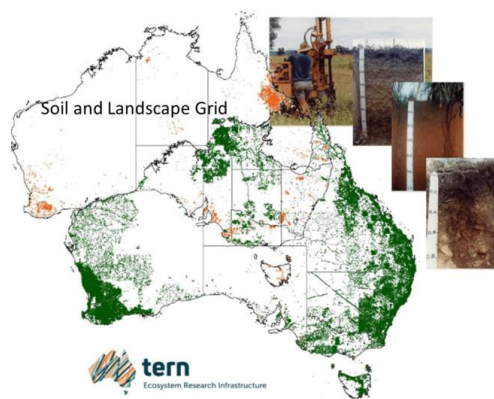
There is a global trend towards recarbonising agricultural soils, which has become a major international movement since 2015. **Cropping systems have made some progress in this direction, but grazing lands generally have not yet** and as such vast areas exist, a small increase in soil carbon adds up to be a significant number when it comes to recarbonising our landscapes.

Recarbonising soil results from stimulating and increasing biomass above and below ground. Practices collectively known as conservation agriculture – e.g., switching to permanent pasture, rotational grazing, and no-till (i.e., reduced or no cultivation) farming – strongly foster this increase. Carbon added to the soil comes from the atmosphere and occasionally from external sources such as animal manures, mitigating global warming. Increasing soil carbon also improves soil health and productivity. Healthy soils are more resilient and more productive, and thus more profitable for farmers. High soil carbon indicates an abundance of all other key nutrients.

TERN's development of the national soil and landscape grid, which is soil information layers at 90 metre resolution, has been critical to identifying areas where the soils are most suitable for carbon storage. Not all soils are suitable. Clay soils, common in Queensland and northern New South Wales, have the greatest potential for storing carbon.

One thing farmers need to know is whether their soils are actively storing carbon. The TERN/Ozflux network of eddy co-variance flux towers can help farmers determine this.

Instruments on the towers measure the real-time exchange of gases (especially CO₂), water and energy between plants, soil and air. Three of TERN's towers permanently monitor this exchange on farmland, while a consortium of funding agencies led by the Meat and Livestock Australia and private industry has added a supplementary network of towers, including portable versions, targeted specifically at increasing carbon storage on grazing properties. [Click here to read more.](#)



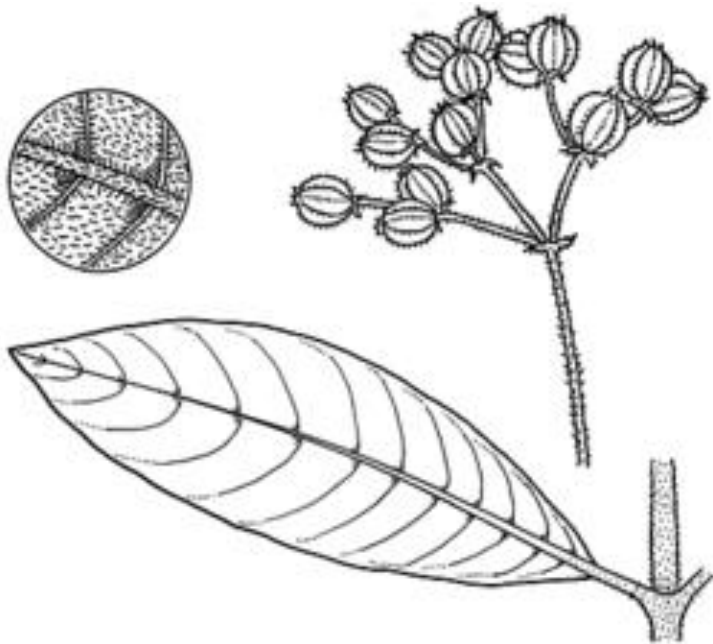
<https://www.tern.org.au/what-is-carbon-neutral-agriculture/>

Hairy Psychotria, *Psychotria loniceroides* Sieber ex DC (RUBIACEAE)

Shrub to about 3 metres in warmer rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest; The natural range of distribution is from the Bega in south eastern New South Wales to Bamaga, in far north eastern Queensland. The scientific name refers to the healing qualities of some members of the genus *Psychotria*. Psyche meaning life. And *loniceroides* suggests the leaves are similar to the honey-suckle plant, *Lonicera*. Leaves are simple, opposite, hairy and soft, pale green in colour, obovate to elliptic, about 5 to 10 cm in length.

Propagation easy from fresh seed. Cuttings may strike.

Source: <https://sown.com.au/psychotria-loniceroides-rubiaceae-hairy-psychotria/>



Leaves mostly ovate, elliptic to oblong or oblanceolate, mostly 4.5–14.5 cm long, 15–50 mm wide, apex shortly acuminate or acute, margins \pm sinuate or irregular, lamina softly hairy, lateral veins prominent, domatia often present; petiole 2–23 mm long.

Flowers sessile in terminal heads at ends of branches. Calyx 1.5–2 mm long. Corolla 4–5 mm long, white; lobes usually 5, up to as long as tube.

Fruit ellipsoid, 6–8 mm long, whitish to yellowish, crowned by persistent calyx, longitudinally ribbed and furrowed.



Photo: Robert Whyte



Photo: Robert Whyte



Photo: John Abbot

Source: <https://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Psychotria~loniceroides>

Positive Headlines

By Dr John Kanowski, Chief Science Officer



Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is a national leader in the reintroduction of threatened mammals to parts of their former ranges. [AWC's reintroduction program](#) is mostly built around the establishment of 'safe havens': fenced areas or islands from which cats and foxes have been eliminated. As of 2023, AWC manages ten safe havens, to which a total of 16 mammal species have been reintroduced; with another three mammal species reintroduced to two sites where predators are intensively controlled, but not eliminated. These reintroductions, and those conducted by other conservation organisations and state government agencies, have made a major contribution to the recovery of threatened mammals in Australia. A recent paper by Professor John Woinarski and colleagues found that reintroductions to safe havens and/or intensive predator control had turned the tide of extinction for 11 Australian mammal species, nine of which are currently protected by AWC. This important work continues, with AWC planning to add another three threatened mammals to the safe haven network in 2023: the [Northern Bettong](#) (*Bettongia tropica*, listed as endangered); the Plains Mouse (*Pseudomys australis*, listed as vulnerable); and the [Golden Bandicoot](#) (*Isodon auratus*, listed as vulnerable). AWC is also following up our [2022 translocation of the critically endangered Central Rock-rat](#) (*Zygomys pedunculatus*) to Newhaven, with a supplementary release of animals raised in the breeding program at Alice Springs Desert Park.

Reintroductions can also help maintain or increase genetic diversity and adaptive capacity in threatened species, which is important for their long-term persistence.

Studies have shown that reintroduced populations established from two or more island populations (each of which has lost some genetic diversity) can become more genetically diverse than those remnant populations. Further, reintroductions can ensure that species are exposed to a broader range of environmental conditions than those experienced in remaining habitats. For example, a number of threatened mammals that once occurred across vast areas of inland Australia – such as the [Woylie](#) (Brush-tailed Bettong, *Bettongia penicillata*), [Numbat](#) (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), [Red-tailed Phascogale](#) (*Phascogale calura*) and [Chuditch](#) (Western Quoll, *Dasyurus geoffroii*) – have contracted to south-west Western Australia, a moderately well-watered and climatically stable bioregion. AWC has reintroduced these species to one or more locations in semi-arid parts of their former ranges, re-establishing selection for genetic traits that facilitate persistence in these harsher, drought-prone environments.

AWC's ambitious reintroduction program is part of a growing global movement, sometimes called 'rewilding', whereby conservationists are returning species to ecosystems from which they've become extinct due to hunting, habitat loss or degradation, or other pressures.

In 2022, AWC was invited to present at the First Global Meeting of Conservation Translocation Practitioners, in Spain, alongside conservation organisations working in Europe, Africa, Mauritius, India, Argentina, and the USA, with iconic species such as tigers, jaguars, lynx, rhinos, and raptors. As AWC's Chief Science Officer. Read more and

Source: <https://www.australianwildlife.org/awc-reintroductions/>

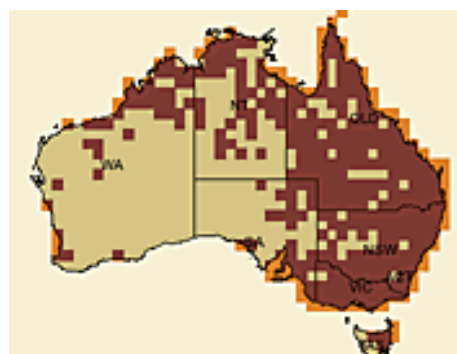
Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*

The Royal Spoonbill is a large white waterbird with black, spatulate (spoon-shaped) bill, facial skin, legs and feet. During the breeding season, it has a distinctive nuchal (back of head or nape of neck) crest, which can be up to 20 cm long in male birds (usually shorter in females). The crest can be erected during mating displays to reveal bright pink skin underneath. Breeding adults also have a creamy-yellow wash across the lower neck and upper breast and a strip of bright pink skin along the edge of the underwings which is obvious when the bird opens its wings. The facial skin is black with a yellow patch above the eye and a red patch in the middle of the forehead, in front of the crest feathers. Females are slightly smaller with shorter legs and bill. Out of breeding season, the nuchal crests are reduced, the underwing is not bright pink and the plumage is less brilliant, often appearing 'dirty'. Young birds are similar to non-breeding adults without a crest or coloured face patches, and are slightly smaller with a shorter, smoother bill. The Royal Spoonbill is most often seen wading in shallow waters, sweeping its submerged bill back and forth in a wide arc to find food.

The Royal Spoonbill is found in shallow freshwater and saltwater wetlands, intertidal mud flats and wet grasslands. Both permanent and temporary inland waters are used when available in the arid zone. Will also use artificial wetlands such as sewage lagoons, saltfields, dams and reservoirs. Sedentary on the coast, inland birds move with changing water availabilities.

The Royal Spoonbill feeds mainly on fish in freshwater, and on shrimps in tidal flats; it will also eat other crustaceans and aquatic insects. The structure of its bill limits it to feeding in water that is less than 40 cm deep over sand, mud or clay, where it can sweep the water with its bill. It uses several methods to catch food: slow sweeping from side to side with an open bill, rapid sweeping while walking fast or even running through the water, as well as dragging, probing or grabbing. The spatulate bill has many vibration detectors, called papillae, on the inside of the spoon, which means the bird can feel for prey items even in murky water and can feed by day or night. Once food is caught, it lifts its bill up and lets the items slide down its throat. It will bash shrimps against hard objects to remove their shells.

The Royal Spoonbill forms monogamous pairs for the duration of the breeding season and nest in colonies alongside many other waterbirds, including Yellow-billed Spoonbills, ibises, herons and cormorants. Source: <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/royal-spoonbill-platalea-regia/>



Source:
www.birdsinbackyards.net/files/factsheets/images/map/platalea-regia.gif

Facts and Figures

Research Species: No

Minimum Size: 74cm

Maximum Size: 81cm

Average size: 78cm

Average weight: 78g

Breeding season:

October to March

Clutch Size:

Two to four, usually three

Incubation: 25 days

Royal Spoonbill Image:
Duncan McCaskill
creative commons



New field guide: South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo

South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo Field Guide



[Click here to
download field guide.](#)

A new guide, produced by Birdlife Australia and the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Conservancy will support citizen scientists to collect data on South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoos. Glossy Black-Cockatoos, also known as Glossies, are threatened by bushfires, droughts, and clearing, urban development, and inappropriate planned fires. Data about Glossy Black-Cockatoo flocks and feed trees are important for informing work to protect them from these threats.

The guide covers how to identify the bird, how to tell the sex and age of the bird, how to identify different species of she-oaks in each region and how to recognise evidence of Glossies feeding on those trees.

The 28 page, full-colour guide contains beautiful imagery of Glossy Black-Cockatoos and their distinguishing features. It provides insight into the behaviours of these birds and the best time to spot them in the wild.

While the field guide was developed to support citizen scientists participating in the Great Glossy Count it will be an invaluable resource to anyone keen to learn more about the bird and contribute to a national dataset about the species.



<p><u>NAME OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED FOR A POSITION</u> </p> <p>POSITION NOMINATED FOR.....</p> <p><u>NOMINATED BY</u> NAME.....I am a financial member of WPSQBB</p> <p>SIGNATURE.....Date / /</p> <p><u>NOMINATION SECONDED BY</u> NAME.....I am a financial member of WPSQBB</p> <p>SIGNATURE.....Date / /</p> <p><u>ACCEPTANCE OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED</u> I am a financial member of WPSQBB and am willing to accept the nomination. SIGNATURE.....Date / /</p>	<p>Positions that may be nominated for</p> <p>President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Executive member</p>
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THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BAYSIDE BRANCH (QLD) Inc

PROXY FORM AGM 26th May 2023

I,.....of.....
.....Postcode.....

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

Signature :-

Is this proxy a general proxy? (Yes/No).
If 'No', indicate if this form is to be used against or in favour of the following specific resolution:
.....
.....

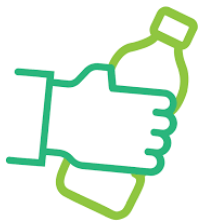
Strike out whichever is not desired.

Hey Wildlife Queensland Bayside Supporters

At the end of 2022 your efforts over 4 years have saved

60,027 CONTAINERS FROM LANDFILL
\$6002.70 DONATED TO BRANCH FUNDS

LET'S KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK USE OUR SCHEME ID BELOW
AT ANY AUTHORISED REFUND POINT IN QLD



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Authorised Refund Point
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Cleveland 4163

Containers for Change
Authorised Refund Point
Cnr Smith & Hook Street
Capalaba 4157

Containers for Change
Authorised Refund Point
12-16 Jones Road
Capalaba 4157

Trading Hours

Monday to Friday: 8am to 4.15pm

Saturday: 8am to 3pm, only until 12pm, Jones Road

Sunday: Closed, open Capalaba 9.00am to 3pm.



To read what is happening on our reefs, [click here to learn more](#)

Contacts and Important Links

Committee & Contacts

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



Bayside Branch

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



Head office

Facebook [LINK](#)



Coastal Citizen Science

Facebook [LINK](#)
Wordpress Blog [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)

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

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