

Megapodium

Newsletter Spring 2016
Wildlife Queensland (Brisbane Branch)

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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, Apr & Dec
in 2017)

Tuesday 25 October **Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: 'Whales—are we heading for a crash', Associate Professor Michael Noad, University of Queensland – Gatton campus**

Sunday 30 October Batty Boat Cruise

Sunday 13 November Batty Boat Cruise

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

Sunday 4 December Batty Boat Cruise



SEASONS GREETINGS & BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Tuesday 28 February 2017 **Brisbane Branch Public Meeting: 'From swamp to art gallery!', Garth Copeland**

Tuesday 28 March **Brisbane Branch Public Meeting "Feeding the Young. Australian Native Stingless Bees", C. Flavio Massaro, QUT**

APRIL NO MEETING – ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

"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.

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Brisbane Branch Executive

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

Brisbane Branch Committee

Greg Miller: 3357 9009
 Acting – John Markwell

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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I would also like to subscribe to WILDLIFE Australia Magazine
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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	elcome to the new committee, Leanne, Susan and Greg, elected at our August AGM. We are in fact the same committee as last year, re-elected without competition. Our AGM and Branch report are inside.
I	nterested in helping out? There's still opportunity. Committee meetings are generally held on the Tuesday prior to our public meeting at a committee members home. Let's know if you'd like to join us to see what's what.
L	ots of people risked the fear of attending an AGM to enjoy Renan Castro Santana's presentation after our meeting, especially his live Tarantula specimens. Photos and more information inside.
D	Id you remember Threatened Species Day on 7th September? Wildlife Queensland had a stall in the Queen Street Mall on that day to contribute to awareness raising about our wildlife at risk.
L	ots of information is available on how you can help threatened wildlife. Have a look at the Environment Department's website at https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species-week/how-you-can-help.html
I	n fact, one of our species at risk is the Quoll. Read more inside in our Speaker Reports from Lorna Hernandez-Santin, who addressed us on "Northern Quollology" at our July meeting.
F	un was had by all at the Society's AGM and Southern Branches Get Together hosted by Kedron Brook Branch during September. Brisbane Branch was represented, read more inside.
E	veryone should take the opportunity to watch our magnificent whales migrating past our doorstep in Moreton Bay. Learn more about these wonderful creatures in October, when Professor Michael Noad shares some warning facts with us.
B	een tempted to feed the birds that visit your backyard? Lots of people do. And Darryl Jones from Griffith University has been collecting information all about it. Hear more from him at our last meeting of the year in November.
N	ext newsletter will be in 2017, so the Committee takes this opportunity to wish you a green and pleasant end of year season. We look forward to catching up with you at our future meetings.
E	xcept for APRIL, when there will be no meeting, as 4th Tuesday of the month falls on 25th April, the Anzac Day Public Holiday, our meetings will continue from February to November.



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*



Sunday 30 October Batty Boat Cruise See Back page for details

Sunday 13 November Batty Boat Cruise

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

Sunday 4 December 2016 Batty Boat Cruise See Back page for details

ENJOY YOUR NEW YEAR BREAK. See you again in 2017!!!

Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Meeting: 'From swamp to art gallery!', Garth Copeland

Garth Coupland's passion for the anuran form has driven him to adventures on three continents in pursuit of frogs. Look forward to a night of anecdotes, science, fieldcraft, beautiful frogs. Garth will reveal how he turns a find in a swamp into a painting in an art gallery.

*Giant Barred Frogs - *Mixophyes iteratus* (M) left & (F) Mooloolah River, SE Queensland: painting by Garth Coupland*



Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.30pm Brisbane Branch Public Lecture: 'Feeding the young. Aspects of nutrition and hygiene in Australian native stingless bees (Meliponini).' C. Flavia Massaro, Post Doctoral Researcher, School of Earth, Environmental and Biological Sciences (EEBS) Queensland University of Technology

Native bees of Australia include several social species that belong to the Meliponini tribe. In nests of *Tetragonula carbonaria*, the very peculiar shape of their brood chamber is organized as spiral layers, where individual cells show the typical pot-shape (See photograph provided by Flavio). The brood cells are filled with pollen, honey and jelly, and will mature into a nutritional mixture to nurture the egg for its metamorphosis into a larva, then a pupa and, finally, a bee. The nest elements are made of material with a fascinating chemical composition because it originates from a mixture of plant resins, bees wax and saliva. Other Meliponini species such as *T. hockingsii* and *Austroplebeia australis* show different construction strategies applied to their brood chambers. Flavio, who has also had an article in our own Wildlife Australia Magazine, will describe how nutrition and hygienic behaviors of Meliponini bees contribute to the healthy rearing of their youngsters.



Brisbane Branch Annual General Meeting –23 August 2016



REPORT

LEANNE BOWDEN - PRESIDENT

We had a great attendance at our 2016 Annual General Meeting, and with such a small outgoing committee, no problem with sufficient numbers for a quorum.

As outgoing President, I presented the Annual report (a copy of which is included in this newsletter); the Treasurer Susan Vernon, presented the Financial report; and we had the election of Committee Members. Our Guest Speaker after the AGM, Renan Castro Santana, addressed us on Tarantulas, and his report is also included in this newsletter.

Our current committee of three were re-elected unopposed.

However, we do need a Secretary. Very kindly, after the meeting, as there were no nominations from the floor for vacant positions, past committee members Leonie and John Markwell offered to act in committee positions until other Branch members step up and take on part of the responsibility of keeping our important Branch going.

We are all looking forward to a successful year ahead.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Brisbane Branch –

- maintained a reasonable membership, approximately 125, 11 less than 2015
- held 10 public Environmental Education meetings attracting an average of 30 visitors per meeting, 51% of whom were visitors
- supported Head Office through donating back our portion of membership fees, and donating 10 annual subscriptions to WAM as a thank you gift to our speakers
- raised almost \$500 through sales of Entertainment books and from the Grill'd Burger Community program to go towards hiring of our meeting venue and other administrative costs
- published items to our Facebook site, seeing our likers increase to more than 1200
- produced 4 newsletters to keep our members informed.



This has been done with a committee of three, and the assistance of a few non-committee members who help when they can. Sadly, in January 2016, our lovely and efficient Secretary, Mary Durrington, passed away suddenly. She and husband Bob had been an integral part of WPSQ for over 40 years, and we're grateful for the assistance Mary provided to us while she was with us, and for the continued support from Bob.

Mary and Bob Durrington



Missing from our traditional activities was our organisation of Batty Boat Cruises, as we had insufficient human resources to do so over the October – March season. We have always donated all funds raised to Head Office and Bat Care groups. Head Office helped out and organised the trips, with assistance from Brisbane Branch members with planning and onboard, to ensure maintenance of the education and fundraising opportunity the trips provide.

Reduced resources has also meant that from our Autumn 2016 newsletter, we are no longer sending any hard copies, except to the people who do not have an email account.

COMMITTEE

Following our August 2015 AGM, we had three on-going committee members, Leanne Bowden as President for her 4th year and 14 years on Committee, Susan Vernon as Treasurer for her 4th year and 10 years on Committee, and Greg Miller as committee member for his 13th year.

We are grateful for assistance from non-committee members John and Leonie Markwell, Jeremy Thompson and Bob Durrington, who help us at meetings and Bob also prints the hard copies of our newsletters; to Linda Sulakatku, who has been assisting with editing our newsletter and sending emails to members; and to Jo Towsey and John and Leonie who assisted with the Batty Boat Cruises.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES - Speaker Program

Leanne continues to organise our monthly speaker program on the evening of the 4th Tuesday of the month at Milton. Our May speaker, Steve **Wilson**, talking on Tropical Island Herpetology, attracted the most attendees, with 60 people, 41 of whom were visitors.

We've had talks on Pelagic Trips; Crocodiles; Fauna passages; Impacts of isolation for Crayfish; Glossy Black Cockatoos; Arachnophiles; Platypus; Wild Horses, and BCC Invasive species management.

From a total annual attendance of 298 people, 151 were visitors compared to 147 members. This averages to 30 each meeting - 14 members and 16 visitors – the majority of whom are University students. We do hope that those visitors learnt a little more about Wildlife and Wildlife Queensland, and appreciated what Wildlife Queensland does.

Our speaker gift of an annual subscription to Wildlife Australia Magazine also contributes back to the Society.

PUBLISHING, PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

Electronic Media

Our Facebook site Likes are now up to over 1200, seeing us attract about 500 new viewers each year, since it began in March 2012. We feel that promotion of our monthly Environmental Education lectures as Events on Facebook is responsible for attracting more visitors to our meetings.

Newsletter

The old faithful Megapodium appeared four times during the year. From the Autumn edition in May 2016, we advised



Photo above: Steve Wilson speaking at our May meeting on Tropical Island Herpetology. He finished his presentation in theme, with a photograph of appropriately named Lizard wines.

Wildlife Queensland - Brisbane Branch added an event.
May 6 · 🌐



MAY 24 Steve Wilson - Tropical Island Herpetolo...
Tue 7:30 PM - Brisbane, QLD
86 people interested · 31 people going

✓ Going ▾

members that hard copies would only be sent to those members who specifically request a hard copy, or who don't have an email account, and we only have nine of those.

FUND RAISING

Entertainment Books

Leanne and Greg are in their tenth year of selling Entertainment Books. With 31 sold, we didn't quite raise enough to fully cover the cost of hiring our meeting venue, but it will go a long way towards it. Whilst most of our customers are now returning customers, it does keep the name of Wildlife Queensland in their memories from year to year.

Local Matters program

We again entered the Grill'd Burgers Local Matters community donation program at Grill'd Ascot, and we were featured during November 2015. The importance of promoting through this program, is that the name of Wildlife Queensland, and our 35 words worth of what we do, is on display to a wide range of people who may not otherwise know of our cause, so it's well worthwhile making the application.



Batty Boat Cruises

Since 1984, our Cruises to Indooroopilly Island have been our major education and fundraising activity, with all funds raised donated to Head Office and Bat Care causes. However, this year we did not have sufficient committee numbers to take on the work involved of organising and Head Office ran them instead. Brisbane Branch members were available to help with planning, and for assistance onboard. We are indeed grateful to Head Office in keeping the long tradition of Batty Boat Cruises alive.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE PLANS

We hope to continue attracting more people to our public education meetings, to spread the Wildlife Queensland message further and increase our membership. We will also hope to keep up whatever fund-raising opportunities that we can, to ensure that we can continue to support head office and cover all our administration costs.

AGM & Southern Branches Get Together

On Saturday 3 September, Wildlife Queensland members gathered at St Marks Church Hall, Clayfield for our annual get together. Kedron Brook Catchment Branch organized the event and the Brisbane Branch committee was represented by Susan Vernon (Treasurer), and Leonie and John Markwell (Acting Secretary and Committee Member). Our President Leanne Bowden and Committee member Greg Miller were out in western Queensland, volunteering for the Environment Department on an endangered species recovery program and were unable to attend. Some other Brisbane Branch members were also in attendance.

First cab off the rank was Susan Vernon presenting our Brisbane Branch Report. This was followed by reports from Bayside, Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland, Moreton Bay, Capricorn, Kedron Brook Catchment and Gold Coast & Hinterland Branches. Seven further Branch reports were provided in written form only. It was interesting and at times, inspirational,

to hear of the work done and challenges faced in the different parts of Queensland. Hopefully we all gained some new insights and knowledge to help us go forward.

After morning tea, that necessary evil, the AGM was held. All proceeded smoothly with comprehensive reports from Peter Ogilvie (President) and David Keogh (Treasurer). Office bearers elected for 2016-2017 are Peter Ogilvie (President) (a Brisbane Branch member), Des Boyland (Secretary), David Keogh (Treasurer), Jo Towsey (a Brisbane Branch member also), Steve Homewood and Andrew Dinwoodie (Vice Presidents), and Councillors Helen Thomas, Lyn Ogden, Sally Spain, Robert Standish-White, Nina Hardy and Keith McDonald.

After this we had lunch and awards were presented. Richard and Carol Green were presented with the Margaret Thorsborne Award for their outstanding contribution to conservation and the community over many years. I remember Carol once telling me she didn't need to go to the gym, as she had plenty of muscle from many years spent restoring bushland. I felt her biceps and she was right! The award for a new and successful campaign was awarded to Head Office for their Plastic bag campaign, and the best New or Ongoing Project was the Fraser Coast Nature Walks program.

Our guest speaker Stefan Hattingh from the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C) followed. This was a very interesting talk about the Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, also known as the Indian Myna and not to be confused with the native Noisy Miner. Stefan clearly explained the significant threat to wildlife posed by this introduced species. It made for alarming listening. He also explained the Common Myna Humane Reduction Program conducted by B4C.

In the afternoon some participants joined Kedron Brook Catchment members for a look at the regeneration project at Sparkes Hill Reserve. On Sunday morning a few of us joined the bird walk from Kalinga Park to Cressey Street Wetland. A monthly bird survey walk is held by the Branch along different parts of Kedron Brook.

Finally Brisbane Branch would like to express our appreciation to Kedron Brook Catchment Branch for hosting the Southern Branches Get Together this year. This is a big ask for a small branch and we appreciate it.



Photo: Brisbane Branch Members at the SBTG – Leonie Markwell, A/Secretary; Susan Vernon, Treasurer; and John Markwell A/Committee Member.

Northern Quollology: How quolls interact with other species and their environment

Lorna Hernandez Santin, PhD
candidate, University of Queensland
July 2016

Our speaker for July, Lorna Hernandez Santin, very kindly presented at short notice when our advertised speaker, Daniela Parra, was unable to attend to address us on Antechinus.

Lorna is a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, which she started in 2013 and is due to finish in December this year (2016). Lorna's current studies are influenced by her broad experiences and passion for wildlife, mostly carnivores.

In 2005, she obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology from the Universidad de las Americas, in Puebla (Mexico). During that time she did an honours equivalent dealing with the spatial and temporal characteristics of birds in urban environments of Puebla.

In 2008, she graduated with a Masters in Range and Wildlife Management from Sul Ross State University, in Texas (USA). For her thesis she analysed home range and movement rates of jaguars in Paraguay. During that time she also conducted an independent project monitoring medium-sized carnivores (coyotes, ring-tailed cats, bobcats, skunks, and grey foxes) in Big Bend National Park, a semi-arid environment of Texas. Then, she continued to work with GIS (geographic information systems) and remote sensing, developing habitat suitability models for mountain lions and black bears, also in Texas.

In 2012, she launched an independent research monitoring bird diversity, looking at empty lots in two housing developments of Mexico City.

Lorna has provided us with the following notes from her presentation:

"The northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) is part of the group of marsupial carnivores known as dasyurids. Regardless, northern quolls are considered omnivorous and opportunistic because they eat a wide range of species depending upon availability. They eat mostly insects, but also small mammals, small reptiles, birds, and even fruit. They are short lived, and males and females follow different life strategies that translate into different mortality rates and space use. Life success of females is measured by offspring survival, therefore they use areas that are large enough to feed their young and have highest mortality rates after the breeding season. Life success of males is measured through mating success, therefore they

use areas that are large enough to ensure access to several females and have highest mortality rates after the mating season. In fact, most males die following the first mating season. Their survival and home range size is related to habitat quality. Habitat quality is measured through the availability of food (prey), of shelter (dens), access to potential mates, and risk of predation. For northern quolls, highest quality is likely to involve areas with high prey availability, high den availability, close to water, and with high terrain ruggedness. Rocky habitats seem to provide highest quality.



President, Leanne Bowden, introduces Lorna to the audience.

Northern quolls used to be distributed throughout northern Australia, but are now restricted to a few fragmented populations. Their major threat is the cane toad (*Rhinella marina*), which have secretions that are so toxic that quolls die after attempting to eat toads; even if quolls spit them out. So, as the invasion front of the cane toad expands, they wipe out many quoll populations. Needless to say, northern quolls are nationally and internationally listed as endangered. Concern for this native carnivores resulted in a National Recovery Plan (2010). On the plan, among other things, the authors highlight the need to gather ecological information of northern quolls and introduced predators (and assess their interactions), determine components that enhance their survival, and identify refuge areas. Cane toads have not yet reached the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Thus, this is the perfect setting for a study that attempts to understand what factors might threaten or benefit northern quoll survival, without being obscured by the effects of cane toads.

The main goal of my research is to determine what factors influence population dynamics and space use of northern quolls at two sites in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. More specifically, I am looking at 1) population dynamics of quolls to understand how their population numbers and body conditions change over time, 2) different habitat components to identify what represents high habitat quality for quolls, 3) the

relationships between quolls and introduced predators, and 4) the interactions between quolls and other dasyurids. To do this, I had access to two sites of the Pilbara: Millstream-Chichester National Park and Indee Station. There, I conducted three field trips of one month per year for two years. These were during important times of the life history of northern quolls: 1) when they become independent (April/May), 2) just before the mating season (June/July), and 3) when females carry pouch young (Sep/Oct). During this time, I live-trapped northern quolls, camera-trapped northern quolls and other dasyurids, introduced predators (mostly dingoes and cats), and potential prey in different habitats, and measured components **of vegetation and den availability.**"

Australia has four species of quoll: the spotted-tailed, the northern, the eastern and the western. The spotted-tailed quoll and the smaller northern quoll are both found in Queensland.

Wildlife Queensland has its own project for Quolls, the Quoll Seekers Network (QSN). It was established to raise community awareness of quolls in Queensland, gather information on quoll populations, and help people enjoy living



alongside quolls. The network aims to be Queensland's central non-government body for collecting and disseminating information about quolls in order to achieve positive conservation outcomes. Networking with other organisations is **a key component of Wildlife Queensland's operations and communications strategy.**

Get involved!

QSN welcomes wildlife enthusiasts who want to join the network. Membership is free – we just ask you to fill out the **form for our records. You'll get our regular Network News,** merchandise discounts, as well as prior notification of workshops and volunteer opportunities.

If you don't have much time on your hands, you can support the work of Quoll Seekers Network through our adopt-a-quoll program.

Read more on our website at:

<http://projects.wildlife.org.au/quolls/>

"Australian Tarantulas"

Renan Castro Santana, University of Queensland
August 2016

Following our AGM, members were well entertained with **Renan's presentation and live specimens of Australian Tarantulas.** Renan is a PhD Student at the University of Queensland - Venom Evolution Laboratory.

When he was 9 years old, in his hometown in central Brazil, Renan started to read a magazine entitled Mini-Monsters, which has invertebrate biology as a subject. This magazine had a **tremendous impact in Renan's life. Very interested in insects,** Renan collected them from his local Savannah ecosystem and pinned them for identification. Six years later, Renan encountered the first tarantula and he got amazed by it, switching from insects to spiders as main interest.



As a Biological Science undergraduate at the State University of Goias, Renan studied Ecology of leaf litter spiders in the middle of Brazil. After a year collecting, he had more than four thousand spiders sampled. This gave him the opportunity to study a Masters degree in the same topic at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, located 200km from Rio de Janeiro.

Renan worked as a teacher in schools and universities in the Goias area for five years. His approach using live specimen interaction, focusing on conservation and ecology research, to understand environment patterns had a great impact on the ability of his students to learn.

In 2012, Renan decided to move to Australia pursuing his dream of research in the land of down under. Renan arrived, speaking no English and spent his first moments learning the language. After he met Dr Robert Raven, curator of Arachnids of Queensland Museum, Renan started work in a project revising Australian tarantulas using morphological characters. This work resulted in more than 15 new species of tarantulas.

Renan started studying his PhD degree in 2015 aiming to discover new species using phylogenetic methods and **characterizing tarantulas' venom with the chance of using it as identification tool.**



Above: Renan shows off a tarantula after the talk and explains how he knows when it is safe to pick up the spider!

Right: Renan talking to audience members about his talk.



“Basic role of a Wildlife Spotter-Catcher”

Desley Salmon
September 2016

Desley grew up on the north side of Brisbane and has always had an active interest in Wildlife and all matters to do with the environment. Desley loves sharing her knowledge and she actively **promotes “Caring for our Wildlife” on a regular basis. This is done by** visiting schools and Scout groups and involving them in a variety of Wildlife activities, also by participating in Community events and local markets.

Desley has been a Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitator for over 15 years and a full time 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. In this role Desley has worked with Demolition companies, Construction companies and also with the Gas & Mining industries.

She is a very busy lady, but has very kindly provided us with the following summary of her talk.

*“Explaining the Role of a Wildlife Spotter Catcher is quite a complex one and an extremely important one for the future **protection of our native wildlife. Some would say that: “A Wildlife Spotter Catcher (S/C) is engaged to minimize death and injury to our native wildlife during land clearing activities”.** However that doesn’t actually tell you much. During my presentation I tried to focus on a couple of key topics to **hopefully explain this unique profession. S/C’s must hold the correct Permits, licenses and be insured, have the required qualifications and vaccinations and have experience with wildlife to perform this vital role. I spoke about inductions, medicals and the requirements for a site specific vehicle, along with a long list of specialized equipment for capturing, housing and transporting wildlife.***

I explained that sometimes an ecologist will be engaged to carry out an ecological survey of the proposed clearing area. Using their collected data they will develop a Species Management Plan (SMP), from which the Fauna Management Plan (FMP) will focus on the anticipated and actual Fauna within the proposed land clearing area, including Fauna with a vulnerable listing on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This SMP/FMP will assist with the requirement for the S/C to be on site during land clearing activities.

*I covered how information was collected for Pre-clearing and Post-clearing assessments. I also explained about clearing methodologies and the equipment used during land clearing activities and how we work alongside heavy earthmoving equipment like Dozers and Excavators. Often these H/V operators have never done land clearing with an S/C and **don’t understand why we need to be there. Even though there is Queensland’s Nature Conservation Act and the Australian Government’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act with strict guidelines about interfering with Native wildlife and their breeding places, there is still a large amount of land clearing continuing to be carried out without any ecological surveys/pre-clearing assessments and without a qualified, permitted and insured S/C being present.***



Unfortunately there is still land clearing occurring with 2 Dozers and chains. Some of this land clearing even occurs in known Koala habitat areas.

I talked about the isolation issues that come with working on some sites including living away from home and often having no access to external veterinarian assistance. Working under these conditions often require S/C's to make difficult decisions when dealing with injured wildlife that require medical treatment and sometimes euthanasia. This is not a profession for the faint hearted, it can often be soul destroying. It can be very challenging both physically and mentally, yet extremely rewarding in the knowledge that we can prevent the unnecessary suffering and cruelty that occurs to our wildlife when land clearing is carried out without the presence of a qualified Wildlife Spotter Catcher



I am very passionate about our native wildlife and with over 15 years' experience doing volunteer wildlife rehabilitation and over 10 years as a professional wildlife S/C. I believe that we can make a change. I have spent many hours in various locations observing our native wildlife and love sharing information with others, also learning from others. I believe the answer to protecting our native wildlife is in education and changes to the current legislation. Thank you to those who assist our Native wildlife, please keep up the good work. We need to be the voice for our native wildlife; their future depends on us and ours on them."

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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

From our Autumn edition, newsletters are only distributed electronically, unless a member does not have an email account, or we are advised that a posted hard copy version is required.

Our newsletters are also available through our Branch Blog.

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

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 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 is at:

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

Phone: (07) 3844 0129

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



Batty Boat Cruises - the best!

This season promises to be one of the best, with an unseasonably warm winter having brought greater numbers of flying foxes to Brisbane. Don't miss the action! Enjoy a twilight cruise on the river.

The dates for this year:

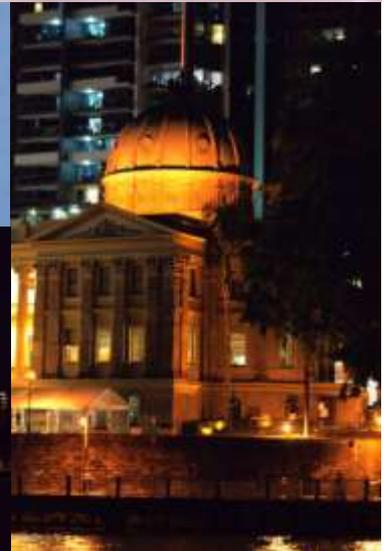
- ☛ Sunday 30th October
- ☛ Sunday 13th November
- ☛ Sunday 4th December

For more details, go to:

<http://www.wildlife.org.au/whats-on-page/>

or contact WPSQ head Office on:

(07) 3844 0129



Believe in Wildlife Queensland does?

The best way to help us work towards a sustainable future for Queensland's wildlife and its habitat is by joining our Wildlife Protector Program!

Supporting WPSQ with a monthly tax-deductable donation is the best way to help us plan and implement the programs, projects and campaigns proven to create positive change for our wildlife for over 50 years!

Join now!

For more information, go to: <http://wildlife.org.au/wpp/>

