

# Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

P.O.Box 32 BLI BLI Q.4560

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## Wetland Sanctuary News



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Support Group Inc.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Next Meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 4pm at the Wetlands**

July meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012

### **Bird Observers' Group Outings. 0800am start.**

The next outing will be in the Eumundi, North Arm areas.

We will commence the morning at 87 Don Napier Road Eumundi.

Take the Don Napier Road exit off the Eumundi Bypass Road between the Eumundi Noosa Road roundabout and the Memorial Drive roundabout. Pass under the railway line and proceed 0.9k to the end of the bitumen. The entrances are on the left hand

side; take the second entrance and park in the bus parking area at the sheds.

Following our time here we will stop at the Templeton Dams on Bunya Road.

We will conclude our outing at "Coolati" 31 Running Creek Road, North Arm.

### **Meeting Agenda June 2012**

Reports

Display Trailer

Water mouse

Small Grant

Boat Cruise

T V Remote

Promotion/ Marketing

World Environment Day

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 [jlh36@westnet.com.au](mailto:jlh36@westnet.com.au)

### **From the President**

If you are a Jimmy Buffett fan then the phrase 'the Tiki Bar is open' will mean the start of fun and frivolity. At the wetlands we say 'the Winter Season is here and the Wetlands are open!'. Yes temperature has dropped and so have the mossie numbers, skies are clear and the wetlands are fabulous place to be. This is the time to be visiting the wetlands, it is the time we should be telling your friends about our little jewel and it is the time to get the camera out for some special bird and scenic shots.

The new track is completed and is looking great – the wetlands are open!

The new brochure is finished and is ready to allow us to share our special place with everyone – the wetlands are open!

Special groups are starting to come and enjoy – the wetlands are open!

World Environment Day is June the 3<sup>rd</sup> and our displays are ready – the wetlands are open!

Our 'Come Cruise With Us' days are ready to be advertised – the wetlands are open!

The photo competition is ready to go – the wetlands are open!

More exciting news is that we have been successful in gaining a \$1982 grant from the Council to develop promotional material for the wetlands to support the season.

I would like to let you all know that the executive and elected officers have been working overtime to make a lot of this happen and I thank them for their tireless support. Our members have also been working hard. Special thanks go to those working on the new education trailer, working on our posters and pamphlets, developing the Watermouse education program with Bli Bli State School, and working on promotional material. I would also like to thank Wilf Harris and Robyn Howard for their kind donations to our library.

I would also like to say a special hi to those people who have visited us and have expressed interest in the things we do and to those who came along to the last meeting!

If you would like to be part of the excitement of this winter call us to let us know what you would like to do. We are in need of volunteers for all of the activities. This includes guiding, weekend duties, cooking on the barbie on the cruise days, helping organize the photo competition, and generally helping with the displays and the working bees around the sanctuary.

Next meeting, June 14, has a special treat – a night walk through the Sanctuary. Don't miss it, it should be fun!

Derek Foster - President

### **Ward's Hairy-legged Crab**

*Robyn Howard*

*Paracleistostoma wardi* is one of the less obvious crabs at the Wetlands Sanctuary, but it is quite interesting and worth watching out for. It is more abundant in Moreton Bay than locally. The maximum carapace size is 18 mm, and it is normally smooth with the appearance of being cut-off outside the eye-grooves, where there is some orangish colouration. Chelae are red to maroon. The legs are flattened and hairy right to the carapace edge. It is not unusual for this crab to be seen feeding positioned under shallow water.



Photos: R.Howard

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### **Native Lassiandra**

*Robyn Howard*

The Native Lassiandra (*Melastoma affine*) is found through many areas of the sanctuary, including near the Disadvantaged Boardwalk, along the roadside, and close to the loop track of the main walk. An alternative common name is Blue Tongue.

This is one of native plants which can be enjoyed in the home garden. While it can have a slightly spindly growth when competing for sunlight in the wet forest areas where it thrives, if pruned early in cultivation, it will develop a bushier habit.

The plant attains about two metres in height, has leathery leaves to ten centimetres with obvious longitudinal veins, unusual red stems, and red fruit (claimed to be edible). An oddity regarding the 7 cm mauvish-pink flowers is that the number of petals may vary from four to seven, but is generally five.



photo: R. Howard

## MAROOCHY WETLANDS BIRD OBSERVERS OUTING TO LISMORE

Our extended outing this year was to the Lismore area in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, held 7/8/9th of May 2012. Eleven people attended, and our accommodation was in cabins at Lismore Palms Caravan Park. The weather was sunny with cool mornings, but previously one could see there had been lots of rain, by the amount of mud around and pot-holes and tall grasses.

Lismore area has a population of about 45 thousand people, the Aboriginal people are the Widjabul. The area was discovered by white settlers in 1828, by Captain Rous, who came up the Richmond river (which he named) about 32 kilometers. Settlement didn't start until 1843 by one Captain Dumaresq who tried sheep which failed; he then sold his lease to William and Jane Wilson who ran cattle from 1845. The town was surveyed and gazetted as a town in 1866.

The area was sometimes referred to as "The Big Scrub" the vegetation being so thick, only small patches remain. Early days a lot of timber came from the area, then beef cattle, dairy and sugar cane. The town sits on the bank of the Wilson River.

Lismore has a University "The Southern Cross".

Now to Bird watching---

### **Monday**

#### We started at Lismore Lake.

Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, White-cheeked Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet (H), Pale-headed Rosella, Superb Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Dusky Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-breasted Woodswallow, Dusky Woodswallow, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Spangled Drongo, Grey Fantail, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, White-headed Pigeon, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Australasian Darter, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Silvereye, Welcome Swallow, Mistletoebird, Double-barred Finch, Red-browed Finch,

#### Wilson's Nature Reserve

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (H) Fantailed Cuckoo (H), Large-Billed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote(H), Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Varied Triller, Grey Fantail, White-headed pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove (H), Silvereye.

#### Three Chain Road Sewerage Ponds.

Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Glossy Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Australian White Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird(H), Australian Magpie, Grey Fantail, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Golden-headed Cisticola (H), Silvereye,

#### Wyrallab Road Sewerage Ponds and Birdwing Butterfly Gully.

Australian White Ibis, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Galah, White-cheeked Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Azure Kingfisher, Forest Kingfisher, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Brown Thornbill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbird, Eastern Whipbird (H), Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Spangled Drongo, Grey Fantail, Australian Brush Turkey, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Spotted Dove, Crested Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit Dove(H), Topknot Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Spectacled Monarch(H), Magpie-lark, Rose Robin, Silvereye, Common Miner.

## **Tuesday.**

### Swan Bay.

Australian Pelican, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Australian White ibis, Straw-Necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Whistling Kite, Wedgetailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian coot, Masked Lapwing, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Rainbow Bee-eater(H), Superb Fairywren, Brown Thornbill, Lewin`s Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Golden Whistler, Rufous whistler, Little Shrike-thrush, White-breasted Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Spangled Drongo, Grey Fantail, Black Swan, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Little pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-Lark, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Welcome Swallow,

### McMahon`s Lagoon.

Australian Pelican, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Nankeen Kestrel, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Combed-crested Jacana, Superb Fairy-wren, Noisy miner, Australian Magpie, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Black Swan, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-Lark, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawney Grassbird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Common Miner, Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin.

### Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands

Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Glossy Ibis, Australian White Ibis,, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Black-shouldered Kite, Swamp Harrier, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Black-winged Stilt, Masked lapwing, Comb-crested Jacana, Little Corella, White Cheeked Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Noisy Miner Brown Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Butcherbird,(H) Grey Fantail, Black Swan, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Golden-headed Cisticola, Australasian Reed-warbler, Tawny Grass-bird, Welcome Swallow, Common Starling, Mistletoe bird, Red-browed Finch,

## **Wednesday**

### Mount Nardi, Rocky Creek Dam, Booyong Nature Reserve,(Combined )

Cattle Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Pacific Baza, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Wedge-tailed Sea-Eagle, Pale-vented bush-hen, Masked Lapwing, Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Corella, White-Cheeked Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian King-Parrot, Pale-Headed Rosella, Pheasant Coucal(T) Fan-tailed Cuckoo,(H), Laughing Kookaburra, Noisy Pitta (H), Satin Bowerbird, White-browed Scrubwren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Lewin`s Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater,(H), Eastern Whipbird(H), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Australasian Figbird, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australasian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Pacific Black Duck, White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Emerald Dove(H), Crested Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon(T), Wompoo Fruit-Dove,(H), Australasian Darter, Little Black Cormorant, Willie Wagtail(T), Torresian Crow, Spectacled Monarch,(H) Magpie-lark, Paradise Riflebird(H), Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye, Welcome Swallow, Red-browed Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin,

T=travel H =heard

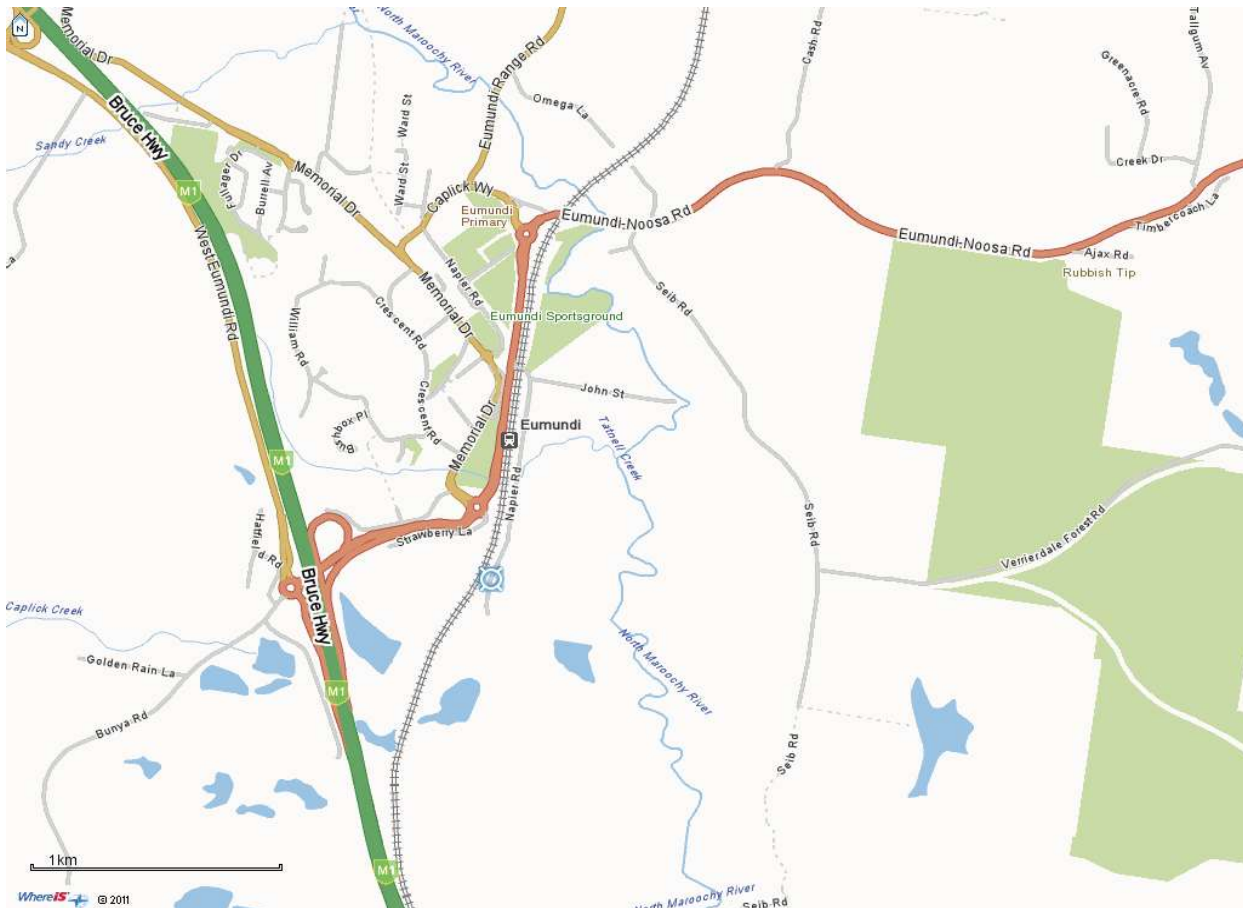
Geoff and Elizabeth stayed an extra day and walked the Birdwing Butterfly Gully and saw the platypus, Azure kingfisher, Rose Robin and Olive-backed Oriole.

*Geoff and Elizabeth Laidlaw.*



Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

Bird Observers Outing June 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 8am.



We will commence the morning at 89 Don Napier Road Eumundi.

Take the Don Napier Road exit off the Eumundi Bypass Road between the Eumundi Noosa Road roundabout and the Memorial Drive roundabout. Pass under the railway line and proceed 0.9k. to the end of the bitumen. Take the second entrance on the left hand side and park in the bus parking area.

Following our time here we will stop at the Templeton Dams on Bunya Road.

We will conclude our outing at "Coolati" 31 Running Creek Road, North Arm.

All enquiries to Geoff Laidlaw 07 5441 2684, evenings only please.

## Visiting the Sanctuary May 2012

It is lovely to be able to visit the sanctuary again after a few months of boardwalk closure. One or two cold nights have reduced mosquito numbers dramatically, so it is pleasant to be walking.

The rain made it hard on the workers building the upgraded boardwalk, but it is a great job, and interesting to see the new materials used in the construction. The weather was just perfect on the first day I was able to visit, and the bird songs indicated they were certainly enjoying themselves. The blossom on the melaleucas is a wonderful resource for the honeyeaters, butterflies, possums, bats and insects. The new section of boardwalk now means it is possible to walk from the car-park to the pontoon without stepping off the wheelchair accessible tracks.

The crabs do not like the cool weather, so it is necessary to look harder to find the little creatures. Some of the butterflies are still active, and we actually found some freshly laid eggs and some caterpillars, so I hope they are able to cope with the cold and continue to develop.

A group of about fifteen men and women from the Noosa Parks Association Botany Group visited on the last Sunday of May. They enjoyed tea and coffee in the Mangrove Room before setting out. They had not concentrated on mangroves previously and learned quite a bit from their visit, as well as passing on some information on other plants to us. It was a lovely visit and they enjoyed the birds especially. A couple of the group apologised for the slow pace of progress along the walkways, but since I am a bird observer, I know how long it can take to cover the ground. They learned about two new vines which they have not seen in the Noosa area - the Mangrove Vine and a yellow legume. Unfortunately, the legume is a weed! Several of the group had not visited before and were impressed by the things we could offer, and those who had been on other occasions commented on the wonderful changes since their last visits.

The Orange Mangroves are still producing some blossom, and any hypocotyls forming are still quite small. There may not be a heavy production of fruit this year. The River Mangroves had a particularly strong fruiting, and thick batches of fallen fruit are covering the boardwalk in places. Flowering and fruiting appears poor on the Grey Mangrove. It is strange that there is such a disparity in reproductive success.

The area off the long loop to the first crab hide which was once almost devoid of any vegetation is gradually filling in. Pneumatophores of the Grey Mangrove are very evident, with Grey Mangroves, River Mangroves and Orange Mangroves now growing there. This affects the crab population as the two species of Fiddler Crab (Two-toned and Pink-clawed) which reside there both require open space habitat. This may mean they need to move, or simply that they will have reduced habitat.

There have been two new species of birds added to our Fauna List lately – the White-throated Nightjar, and the Black Bittern. As well, the Shining Flycatchers, which were seen on a very irregular basis in past times, now seem to be permanent inhabitants. Both male and female have been seen regularly, as well as having a juvenile with them on one occasion. They are such beautiful birds, the male being so black that he appears to be blue, and the female with her equally black head, very chestnut-rufous back, and pure white undersides. They are stunning birds and a joy to watch as they flit near the mud chasing insects.

*Robyn Howard*

These following photographs were taken by Robyn during the construction period.

Photos: *Preparation for construction.*



*Foundations and joists.*



*Completed.*







## **COME CRUISE WITH US**

**Join the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group for a Day Cruise up the  
Maroochy River.**

***Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August***

**Programme**

**Depart Bradman Avenue jetty at 9.30am**

Discover the spectacular beauty of the Maroochy River whilst enjoying expert commentary from the friendly experienced crew and Wetland Sanctuary Guides about the river, its history and its wildlife. A fully licensed bar is available on board and Morning Tea is provided.

**Arrive at the Maroochy Wetlands Pontoon at 10.15am**

Be greeted by Wetlands Sanctuary Guides who will escort you along the boardwalk. Along the way the guides will point out the unique flora and fauna of the area as well as describing the history of the Wetlands Sanctuary and its value to the community

**Arrive at the Information Centre approx. 12.00 midday**

Toilets are available here, as well as the opportunity to take a look at the centre and its displays.

Then stroll up to the award-winning McMartins Strawberry farm for a

delicious **bbq lunch** of

Sausages and freshly made rissoles

Three fresh salads

Sliced bread and Bread Rolls

Beautiful strawberries and cream

Tea or Coffee

Lillian McMartin will talk on the history of the Strawberry Farm and time will be available for those who wish to pick their own strawberries. Alternatively freshly picked strawberries, as well as jams and Award-winning ice-cream may be purchased from the farm shop. 'Shorty', your cruise Captain will transport your strawberries back to the boat for you.

**Depart the Information Centre at 1.30pm** and walk back to the pontoon.

**Depart the Maroochy Wetlands Pontoon at 2.00pm and arrive back at Bradman Avenue jetty  
at approx. 3.00pm**

**Cost:** Adults: \$39.00      Seniors/Pensioners/Concession: \$35.00      Children: \$25

**All Enquiries to Ailsa Watson      54484848**

email: [birdlady3@bigpond.com](mailto:birdlady3@bigpond.com)



**Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.**

**Maroochy River Cruise Booking Form**

**Please post completed form to: PO BOX 32, Bli Bli Q. 4560**

I would like to book on ..... Cruise - #1 on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July   
Cruise - # 2 on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Adults @ \$39.00 each .....

Concession @ \$35.00 each .....

Children @ \$25.00 each .....

Total Enclosed/Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Cheque  Make cheques payable to Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

Direct Credit  Details: NAB

BSB – 084-801

Account Number – 55-201-0901

Reference – River Cruise

Cash

Enquiries to Ailsa Watson 54484848 [birdlady3@bigpond.com](mailto:birdlady3@bigpond.com)

**All payments to be received by – Cruise #1 – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Cruise #2 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

