

- ◆ Coastal encroachment of up to 35 metres. Hope there's room for the beach to move inland and somewhere for the sand to go - presumably further north, if we don't dredge it back
- It may be time to try another University. A 'head in the sand' approach doesn't seem a likely solution, either.



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Winner of Excellence in Business
 Award 2005

January 2008

Mobile Phones - Where is your old one ???

BR



How many mobile phones do you have in your household ? The latest G magazine quotes the following facts :- 1.75 billion people worldwide and 16.5 million Australians use mobile phones. 8.4 million mobile phones were imported into Australia in 2006-07. On average, Australians replace their mobile phones every 12 - 18 months.

So what happens to all the old phones? A study conducted in June 2007 showed that we keep 55%, give 22% to other family members, throw away 4% and trade or donate 2% - the rest are lost or stolen.

Given that a mobile phone contains around 50% of metals such as nickel, cobalt, aluminium, tin and copper, with small amounts of lead, cadmium, mercury, beryllium and arsenic, the potential for environmental pollution from dumped mobile phones is huge, to say nothing of the waste of precious resources.

Recycling one tonne of phone circuits can yield the same amount of precious metals as 110 tonnes of gold ore, 123 tonnes of silver ore and 11 tonnes of copper ore. Perhaps we should reconsider whether we really need a new phone with the latest bells and whistles or at the very least, make sure we recycle the old one.

4 months to go

Caboolture Sustainable Living Expo - Saturday 17 May 2008 - contact **Wayne** at CREEC on 3888 8751

This newsletter is produced and distributed by volunteers

We believe in its value in communicating information to members of our community who are interested in the environment and the work of CREEC.

Contributions welcome !!!

We thank the Caboolture Shire Council for their assistance

Please recycle this newsletter by passing it to friends or neighbours.

Caboolture Region
 Environmental
 Education Centre

This Newsletter is on the web at www.creec.org.au

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WPS - Workshop - Butterfly Gardening for beginners. Sat 23 Feb 10am-1pm For bookings ring CREEC 3888 8751

Happy New (leap) Year.

It's the International Year of the Reef . Some not so serious thoughts:

If - you don't know how to fix it, don't break it

If - you can't see the wood for the trees, don't chop them down just for a better view

If - you are concerned about the disappearance of small birds and lizards, have a word with the cat

If - you don't care about the future for your children, don't have any more

If - you don't appreciate that water doesn't grow on trees, install some more tanks

If - you don't need it anymore, recycle it

If - you can ride a bicycle, don't peddle with SUVs

If - you aren't concerned about climate change, keep your raincoat handy

If - you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, don't wait to be asked; send it in.

If - only

Environmental Achievement Award

JP

Caboolture Shire Council's Australia Day Environmental Achievement Award has been presented to **Sue Gallagher**, a most worthy recipient. She was nominated by Friends of CREEC Association, with support from the local branches of the Society for Growing Australian Plants and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

Adding her years of membership, Sue has over 70 years association with environmental groups in the Shire. Major contributions of her botanical expertise include the Atlas of Natural Assets, State of the Waterways, Shire Plants Database, Vegetation Communities in the Caboolture Shire and over 20 botanical surveys and environmental assessments for development projects around the Shire.



The Burpengary Community Nursery at CREEC owes much of its success to the three days a week that Sue volunteers. Her knowledge of the whereabouts of the Shire's 1500 or so plants, how to propagate important species for Bushcare and other projects and to train volunteers in nursery practice is the basis for the nursery's considerable achievements.

The CREEC site reflects Sue's interests in ensuring that the right plants are put in the proper ecosystems, when changes have been made from a pine forest plantation to a local provenance collection.

A lot has happened since the original nursery was developed (largely by Sue with \$1600 each from Greening Australia and CSC) near the Burpengary railway and the current 60000 plant capacity (including SGAP) nursery in Rowley Road. Much of the expertise for these changes has been provided by Sue Gallagher, who earns our congratulations for recognition of her many contributions to our knowledge of the Shire's biodiversity.

Climate Change

JP

Irrespective of global or local efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions, there is little doubt that the future will be different from what we have been used to. That doesn't mean we give up on mitigation strategies to reduce emissions or the adaptation response to manage risks.

The University of the Sunshine Coast has been cooperating with the University of Waikato (NZ) and SEQ Catchments to model the most likely scenarios for South East Queensland. 2070 is really bad news, so the 2030 comparison with the 1990 baseline will be quite sufficient to upset 2008 revellers at the start of this new year.

- ◆ Rainfall average will be reduced by 13% - a problem for those who don't like that number, for a start. 170 mm less average rainfall is equivalent to no rain from June to August, or in October and November or 15 more days without rain during the year
- ◆ Intensive rainfall will increase by 30%. Those 30 mm in 30 minutes storms will last longer, or be more frequent, or yield 40 mm or get it over with in 23 minutes. More flash floods, erosion, overflowing gutters, storm damage
- ◆ An increase from the current average of two days a year above 35°C, to seven. More bushfires, aged people in trouble, more energy consumed for air conditioning, higher evaporation losses
- ◆ A 2°C average increase in temperature. As most of the increase over the last half century seems to have been at night, plant growth, so dependent on sunlight, will be affected, despite a higher CO₂ atmosphere. Increased evaporation and water storage needed, more mosquitoes, ecosystems at risk, higher frequency and intensity of bushfires, as well as all the other problems.
- ◆ Sea level rise of 15 cm. That's about 4 mm a year, hardly enough to worry about unless you live on the coast. Combined with problems from that more more intensive rainfall and storm surges, there'll be big changes in the value of coastal real estate.

Bird Baths

Providing at least one bird bath in your garden, preferably visible from the house, can not only attract birds, but provide much amusement to onlookers.



In our garden, we've had quite a variety of birds visiting, with their own idiosyncratic behaviour when bathing or drinking. The Willy Wagtails are incredibly frustrating for watchers who are inclined to say "for heavens sake bird, get in there!" They flirt around the edge, pirouette and flit back and forth from the bushes to the bowl and perhaps, after a couple of minutes of this, will briefly dunk themselves.

On the other hand, the Brown Honeyeaters, who spend a great deal of time in our garden, make such quick dunks of their whole body in the water and back to the bush that they have to repeat this activity frequently to get even slightly damp!

The two Spotted Turtle Doves are very sedate and on the hottest days spend a lot of time under the bird bath (which is on a stand) hunkered down in the damp mulch. They fly up and have several sips from the edge of the bath and then, like a chorus line, turn around to face the opposite way and dip their tails in the water. The bird bath is next to our large cylindrical water tank and soon after it was installed, I was very amused to see the doves land on the tank roof, which they obviously thought was flat, only to slide down and fall off.

The Friarbirds, who hoon around the garden, chasing every other bird and complaining loudly at every turn, have yet to be seen bathing, but do occasionally drink, while the Rainbow Lorikeets are surprisingly quiet when they drink and bathe. They are so noisy usually that I was quite surprised that they didn't have water fights.

Providing a bird bath in a sheltered place in your garden near bushes which provide birds with shelter, can provide many hours of amusement to we humans and a pleasant amenity for the birds. Try it !

ER

Save the Bush

Extensive clearing of native vegetation for cropping and grazing, and degradation of the remaining habitat has resulted in local extinction of many native species and significant declines in the abundance of many others. This long statement relates to southern Australia, but it is also relevant here. We may not have the precision of recent Victorian research, but we should be able to learn from it.

When the landscape-level of tree cover falls below 10%, the number of woodland birds dramatically crashes. Population size of many birds declines well before this threshold is reached, at about 30 - 40 %. The rate of decline is expected to be faster in landscapes with less connected habitat, but there is little long term evidence for this.

More importantly, perhaps, is how valuable are attempts to restore biodiversity by revegetation along wildlife corridors and what are the costs of not doing so? Should the protected vegetation be linked to other areas or interspersed regularly between heavily cleared areas in a mosaic pattern?



There are many benefits from managing rural landscapes (over 80% of Caboolture Shire) in an ecologically sensitive way. Management:

- helps to sustain resilient populations of native fauna
- promotes landscapes that are more robust to environmental shocks such as drought, floods and fire
- buffers against weeds and soil erosion
- enhances sustainable agricultural production
- contributes to emotional and spiritual well-being
- improves scenic amenity

Individuals can make a difference by

- protecting patches of native vegetation, especially along creeks, in corridors and in larger blocks of habitat

JP

- building onto existing blocks of bush
- making sure that key vegetation types are identified and protected for the longer term
- supporting the activities of Bushcare to assist in regeneration of public areas and reserves to improve species richness

(adapted from “ Thinking Bush: 5 - September, 2007)

Resource Condition Targets

The South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026 is enshrined in state legislation, so that state and local governments must follow its guidelines, boundaries and regulations when making decisions involving development.

The plan manages growth and urban development over the next 20 years, to accommodate a million extra residents.

One of the many strategies for sustainable growth management encompasses “ protecting and enhancing the regions natural environment, biodiversity and natural resources”.

As the plan takes precedence over all other planning instruments, the other regional plans are required to conform with the vision for the future, as outlined by the Queensland Government. Natural resource management has to be undertaken in a coordinated and integrated manner, with effective partnerships between government, industry, landowners, traditional owners and community.

As a consequence, we need agreement on the priorities for managing change based on current science and knowledge. What the assets are, how valuable or important, what threatens them, what will population pressure do, what activities are most likely to achieve the targets set. We need to agree on what is possible, who will take responsibility, who will pay and who will benefit, and how do we measure successes and failures.



JP

So during November and December, groups of people worked their way through 38 resource condition targets for 2026. Further issues for consideration were listed, the top five priorities assigned and suggested actions to achieve the target were recorded - all with particular reference to the local area. The targets include aspects relating to air and atmosphere, water, land, coast and marine, nature conservation and biodiversity, traditional owners and community.

While some individuals and groups may opt out of some targets, the objective is to fix up everything that's broken, leaks, smells, faces extinction, washes away, is unsafe, unhealthy, disturbed, degraded, weedy, disconnected or dysfunctional.

Copies of the eleven planning documents are available from www.seqcatchments.com.au or by phone 3211 4404.

Fuel Efficient Cars

JP



A NRMA Insurance report claimed that car buyers are deliberately down-sizing towards better fuel efficiency.

52% of Sunshine Coast car owners are into it, compared with only 31% in Brisbane. Drivers over 45 are the most likely to buy a greener model ; 46% compared to only 28% of people aged 25-34 and 38% in the 35-44 age group.

Meanwhile, last year, Queenslanders bought more medium, large and luxury cars than the national average, and sales of light cars rose 8.4% against 10.2% Australia-wide. Luxury SUV sales grew 18% in Queensland, as against 9% for Australia.

Making the most of the 8c per litre subsidy, while it lasts, perhaps?