

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

P.O.Box 32 Bli Bli Q.4560

UCA

Wetland Sanctuary News



Support Group Inc.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August meeting: 9th August 2012 at 4pm.

Next Bird Observers' Group Outing. 0800am start.

On Sunday 19th August we will commence our day at the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, Sports Road Bli Bli, and conclude our day at the Harris property Lefoes Road, Bli Bli.

Meeting Agenda August 2012

Reports
Display Trailer
Water mouse
Small Grant
Boat Cruise
Promotion/ Marketing

President: DEREK FOSTER 5448 5025 mob: 0402 3520 77

Vice President: ROBYN HOWARD 5443 5129

Secretary: JUDITH HEWETT 5441 2838

Treasurer: DEBRA WEDMAIER 5448 5032

To receive your newsletter / meeting minutes by email please send contact details to email: mwssgi@gmail.com

Email: mwssgi@gmail.com

Website: www.maroochywetlandssupport.com



Maroochy Wetlands facebook.

From The President.

This time of year is the primo time to visit your wetlands so come on down. Visit the old cane cutters' barracks and read about the history of the area. Visit the Mangrove Room and see some of the best photos of birds, crabs and other fauna that live in the Sanctuary. I write this article the day after we have run the first of our cruises. What a great day!! Perfect weather, great people and some mighty fine tucker at the strawberry farm. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that worked on the day. Also huge thanks to the businesses that are supporting the cruises. We will run a feature in the next newsletter about the cruises and give you a full run down of the stories, fun and photos from the days.

The photography competition is underway and I notice lots of people with some pretty impressive cameras wandering around the sanctuary lately. Remember the competition runs until the end of September but the best time will through August. See the advert. for details.

We had a great planting event on Thursday the 19th of July and thanks to all who came along and helped us put over 100 plants into our garden areas. Our vice president, Robyn Howard, snapped the group for us and when I was down there over the weekend I notice that all plants are doing well.

Over the school holidays we had the pleasure of providing a holiday program for 40 students from Bli Bli OSHC. It was a great day and we all had fun making fiddler crabs from leaves, hearing stories and walking the boardwalk. It was great to see the students bringing family and friends back to show then their handy work, which was displayed in the Mangrove Room, and to take them for a walk in the sanctuary.

October will see our end-of-season Celebration Night that will be held at the Sunshine Castle on the evening of the 20th of October. The night will feature two bands, the Sanctuary Brothers and the fabulous Irish band 'TIS. The winners of the photo competition will be announced and the UCA awards will be presented. Please put this event in your calendars and start telling people about it. The best sort of advertising is by word of mouth and the night will be great if you have all your mates there. See the advert in this newsletter.

We have had some instances with a few people (not members of course) not doing the right thing by the sanctuary so please remind people that the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary is a sanctuary for native flora and fauna and that the boardwalk is for walking only – so please no domestic animals, no fishing and no bikes.

Next meeting is the 9th of August, see you there.

Derek



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photo comp
Important Information



small ad.docx

Happy wetlanders on planting day, Thursday 19th July 2012.



The planting team.



Hard at work.

Photographs: R Howard.

Broad-leafed Paperbark

Robyn Howard

Paperbark just about says it all! The papery bark is built up layer upon layer on the trunk and branches, and the five prominent veins along the length of each leaf are indicated in its scientific name *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. In paperbark or tea-tree swamps, trees tend to grow to ten or fifteen metres, but specimens in parks may reach greater heights.

These trees have tremendous value in flood mitigation and cleansing run-off. Water flowing through the swamps and floodplains is soaked up into the roots, trunks and branches, and impurities are removed before reaching watercourses. The rate of water flow across land is slowed and erosion is controlled.

The leaves are extremely oily and smell strongly when crushed. The Aboriginals used the oils in various ways to relieve headaches and the symptoms of colds and flu, and their associated problems. Leaves were also used in the treatment of wounds and rubbing crushed leaves into the skin repelled biting insects. They also used the prolific cream flowers to make a sweet drink. Blossom normally appears in spring and autumn, but can do so at any season. Birds, butterflies and other insects find the flowers a great resource.

The peeled bark of the tree was used to wrap food for cooking in coals, for constructing rain shelters, for canoe repairs, and for bandaging injuries.





Members Les and Lynne Donald with the barbeque which they donated. *Photo: R Howard*

An exciting new asset for the Support Group. Folks we have now got a fabulous six burner gas barbeque. Les and Lynne Donald have donated this to the group and we tested it on the guides training day. As you can see from the picture it cooked everything really well. This will be great for members' meetings and Ailsa Watson has suggested that we could use it for sausage sizzles at River Markets and other places.