

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

P.O.Box 32 BLI BLI Q.4560

UCA

Wetland Sanctuary News



DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Meeting: Thursday 8th March at 4pm at the Wetlands

Bird Observers' Group Outings.

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

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

Meeting Agenda 8th March 2012

Council grant Application

World Environment Day

Boat Trips

Defining roles within the group- subcommittee

Promotional trailer

Garden Show

Library Display

Night Walks

Marketing 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

World Wetlands Day at the Sanctuary.



On World Wetlands Day I took a walk down the Boardwalk with the mosquitos. I found seven different fungi on my short stroll. The most interesting for me was the *Cyptotrama asprata* on the trunk of a dead *Casuarina glauca*. The young caps and stem of this small fungus bristle with bright orange pointed tufts. Unexpanded specimens resemble tiny orange “pincushions”. As this fungus ages these disappear leaving a pale yellow cap. The gills and spore print are white. This fungus is uncommon, though specimens have been recorded in all eastern states. It is the only representative of the genus *Cyptotrama* in Australia.

Argaric- gills under the cap. Family *Marasmiaceae*. *Cyptotrama asprata*.

Judith Hewett 02-02-2012

Common Bluetail (*Ischnura heterosticta*)

Robyn Howard

Damselflies and Dragonflies belong to the order Odonata, a name indicating their teeth-like jaws. Damselflies are more delicate in appearance and are slender insects, and when perched, hold their wings closed against and parallel to their abdomen. Dragonflies are bulkier, and most species rest with their wings spread beside and at right-angles to the body. They fly more strongly. The larvae of both groups live and feed in water, only emerging to a dry position for the final short stage of metamorphosis.

The Common Bluetail is a small damselfly. It is able to tolerate some salt during its larval stage, so is a species seen at the Wetlands Sanctuary. The photographed specimen is a male. Females have a paler blue head and thorax and a pale green abdomen. The male courts the female by presenting her an insect for food. Copulation takes place in a heart-shaped or wheel position, with the male grasping the female behind her head, and the female bringing her anal area to beneath his abdomen to receive sperm. The female then breaks contact and the male carries her in tandem to lay upwards of 400 eggs directly into water.

Common Bluetails feed on live insects as small as midges and as large as moths which they capture between their feet whilst on the wing. Adults live for more than four weeks.





Wetlands following the weekend deluge February 2012. Photo: R. Howard.