

Megapodium

Newsletter Winter 2016
Wildlife Queensland (Brisbane Branch)

Mail: PO Box 395, Clayfield QLD 4011

Email: brisbane@wildlife.org.au



www.facebook.com/WildlifeQueenslandBrisbaneBranch

Blog: <http://brisbane.wildlife.org.au/>

www.wildlife.org.au

Upcoming events

ALL ARE
WELCOME TO
ATTEND OUR
FREE MONTHLY
LECTURES

*No Bookings
Required*

Regular Public Lectures

The Royal Geographical
Society of Qld,
237 Milton Rd, Milton
(UBD 21 - L1)
7.30pm on the fourth
Tuesday of every month
(except Jan & Dec)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 26 July | Brisbane Branch Public Lecture – <i>note change of topic and speaker</i> - “Northern quollology: how quolls interact with other species and their environment”
Lorna Hernandez-Santin, University of Queensland |
| Tuesday 23 August | Brisbane Branch Public Lecture & AGM: ‘Australian Tarantulas’, Renan Castro Santana, University of Queensland |
| Saturday, 3 September | Society AGM & Southern Branches Get-together |
| Tuesday 27 September | Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: ‘Basic role of a Wildlife Spotter-Catcher’, Desley Salmon |
| Tuesday 25 October | Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: ‘Whales—are we heading for a crash’, Associate Professor Michael Noad, University of Queensland – Gatton campus |
| Tuesday 22 November 2016 | Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: ‘What happens when we feed wild birds?’, Associate Professor Darryl Jones, Griffith University |
| Tuesday 28 February 2017 | Brisbane Branch Public Lectures will recommence |

"WPSQ Brisbane - Advocating Conservation through Education"

"The Branch advocates conservation through a diverse educational program including expert speakers at Monthly Public meetings, regular weekend and day trips in and around Brisbane, Batty Boat Cruises, a Facebook page, a Blog and a newsletter."



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland - Brisbane Branch Inc.

Mail: PO Box 395, Clayfield 4011

ABN: 98 822 357 323

Email: brisbane@wildlife.org.auWeb: www.wildlife.org.auHead Office: Suite 1, Level 1,
30 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill, QLD, 4101

Phone: (07) 3844 0129

Brisbane Branch Executive

President: Leanne Bowden: 3357 9009
 Vice-president: Vacant
 Treasurer: Susan Vernon: 0400 629 685
 Secretary: Vacant

Brisbane Branch Committee

Greg Miller: 3357 9009

This newsletter is edited by Linda Sulakatku & Leanne Bowden and kindly printed by J.R. Durrington & Sons, Ph. 3892 6144

Meeting Location & Date

Our meetings are held at The Royal Geographical Society of Old, 237 Milton Rd, Milton. UBD Reference Map 21, L1.

Our meeting day is the 4th Tuesday of every month. The starting time is 7.30pm.

Train: Ipswich/Rosewood Line, Milton Stop.

Bus: All Buses along Coronation Drive, Stop 4, both inbound and outbound, then walk 700m to venue.



An electronic copy of our newsletter is available from our website

Brisbane.wildlife.org.au
 then select the link to the newsletter
 or select our *Branch Blog*
 on
Brisbane.wildlife.org.au

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN US HERE**BRISBANE BRANCH****YES, I want to join WILDLIFE QUEENSLAND**

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Expiry Date: ___ / ___ / ___ Signature:

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 \$12.50 Youth \$600 Life Member Corporate (price on application)
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\$ **Total Payment**

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 30 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill, QLD, 4101

You can also subscribe online at www.wildlife.org.au

Australian Brush-turkey. Family: Megapodiidae Image from: John Gould (1804-81) *The birds of Australia 1840-48. 7 vols. 600 plates* Artists: J. Gould and E. Gould; Lithographer: E. Gould.

Photo: Research Library © Australian Museum



W	We are gratified to see that interest in our Branch is being maintained, and at least 13 new members have joined over the past few months. Welcome to all those newcomers, and we look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event.
I	In August, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting . Details are on the back page. This will be your opportunity to hear our President's and Treasurer's Reports, to learn about the Branch, as well as to elect a new committee.
L	Like to know how many members we have? Well, membership is approximately ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY . You may have noticed that our committee currently stands at THREE .
D	Daunting as this is for we three, we are managing to keep the Branch alive. But, we are limited to the basics - lectures every month; our quarterly newsletter; a little fundraising; managing our Financial affairs, Facebook, blog and emails.
L	Luckily, we do have some assistance from a few volunteers to whom we are very grateful. Other commitments prevent them committing to committee membership.
I	Interested in helping out? Don't be afraid, nominate for the committee, come along to the August AGM. The only scary part of the evening may be Renan Castro Santana's talk on Tarantulas, in contrast to July's Quoll talk.
F	Feral animals and invasive species, including horses, deer and foxes that threaten our native wildlife were the topics of our April and June meetings. Read more inside about what the speakers shared with us.
E	Everyone should treat themselves to attending the Society AGM and the Southern Branches Get Together, hosted by Kedron Brook Branch in September. A great opportunity to meet and hear from Branches throughout the State. Details inside.
B	Boas, pythons, snakes, tortoises, lizards, geckoes, frogs, and iguanas all got a mention in Steve Wilson's excellent Herpetology presentation in May. Read some of the fascinating evolutionary and biological facts he shared inside.
N	Nothing comes totally for free, and funding for the Society as a whole is becoming an issue. Read more inside about how to stop our Society becoming an Endangered Species in its own right, and our Annual Appeal.
E	EOFY – End of financial year has gone, but donations over \$2 are tax deductible for the next financial year. Donate now through our website. You can also help by leaving a bequest to Wildlife Queensland in your Will. See "Support Us" on our website.

Tuesday 26 July at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture – *note change of topic and speaker* - “Northern quollology: how quolls interact with other species and their environment” Lorna Hernandez-Santin

The largest carnivorous marsupial in northern Australia is endangered! Its major known threat is the cane toad. However, quoll populations are declining even in areas without toads. But, why? Through the eyes of a researcher, Lorna will show you how she attempts to untangle the mystery. Set in the stunning Pilbara, this talk will provide key concepts and focus on her

methods and how those methods will help answer the different questions she's asked as part of her PhD at the University of Queensland.

Photos supplied by Lorna Hernandez-Santin



Tuesday 23 August at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture and AGM: ‘Australian Tarantulas (Theraphosidae): Combining Morphology, DNA & Venom Analyses’ Renan Castro Santana, PhD Student, University of Queensland - Venom Evolution Laboratory

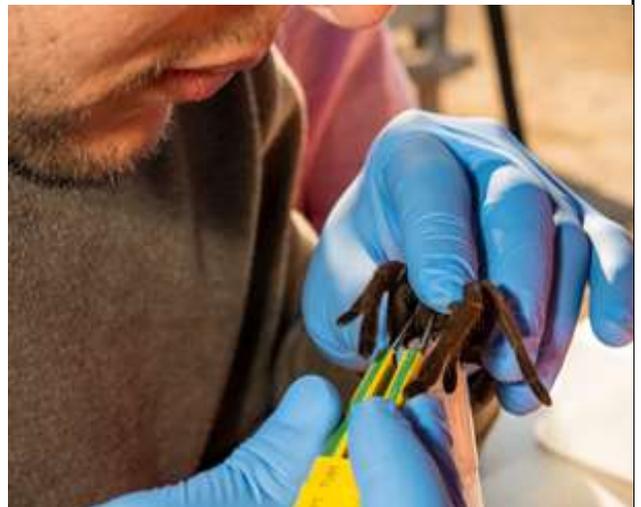
Prior to our speaker, we will also be holding our Branch Annual General Meeting. You may feel that an AGM is almost as scary as a Tarantula! But trust us—it won't be, and we look forward to seeing lots of members present.

Theraphosids, known as tarantulas, have been harvested in many countries by the pet market. In Australia, legislation is controlling their market between states. However, with an inconclusive number of species and an unknown geographic boundary of where they are found, the management plan does not have any effect.

Venomous animals, such as tarantulas, are useful biodiscovery resources, as they can provide toxins that can be developed into new drugs of medical importance.

A morphological analysis has identified a high diversity of species in Queensland and Northern Territory. However, the lack of strong morphologic characters and a high morphologic variation, makes it difficult to establish species without molecular biology. Renan will explain about his research, and how DNA and venom proteomics can help us to understand better how many species there are and what is their real distribution.

Photo supplied by Renan Castro Santana



Saturday, 3 September from 8:45am to 4.30pm – Society AGM & Southern Branches Get-together

Hosted by the Kedron Brook branch, this year's one-day event will be held at **St Mark's Church Hall at Clayfield**, which is easily accessible by public transport and car. The program includes AGM and branch highlights, a walk, guest speaker, good food and Wildlife Awards.

Visit the website for more details and how to register: <http://wildlife.org.au/whatson/index.html>

Tuesday 27 September at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: 'Basic role of a Wildlife Spotter-catcher', Desley Salmon, Vital Signs Environmental Services

Desley has been a Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitator for over 15 years and a Professional Wildlife Spotter-catcher for over 10 years. Currently she is the Senior Spotter-catcher with Vital Signs Environmental Services. This role has seen her working on sites extending from Northern New South Wales, up through S.E. and Northern Queensland and across to Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Petauroides volans (Greater Glider)



Tree clearing using a D9 Dozer

What is a "Wildlife Spotter-catcher" and "what do you do?" are the two most commonly asked questions. Why aren't "Wildlife Spotter-catcher's" used on all land clearing sites throughout S.E. QLD or indeed throughout Australia? Why must our Wildlife continue to suffer injuries and death due to human development? Come along and hear a few of the answers and learn about some of the requirements and challenges faced daily by all "Wildlife Spotter-catchers" working throughout S.E. QLD. *Photos provided by Desley Salmon*

Tuesday 25 October at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: 'East Australian humpback whales have recovered from whaling, but are we heading for a crash? ', Associate Professor Michael Noad, University of Queensland – Gatton

The east Australia population of humpback whales was hunted to near extinction in the 1950s and early 1960s. Since then, the population has recovered strongly and is now back to a level similar to where we think it was prior to whaling. While this is good news, the population growth rate has not slowed and the population is continuing to boom. But will it all end in a bust? This talk will trace the highs and lows of abundance in the east Australian population and discuss the ecological factors that might be responsible for the current, possibly precarious, situation. *Image from Queensland Museum*



Tuesday 22 November at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture 'What happens when we feed wild birds?' Associate Professor Darryl Jones, Griffith University

This will be our last meeting of the year. Come along and enjoy an end-of-year supper.

It is a certainly a controversial issue in Australia, but feeding birds is enormously popular around the world. Truly gigantic amounts of food are provided for birds in the US and Europe but also in this country, though everyone knows "we shouldn't." Why do people feed birds? What happens when they do and does it really matter anyway? This talk will cover all these questions and present an international view from the commonest interaction between humans and wildlife.

Darryl Jones is an urban ecologist with a long interest in the way people and wildlife interact in urban areas.

Photo supplied by Daryl Jones - Rainbow Lorikeets and King Parrots



IMPORTANT CHANGE TO OUR NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Megapodium
Newsletter Winter 2016
Wildlife Queensland (Brisbane Branch)

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QLD

Upcoming events

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR FREE MONTHLY LECTURES
No Bookings Required

Regular Public Lectures
The Royal Queensland Society of Qld
237 MITCHELL RD, MISION
(SUB 21 - 51)
7.30pm on the 2nd-4th
Tuesday of every month
(except Jan & Dec)

Tuesday 26 July	Brisbane Branch Public Lecture - note change of topic and speaker - "Northern quolls: how quolls interact with other species and their environment" Lorna Henneked-Saunders, University of Queensland
Tuesday 23 August	Brisbane Branch Public Lecture & AGM "Australian Tamarind", Roman Cedeno Barriento, University of Queensland
Saturday, 3 September	Society AGM & Southern Branches Get-together
Tuesday 27 September	Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: "Basic role of a Wildlife Spotter-Catcher", Dorey Salmon
Tuesday 25 October	Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: "What's-are we looking for a drink", Associate Professor Michael Noad, University of Queensland - Gatton campus
Tuesday 22 November	Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: "What happens when we feed wild birds", Associate Professor Darryl Jones, Griffith University
Tuesday 26 February 2017	Brisbane Branch Public Lectures will reconvene 2017

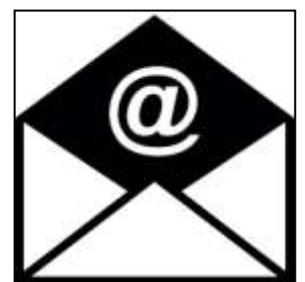
These days, most of our members have provided their email address, and so receive newsletters and other information from the Society electronically.

However, there are still many members who have a hard copy newsletter posted to them.

With the increase in the cost of postage, and the resources required - both human and physical - to manage the mail-out, your committee has decided that, from the Autumn edition, we will only distribute the newsletter electronically, unless you do not have an email account, or we hear from you that you would like a hard copy version posted to you.

Our newsletters are also available through our Branch Blog.

Hard copy versions will still be available at meetings, for members and visitors.



"WPSQ Brisbane - Advocating Conservation through Education"
The Branch advocates conservation through a diverse educational program including expert speakers at Monthly Public Meetings, regular weekend and day trips in and around Brisbane, Getty Boat Cruises, a Facebook page, a Blog and a Newsletter."

Wild Horses - feral, iconic or pest?

Magdalena Zabek,

April 2016

Our speaker for April addressed us on the issues of feral horses. Magdalena has kindly provided us with the following summary of her presentation.

“Australia has the largest population of feral horses in the world, with some one million horses occupying the diverse and often remote Australian environments. In contrast to feral horse populations occupying other parts of the world (e.g. Europe and North America), feral horses in Australia pose a substantial threat to native Australian fauna and flora. Yet, there is still lack of collective solutions on the management of this overabundant species.

Ecologists and conservationists are deeply worried about the increasing wild horse populations in Australia, particularly in arid regions and national parks. These large herbivores have a different biology to native Australian animals; horses are equipped with hoofs and a great appetite for palatable forage, and if present in large densities, they have adverse effects upon the native environment by trampling indigenous vegetation and changing its structure and composition through erosion, grazing and spreading weeds. By grazing congregationally, horses change the Australian landscape by destroying grasses that are intolerant to heavy grazing, and in



Member, Leonie Markwell, chats with our speaker, Magdalena Zabek.

accelerate erosion by compacting soil and denuding plant cover.

Observing wild horses in Australia is challenging. They are very shy and timid and typically run away from the slightest perception of threat making direct observations very difficult. It took me several years to learn to approach them in various landscapes without causing too much attention. I travelled to many places across Australia in order to study the biology of feral horses. I hiked for days through the deserts of Central Australia, followed wild horse trails in the Australian Alps, explored hostile environments around the Simpson Desert and Cape York and lived among the horses in deep forests on the south-eastern Australian coastline. Away from towns and main roads and permanently embedded in the Australian landscape, I found wild horses in many contrasting environments.

During my seminar, I described the distribution and abundance of feral horses in Australia, presented horse impacts on Australian environment, economy and society, and explained of what is being done to control the population size. I also talked about the biology and complex social behaviour of feral horses.”

You can also read more about Magdalena’s research from page 32 of the Society’s Wildlife Australia Magazine, Winter 2016 Vol 53 No 2 edition.

For interest, the Australian government Environment department, does have a publication on management of Feral horses at the following site:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive-species/publications/factsheet-feral-horse-equus-caballus-and-feral-donkey-equus-asinus>

semi-arid and arid areas horses

Tropical Island Herpetology

Steve K. Wilson,

May 2016

We had a great attendance for our May speaker, Steve Wilson. Steve is an award-winning Australian herpetologist, naturalist, photographer and author based in Queensland. He has authored and co-authored eight reptile books ranging from natural history to reference books (national, state and regional identification guides) and a children’s book.

He talked to us about the reptiles on a wide range of tropical islands, the reasons for their diversity or otherwise, illustrated with many superb photographs and descriptive maps.

Starting with the GALAPAGOS, west of South America, he

described how their isolation, and long distance from mainland habitats, as well as the manner in which the separate islands are formed, led to the variety of habitats, flora and fauna. Here the geology is critical, with the Nazca plate on which the islands have formed, moving across a volcanic hotspot. The lava punches through the plate making islands. They are initially biologically dead, gradually acquiring nutrients and vagrant organisms. As they move away from the hotspot, they become volcanically inactive. The animals arrived by various means - e.g. birds flew, penguins and sea lions swam in with the cold currents, reptiles floated, plants rafted – bringing with them nutrients to provide food for the new inhabitants. Once the plants washed up and took root, they evolved to new species suitable to their new habitat. There is a range of islands across the width of the Galapagos, from geologically old to new. Some of the animals are older than the islands they live on, with the islands aging and eventually disappearing. The animals on them would have arrived on 'stepping stones' of land formations, which are now gone.

Cactus is one of the plants that floated in to the Galapagos. The various species have co-evolved with the tortoises which utilise them as a food source. As a result, cacti evolved to be very spiny, as protection from destruction. They are also a favourite food for the herbivorous land Iguanas.

Unfortunately for some islands, introduced pest species such



as dogs, cats, and rats, have killed off the native inhabitants and caused total extinction in some cases.

The Marine Iguana is a one-off in evolution. *Photo by Steve Wilson*. There is no known other example of an iguana that has switched its diet from terrestrial plants to eat algae under water. It has developed a flat face to better enable it to munch the algae off the submerged rocks.

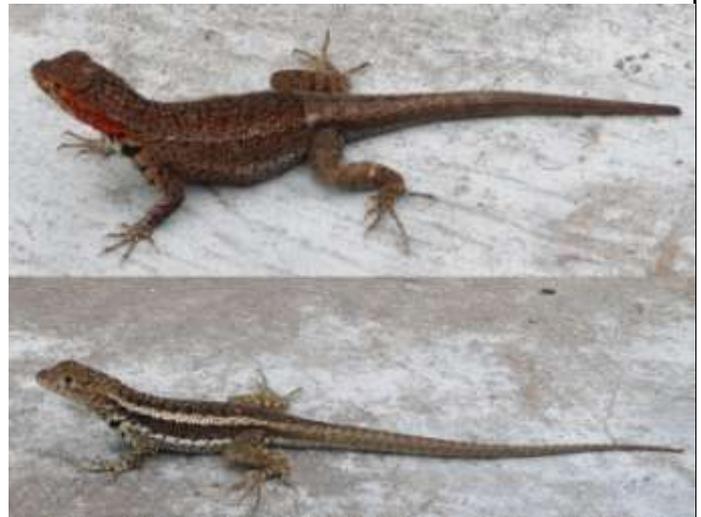
Steve particularly made mention of how no reptiles in the Galapagos run away from people, however, this does not mean that they are tame and habituated to humans. It is

because they have evolved with no predators, with no terrestrial pests to attack them. Even Charles Darwin tested **out this theory, by throwing them in the water but they'd only return to the land**. Their only predators are actually in the water - sharks.

Climate change is having a negative effect on the marine iguanas. When there is too much rain, there is less algae and the iguanas die from hunger. They are unique in that when times are lean, they actually shrink by 20%. They are not just thin, but smaller through a reduction in their bone mass.

Lava lizards (see photos below) are endemic throughout the Galapagos, drifting in on debris and forming different species on different islands. They do run away, because their smaller size puts them in the range of prey for the Galapagos hawk. Another difference with them is that it is the female who has the brighter colouring, and she defends her chosen male by chasing away other females.

Tortoises bobbed in the ocean to come ashore on the Galapagos. They have had rather a tragic history. The shape of their shell gives a clue to which island each species comes from. E.g., a domed shell indicates the ability to feed on lush grass, with its head able to be down to eat beneath it. A high shell indicates a drier habitat, as it has to reach its head up to dine on the plants above. In the past, whaling boats took hundreds of thousands to eat, as they could keep them on board because they stayed alive. 70 years of whaling almost



Lava lizards (*Photos from Leanne Bowden*)

collapsed the environment, and has made some island species extinct. Breeding stations have been established on a range of islands to try to reverse the process, but it will take decades to breed new generations because they are so long-lived.

MADAGASCAR, east of Africa, drifted as a complex ecosystem like an ark, with its animals and plants, and shares

some features with its neighbour. Whilst it is relatively close to Africa, it takes little from it. It has the biological and climatic diversity of a continent, with many endemics. It has very distinctive fauna, with examples like the lemurs, and 237 frogs which are 100% endemic, and around 78 chameleons.

Steve talked of the tribulations of his two visits, especially to see chameleons, including the dwarf variety. The Iguanas here are believed to be from the Gondwana era, and are only found in the arid zone. They probably reached the area **via Antarctica, prior to Madagascar's separation.**

Geckos here are also wide ranging with unique lifestyles. There are Leaf-tail forms that live in epiphytes and others that are mossy and which can camouflage and fuse to tree trunks making them almost invisible. Steve had photos of beautifully bright coloured day geckoes. They could be hard to photograph or catch, as they compensate for their conspicuousness by being very fast.

There are Boas, but no pythons. There are weird colubrid snakes, with features such as noses like leaves to enable them to hide and snare prey.

Their Ploughshare tortoise has become critically endangered, despite a breeding program, because many are stolen and sold on the black market to the pet trade. The pet trade is as much a threatening process as the deforestation that is also occurring. The laws are not strong enough, and many reptiles are being lost.

SRI LANKA, with its close proximity to India, has had frequent periods of connection and separation. Many lowland reptile species, such as some of its Cobras and Blood sucker lizards, are not endemic, but the same as those in India. However, the animals which reside in the higher altitudes, particularly some spectacular dragon lizards in isolated forest pockets, are endemic Sri Lankan genera. Steve described the egg laying features of some of the geckos, where they lay hard eggs and glue them to cave walls, using the same location over and over again for generations.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Generally across this region, the age between islands is not great, and so the species are generally the same, except for between Borneo and Sulawesi. The gap between **these two islands is known as the Wallace's line and big differences occur between the Asian and Australian sides.**

NEW GUINEA has many of the same species as Australia

through previously being joined as the one continent.

SOLOMON ISLANDS is where we do start losing species because of its remoteness, and it only has around 80 species of reptiles.

SAMOA is on the outer edge of the Pacific Islands and again has a minimal number of species because of the distance to other lands near it. It does have a range of geckoes as they are hardy, and are able to raft and spread. Other features that allow geckoes to spread are that they have hard eggs, which are more impervious to moisture loss, and some species are parthenogenetic, which is a form of reproduction that does not require fertilisation - all animals are female, and no male is needed to create a population. **However this 'cloning' method of breeding** leads to less diversity between individuals, lowering the overall ability of the species to cope with environmental change.

NEW CALEDONIA has the closest relationship to Australia, and has some of the same species. It is home to the largest gecko in world.



Visitor, photographer Phillip Griffin sporting a Madagascan lizard on his shirt, with speaker Steve Wilson.



Steve finished his entertaining Tropical Island Herpetology presentation in theme, with a photograph of appropriately named Lizard wines.

Conservation and Invasive Species Management - Kristen Dangerfield, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability Branch, Brisbane City Council, June 2016

We had a change of speaker on the night, with Dr Sarah Bell unable to attend, and Kristen attending instead.

Kristen provided an overview of Brisbane's biodiversity, what Council is doing to protect and reduce threats to biodiversity with a particular focus on pest animals. She has kindly provided the text below.

Brisbane's biodiversity

Brisbane is Australia's most biodiverse capital city. It has the highest diversity of native plants and wildlife of any other capital city with 550 vertebrate fauna, 84 vegetation communities and 2500 species of native plants. There are 2030 parks covering 1500 hectares and an estimated 575,000 street trees across Brisbane.

What Council is doing to protect biodiversity

The Brisbane Vision 2031 includes the aspiration to maintain a clean and green city that continues to support a high level of biodiversity. A key component of this is to protect and restore

Brisbane's biodiversity network. Council is on track to meet its target of 40% natural habitat cover. Some policy and programs to protect biodiversity include:

Brisbane City Plan 2014

Guides how land in Brisbane can be used and developed. It includes a number of overlay codes and maps that are relevant **to protecting Brisbane's biodiversity including the Biodiversity Areas Overlay** which aims to:

- conserve, consolidate, connect and restore the biodiversity network including koala habitat
- protect and enhance biodiversity values and functions
- avoid development impacts
- seek environmental offsets to mitigate unavoidable development impacts

Bushland Preservation Levy

- funds raised from the levy are used to buy land that supports significant ecosystems, plants and animals through the Bushland Acquisition Program
- over 3500 hectares has been protected since 1990 including Karawatha Forest, Brisbane Koala Bushlands and Tinchi Tamba Wetlands

Community Conservation Partnerships Program

- includes the Habitat Brisbane, Creek Catchments

Program and Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program

Wildlife Movement Solutions

- wildlife-friendly crossing infrastructure installed where roads intersect ecological corridors to facilitate the safe movement of wildlife e.g. fencing, culvert underpasses, land-bridge overpasses, poles and rope bridges.

Invasive species management

Invasive species including pest animals represent a significant **threat to Brisbane's biodiversity. The Biosecurity Act 2014 commenced on 1 July 2016 which outlines Council's response** in relation to invasive species in Brisbane. The Brisbane Invasive Species Management Plan 2013-2017(BISMP) provides information on how invasive species will be managed within the Brisbane area.

The objectives within the BISMP vary depending on the species that are in focus, for example for Red Imported Fire Ants, Yellow Crazy Ants and the Red-eared Slider Turtles the objective will be for early detection and eradication. While the objective for foxes, wild dogs, deer, rabbits, feral pigs and feral cats is to contain and reduce their impacts and to prevent their **spread into uninfested areas. In summary, Council's approach depends on the invasive species being targeted.**

Some initiatives to manage pest animals include:

- camera monitoring
- the use of detection dogs
- analysis of stomach contents to determine the impact of foxes on native animals
- education events and communication activities within the local community such as the pest fishing event at Forest Lake: raising awareness about the impacts of **pest fish in Brisbane's waterways, and the Moreton Island Cane Toad Campaign** that assists Council keeping Moreton Island free of cane toads.

What you can do to help?

- Be observant. Look out for scats, tracks and other traces of invasive species
- Report all sightings of pest animals to Council on 3403 8888
- Make your property less pest animal friendly by removing weeds and rubbish and using fox-proof poultry enclosures

Find information on Brisbane's weed species and advice on how to control and remove weeds on your property at the

Weed Identification Tool at <http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au>

For more information on the Brisbane Invasive Species Management Plan or a copy of the document visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search for 'BISMP'. Further information on pest and invasive species and some of these initiatives is available at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and searching for 'invasive animals'.



Over supper, visitor Ed Parker, chats with our BCC speaker, Kristen Dangerfield. Members Ray Ison and Tim Heard, and visiting UQ students, chat in the background.

Check out our Facebook page for the latest news from Brisbane Branch of Wildlife Queensland



www.facebook.com/WildlifeQueenslandBrisbaneBranch

Find information on Brisbane's weed species and advice on how to control and remove weeds on your property at the

Peter Ogilvie, the President of Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland wrote to all members recently to outline the critical position of the Society.

We have republished excerpts of his letter below, together with the donation form, which you can either cut out or copy. Please mail the completed form to Head Office at

Suite 1, Level 1

30 Gladstone Road

Highgate Hill, QLD, 4101,

or ring the office on (07) 3384 0129 to provide details of your tax-deductible donation.

Yes, I want to help save Wildlife Queensland from extinction!

CONTACT DETAILS:

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____

Ref no. (if known) _____

Email _____



I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 (other) _____

I enclose a cheque / money order payable to Wildlife Queensland

OR please charge my Visa Mastercard

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT DETAILS:

Card no. _____

Exp _____

CVC _____

Signature _____

DONATIONS TO WILDLIFE QUEENSLAND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please return this form to Wildlife Queensland in the envelope provided. By providing a postage stamp you will help us to reduce return postage costs, allowing us to focus our funding on furthering our mission. Suite 1, Level 1, 30 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill 4101 . (07) 3844 0129 . wpsq@wildlife.org.au . www.wildlife.org.au

Excerpts from Peter Ogilvie's letter to members

Peter discussed the foundation and history of Wildlife Queensland. He went on to say:

“There was a time when conservation organisations such as ours received government financial assistance to support their work. Those days are long gone. There was a time when government grants were available for application to support specific tasks. Those are now few and far between. When the economy falters, the first casualty is inevitably environmental protection. Such protective measures are frequently reinterpreted as impediments to economic recovery, often leading to their modification and even removal. As a consequence, an organisation such as Wildlife Queensland becomes even more important in identifying and publicising actions that are taken in the name of economic recovery, but which are destructive of the natural environment.”

He went on to give examples of Wildlife Queensland's achievements. But he noted that:

“This is a snapshot of matters that presently engage us and are carried out on behalf of our membership. Our output is managed and achieved by two full-time and three part-time staff members, along with a large number of volunteers without whom many of the tasks we undertake would simply not be able to happen.” He noted that successful funding campaigns “ don't contribute to our budget other than to cover the costs of undertaking

the appeals. The bulk of money collected goes to protect the species in question.” He wrote about the important “Wildlife Protector Program (WPP) where valuable supporters contribute on a regular basis” Although a recent appeal to increase WPP numbers was partially successful, it did not raise enough to address Wildlife Queensland’s financial situation. The forced move from the government heritage building to a new site has increased costs.

“We have moved to a smaller office at Highgate Hill where our accommodation costs will increase by approximately \$20,000 per year. This is a crippling additional cost on top of everything else.

Wildlife Queensland is bleeding badly and in need of a financial transfusion. The prospect of Wildlife Queensland itself becoming an endangered species is a daunting one. Nevertheless, we are certainly on the vulnerable list at the moment. For more than 50 years we have been a strong and knowledgeable voice for the protection of Queensland’s native plants and animals. I passionately believe it’s important that we continue and, if possible, expand that role. Admittedly that’s a biased opinion, but I would like to think it is shared by a large number of caring people across the state (and elsewhere).

I therefore ask you, nay urge you, to help us remain extant by making a tax deductible donation today.”

BRISBANE BRANCH NEEDS YOU!!

Please give some thought to becoming part of the Branch Committee when the current committee stands down at our August AGM, and election of a new committee will take place.



WILDLIFE QUEENSLAND HEAD OFFICE

Did you know that Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (aka WPSQ, or Wildlife Queensland for short) is the oldest, largest and most respected wildlife-focused conservation group in the State of Queensland?

Founded in 1962, the Society is a community-based, non-profit organisation consisting of 17 branches throughout the State, committed to an ecologically sustainable future for people and wildlife.

Your Brisbane branch is just one of these branches. Information on all the others is available on the www.wildlife.org.au website.

Our Head Office has moved.

Suite 1, Level 1, 30 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill, QLD, 4101

Phone: (07) 3844 0129

or e-mail wpsq@wildlife.org.au.

They are always in need of volunteers for office work, consultation, fieldwork, hands-on surveys and special events.

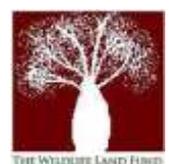
So don’t forget to check the website regularly, and contact Head Office if you have some spare time to lend a helping hand. They’d love to hear from you.

For more information on the Web

Wildlife Land Fund Ltd: www.wildfund.org

Wildlife Queensland: www.wildlife.org.au

Wildlife Queensland Brisbane Branch: brisbane.wildlife.org.au



NOTICE TO BRISBANE MEMBERS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE BRANCH) INC. WILL BE HELD AT: 7.30PM ON: TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2016

AT: The Royal Geographical Society of Qld, 237 Milton Rd, Milton

Nominations are called for positions on the Committee. New members are always welcome. Please feel free to talk to current Committee members if you're interested in nominating. Here's a brief outline:

PRESIDENT (1): Runs Branch, organises, hosts and presents at public meetings, decides Branch focus.

VICE PRESIDENT (1): Helps the President.

SECRETARY (1): Prepares committee minutes, manages Branch email, Facebook and Blog sites, writes letters, maintains Branch history, prepares newsletter.

TREASURER (1): Keeps the accounts in order, organises annual audit.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (5): Assist with all decisions and matters e.g. help out at meetings (e.g. buy and set up supper, set up computer and projection equipment, re-arrange furniture or carry items to cars); collect mail from PO Box; organise guest speakers; organise educational activities; help write letters and submissions on local topics; help write grant applications, and, if successful, purchase items; prepare or seek out articles for the newsletter; purchase items for raffles or other fundraising; conduct or assist at a fundraising activity; attend stalls to promote the Society; help arrange and run Batty Boat Cruises; think of interesting things that the Branch can do.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BRISBANE BRANCH - PROXY FORM

I, (Postcode.....) being a member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, hereby appoint

..... as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General meeting to be held on the 23rd August 2016

Signature: - Is this proxy a general proxy? (Yes/No*)

If 'No', indicate if this form is to be used against/ in favour of* the following specific resolution:

.....

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BRISBANE BRANCH - NOMINATION FORM

Return to Secretary by 16th August 2016 or present at AGM.

Proposer: I, (members name)

Of.....

Seconder: I, (members name)

Of.....

Nominate: (members name)

Of.....

as a candidate for the position of

Signed: Proposer:.....

Seconder:.....