

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

P.O.Box 32 BLI BLI Q.4560

UCA

Wetland Sanctuary News



DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th April 2012 at 4pm at the Wetlands

Change of date for May meeting.

This meeting will now be held on Thursday 17th May 2012

Bird Observers' Group Outings.

The next outing will be on Sunday 15th April 2012.

Poona and Wappa Dams, Kiamba .

From Nambour General Hospital travel on Mapleton Road past the car park entrance, taking the first road on the right, Image Flat Road. Remain on this road for 5.7km to arrive at Poona Dam. Meet at the entrance gate.

Meet at 7am at the entrance to Poona Dam, Image Flat Road Kiamba

Meeting Agenda April 2012

Reports.

Outcomes from Advisory Meeting.

Strategic Plan.

President: DEREK FOSTER 5448 5025

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 jlh36@westnet.com.au

Hi Folks,

Welcome to the April Newsletter. We are gearing up for a great winter this year with some exciting activities and some new things happening at the Sanctuary. You will find attached to this newsletter an executive summary of the Strategic Plan that has been developed so you can see in detail what is planned.

Our meetings are now on (for the most part) the second Thursday of the month at 4.00pm at the Mangrove Room at the Sanctuary. We are hoping that members from other like-minded organizations will visit us and Les Donald has offered to coordinate invitations for us.

The April meeting (Thursday 12th) will be important as I will be inviting the Sunshine Coast Council Division 9 candidates to come along and meet us and allow us to both question them on issues that that we raise and also to hear from them their visions of sustainable development and for their future interaction with the Sanctuary. I encourage you to send me any questions or issues you would like us to raise and I would also encourage you to come along so you can make up your mind as to whom you like to vote for. For those not in Division 9 it will be a chance to hear the sort of questions you might like to put to your divisional or Mayoral candidate to help you decide.

One of the important issues that we are targeting this year will be the issue of membership. As you can see from the plan there are some exciting activities like the Boat Trips and the Photo Competition, some new initiatives like the Promotional Trailer and the Watermouse Research and some great fun activities like the Night Walk on June 14th and the trip to Lismore supported by the Bird Watchers group. All of these will need our combined effort to make happen. So if you haven't renewed, renew now and get involved. If you know of people who might enjoy being part of our group please encourage them to join and help keep our wonderful jewel on the Maroochy River vibrant and healthy.

I would like to finish this month's column by congratulating the Council on the new boardwalk that they are putting in. Not only congratulations for the boardwalk but also for putting it in over summer so that we get an uninterrupted winter season this year, well done Peter and Eric.

Well I hope I see you at the meeting on the 12th of April and I look forward to your involvement through this winter's program.



mwssgi strat. plan
2012. exec summary..

Warm regards

Derek Foster

President

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Fawn-footed Melomys

Author: *Robyn Howard*

This beautiful little native mammal has provided me with delightful surprise sightings in mangrove forests, rainforests, wet sclerophyll forests, coastal lowlands and occasionally in gardens.

Although it is nocturnal, I have found the Fawn-footed Melomys (*Melomys cervinipes*), during daylight by investigating quiet rustles in leaf-litter or leaves of vines and palms. Somewhat mouse- or rat-like, the melomys can be variable in size and colouration. The head and body length is 100-200 mm (commonly 115 mm), with a hairless mosaic-scaled tail up to 200 mm (commonly 140 mm). Upper body colour may be grey with a rufous tone, through to rufous, with the under-body creamy-white to buff. The small grey ears are rounded and the dark eyes appear to bulge.

Although the Fawn-footed Melomys lives mostly in the canopy of rough-barked trees and vines, it is an agile climber and can spend time on or near the ground where dense cover and logs exist. It feeds on leaves, fruit, seeds and shoots obtained in the canopy and is important in the dispersal of seeds and fruit in the forests. During breeding season, I have watched males and females leap and chase one another through vines, fig roots and loose bark. Peak breeding times are in spring to summer but breeding can occur at any time other than winter, and more than one litter per year may be raised. The spherical nest of leaves is built in the canopy, and the young – usually 2, but up to 4 – cling to the mother's teats, being dragged around as she feeds. Later, as they grow, they will spend longer times roosting in the nest until weaned at about three weeks. As with many of our small mammals, normal life-span is two to three years.

At the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, I have spied the Fawn-footed Melomys climbing the Callistemons near the Information Centre, as well as in the large fig tree in the rainforest habitat, and on the margins on the Melaleuca forest.



Photo: R. Howard.

Wetlands Bird Observers Outing to Ben Bennet Park Caloundra.

19th February 2012

Ten attended and we were lucky to have a fine day. While the bird numbers were not great, the park itself was, with good tracks, signs, and a good picnic area. Below is a list of birds and butterflies.

Birds:

Australian White Ibis 1, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo [H], Rainbow Lorikeet 20, Australian King- Parrot 2, Pale-headed Rosella 3, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo [H], Laughing Kookaburra 1, White-throated Treecreeper 3, Red-backed Fairy-wren 2, Variegated Fairy-wren 2, White-browed Scrubwren 10, Large-billed Scrubwren 8, Striated Thornbill [H], Brown Thornbill 6, Striated Pardalote 1, Lewin`s Honeyeater 6, Yellow-faced Honeyeater 2, Noisy Miner 6, Scarlet Honeyeater [H], Brown Honeyeater 10, White-cheeked Honeyeater 4, Blue-faced Honeyeater 1, Eastern Whipbird [H], Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike 1, Cicadabird H, Varied Triller [H], Golden Whistler 4, Little Shrike-thrush 2, Grey Shrike-thrush 2, Australasian Figbird 2, Grey Butcherbird [H], Pied Currawong 2, Spangled Drongo 3, Rufous Fantail 4, Grey Fantail 2, Spotted Dove [H], Peaceful Dove [H], Bar-shouldered Dove [H], Wompoo Fruit-Dove [H], Topknot Pigeon 1, White-throated Needletail 4, Torresian Crow 10, Eastern Yellow Robin 6, Mistletoebird [H], Double-barred Finch [H].

Butterflies:

Blue Triangle, Common Grass Blue, Common Crow, Green`s Grass Dart, Orchard Swallowtail, Glass Wing, Dainty Swallowtail, Clear-winged Swallowtail.



Next outing: April, Sunday 15th at 7am. Poona Dam, Image Flat Road Nambour, and then Wappa Dam.