



2021-2022 BRANCH REPORTS



Branch Reports

For 2021–22

Annual General Meeting



Note

In accordance with section 17.8 of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland constitution, each branch of the society was requested to submit a report on their activities for the preceding financial year.

Please note that the Branch reports are not always presented in this document in strict alphabetical order.

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*Photographs throughout generally supplied by each branch
Front cover photographs D Payne*

BAYSIDE BRANCH

Steve Homewood, President



The Branch has continued with its monthly general meetings with speakers averaging around 25 in attendance, which considering Covid restrictions is reasonable. We have now moved to a new quieter venue at Alexandra Hills Community Hall. Wet weather caused postponement of our first meeting this year with Martin Fingland. We have had speakers on bees, desert landscapes, Moreton Bay marine park, tomato growing using solar power, travelling through South Australia, meeting polar bears in Canada. We have also attended quarterly eco-markets at Indigiscapes Centre, Capalaba, visitors have taken up plenty of our flyers and information on the society.

This year we have a full programme, but we do rely on continued support so that our speakers feel that they have managed to impart their knowledge to a wide audience, so we have booked this venue for the rest of the year.

We have merged Wildlife Diary with the Newsletter. Our monthly newsletter has a mailout list of around 200, and also goes to all WPSQ Branches, Redland Library and is on our website, so it gets good circulation around the community with information on wildlife issues and local walks. We try to get articles from members as well.

Due to continued Covid restrictions, the Cicada film festival was postponed. It is much better as a live event, so another community organisation has indicated interest in taking over the concept; we have always struggled to find organisational committee members. Over the years it has entertained and promoted some great environmental causes, previous films can still be seen on YouTube under "[Cicada Film Festival](#)".

2022 Clean up Australia day was cancelled at the last moment as a national event, so we lost support from the scouts and others, but members carried on regardless. Our clean-up area is along the Redland Bay foreshore, among the usual takeaway rubbish we are now seeing plenty of facemasks. Education is still the key. Now in some states there appears to be a concentrated effort to reduce single-use plastics and polystyrene packaging with target dates set. Our major stores now have depots for soft plastics, mobile phones and batteries.

The container deposit scheme and other recycling contributed \$1392 to branch funds, and we were able to donate to the Wildlife Land Fund and Geckoes wildlife. Thanks to everyone's support of the scheme to date, we have recycled some 52000 containers, but we always need more.

The Branch continues to face challenges, Federal, State or Local, with the security of bushland and consequently our wildlife in many areas threatened with over commercialisation through development and tourism.

In the Redlands, the community has been asked for feedback on many important projects, including "Shoreline", Toondah Harbour, and now the Birkdale Community (Olympic) Project are just some. I am still concerned about the apparent lack of response or acknowledgement of submissions that the Branch has made. Within the shire, many of our residents have a wealth of experience; they need respect from all governments, not tokenism.

The Environmental Impact Study for Toondah Harbour mooted for February last year has still not been finished. This project first came to the community attention in 2014. It is unconscionable that we have waited 8 years; surely, it means that is project should not proceed under any circumstances, as our original submissions maybe irrelevant. Climate change is at a tipping point. This project will be a town built on 48 hectares of dredged mudflats, the proposed debasement of wetlands that are a carbon sink, a habitat and haven for all forms of wildlife, an oxygenator, will have a seriously detrimental and permanent effect on our natural ecosystems, with their seagrass and mangrove beds.

Bayside Branch is financially strong, although our sources of income are somewhat limited and, whilst in common with many groups, our membership has declined slightly, we continue to be involved with the community and other organisations.

As usual, I thank all our members, supporters and our committee and WPSQ for all their input, help and guidance that continues to make us a respected group.

We have another year of uncertainty ahead. Whilst there is now a new government that appears to be taking climate change seriously, will they stop the quest for endless growth?

We are working with many other community groups to provide a strong, relevant commentary to proposals that affect our local and wider environment.

“You cannot go back and change the beginning, but you can start where we are and change the ending.” C.S. Lewis



Indigiscapes Environment Day Display



Bayside clean up day in March – Steve & Belinda

BRISBANE BRANCH

Ginny Barbour, Vice President

It has been a challenging year for the branch. After getting our new committee together in 2021 and running a couple of events we hoped to continue with more events in 2022.

We had a successful AGM in 2021, held at Oxley Common along with a bird walk. Members appreciated the opportunity for an activity, combined with breakfast and an opportunity to catch up with other members.

However, a number of personal issues for the committee and the ongoing COVID-19 challenges have meant we were not able to organise the other events we had planned.

We have now added to our committee (though are always keen to involve new members!) and are planning for 2022/3. Our focus will be on outside events, ideally combined with an expert speakers. We are looking for a treasurer to replace Mark Turnbull, who will be stepping down at the AGM.

Our current committee is
Michael Lusic – President (appointed in August 2022 after Sue Ogilvie had to step down)
Ginny Barbour – Vice President
Tori Darnell – Secretary
Mark Turnbull – Treasurer
Susan Vernon – Member (appointed in August 2022)

We remain financially healthy because of a good number of members combined with ongoing income from sales of the Entertainment Book.

Our 2022 AGM will be on Saturday September 24 2022 at the THECA Hut in Chapel Hill, combined with refreshments and a speaker. We invite any WPSQ members to attend.



Oxley common



Brisbane branch AGM 2021.

CAPRICORN BRANCH

John McCabe, President

Overview

Capricorn Branch continues with a small but stable membership. Involvement in projects such as the mangrove walks, butterfly days, recycling resources etc that are popular with local families has reduced over the past two years. There is interest in restarting such half to one day events, but some members, have transitioned to driving ecological restoration works needing weekly or monthly engagement over 5 years or longer. After 5 to 10 years volunteer work it is easy to conclude that necessary wildlife and climate restoration actions should preferentially be an essential, ongoing task for government agencies, even if volunteers had started the processes.

Community Support Activities

Members provided support, over the year, to regional Girl Guide activities including: Information on management of the Kooyalee Guides Campsite and support for a tree planting activity as part of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of their facility at Sandringham and A talk and assistance to guides planting sheoak tree along Fishermans Beach, Emu Park; a significant mainland beach for flatback turtles. Branch members have increased shade tree plantings for shading potential turtle nesting sites at three other Capricorn Coast beaches.

Landholder/Community Information Services

Members have participated in several information events run by Livingstone Shire on bushfire recovery and preparation for future wild fires. Capricorn Branch mainly focussed on possibility of maintaining “green firebreaks” and advice on reducing ecosystem fire threat and how to protect native fauna, particularly for hollow dwelling species.

The branch has also achieved action from council after requestion action on fire risk to adjacent high value ecosystems along several rural roads, and some coastal wetlands. Our members, and other branches, could note that Vice President, Steve Elson and wife Cheryl have partially restored, on Tungamull Creek, a multi-strata shaded riparian stream, and adjacent forest blue gum flat.

Bell Park

We assisted the local Lions Club to identify trees and suggest text for signs for an informal walk the Heritage listed Bell Park in the Emu Park CBD. Bell Park is a high activity area for markets and other uses, but we were able to point out and promote discrete examples of the original coastal wetland, and littoral rainforest trees in less used corners of the park, which is otherwise planted in formal row structure with figs and Queensland’s hoop pine being dominant. A year-round population of red-tailed black cockatoo feed on the long planted hoop pines before circulating to coastal she-oaks along beaches and back to large seeded *Terminalia* introduced 40 years ago to Bell Park from northern Queensland.

Ghost Bat Recovery Plan and Mount Etna vine scrub restoration

Three members of Wildlife Capricorn participated in a two day Australia wide discussion towards a Ghost Bat Recovery Plan following the status of *Macroderma gigas* being raised to Endangered under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992. Long term researchers from Western Australia, South Australia, University of Queensland and local expert staff are working on the plan with an initial focus on viability of populations from Mount Etna NP area and Cape Hillsborough National Park.



Branch members decided that, while academics and verified researchers continue with their deliberations, the best input we, and other volunteers, could make would be to continue with the task of restoring semi-evergreen vine ticket (dry rainforest) on sites affected by limestone mining and the intense

November 2018 bushfire. With dense weedy introduced grasses being the most significant threat, the restoration group is now working on turning another 1.5 hectares of vine scrub with the intent to merge this with the intact scrubs on the towerkarst surfaces of Limestone Ridge not far from the Ghost Bat breeding cave. The group, often referred to as the OGRES has to regularly turn back to check hectares of national park, successfully planted and assisted natural regeneration but where the high fire risk grasses may still emerge before canopy closure. Support from Fitzroy Basin Association and the National Parks Team in Rockhampton is much appreciated.

<https://fba.org.au/after-the-flames-aussie-landscapes-and-volNational>

Managing Reserves

Wildlife Capricorn, as a trustee, remains the primary manager of Duck Pond Reserve, Trustee tenure has now extended to 21 years and the Duck Pond lake has experienced 3 significant dry times (lake reduced to dry or near dry) and three moderate or major Fitzroy River or Scrubby Creek floods since 2000. The branch received some local management support from like minded groups but will review trustee obligations each year given relative lack of interest from the relevant local government.

Wildlife Capricorn has also recently decline an offer from Department of Resources to take on trusteeship of a large and environmentally significant Reserve on the Fitzroy River at Alton Downs, the decision due to apparent lack of interest from Rockhampton Regional Council.

Sustainability Expo

Wildlife Capricorn participated, for the second year, in the Livingstone Shire Sustainability Expo held in Beaman Park in the Yeppoon CBD. Members promoted issues on recycling, and sustainable living, and emphasised also he need to consider sustainable living for wild species on beaches, in the bush and in urban gardens.



CASSOWARY COAST BRANCH

Daryl Dickson, President

2021–2022 Has been a sad and difficult year for our branch with the illness and devastating loss of our very dear friend and branch founder Suzie Smith. For many years, our branch has relied on a very small dedicated committee to manage our activities, campaigns and events. We have been worried that we might not have been able to continue, but continue we have. Lisa Roeger has joined the branch committee as secretary, and this will give us the base management committee we need to continue.



Suzie Smith 1952-2022 and

Through all the difficulties of the past 12 months we have had some major achievements:

- The new **National Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan 2021** was past into legislation in early 2022, after 10 years of dedicated work by the

National Mahogany Glider Recovery Team. Our branch has had a long dedicated association with the conservation of the mahogany glider and Suzie Smith has been chair of the team for the last few years.

<https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/mahogany-glider>

- We have organized, attended and paid for **environmental educator** Jodie Creek from Zoo to You to visit Cardwell, Kennedy, Murray Upper and Lower Tully Schools (Cardwell & Lower Tully were so enthusiastic that they used school funding for their visits and we covered costs for the other schools and organized all visits.) The visits were hugely successful, and it was wonderful to see the students engaged with curriculum-based environmental education. We are only too aware of how important early positive encounters and information can be in later attitudes to wildlife and environment.
- Branch treasurer Judy Murphy continues to coordinate the annual **Pied Imperial Pigeon counts**. It is a time-consuming and rigorous process that Judy does with dedication. The count is now in its 57th year - Counts took place in October, November, December 2021 and Feb 2022.
- **“Walking on the Wild Side”** Our last branch walk with Suzie was in July 2021. We had planned to walk Dunk Island, but alas the water taxi had broken down, so we did some beautiful short walks around Mission Beach ... the Cutten track coastal walk and Lacey Creek track are both beautiful walks. This year, Lisa Roeger (branch secretary) has undertaken to continue Suzies’ program of walks to ensure we are all taking the time to enjoy the magnificent environment we are working to protect. More walks are planned.
- **“A Gathering of Friends”** after all the Covid restrictions had delayed earlier gatherings, our branch was joined by friends and colleagues of Suzie Smith at the Kennedy Bay Walking Track on 18 June 2022. It was a perfect day to share memories and gather to celebrate Suzies’ life in a place that she treasured, with people she loved. The gathering was followed by commemorative walk on Kennedy Bay Walking track.
- The Wildlife Qld, **Bridging the Gaps Project** (Mahogany Glider poles with camera monitoring commenced Dec 2016 and ceased March 2022) Images have been downloaded daily throughout the years of operation. All cameras have now stopped working. The project has not only provided a safe crossing for gliders but has also provided inspiration to students of the Kennedy school, who think of it as **“their** glider crossing”. Adjacent to the pole crossing, other projects have funded wildlife corridor road signage, wildlife friendly fencing signage, and revegetation. This has been achieved with multiple partners and funding sources to add to the value of each component. The WPSQ poles and camera

installations have been a brilliant project that has collected a wealth of glider images and data. All image data is stored and made available through the recovery team to be used, as and when required, by researchers in the future. These poles and their data have offered all the verification that was needed for the Cassowary Coast Council to now engage actively in the installation of glider poles where required on council roads and added the verification required for TMR Townsville (recovery team members) to ensure that glider crossing poles are part of planning whenever upgrades of the Bruce Highway effect corridors within mahogany glider habitat.

- We have been working to assist landholders with stream **bank stabilisation** and mahogany glider **corridor planting**. Judy Murphy (branch treasurer & tree person) has offered assistance with sourcing and supply of suitable tree species in mahogany glider habitat areas at Lily Creek in the Kennedy Valley. We have also continued to liaise and work with a property called Warrami in the Murray Valley where major revegetation is taking place funded by **Terrain NRM's Woodlands Project** and Giringun Rangers, IFAW and WPSQ.
- Continuing with the recording of **glider sightings for Wildnet** and we collect genetic samples for Qld Museum and where required we carry out the capping of barbed wire where mahogany gliders have been injured or killed.
- We continue to maintain a **branch FB page** and **Mahogany Glider FB page** ([\(3\) Wildlife Queensland Cassowary Coast - Hinchinbrook | Facebook](#) [\(3\) Mahogany Glider | Facebook](#))
- We have also been working with head office on the updating of our **branch web page** and the **mahogany glider information** available of Wildlife Qld's website. We are very grateful and thank head office staff, Karin, Janelle and Doreen for all their assistance in this difficult year for the branch. We have really valued your help and patience.

The Future

We have some community information brochures we have started working on to assist new residents to understand and recognise some of our wildlife that they may encounter in their new home. We have ideas ,but will have to be very careful to ensure that we do not take on too much.

Judy will continue to coordinate the Pied Imperial Pigeon Count, liaising with Dr John Winter, managing the volunteers, the barge bookings and the collection of data. Branch member Liz Downes capably assists in creating the PIP Count updates/newsletter. Daryl has taken over as Chair of the National Mahogany glider Recovery Team (all members of our committee are members of the team either as WPSQ reps or representing multiple agencies & organisations). Lisa will continue to schedule and co-ordinate our walking program and compile our branch newsletter and she hopes, next year, to start looking at membership recruitment.

The schools program of the past year has been really rewarding, and we hope to make that part of our annual program. In the last year, we have also had the additional inspiration of a young mural artist who has been working in the local schools (independently). The combined activities have been really great. All local schools now have fabulous murals and the children have chosen, in most cases, to showcase their very special wildlife in their murals. Teaming up with others certainly adds to the impact! We hope to build on these relationships.

I guess in the coming year we will continue to do what we can.... Margaret & Suzie would not expect us to do otherwise while we still can.



A gathering of friends 18 June 2022, Kennedy Walking track - D Dickson



CCRC Giringun Judy Murphy working together - MG signs Kennedy



Kennedy State School students enthralled - D Dickson 2022



Jodie Creek Wildlife Educator at Kennedy 2022 - D Dickson

FAR NORTH BRANCH

Keith McDonald, President

Meetings and communication.

Zoom has been a boon, as it is permitting interaction over the wide catchment area of the Branch, which would have been difficult with in-person meetings. Meetings are held every two months via Zoom and more frequently if any issue needs to be addressed urgently. Our Facebook Page is regularly updated, and articles of interest in the media are added. It is a very active page.

Integrity of National Parks in Project – Einasleigh Uplands

Several of our parks and other protected areas are being comprised and their natural values diminished. The branch is actively pursuing issues especially clearing and boundary incursions.

Forty Mile Scrub N.P. boundary fencing excludes 600 ha into an adjacent property. Minister Scanlon has been advised of the issue, especially the impact on threatened regional ecosystems from grazing. Within the park, Regional Ecosystems of the endangered vine thicket have been severely impacted by late season fire, to a point where they may not be functional or recognisable. The Minister has been asked about the Regional Ecosystem viability of the vine thicket in the park, especially with the significant impact of weed incursion such as *Lantana camara*. Park management actions to avoid additional impacts are being addressed. Other park boundary incursions are being addressed in the bioregion and wet tropics.

Resources Reserves

Resources Reserves are protected areas. These reserves are an interim step to ascertain if they are potentially suitable for national park or conservation park and are managed for their natural values. Data being compiled to engage the Minister to have these areas either added to the national park estate or removed into mining or grazing tenure. Many of the Resources Reserves are quarries, an airstrip or used for other purposes which compromise their natural integrity. Unfortunately the legislation does not have a definition of a protected area other than listing a number of land tenures or covenants on titles.

The branch will be requesting the minister to have a review of the 47 Resources Reserves to ascertain actions required to have them added to the national park estate or revoked and placed in appropriate tenure such as quarry reserves.



Fortymile NP Nov 2019



Fortymile NP recovery May 2021

Wind Farms

There has been engagement with Commonwealth and State Ministers on the impact of clearing for wind farms on threatened species and regional ecosystems. Many of the existing wind farms and proposed farms are in remnant (uncleared) vegetation along the Great Dividing Range, including remote and rugged country of high conservation significance west and south of the Atherton Tablelands. Members have compiled information on these areas and presented the information to the Ministers. The President has been engaged with the Commonwealth Department to discuss impacts on the Magnificent Broodfrog.



Kaban Windfarm construction

Other

Members had a meeting with the Minister when Tumoulin Forest Reserve was converted to National Park to protect the yellow-bellied glider and when the Minister visited Cairns for a meeting with conservation groups hosted by the QCC.

Members have also participated with State and Commonwealth departments on matters relating to the northern greater glider.

The Branch has had a number of engagements with Andrew Picone, from the PEW Charitable Trusts and the QCC, on various park proposals in the northern area of the state.



FRASER COAST BRANCH

Peter Duck, President

Fraser Coast Branch continued to be a strong voice for Wildlife Preservation education and advocacy throughout this year. We have had a significant number of new members joining our Branch and have continued to effectively conduct our wide range of activities. Our Branch has made a number of representations to government agencies and were represented on two local government advisory committees.

Branch memberships hover around 70, with about 10 family memberships. At the AGM in September, we had five fresh faces on the Executive and two continuing Executive members.

Our monthly Nature Walks continue to raise awareness of the natural environment across the Fraser Coast. This year's Nature Walks program introduced several new walks. They continue to be well attended by members and the broader community, giving our Branch an opportunity to inform about some of the wonderful natural areas of the Fraser Coast, and some of the challenges in preserving the unique wildlife that abounds.

Other successful programs like our seasonal Backyard Bioblitz and monthly Library Talks in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay Libraries continued with a high degree of community participation. The Branch's *Wildlife Matters* columns, written primarily by members continued to feature in the local papers, the *Maryborough Sun*, *Hervey Bay Advertiser*, *Toogoom Chatter*, *River Heads Review* and the glossy *Fraser Coast Beacon* magazine. Our quarterly newsletter *Wambaliman*, in its 55th year, provides high quality dissemination of Branch news and views.

Other significant events occurring included the Branch end-of-year breakup at Arkarra Lagoons with 26 members present, a thank-you afternoon tea for writers and newspaper editors involved in *Wildlife Matters*, a farewell in May for Sara Gerdson (President 2013–2016), who is moving closer to Brisbane, and a walk and afternoon tea attended by 34 members and friends to view the walking track, bollards and signage funded by our Branch, through a local Council environment grant, in Parraweena Park Bushland Reserve.

The Branch has made numerous submissions throughout the year. Much of this was to do with local issues like Fraser Coast Regional Council's *Local Law Review*, *Domestic Animal Management Strategy Review*, and the *Matters of Local Environmental Significance Forum*. We made a submission to the Federal Government's *Draft Koala Recovery Plan*. Through our Branch Urban Development and Land Use Change subcommittee (BUDLUC) we have lodged objections to proposals in River Heads, Burrum Heads and Eli Waters. The Branch has representatives on the FCRC's Environment Advisory Group, and Bundaberg Regional Council's Community Conservation Advisory Committee. The Branch has also made application to be represented on the FCRC's newly convened Maryborough to Bay Rail Trail Advisory Group.

Our Branch funded the installation of a memorial seat at Arkarra Lagoons. The plaque reads

“Over 50 years of Nature Conservation
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
Maryborough Branch (1967–1996)
Hervey Bay Branch (1989–2004)
Fraser Coast Branch (2004–)”

The year also saw the unveiling of new interpretative signage at Arkarra Lagoons which was the culmination of a partnership between our Branch and FCRC's Natural Environment Department.

Our Branch is involved in partnerships with the University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Queensland. Our Branch entered into an agreement to support two USC Wildlife Ecology Honours projects through \$5000 bursaries. The first project on eastern grey kangaroos in the urban environment has been postponed until 2023, the other looking at greater glider habitat will commence Semester 2 of

2022. Our Branch has partnered with UQ in providing funding to purchase tracking equipment for their koala monitoring program on local cattle property *Tandora*, where koalas have been relocated.

We continue to raise funds through our weekly raffle at the Beach House Hotel. Our healthy financial situation enabled the Branch to commit to making regular donations to two local wildlife rescue organisations.

During the year, we have held five Executive Meetings and seven General Meetings, and our AGM in September 2021. We get considerable positive feedback and genuine enquiries to our Facebook page. We have 961 followers on the page. Our webpage is updated regularly by Head Office.

Since March 2022, much time has been given to planning for the 60th Anniversary celebrations. Our Branch is showcasing our successful Nature Walks program. The event ran on 9 July 2022 and featured three such walks, each with a different focus, led by knowledgeable Branch members. One walk (6km) was from the Pines to Gatakers Bay; the second explored the Parraweena Bushland Reserve and adjacent foreshore; and the third was an Eli Creek mangrove walk. The walks culminated at Gatakers Bay for speakers and a BBQ lunch. Planning was for 120 participants, with 20 members helping in some way.

I thank the Executive for their support and resolve through the year. When President Vanessa and Secretary Kerry stood down from their positions last year for a well-deserved break, there were some bleak predictions about the Branch's future. As it turned out, it was a fairly seamless transition, due largely to the competence of the Executive members and a membership with a fervent commitment to nature conservation.



60th Anniversary Event



Hunters Hut

Breakup at Arkarra 2021



GOLD COAST BRANCH

Sally Spain, President



Gold Coast & Hinterland Branch of Wildlife

Queensland is proud to be hosting the 60th Birthday

Celebrations, AGM and Southern Branches Get-together. Two important themes of this celebration will be our proud past and our potential future. Thus, featured on the Saturday will be a focus on our local Fleay family, whose famous forebears, David and Sigrid Fleay, founded our Society and did so much to promote and preserve Australia's fauna. As well, featured on the Sunday will be young conservationists, who will speak on the campaigns and endeavours they are now undertaking to make sure that the flame, ignited six decades ago, will illuminate the future. A Media Conference will be called on Monday morning to highlight the past and ongoing work of our great Society, which, in spite of the challenges, has never let that light go out.

Of particular note with regard to the themes of past and future is honouring the memory of past WQ GC & H executive Committee member Gene Rosser, who gave so much time and effort to the Society and whose family donated their large holding to become the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens. Of particular import, with regard to the future, is the work of our Koala Sub Committee, the Coomera Conservation Group, led by Karina Waterman, whose dedicated zeal has been a key factor in the recent State purchase of large scale koala habitat.



Koala © D Payne

Lungfish (*Ceratodus sp.*), a living link in the evolutionary chain, brought from the Mary River to the Coomera River was highlighted by WQ GC & H in its co-campaigning with Residents Against Oxenford Quarry. With local support the GC Council agreed to challenge, via the P & E Court, the application for another century of mining, adjacent to the Coomera River. We have also given support to the community, who are mounting their own legal challenge. Our thanks to our legal advisor, David Spain, who, as well as assistance in other matters, has given pro bono advice to residents re the quarry. Our support has also been given to community, lead by Ceris Ash (the sister of one of our former WQ State Presidents) and GECKO (GC Conservation Council) with regard to the challenge in the P& E Court, re water mining at Springbrook.

Discussions held over nearly two years, re the usage of Nerang National Park, with particular focus on bike trails, have seen WQ GC & H as delegates to the consultation which was initiated by the Minister for the Environment. Our presence and advocacy has been enhanced by the participation of our State President, Peter Ogilvie, and young campaigners Paul Revie of WQ, Jessica Lovegrove-Walsh from Friends of Nerang National Park (who detected presence of greater glider and other important species), by our Vice President, Sharon Quinlan, and WQ member Lynn Ogden from the Nerang Community Association, whose advocacy some years ago ensured the valuable area had national park status. Our position in this matter has been to support the cardinal principle of National Parks and seek to arrest the damage and incursion we perceive as occurring. There is to be a Ministerial announcement soon.

Congratulations are due to our Bats South East Queensland Sub Committee co-ordinated by Sharon Quinlan, who combines nursing injured bats with advocacy with regard to animal ethics and has recently returned from Norfolk Island, researching bat presence there. Nicolle Archer, our treasurer, and Sharon also manage the Urban Wildlife Sub Committee and have had a successful grant, via Councillor Peter Young, to enable provision of plants and publicity in this cause.

Our hard working secretary, Andrew Stimson, as well as managing to get numerous well-researched letters on climate change into the local press (believe it or not there are still square earthers churning away there), has boosted our Facebook presence and kept the branch on track by effective and efficient secretaryship. Our committee is also aided by dedicated advocate Nancy Sutherland, wildlife

advisor, and Ann Jurjens, who so generously served in roles of secretary and treasurer for many years and is now assistant secretary.

A watching presence has also been kept over Black Swan Lake by the Society. As many know, there was a protracted campaign to save, in its entirety, this constructed Lake with its over 60 cited bird species. About 75% of the 2.75 hectare Lake was infilled for the Turf Club for car parking. At ratepayer cost the remainder was deepened and revegetation took place. Committee member Rowena Biby has kept track of the expensive 'rectification' of the remainder of what was functioning sustainably as an undisturbed Lake, in the first place and the community have been given back a part of what they once had.

Special thanks to Karin Cox of HQ for help with our Bar the Beach Bar campaign. It is very typical of the attitude to community space that our open beaches are considered up for shop-front commercial purposes. The petition and survey enabled has helped our campaign, which is ongoing. The issue has implications statewide for our littoral environment, and although a facility is again being put up for another (rather protracted) 'trial', there is significant opposition and the issue is unresolved.

The celebration, attended by WQ GC & H members, of the life of the Late Kombumerri Elder, Graham Dillon, was a tribute to someone who gave so much to community and country. In earlier days he shared the Kalwun Hq with Conservation Groups in the Industrial Estate at Nerang. His descendants are staunch advocates, along with other Original People, for the Nerang National Park.

Also important is the ever-present battle to protect the unique and delicate World Heritage Area of Springbrook and, as per usual, elements of the GCCC are promoting the idea of a cableway ride in this vicinity. There seems little enthusiasm from State Government for supporting this perilous project. The prior nine volume EIS, which helped douse the last ill-advised effort, is still relevant. Former Springbrook resident and our friend the Late Sonia Laws, who did so much work for Springbrook and its rare and threatened plant species, has been a loss to our Society. Meanwhile the State Government model consultation, in which WQ GC & H took part, on the future of the Spit is beginning to bear fruit in terms of a planned and improved open space for the future, although there is still room for legislative protection and, definitely a need for the Moreton Bay Marine Park to be extended to protect the species rich GC bay area.

Numerous supporters gathered at our Annual Christmas party and the Society is very grateful to the Nerang Community Association, which makes Preece and Ceramic Houses available for community groups, such as ours. We have also met via 'zoom' thanks to the co-ordination of Karina Waterman. Mariacristiana Saraceno is our citizen science officer and we benefit in this regard thanks to the ongoing projects at HQ, via Friends of Nerang National Park and our neighbouring Scenic Rim Branch.

Doing advocacy via partnerships also means we have representative presence at the Community Alliance which advocates for better local planning and attend the City's peak body GECKO fortnightly campaign meetings. Our submission to the Samuel's Review endeavoured to highlight the serious issues in the most biodiverse City in Australia and we are grateful that the new Federal Environment Minister is making efforts to address our Extinction Crisis.

Here endeth Annual Report but not without mentioning other concerns – rubbish dumping at Pine Ridge, the last stand of Wallum on the Coast; use of parks in our city as adjuncts for building construction paraphernalia; the welcome purchase by State Government of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland; our delegation with other conservation groups to Hugh Possingham, Chief scientist for the State Government wherein particular mention was made by conservationists of the need for the P & E Court to more overtly, to our perception, include the E. It would be remiss of us, just short of 60 years as a local branch, not to record our gratitude to the National Broadcaster, which over the decades has informed on issues with regard to the natural Environment, our diminished, shared and remarkable Australian heritage.



KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT BRANCH

Robert Standish-White, President

This has been a really quiet year, as we are swept inexorably from one climate event to another; and if it's not climate, it's covid! Many of our usual, planned or expected events ended up being knocked off the calendar due to one or other of these spoilers.

Our new website went live, though we do miss Charles Ivin's diligent tending of that realm. A lockdown in early August reminded us the pandemic was still around, but we could attend the WPSQ AGM by September, held in our catchment down at the Nudgee Beach Environmental Centre. In October, we went on a couple of walks checking out the nest boxes in the upper-middle catchment, including those put up by the Ferny Grove High School. Quite a few residents were discovered both in the boxes and tree hollows.

Robert SW went along to the Lord Mayor's Round Table in November, which included a most interesting historical review of the Council's environmental efforts; luckily much improved from earlier decades!

After many years of organising and leading the monthly bird watching outings, the Ivins signed off at the end of the year, with the following message: "Due to personal health issues, Charles and I can no longer share with these surveys. However, for fourteen years we have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in these monthly surveys; and really appreciated the ongoing support of birding enthusiasts as friends. Thank you all for your kind words and lovely gift, but above all, thank-you for all of your friendship." This branch and anyone interested in local fauna owes them a debt of gratitude. We have been lucky to have Peter Blackmore take over the running of these long-standing events.

A water quality monitoring outing happened in early December, but the ensuing planned fish snapshots were washed out. We commiserated with a pleasant gathering at the President's abode, and then silly season really got silly, with heatwaves followed by flooding which peaked at the end of February. From 25–28 February the rain gauge in Nundah recorded 862mm! As a result, the catchment flooding exceeded 1974 levels, many properties were inundated and huge amounts of infrastructure and vegetation destroyed. This presents a real challenge for future planning and resilience.

The Community Garden group at McConaghey Street in Mitchelton held a native bee event at the end of March, which some members attended. More flooding in May, and at the end of the month we finally got around to some rationalising of records in our storage container up on Sparkes Hill; more to come.

Thanks to our committee: Phil Rowland vice-president; Kathy Ran, treasurer, and Jen Hocking, Secretary, for hanging in there. We have continued to auspice funds for other catchment efforts, including the Wahminda Grove group. Thanks to our various creek rangers and BCC support staff, Anna Bourke and Andrew Wills in particular.

We look forward to a more productive year ahead, and perhaps we need to get used to the "new normal" and be more strategic and flexible in our planning.

Squirrel glider resident of a nest box in Arbor Street Reserve, October 2021



Huge damage done all down Kedron Brook by the March 2022 floods; this in Kalinga Park.



Keen regular birders in the upper catchment, November 2021



LOGAN RANCH

Ted Fensom, President

No report had been received at the time of compilation of this document.

SCENIC RIM BRANCH

Ronda Green, Chair

Our main activities this year have centred around our establishment of wildlife corridors in the Scenic Rim. This includes fauna surveys to determine a baseline from which to compare wildlife of the corridor routes and the “hubs” of wildlife habitat they are designed to connect in future years. Some of the hubs have been enhanced by planting for food or shelter for wildlife and nest boxes have been installed if there was a lack of large mature trees.

A grant for \$48,760.00 was received from Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants 2021, or rather we received a little over 39,000, so assumed that was all we were getting. We found out after the acquittal that we were suppose to have spent the total amount even though \$9,700 was yet to be paid into our account. We will report on this complication at next year’s AGM.

We made decisions on what plants to put where based on landholder interests, species that occur locally, species appropriate to the regional ecosystems, and of course species that benefit wildlife, either as food or shelter.

We purchased the first plants from Kay Montgomery of Ecological connections, Kalbar. Kay collects local seeds from which to grow her plants, so this was especially relevant to our aims. Our local Federal MP Scott Bucholz (electorate of Wright, named after Judith Wright) joined us for a photo shoot with two of his staff, myself, Ian Beale (committee member) Darren Green (my son, also on the committee), the mother of a participating landowner (Margaret Dunn) and Joe Hinchcliffe (reporter for the Fassifern Guardian) at the property of Margaret’s son on Nindooindah Estate Road, where we had provided star pickets and electric fencing for cattle exclusion, and many plants the previous year. The plants were doing very well and Mr Bussholz expressed pleasure in the enthusiasm shown for our project.

Three workshops were held for local landowners in widely dispersed sections of the Scenic Rim, to introduce them to or update them on the project. The first was held at the forested property of Bill O’Sullivan, of lower Duck Creek Road, and Bush Buddies brought a collection of animals to entice people to want to plant for our native fauna. Our second workshop was held at the Bunjorgen Winery, where owner David McMaugh told us about his own support for wildlife by retaining and planting native plants, deterring native frugivores and folivores by enclosing the grape orchard in non-entangling netting instead of using any destructive measures, and eliminating feral animals (primarily cats and foxes), and provided free wine tasting for all who wished to partake (quite a few bottles were subsequently purchased). The other workshop was held at Tamrookum Hall, and Bush Buddies once more introduced us to their animals. This workshop was run jointly by us and by Land For Wildlife (through Scenic Rim officer Catherine Madden).

The branch participated in Mental Health Week by promoting a gentle walk at Ian Beale’s property at Barney View. Only one person registered, and Ian took her for a walk and explained our corridors project and his rock-wallaby-watering and glossy black cockatoo nest box projects.

We obtained a further 650 plants from PPNN, mostly being species Kay was not able to supply his year., star pickets from Gleneagle Produce store, and other fencing supplies from Norco, Beaudesert. A battery-driven Auger was purchased from Bunnings, as were a gazebo, two trestle tables and two folding chairs for displays.

Our first planting and fencing from the new grant took place in October 2021, with a few volunteers, at the home of Sonia Alcorn in Kooralbyn, extending the native vegetation around her house towards native vegetation further down the road, and protecting the young plants from their goats. Drinks and snacks were provided for the volunteers. Other fencing supplies, weed mats, tree guards and plants were delivered to various property owners, some of whom did their own planting and/or fencing.

Two new motion-sensing cameras were purchased from the Traps store near the Gold Coast, for use in fauna surveys. Records are being kept on a spreadsheet as to which camera is lent out to whom at any time.. The cameras have detected native animals such as phascogales, gliders and bettongs as well as exotics such as cats, dogs and hares.

Simon Jaques, representing the Friends Of Lagoon Creek Group who undertake bush care work in Caboolture, contacted us to say he had been supplied with more trees and shrubs than needed for their project, and donated 1700 to our project, which he kindly delivered

We held a display on our corridors project at the Beaudesert Market in November 2021 and another at Arts in the Olives near Kalbar in May 2022, and continued distributing plants and equipment..

Ian Beale and myself attended a two-day workshop Landcare led Bushfire project: Establishing an AI Enabled Drone Monitoring Network for Wildlife. The drones featured in this were however worth \$30,000 and there were a number of other expensive steps to be permitted to fly them, so it was not directly applicable to our projects.

We had planned 50 half-hour fauna transects over the summer months, early morning, late afternoon and early evening at each of fifty sites (both corridor and hub sites) throughout the region, but heavy rainfalls throughout much of this period prevented us from completing these. Not wanting to confuse the results by extending into a different season, we agreed to complete the surveys in the warmer months starting with October 2022. A work experience student from Griffith University, Kay-lee Pitt, participated in some surveys and also uploaded much of the data onto the Atlas of Living Australia. We also hired ecologist Georgina Anderson to conduct some of the surveys we were not getting sufficient time for.

Beaudesert Gates and Steel were approached for gates wanted by a few of the landowners, and we contracted Peter Klan of the local company Mustard Seed Services to erect these. I provided contact details to Peter and the landowners, but unfortunately they did not manage to make contact before the landowners called in and picked up the gates and attachments, some of which were not the ones ordered, as they were unaware that Peter could do soldering, and Peter was unaware that one of them wanted wooden posts, not steel ones. This caused some confusion, compounded by the manager being admitted to hospital for brain surgery, his daughter and other staff taking over. emails and orders. It was eventually all sorted out.

The acquittal form for the grant was delivered by the end of June, and as mentioned above we were unaware at that stage that another \$9,700 was to be received.

We applied for and received from central office WPSQ a \$1000 grant for running an event to celebrate WPSQ's 60th Anniversary, and are as a result planning a Wildlife Expo in Boonah, to be reported on at next year's AGM



Kooralbyn Hinchcliffe Drive 11 Dec 2021
planting



Fauna-survey-Milford

SUNSHINE COAST & HINTERLAND BRANCH

Jude Crighton - Secretary



Elaine Green signing copies of *Piece by Piece*

Piece by Piece Conservation and development on the Sunshine Coast 1960-2020 by Elaine Green, former Maroochy Shire Councillor and long-term environmental advocate. With significant aerial and other photographs, this important recent history offers Sunshine Coast and Noosa residents and their political representatives an understanding of 60 years of the push and pull between development of the Coast's environment for human convenience and profit, and its protection as natural habitat for wildlife and value to humankind. Published by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc, with the support of a generous Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage Grant, and an endorsement by Ian Lowe AO, Emeritus Professor of Science, Technology and Society at Griffith University.

Our major achievement this year has been the publication of long-term member **Elaine Green's book *Piece by Piece: Conservation and development on the Sunshine Coast 1960–2020***, a comprehensive, detailed and critical overview of its subject, informed by Elaine's experience as a Maroochy Shire councillor, honorary life member of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, and committed environmental advocate. With support from a Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage Grant supplemented by branch funds and author input, it is illustrated with significant aerial and other historical photographs, and we wish to thank Helen Kershaw for her tireless work in editing the text and co-ordinating the high quality design, indexing and printing, as well as treasurer Judy Burns for her help in grant application and acquittal, and financial oversight.



Jill Chamberlain and Judy Burns with copies of 'Piece by Piece'

The book was launched at a well-attended event in November, with an introduction from Prof. Ian Lowe AO, and sales continue at local bookshops. We are grateful, of course, to the Wildlife Queensland State office for featuring it in their online shop.

At the 2021 State AGM, we were proud and pleased when our ex-president **Jill Chamberlain** jointly received the **Margaret Thorsborne Award** for over twenty years of service to the Society and the broader environmental community. We are honoured to have had Jill as such a hard-working office-bearer (and fauna and flora observer) for so many years and thank her for her ongoing inspiration. More prize-winners were our treasurer **Judy Burns** and her husband Glenn, who received the **Silver Mattock Award** (in the form of an actual mattock) from Sunshine Coast Council as outstanding Bushcare volunteers, for twenty years of maintaining various sites cared for by Petrie Creek Catchment Care group.

Our **branch AGM** was again delayed this year due to absence, illness, and appalling weather, and finally held in a rotunda in a local park on a rare fine day on April 6th. Anne Wensley agreed to continue as President for another year, and presented her impressions of our year's work. The remaining committee members continue unchanged. Anne has initiated a **member survey**, covering amongst other topics, meeting frequency and location, and member skills and potential contributions. After initial responses were mostly limited to members who are already active, Helen Kershaw has liaised with Karin Cox and Amanda Little from Head Office (to whom our profound thanks) in producing an automated version. Helen continues to produce our highly informative bi-monthly newsletters.

Anne has also been instrumental in our contribution to the inaugural wildlife-themed Sunshine Coast **Wild HeART Student Art Prize**, to be judged in September 2022, with an accompanying exhibition at the Maroochy Regional Botanic Gardens. The threatened species prize will be named in honour of Kathleen McArthur, and our branch and individual members have contributed to the prize money.

In this year of climate change-induced extreme weather, one of the more dramatic examples in our region has been the ocean break-through at the northern tip of **Bribie Island** on January 3rd. The associated changes in wave action, tidal range and the effects on sand movement and currents in Pumicestone Passage, a Ramsar-listed Wetland of International Importance, has had adverse effects on the migratory waterbird habitat and mangrove and sea-grass ecosystems, and a small population of kangaroos has been stranded on the northern tip of the island. Our vice-president **Sue Aspland** and member and founding member of Take Action for Pumicestone Passage **Ken Mewburn**, prepared a historical survey of maps and images from the last 150 years, as a background to the natural and human-induced processes at work, and we are joining with other community groups in making representations to state and local government.

We were hopeful that one of our major fund-raising and net-working opportunities, the three-day Maleny Wood Expo would proceed, but it was once again cancelled due to Covid restrictions. However, we were able to combine with Take Action for Pumicestone Passage for an event to mark **World Environment Day** and again contributed to a plant ID walk with the Currimundi Catchment Care Group in an area regenerated by ten years of National Tree Day plantings.

One of the highlights of our year, the **Wildflower Festival** was celebrated, and we held well-attended walks in Ben Bennett Bushland Park, Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve, and Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park, taking the opportunity to demonstrate these precious remnants to members of the wider public, and the forces threatening them.

Thanks to all members who helped, particularly Sue Aspland and Jenny Gursansky. In July 2021 we were very sad to lose long-standing member **Margaret Watson** who had been a modest unassuming contributor to our wildflower walks, as well as a founding member of Friends of Ben Bennett Bushland Park, hard-working Bushcare volunteer, and our branch Hospitality Convenor with her welcome basket of refreshments at meetings.

We have contributed to community feedback on the ongoing **Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Coastal Study** encompassing the dunal vegetation protecting the nesting habitat of the endangered Loggerhead Turtle, participating in site walks, meetings and workshops, and were encouraged by the content of a public forum in late October 2021. However, since then, in spite of a reported workshop for Sunshine Coast councillors, there has been little further progress. Members John Roberts, Jackie Steele, Jennie Curry, Ros Horrocks and others have been active in these efforts.

The Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade with a proposed road through the southern sector of the **Ben Bennett Bushland Park** was the subject of limited public consultation by Sunshine Coast council in August 2021. We have engaged with local councillors, and participated in public meetings along with Caloundra Residents Association and the Value Caloundra Community group, advocating for smaller, less environmentally harmful plans, and have met with the Department of Transport and Main Roads who have indicated that they are open to alternative options. The Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook page has been useful in demonstrating the values of the Park, and we thank Jenny Gursansky for maintaining it, as well as our members who have kept up the pressure on politicians and officials.

A Powerpoint presentation prepared by Helen Kershaw on the history and values of the **Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve** (named after a former branch President) formed the basis of our presentation to the consultants preparing the Caloundra Aerodrome Master Plan. John Roberts and the Caloundra Residents Association had organised a meeting with the Queensland Air Museum who had plans to expand into the Reserve, but a change in the Museum executive has hopefully led to a change in their plans. The Draft Plan presented to a workshop in June 2022 confirmed that the Reserve is no longer included in the Study Area. Thanks also to Sue Aspland in helping with our response on this issue.

Faunawatch

Our Faunawatch project, received a further three years of funding from Sunshine Coast Council's Community Partnerships Program to continue surveys on Land for Wildlife properties although this year's weather has impeded access to some properties. Funding from Healthy Land and Water for surveys at Aura has been supplemented by a Stockland Aura Community Grant for additional surveys in the Blackbutt Forest area of the Environment Protection Zone. Thanks to Paul Smith for all his work in this regard, and continuing to run the public Faunawatch walks on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens and on the 4th Monday of the month at various natural locations as weather has allowed.



TOOWOOMBA BRANCH

No report had been received at the time of compilation of this document.

TOWNSVILLE BRANCH

Liz Downes

While 2022 is the 60th year since the Society's foundation, it is the 10th year since the re-kindling of the Townsville Branch in 2012, after a dormant period of several years. Back then it had been the Society's approaching half-century that prompted our Branch revival, with much encouragement from then project manager, Ewa Meyer, in Brisbane.

From a hesitant first meeting at the home of our now life member, Jane McLean, and with membership at a low ebb, we dared to plan at least one walk, advertising as widely as possible, and see what happened. Expecting just 2 or 3 die-hard members, we found a bunch of faces we had never seen before, all eager to



Lunch break Little Boyle River

get out in the bush on a bright May morning. Ten years later we have a healthy membership which this year, after a net gain of 8 new members, stands neatly at exactly 60 – one for every year of the Society's existence!

The Branch blog, which replaced our print newsletter *Brolga* in 2012, remains our main means of communication with members, friends and supporters. In the last 12 months twenty-five new permanent posts were published. As well as monthly updates, we post stand-alone articles on items of local and regional conservation and natural history interest or concern.

Our monthly walks which, weather and Covid permitting, run from February to November have continued, although with a drop in attendance, from an average of thirteen per trip in 2020-21, to nine this year. Participants were predominantly members, including some of our newest, although we always enjoy welcoming interested non-members. In 2021-22, the scheduled ten trips were reduced to eight: the July trip was thwarted by the breakdown of the boat which was to have taken us to Dunk Island and the February trip was judged unwise due to the rapid local spread of COVID (Omicron). Most of our walks took place around the city's outskirts or within a 30-40 minute drive. This seems to fit in with people's busy lives and, along with carpooling options, slightly reduces our collective carbon emissions.



Mahogany glider monitoring: Except when rain or other events make access too difficult, our glider team still regularly visits mahogany glider territory at Mutarnee, north of the city, recording these and other gliders and wildlife captured on our pre-set cameras. All are reported to DES. One or two members of this group usually attend the recovery team meetings in Tully, either remotely or in person. In March the release of the new recovery plan, after many delays, was a cause for celebration. Although this plan was not among those affected, we made a submission to proposed changes to conservation planning decisions under the EPBC Act which would abolish many such plans for other endangered species.

Mt Elliott NP access: The prolonged and frequently delayed upgrading of this day visitor precinct in the Mt Elliott section of Cape Bowling Green National Park has been a continuing frustration, and not just for our members. By the time access is restored in October (as promised) it will be more than 19 months since the public has been able to enjoy the nature-based activities provided by “our local” national park. Some good news came at a meeting in May when the Deputy-Director of QPWS gave an assurance that provision will be made for a campsite at a new location within the Park. The loss of the previous campground, and the opportunities it provided for an immersive nature and National Parks experience, had been of considerable community concern and we had argued strongly for a Departmental re-think.

Urban tree management: We maintained contact with the Tree Advocacy Group, established in early 2021, to promote better awareness and management of our urban forest, made a submission on the Council’s draft policy documents for urban tree management and attended a meeting between Council staff and representatives from several conservation groups.

Pied Imperial Pigeon counts: Three Branch members participated in the North Brook Pied Imperial-Pigeon count project, now approaching its 57th year. For the last five years these counts have been partly funded by the Thorsborne Trust. Trust members include current and former members from the three north Queensland WPSQ Branches, and one member of WPSQ Council.

Vale Suzie Smith: Along with the Cassowary Coast-Hinchinbrook Branch, we mourned the passing of Suzie Smith, the founder and champion of that Branch and a true friend of our own. Her contribution to the conservation of the north’s natural and cultural heritage for more than 40 years has been inspirational and, like that of her dear friend and former Society patron, Margaret Thorsborne, will never be forgotten.



UPPER DAWSON BRANCH

President Richard Moffat, Secretary – Ann Hobson

Overview

Upper Dawson Annual Report – 2021–22 Overview. 2021–22 has been a period of adjustment for Upper Dawson. More responsibility has fallen on fewer shoulders. It has been heartening that two younger members have taken on roles that otherwise may have lapsed, allowing us to continue our three local and one weekend away outings as well as our campaigns for the environment in the face of continuing exploitation of the fossil fuel reserves in the Upper Dawson.

Milestones and targets achieved

With financial help and guidance from FBA, we completed and unveiled the Castle Creek walkway project's first nations art, nature signs, and planting in Theodore. These are now show-cased by our Shire and Information Centre as a draw card for tourism, along with the platypus frequently seen by visitors and walkers alike and profiled in last year's PlatypusWatch Workshop.



Under the Bauhinia at Lonesome creek (photograph by Ann Hobson)

Events

Six Branch members were among the thirty local, Shire, and regional guests and visitors who enjoyed the presentation by Allan Briggs of Birdlife Capricornia at the unveiling of the Castle Creek wildlife art and signs. To encourage the planting of native trees and shrubs, vouchers to the local plant nursery were given to those attending.

Quarterly Branch outings took an average of eleven members and a total of five guests:

- to "Borrowdale" including a boat trip up the Dawson into Nathan Gorge;
- to a waterhole on Lonesome Creek in the shade of flowering Bauhinia caronni;
- via a farm where inputs and productivity were being carefully balanced to sustain soil health, through Moura Mine's revegetation sites, lookouts, and memorials to Nunn's crossing on the Dawson;
- for a weekend at Habitat Noosa on Lake Cootharaba during which we were inspired by the work of Noosa Landcare, delighted in the reflections of nature on a boat trip up the 'Everglades', and discovered floral gems in the heath land of Cooloola National Park.

Branch plans for the future.

Plans and grant seeking are well under way for a butterfly weekend in October 2022.

The Taroom bird hide is the next project. We also plan to

- continue to write monthly reports for local and state newsletters,
- respond to known threats to the wildlife and well being of the Dawson Valley,
- maintain our quarterly meetings and annual camp outs
- continue to respond to infrastructure, water & extraction projects that impact on the land, its wildlife and its biodiversity
- encourage every member to invite a new one to outings.

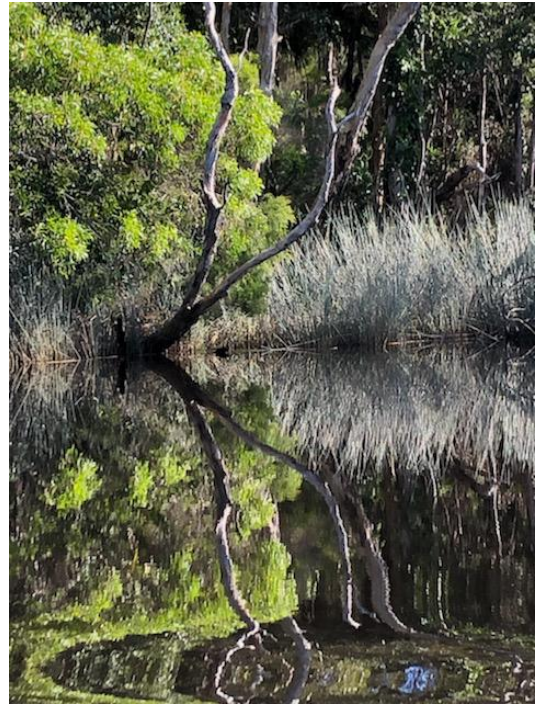


Photo courtesy Melanie Simmons

