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We're on the web

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*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.

National Bilby Day - 10th September



(The Bilby is an endangered Australian Marsupial who needs our help too!)
The Queensland bilby population is the most threatened and genetically distinct population in Australia. It has declined in range over the last 10 years and is continuing to do so. Presently, the bilby population is estimated at between 600 and 700 animals and is spread across nearly 100,000 km² between Birdsville and Boulia in Queensland's far south west. The proposed reintroduction site at Currawinya National Park falls close to the centre of the bilby's former range in eastern Australia.

Scientists generally agree that the combination of predation (foxes and cats), a long history of habitat alteration as a result of pastoral activities, changes in fire regimes and competition with rabbits has impacted negatively on bilby populations.

Researchers with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have established a captive breeding colony of bilbies in Charleville (south west Queensland). Bilbies from this breeding program will eventually be released into the enclosure at Currawinya.

More Koala facts

1. Koalas are not bears they are marsupials which means they carry their young in a pouch
2. The koala joey rides in its mother's pouch and drinks its mother's milk for about six months. After that, it rides on her back until old enough to care for itself.

**Walk to work day 6th October
2006**

Some figures: an average car engine sucks in 10 cubic metres of fresh air (equivalent to the air in a small room!) to burn each litre of petrol and emits hot fumes with 2.7 kg of carbon dioxide, 9.25 kg of nitrogen and 0.09 kg of water vapour. Excessive use of fossil fuels is a dominant contributor to pollution



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Friends of CREEC
Winner of
Excellence in



caboolture shire

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C.R.E.E.C.

Free Copy

Sept - October 2006

WHAT'S ON

1 Sept	Wattle Day
4- 8 Sept	Landcare week — with Barung Landcare Ring 5494 3151 to book. All activities free
5 Sept	Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture Shire Inc. AGM
6 - 13 Sept	Wildflower Week in Warrunbungle National Park
7 Sept	National Threatened Species Day
10 Sept	National Bilby Day
10 Sept	Sustainable House Day
1—16 Sept	Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk
20 Sept	Cabbos Outing - Meldale Donnybrook
All of Sept	Biodiversity Month
3 Oct	World Habitat Day
6 Oct	Walk to work day
7- 8 Oct	Garden Expo at Historical Village - Caboolture
20 Oct	Frog Workshop 7.30 pm Bookings at CREEC
15— 21 Oct	Water Week

Many workshops are booked after the deadline for the printing of this newsletter, therefore do not appear in our "what's on". Contact 3888 8751 regularly to find out if there are upcoming workshops.

Congratulations! South East Qld's tidiest town -
- Bribie Island -

WATTLE DAY

History In 1889 in South Australia William Sowden formed a Wattle Blossom League with the aim of “promoting a national patriotic sentiment among the women of Australia”. One way to show such patriotism was to wear a sprig of wattle on all official occasions.



The group eventually folded but the idea of a Wattle day gained support. In New South Wales in 1909 the Director of the Botanic Gardens, J H Maiden initiated the forming of a Wattle Day League and the first Wattle Day was held on September 1, 1910 in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Wattle became accepted as the official floral emblem of Australia.

Celebration of Wattle Day reached its peak during World War I. On this day sprigs of wattle were sold to raise funds for the War effort. Boxes of wattle were sent to soldiers in Hospitals overseas and many people enclosed a sprig of wattle with each letter to a soldier to remind them of home—Australia.

Schools celebrated Wattle Day on September 1 for many years.

From ASGAP “Let’s celebrate Wattle Day”.

Flying Foxes

Every night at dusk flying-foxes (not fruit-bats) fly out en masse from their colonies to feed on the nectar and fruit of native trees, playing a vital role in keeping our forests healthy by pollination and seed dispersal—sometimes flying up to fifty kilometers in a night and dispersing up to 60,000 seeds.

But Black and Grey-headed Flying-foxes are in decline. More so the latter. An urgent recovery plan is now underway on the Gold Coast. Eight interpretative signs have been erected, which detail the behaviour, anatomy and ecological importance of the animals along with illustrations near to the flying-fox colony at Cascade Gardens.

Regeneration of the roosting site has been started by the planting of quick-growing endemic species favoured by the flying-foxes as roost trees. But in the interim ropes of various thicknesses have been introduced to the colony to see if the animals will use them as an artificial roost. So far it looks promising.

From WPS newsletter July 2006

Giant Barred Frog

At only 115 mm in length it’s not exactly gigantic but the Giant Barred Frog is significant. This species—listed as endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999—was once found along the eastern seaboard from the Conondale Range in the south-east of QLD. To Narooma on the south coast of NSW.

Alarming, its range has contracted from its southern and northern limits and today it’s found only in small populations in rocky streams in rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest and farmland. They have been recorded on Burpengary Creek behind CREEC.

From WPS newsletter July 2006

New Homes to be more efficient AND with cheaper bills

The Queensland conservation council (QCC) welcomed changes to building regulations in QLD which will mean that all new houses are more energy and water efficient. The changes should also lead to cheaper running costs for residents. Making greenhouse-efficient hot water system (usually solar) standard in all new houses in QLD is a practical and commonsense decision towards reducing our CO2 emissions,” said Toby Hutcheon, Coordinator of the QCC.” Heating water is 40% of an average electricity bill, so using solar can be a significant saving,” said Hutcheon “ The big disappointment with the package is that it does not mandate rainwater tanks, leaving that decision up to local government.” said Hutcheon.

With water restrictions already in place in parts of QLD and likely to be upgraded - the time is right to bring back the rainwater tank as a standard QLD icon. Emerging evidence is showing that rainwater tanks can provide as much as 30% of a homes water needs.

The current code will not address energy and water efficiency in existing dwellings. However, the state government has signaled that this will be the next cab off the rank.



11 Easy ways to save \$200 A Year

1. Always switch off the TV, VCR, microwave and stereo at the power point instead of leaving them in stand-by mode.
2. Purchase appliances with the highest Energy Star rating.
3. Set your fridge temperature at 5 degrees C. Leave sufficient room around the top and back of the fridge (around the coils) for hot air to escape.
4. Defrost the freezer regularly and set the temperature at 18 degrees C.
5. Only run your dishwasher when it is full.
6. Consider solar lighting for your veranda and garden.
7. Dry washing on a clothesline. Your clothes will smell fresh, look better and wear longer.
8. Replace incandescent light globes with compact fluorescents. They provide just as much light and use 75% less power.
9. Install time switches on your lights or movement and light sensors that provide security while saving money and energy.
10. Turn off your hot water system when you go on holidays.
11. Switch off the light when you leave the room.

The average Australian home pumps about eight tones of greenhouse polluting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year. So change the way you use power and you can tackle climate change from your own home and save hundreds on your energy bill.

Reprinted from HOPE newsletter Oct 2005

The Healthy House, 2nd Edition

Back by popular demand with a new forward and revised content, this book/DVD shows that you can put a stop to pollution in your surroundings, whether you are building a new house or renovating an existing building or renting.

The book includes practical, easy-to-follow advice on:

- Selecting the best place to build your house
- Using feng shui to bring balance and harmony to your life.
- Choosing healthy building materials
- Constructing your house and briefing trades people
- Alternative energy strategies
- Chemical-free pest control
- Planting a beautiful low-allergy garden



Visit <http://www.integratedliving.com.au> for more information

Smart Housing

Smart Housing is a Queensland Government initiative promoting good practice in designing, planning and building homes to make them more socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. A Smart House is more livable, safe, secure, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. Keep up-to-date on sustainable development by reading Smart Housing Update a newsletter which provides a range of local, national and international news on housing sustainability. They encourage your feedback and contribution towards articles in future editions.

The latest Smart Housing Update contains articles on:

- New Queensland Sustainable Housing Regulations
- New Smart Housing website links
- Smart Housing Design Objectives workshop
- Sustainable city living
- Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit—Injury Bulletin
- 14 Homes in Queensland's first water recycling project and much more

More information at www.smarthousing.gld.gov.au.

- ◆ **CREEC** exists, firstly, as an environmental education centre so it is pleasing to report that two local high school students have completed work experience on the site.
- ◆ In October 146 **Tullawong State High School** students will use the rainforest section on the banks of Burpengary Creek for their school project.
- ◆ As part of an international initiative, **Seeds for Life** are trying to collect wild seeds from 10% of the plants on the planet, to store for at least 200 years at Brisbane Botanic Gardens and at Kew Gardens in England. These seeds will be freely available to anyone in the world on request for research and reintroduction to the wild. The species being targeted can be found at www.greeningaustralia.org.au by clicking on Seeds for Life and following the link or by phoning 0739024417. Partners in this project are Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane City Council, University of QLD, Griffith University, Greening Aust. QLD and the Australian Center for Minerals Extension and Research.
- ◆ **The SEQ Landcare Conference Field Day** Trip visited CREEC on 23 August for a guided tour and information session on CREEC.
- ◆ Since July **CABBOS** (Caboolture Bird Observers) a sub group of WPS has visited sites at Stanmore (near Woodford) and State Forest 2563, Pedwell Road (Wamuran Area). The recording of bird sightings gives an insight into whether bird populations and species are remaining constant or in decline. If in decline it is a sure sign that the environment is being negatively impacted upon for some reason and if we don't want to see the extinction of bird species something needs to be done.
- ◆ **Cane Toads** can get your trees springing out of the ground, so it seems. Bit like blood and bone. All you have to do is plant the (dead) pests 10cm or so below or to the side of the eucalypt or rainforest tree, according to Airlie Beach Land for Wildlife Coordinator John Alden. Apparently it worked a treat with one or two rows of bluegums planted at the Snake Valley Yacht Club. The toad-in-the-hole row has done much better. (Sunday Mail 2/3/06) (WPS July newsletter)
- ◆ **Crossings for all Creatures** - A 1.3km stretch of road on Brisbane's south side has more wildlife crossings than anywhere else in the World, according to Griffith University urban wildlife researcher Dr Darryl Jones. Last year's \$10.4 million upgrade of Compton Road incorporated a land bridge, two tunnels and three trapeze-like overpasses designed to allow wildlife in Karawatha Forest to cross safely. "I was reasonably optimistic and thought it would take animals a long time to get used to it but, within three weeks it was being used," Jones said. Science graduate Amy Bond monitored animal tracks and other indicators to record a build-up from 20 tunnel crossings a week up to 100. Small animals

such as dunnarts and antechinus have a “shelf” running through each tunnel, while possums and koalas can walk along a log railing. Echidnas and bandicoots trot along the floors, which are scattered with logs, rocks and other cover. On the landbridge hares are big users, along with red necked and swamp wallabies and grey kangaroos, while glider poles have been set up to encourage four species of gliders.

(Courier Mail 25/3/06) (WPS July newsletter)

- At the **CREEC Board meeting (July)** Coordinator Natural Areas, Darryl Wright, reported that the process of writing a Greencorp application for funding is under way. If successful teams of youth (17 to 20 yrs) from within our shire will be recruited to rehabilitate seven sites throughout Caboolture Shire starting in November 2006. Two sites are on Bribie Island, one each at CREEC, Wamuran, Woodford, Bellthorpe and Neurum. The project will run for six months. Not only will these young people gain work experience and accredited training in conservation and land management and be paid for it too, but our environment gains also!
- **From Jim Pulsford, Site Development- CREEC**
CREEC has received only 20% of its normal rainfall so the site is very dry. The new wetland and island landscaping (just below Woodpeckers) will take a while to fill and reach its potential. To date \$34,000 has been spent with more to come for interpretive signage, seating, tracks and more plantings. Several years ago, frost killed many of the macadamia trees being grown for their conservation and for the provision of a gene bank. Funds have been approved to plant the empty rows, replace vacant macadamia tree spaces, plant cabinet timbers and gums interspersed with the macadamia rows and to spread mulch. Native bees were to be introduced to ensure the pollination of the macadamia. Macadamias are important because they are the only native tree that is commercially viable as a food plant. The recovery program for macadamias has been done. Protecting them is now the important next step.

Want to get to know a group of people who are active, interesting, forever learning explorers ?

Then SGAP (**Society for Growing Australian Plants**)would be a group for you !



Since July, SGAP (Caboolture Daytime Branch) have learnt about Australian Native Plants such as Bonsai specimens, been on a bus trip to Merv Hodges' nursery at Logan and been part of “*What’s Cooking in the Gardens*” at Redcliffe Botanic Gardens.

A bus trip to Kenilworth State Forest to look at local flora is coming up !!!!

World Habitat Day - 3rd October

What is a Habitat ?

A habitat is the place where a plant or animal normally lives. This includes native trees, shrubs and ground covers. The natural bush (or ecosystem) is a complex balance between plants, animals, litter and soil. So merely keeping or planting trees will not necessarily ensure wildlife is protected. Rather it is necessary to re-create the balance - to restore, protect and maintain a natural ecosystem in which plants can regenerate and animals can live.

Most natural forest environments include tall trees, small trees, shrubs and ground covers. In such a multistory world a host of microbes, earthworms, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals will thrive.

Important features for provision of wildlife are:

- Vegetation representing, if possible, the whole range of local plant communities, with a diversity of species, ages, flowering times and sizes;
- Areas of bushland, preserved or created, to provide a primary shelter and food supply
Corridors connecting blocks to provide animals with safe passage and access to water.

Hollows are Havens - Old Trees are Important

Hollows develop in old trees and are a very important part of the habitat of many animals. Stands of old trees are referred to as ‘old growth’. Old growth forest is no longer common, so retaining old trees, even after they die, is a priority for our native wildlife.

How do hollows form?

Hollows develop in trees as they age due to the natural forces of wind, fire, heat, lightning, rain and attack by insects, fungi, bacteria, termites and beetles. Many species of wildlife will further excavate the hollow using their beak, teeth or claws.

Some eucalyptus shed their branches as they grow older. This exposes the point where the branch was previously attached, opening up the developing hollow for use by wildlife.

Hollows are very slow at forming (longer than one person can hope to live) and take a long time to be replaced.

Hollows in trees take many years to form, depending on the species of tree and the size of the hollow. Small hollows in eucalyptus, suitable for a feathertail glider, take about 100 years to form. Medium sized hollows that may be used by animals like parrots form over 200 years. Very large hollows that can be used by cockatoos and owls take even longer to develop.

Hollows provide homes for many types of wildlife. Hollows are used as nest sites, feeding sites, sleeping areas and refuges during bad weather or from predators.

6 Threatened Species in Caboolture Shire Which Need Our Help

1. Glossy Black Cockatoo
2. Giant Barred-Frog
3. Red Goshawk

4. Double-eyed fig- parrot
5. Spotted-tailed Quoll
6. Southern dayfrog



Is There (Sustainable) Life in the Suburbs?

When Eileen and I recently moved from our 11 hectare bushland block to a new home on 850 sq.m in the suburbs. We knew we were in for a few changes, but we didn't realise how big a culture shock it would be!

At our old place, we had solar power, solar hot water, tank water and on site sewerage, together with around 20,000 native trees and a huge variety of wildlife. Our new home is "all electric" had one tree (which we had to remove), several environmental weeds, and a back yard with nothing but grass! We decided to see whether we could achieve a rather more sustainable lifestyle with this as a starting point.

Our first move was to replace most of the lights (the ones we use the most) with energy saving bulbs. We then looked at hot water and decided to replace the electric hot water service with a heat pump which uses about one quarter of the power. It will probably take 10-12 years to recover the cost unless the price of electricity goes up significantly. We reckon that is a pretty safe bet. We also decided to buy some of our electricity as "green choice" power. By paying a couple of dollars a week extra, we ensure that a proportion of our power is provided from extra renewable energy generation installed by the supplier.

The backyard grass is now under 30 cubic metres of mulch and the first 100 native trees and shrubs are going in. We hope to have some birds in the garden by next year! Our next two projects are to put in a rainwater tank for the garden and to insulate the roof as soon as we have the energy and the money, hopefully before spring.

We reckon these changes make good economic sense if energy and water costs increase significantly which we are sure they will - they certainly make good environmental sense and we feel we are at least trying to conserve our resources for our grandchildren.

Brian Rigden

September - Koala Month

What can you do to help Koalas in Caboolture Shire

By joining Caboolture Koala Care & Rescue Inc. you can:

- ◆ Train to become a Koala Rescuer
- ◆ Help educate the public and create awareness of Koalas in the Shire
- ◆ Educate Shire residents about Koala food trees
- ◆ Plant Koala food trees in public areas
- ◆ Participate in the Annual Koala survey
- ◆ Help gather statistical data on Koalas, used in development and planning



Dog attack - At least one koala dies every week in Caboolture shire from a dog attack. The internal organs of a koala are easily punctured by canine teeth, so even a quick bite can easily kill. The most visible signs of dog attack are saliva on the koala's fur, sometimes, but not always, accompanied by blood. If you suspect your dog may have attacked a koala—call us. Infection sets in very quickly from a dog bite - the sooner treatment is started the higher the chance of survival for the koala.

Car hits - Koalas often cross roads, usually after dark. Those not killed instantly by a car hit often sustain injuries that require urgent medical treatment. If you see a koala sitting stunned beside the road or low in a tree, possibly bleeding from the mouth, with a swollen face, or limping it may have been hit by a car. Call us - we have vets on 24 hour stand-by. The koala will receive specialized veterinary treatment within two hours of your call.

What to do if you see a sick, injured or orphaned koala

- Contact Caboolture Koala Care and Rescue Inc. on **0401 080 333** to request assistance any time day or night.
- Keep an eye on the animal until a rescuer arrives
- Ensure your safety first!
Look around for any dangers that may cause further harm or affect you and others.
- Approach the animal carefully - koalas can be aggressive and inflict serious injury
- If possible, place a laundry basket, towel, blanket or box over the animal, but keep it safe until help arrives
- Keep people and domestic dogs away - stress can cause further injury or even death

What to do if you see a dead koala

- Contact Koala Care & Rescue Inc on **0401 080 333** any time to report
- Check the pouch of females. If there is a joey attached to the teat, **DO NOT** remove it
- Wrap the whole body to keep it warm until professional help can care for it

Caboolture Koala Care and Rescue Inc-Working with Australian Wildlife Hospital

Caboolture Koala Care & Rescue Inc operates a 24 hour rescue service for sick, injured and orphaned koalas within Caboolture shire. All rescued koalas are immediately transported to the Australian Wildlife Hospital at Beerwah where they receive specialized veterinary care at any time of the day or night

After treatment at the Hospital, and prior to release, all koalas are micro chipped and ear tagged. This makes them easy to identify if they are recaptured. Rehabilitated and orphaned koalas are always released as close as possible to the point of capture.



IN 2005 - 148 Koalas were admitted to the Australian Wildlife Hospital . This does not include sightings or instant releases

What can you do?

- ◆ Grow eucalypts native to Caboolture shire. (names available from Koala Care)
These trees will offer food, shelter and nesting sites for koalas
- ◆ Plant native trees and bushes to create bushland corridors to help wildlife movement between different habitat areas
- ◆ Confine or restrain dogs at night when koalas are on the move - especially if you are aware of Koalas in your area
- ◆ Slow down when driving at night - take notice of “wildlife” signs throughout the shire, which indicate areas of high fatalities
- ◆ Build koala friendly fences - or provide an area where koalas may be able to climb over safely
- ◆ Place a wooden plank, log or rope across your pool to provide an exit if a koala falls in
- ◆ Avoid using garden sprays, herbicides or pesticides that harm native wildlife
- ◆ Join one of the many environmental groups working to conserve our native flora and fauna
- ◆ Report all sightings as this can help in collecting important data used in planning and development
- ◆ Participate in the Annual Koala Survey
- ◆ Pass on this information to all your neighbours

Koala Facts

1. Koalas have two thumbs on their front paws. These help them climb, hold on to trees and grip their food.
2. An adult Koala eats about 1 kg of leaves each night.
3. Only about 100,000 Koalas remain in the wild in Australia. Most of their habitat has already been destroyed. This makes it very important to preserve what is left.
4. Koala babies are known as Joeys.

National Threatened Species Day - 7th September

National threatened species day encourages communities to help conserve Australia's unique native flora and fauna and to take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities in the wild.



In Australia conditions for the native plants and animals changed drastically when Europeans settled here in 1788. In less than two hundred years of settlement:

- About 100 species of plants and at least 30 species of birds and mammals are presumed to have become extinct ;
- A further 178 species of plants, and about 57 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs and fish are classified as endangered.

These numbers mean that the rate of extinction in Australia over the last 200 years is much higher than normal. This is a sign that our environment is unhealthy.

How do species become threatened?

The major reason is habitat destruction. As well as being a place where an animal normally lives, habitat contains everything each species needs for survival. This includes space, access to water & food, shelter and the suitable conditions for reproduction.

Habitats have always changed and been influenced by natural occurrences . Species that cannot adapt to these natural changes have, over time, become extinct. In modern society, humans alter and impact habitats by:

- Clearing vegetation for agriculture, roads, industry, forestry, dams, mines and houses;
- Using habitats to dispose of rubbish, sewerage, exhaust gases, used chemicals, used tyres and plastics; and
- Polluting the environment by using insecticides, herbicides, arboricides and fungicides.

Why save threatened species?

Species should be prevented from becoming extinct because of the following reasons:

- They maintain life on earth by providing many of the necessities of life, such as oxygen, food and useable water;
- Each Species performs in maintaining the complex balance of nature;
- The role they play in producing soil, usable air and water is important
- The enjoyment that they may bring to people;
- Saving them will help preserve and maintain the general health of the environment.