

**Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.**

P.O.Box 32 BLI BLI Q.4560

# UCA

Wetland Sanctuary News



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**Support Group Inc.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at the  
Mangrove Room.**

**Note change of time!!!!!!!!!!**

**Next Bird Observers' Group Outing. 0800am start.**  
21<sup>st</sup> April, 7am, Maroochy River Conservation Park, Mudjimba

**Meeting Agenda March 2012**

President: Derek Foster 5448 5025 mob: 0402 3520 77

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Lyn Ireland, 0404371362

**To receive your newsletter / meeting minutes by email please send contact details to**

**email:** [mwssgi@gmail.com](mailto:mwssgi@gmail.com)

**Email:** [mwssgi@gmail.com](mailto:mwssgi@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.maroochywetlandssupport.com](http://www.maroochywetlandssupport.com)



Maroochy Wetlands facebook.

## President's Column

Folks,

Well we have begun yet another year and this year is shaping up to be very different but non-the less exciting for the Sanctuary. We had a good planning meeting in December and we came up with lots of good ideas. One of the issues that we didn't have full info on and are still awaiting further info is that the boardwalk in the sanctuary will probably be closed for a lot of the winter season. This is due to major refurbishment work that will be done. The exciting thing about this is that, whilst an inconvenience for this year, the work that will be done is of the standard of the new work that was done at the start of the boardwalk last year. This means that we will have 50 uninterrupted years of winter seasons ahead!

This work will therefore be significant in terms of the types of things we decide to do this year. Come along to the next meeting and get involved in the discussion about what we decide to do this year.

Speaking of the next meeting please note that we decided at the last meeting that we would change the meeting times to be a little more convenient for members. The meetings will now be at **7.00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.**

As you can see on the from page of the newsletter there are still vice president and secretary positions vacant – any takers??? (the jobs are not that arduous).

We contributed to the presentation of how to live with snakes in the area at the last Bli Bli community hall meeting. Les Donald was able to line up William Pledger to give us a talk about what to do if we have a snake in our yard or our house. William is our local reptile and possum relocation person and he can be contacted on 0414075314 if you need his services.

Our planning for the year's activity will be finalized at the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be having an advisory meeting in the morning of that day so will have enough info to finalise the plan for the year that night.

Lastly we didn't win and Australia Award but did get a certificate of nomination. We will put this up at the Sanctuary soon. Thanks to Debra and John for attending for us.

OK all for now.

Hope to see on Thursday night.

Derek

## Climbing Maidenhair Fern

Robyn Howard

One of the attractive and interesting plants which may be seen while walking on the boardwalk at the Sanctuary is the Climbing Maidenhair (*Lygodium microphyllum*). It enjoys moist, shady positions so is found in the Melaleuca swamp areas.

It is a climbing fern which clings well on the sides of the paperbarks, and although it has the ability to climb to a greater height, most plants visible from the boardwalk do not go much higher than four metres. The differing shapes of the leaves is fascinating. The unfertile leaves tend to be almost triangular in shape, with the fertile leaves having many small extensions on the edge of the leaf. These extensions carry the spore on the back. Of course, ferns do not flower and propagate through spore dispersal.

Aboriginals were able to make a “string” by twining several of the long stalks together.

Climbing Maidenhair is not an Australian endemic. It occupies suitable parts of the Northern Territory, Queensland coastal areas and into NE NSW, but is also widespread through South East Asia, some Pacific Islands, and tropical Africa. It was introduced

into Florida, USA, where it has become a pest species. As beautiful as it is in its natural environment, like many of our weed species, it has become rampant without its natural enemies and is now a weed in USA.

Investigations of its natural pests in Australia were conducted in the hope of introducing



biological controls in Florida. Heat and dry conditions in the sanctuary are more likely to cause the death of plants than their natural pests – various mites, leaf beetles, thrips, mealybugs and sawflies.

For a couple of years, beside the old boardwalk below the rainforest, a Brown Cuckoo-Dove chose to build her insubstantial nest not much above eye-level in a dense Climbing Maidenhair. Strangely, most visitors did not notice her!



**Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.  
Bird Observers.**

Such a damp start for our first outing for 2013. The day dawned with drizzle and was overcast though there was a hint that the sun may emerge later in the morning.

Six members took a chance and travelled to Lower Landershute Road, Palmwoods. We have visited this private property on two previous occasions. Trish and Richard are undertaking revegetation of their property, predominantly with local indigenous species. For those of us that have been there before we could see the progress that is being made.

The morning tended to light drizzle but this did not stop us from venturing forth and it also seemed to suit the small birds. There was an assortment amongst the long grass and in the lantana. After a walk along the lower access road and down to Paynters Creek we returned to the house for morning tea. Upon request, two catbirds appeared, giving us both their contact call and their undulating grating wail.

At this stage it was obvious that the forecast sun was not going to eventuate. Rain had set in so it was decided to abandon the day.

Thank you to Trish and Elizabeth for the catering.

Thank you to Trish and Richard for allowing our visit to their property.

**Birds:**

Australian Wood Duck, Spotted Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, White-throated Needletail, Little Black Cormorant, Purple Swamphen [H], Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed rosella [H], Forest Kingfisher, White-throated Treecreeper, Green Catbird, Red-backed Fairywren, White-browed Scrubwren, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird [H], Dusky Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Eastern Whipbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Australian Figbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong [H], Spangled Drongo, Rufous Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Restless Flycatcher [H], Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye, Welcome Swallow, Red-browed Finch.

30 species seen, 5 species heard only.

Judith Hewett.

**William Pledger**

***Reptile Handling  
and Possum  
Relocation.***

**Call**

**0414 075 314**

**World  
Environment Day**

***Calling for a  
coordinator for our  
display at this event***

**Call Derek**

**0402352077**

**There will be a  
Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.**

***Display at the  
Nambour Library***

**Nambour Library 6th to 17th May.**

**Anyone interested in helping with this display???**

**Call Derek  
0402352077**