

**Caboolture Region
Environmental
Education Centre**

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We're on the web

www.creec.org.au

*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.*

*We thank the Caboolture
Shire Council for their
assistance.*

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

Continuing the series

Creeks and Catchments of Caboolture Shire

Catchments to our coast, the water journey.



Caboolture Shire has within its boundaries an assortment of creeks and rivers, from the Stanley River in the highland forests of the Bellthorpe Range, to the mangrove estuaries of Deception Bay. We have such a variety of landform which supports varied human activity as well as native flora and fauna.

There are about 30 creeks and 2 rivers in our shire, which together constitute a length of over 500 km of temporary streams, wetlands and dams. Our constructed drains and the urban storm water system make up another couple of hundred kilometres of waterways.

Rivers are the arteries of our land. Just as arteries carry life sustaining oxygen around our bodies, creeks and rivers carry the water, which is essential for all life, throughout our shire.

The waterways of our Shire are an important part of our lifestyle. We depend on them for our economic and social well being. Without them there would be no agriculture, no town water supply and no recreational or commercial fisheries in Deception Bay

We are not the only creatures that rely on our waterways for life. Strips of forest bordering our waterways are, in many cases, the only bush areas left. These corridors of vegetation often support more plants and animals than other areas because of the access to water and more fertile soil.

Fallen logs create snags in streams which provide biological hot spots where fish can breed and hundreds of small organisms convert fallen leaves and other organic debris into food for aquatic creatures.



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Friends of CREEC
Winner of
Excellence in
Business Award 2005



caboolture shire

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C.R.E.E.C.

Free Copy

Nov-Dec 2006

WHAT'S ON

6 - 12 Nov	Recycling Week
15 Nov	Bushcare Officers' Seminar
15 Nov	Koala Care and Rescue Meeting
16 Nov	CREEC Board of Management
16 Nov	Friends of CREEC Meeting
5 Dec	International Volunteer Day
20 Dec	Volunteers' Break-up
5 - 12 Dec	Coast Care Week

CRIKEY.....

***May the work of Steve Irwin
continue !!!!!***



As this is our last edition for 2006

***Happy Christmas and an
environmentally friendly
New Year to all our
readers***

NEWSY BITS

The Planning and Environment Unit of Council welcomes two new Environmental Planners who, among other projects, will work on facilitating the Shire's voluntary nature conservation programs. Melinda Barlow was working as an environmental consultant and has previously worked at Cab Water. Melinda can assist you with the Urban Wildlife or Land for Wildlife programs.

Nigel Weston worked briefly with Caloundra City Council and previously as a Research Officer at the Rainforest CRC at James Cook University. Nigel can assist you with Voluntary Conservation Agreements. Both Melinda and Nigel are keen to boost participation in the nature conservation programs and to work with landholders who would like to conserve, manage and regenerate their properties. Contact Council on 5420 0100 if you would like to be involved.



Have you seen this bird ?

Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Also known as Common Myna, native to eastern and southern Asia, not to be confused with the smaller, grey, native Noisy Miner.

Description: Size - Approx 23-25 cm.

Colour - Cocoa brown body - darker brown head and wings
Yellow feet, legs, beak and patch around eye - white
under wing patches more obvious during flight.

Voice - Loud "o-keek, o-keek" sound is most noticeable.

Habitat and Behaviour: They spend a lot of time scavenging for food - walk with a bounce or exaggerated hop - they are aggressive and compete with native birds for food and nesting sites - seen in pairs, groups and small flocks - found in suburban, semi rural areas, along roadways - large groups will roost in tree-hollows, in buildings, in building crevices and under bridges.

Food - Scavenges for food scraps, fruit, vegetables, grain, insects, nectar.

The Indian Myna was introduced to Australia in the 1860s to combat insects, and is gradually dispersing into towns along the eastern seaboard. It was released in the Brisbane metro area in the 1940-50s. These birds will

GROUP FOCUS



Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP)

(Caboolture Daytime Branch)

The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was established in 1957 for the purpose of studying and developing the horticultural potential of Australian native plants and preserving them through cultivation.

With thousands of members throughout Australia, the Society is a non-professional organisation and is open to all persons interested in the study, growing and preservation of Australian plants. The Society has separate regional headquarters in each state capital and local branches in each state region.

Caboolture Daytime Branch was formed in 1997 and is currently based at CREEC Community Nursery, Rowley Rd, Burpengary.

Branch Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at various parks and picnic areas within the Shire. These meetings are followed by wildflower walks in nearby forest, woodland, heath or wetlands. Contact Sue Gallagher on 3888 4126 for details of venues.

Propagation days are held every other Tuesday of the month at CREEC Nursery from approximately 9 am to midday. New members and visitors are welcome. Phone Sue Bradford on 5496 7886 for details.

Library The Branch has an extensive library in the CREEC administration building from which books are available for members to borrow. A small range of books is also available for purchase.

Herbarium The Branch is custodian of the Shire Herbarium and work is conducted on an as required basis.

Displays and plant stalls are conducted by the Branch at a variety of fairs and related activities in the Caboolture-Redcliffe area.

Excursions are usually held on a Tuesday and are normally bus trips to related places of interest.

Projects. The Branch conducts plant rescues and plant identifications when requested, in addition to plant sales and displays.

MOUNTAINS WITHIN OUR REGION

Mountains are our highest land forms. Some, such as the Glasshouse Mountains are the remains of volcanoes from 22 million years ago. Plateaus such as at Mt Mee remain from more recent volcanic flows of basalt. Ranges, divides, mesas and individual stand-out peaks were often named mountains, if the land was 1000 feet (305 m) above sea level.

Why has 11 December been as a special world day to celebrate mountains? Where would we be without them? They give texture and form to the earth's surface; shape air pressures; influence wind strength and direction, rainfall, cloudiness, temperature and vegetation types; define water catchments; help create majestic views; dictate the pace of land-forming processes; challenge climbers and bush walkers.....

Questions - Where is the highest land point in Caboolture Shire?

Is it a mountain? How many named mountains are in the Shire. Who or what are they named after, and by whom.

Mountain Drives for the Holidays

Mt Mee State Forest Park, Sellin Road off Dayboro– Mt Mee road

This park has a number of areas for the public to enjoy. The Gantry Day Use area is an attractive picnic spot, located approximately 1 km from the entrance to Mt Mee State Forest. The area is named after the huge gantry structure that still stands at one end of the day use area - the last remains of the old sawmill which operated until 1981.

This area contains 4 distinct walks and a magnificent lookout.

- ◆ Piccabeen Walk 1 km circuit
- ◆ Somerset trail 13 km
- ◆ Mill Forest walk 1.4 km
- ◆ Falls Lookout 1 km return

Beerburrum State Forest

Scenic forest drives, picnic areas and lookouts with views of the Glass House Mountains and Pumicestone Passage.

become a pest if allowed to spread and increase in numbers.

Indian Mynas are known to carry mites; block building ventilation systems; prey on eggs and young of native birds and compete with native birds for food and nesting hollows, preventing native species from using nest hollows for several years.

Report sightings of birds/nesting sites to Caboolture Shire Council. (CSC does not have a pest management plan as yet!)

Pine Rivers Shire Council is trialling a trapping program, while Caloundra City is awaiting the arrival of traps to begin trials of a similar program.

Slider Turtle Warning - Note the following ;

- ◆ Has a distinctive red stripe behind each eye
- ◆ Large specimens can inflict a painful bite
- ◆ May carry new diseases
- ◆ Dumping in waterways threatens native turtles
- ◆ Illegal to keep in Queensland
- ◆ Cannot be imported into Australia without a permit
- ◆ Classified as an EXTREME RISK to native plants and animals
- ◆ Please call 1800 999 367 if found

Permaculture Caboolture will be moving from Watt St Caboolture to CREEC. A demonstration garden will be established and used as a teaching venue for courses and workshops. A very warm welcome to CREEC!

Congratulations to Wallum Action Group and developer **QM Properties** who have won the 2006 Prime Minister's award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships, Queensland Medium Business award. The award recognizes businesses and community organisations which work in partnerships, sharing skills, expertise, time and resources to address problems of disadvantage and to build stronger local communities. Reasons for the award: QM Properties is developing a golf course on Bribie Island on a site which was a pine plantation for over 20 years. This site was heavily degraded as all native vegetation had been cleared. The Wallum Action Group provided up to 50 volunteers to work in partnership with QM to plan the rehabilitation of the site and to propagate the native plants required to revegetate the area.

RECYCLING

Recycling is one of the easiest ways for a person to actively help the environment.

Some of your waste items can be turned into useful materials from which new products can be made.

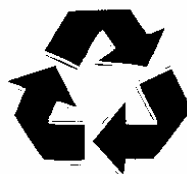
- Milk and juice cartons get recycled into office paper
- Each year over 12,000 tonnes of used office paper gets recycled into “safe” brand toilet paper
- Recycle your junk mail into the recycle bin or send it back to the companies that have sent it to you and tell them why you are unhappy. Better still, put a “NO JUNK MAIL” sticker on your letter box
- Use rechargeable batteries. These will put less heavy metal pollution into the ground, even though they contain cadmium. Because you will use less, you will save money in the long term
- Recycle car batteries. When you buy a new battery, ask if the old one is going to be recycled. Look for the names of scrap metal dealers in the yellow pages
- Turn food waste and leftovers into rich compost for your garden or fatten your worms
- When shopping, chose food containers that can be recycled - glass, steel or aluminium. Avoid plastic and polystyrene
- In the office, recycle paper and purchase recycled toner cartridges for your laser printer
- Your Council provides a recycling service. Use it. Get active

Remember the “Three Rs” of waste management

R educe

R e - use

R e - cycle



NURSERY AND VOLUNTEER NEWS

Did you know that CREEC Community Nursery propagated almost 43,000 native plants during the year to 30 June 2006. To achieve this, 53 volunteers contributed almost 13,500 hours of volunteer work in the nursery and surrounding areas at CREEC.

Our volunteers certainly come from diverse backgrounds and have an immense wealth of talent from almost all walks of life.

We have a heavy machinery and transport operator, a fine furniture manufacturer, an upholsterer, company directors, computer experts, a human resources manager, school headmaster, teachers and several bankers, (St George of course).

We even have an engineer on board as well as a commercial fisherman, professional shooter, farmer and grazier, and an aerial surveyor/cartographer. Building and construction workers are also prominent in our volunteer group so we always have someone to do those odd repair jobs around the nursery.

Now, of course, we have all become “Tree Huggers” and “Greenies” and enjoy very much our two days a week down at CREEC contributing to the environment, with the production of plants for use on various sites around the Shire.

We also take very special pride in our project of preserving and protecting the environment of Burpengary Creek. The difference being made here is quite outstanding.

Why don't you come and see us some time at 150 Rowley Road Burpengary. We are open between 8 am and 2 pm on Monday and Wednesday. Phone 3888 8751

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Correction : In the (Sustainable Housing - More efficient homes) section of last months newsletter, the temperature of your freezer should be 0 degrees Farenheit or (minus) -18 degrees Celsius not 18 degrees as shown - our apologies for this error