

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

P.O.Box 32 BLI BLI Q.4560

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Wetland Sanctuary News



Support Group Inc.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**August meeting: 12th September at 7pm at
the Mangrove Room.**

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

Next Bird Observers' Group Outing.

20th October 7am

Bli Bli area.

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

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Maroochy Wetlands facebook.

President's Column

Folks,

On the 24th of August we ran a successful boat trip with 67 people enjoying a spectacular day on the water and in the wetlands. Robyn has included a report of the day in this newsletter. Unfortunately due to an accident at home Anne was unable to complete the organisation of the day and I would like to send to all those members that contributed to the day a very special thank you and a well done for working as a team and providing a highly professional eco tourism event that we can be proud of. We all wish Anne a speedy recovery.

Fifty students from the Nambour Christian College visited this month and we had an extremely enjoyable time exploring the diversity of our forests. We thank the school for their donations (we ask for a gold coin if possible).

New signs have been erected in the carpark to give guidance for the many visitors to the wetlands. Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council for their efforts. They have also relocated the bike rack to encourage people who ride to the wetlands to leave their bikes outside.

As you would be aware Robyn has been very busy over the past twelve months developing a self guiding walk for visitors. The final stage of this project is now complete with reference numbers now in place. Well done to both Robyn and Eric from Sunshine Coast Council for this great addition to our facility.

If anyone is interested in helping we really need someone who is far more computer savvy than me to look after the website. If you have a few moments available and are interested in this we would be extremely thankful.

By the way did you see the two respective articles about John and Debra in the a couple of the local papers? Really good stuff!!

Don't forget, if you have the capacity to encourage some new members then it would be great. One way to show support for the wetlands is to join our group.

Our next meeting will be on the 12th of September at the Mangrove Room at 7.00pm.

Hope to see you there.
Derek

P.S. It is that time of year again and our membership subs are due. I have attached to your email a membership form so you can keep your membership current. See article further on.

Come Cruise With Us – 24th August, 2013

Robyn Howard

Our only cruise for this year is over. Anne did much of the organization, but then went over the top to avoid working on the day! (She had a nasty fall and was reclining – though not relaxing – in a hospital bed!) Lynn checked folk in as they arrived; Deb, John 2, Linda and Robyn worked on the boat; John 1, Les and Terry met the boat at the pontoon to help with guiding; Katie looked after the merchandise sales; Ailsa and Judith looked after the Mangrove Room and Information Centre; and all members helped however they were called upon.

It was another great cruise. All 64 passengers arrived early, so we were away right on time. The weather was almost perfect. High tide meant that we did not see many birds on the river banks – mostly egrets and cormorants, and a couple of raptors in flight, but we were able to watch a raft of Little Black Cormorants diving amongst a school of small fish. Robyn had time to do a little other talking, including introducing the new “Self-guided Walk” brochure which was included in the small bag of gifts for each person. Shorty and Sandra looked after us on the boat, with Shorty giving commentary on the river and its history. As we approached the Bli Bli bridge, there was the usual merriment for the upper deck passengers, ducking down to avoid being knocked overboard, but we did manage to land at the wetlands pontoon with the correct numbers.

Because of Anne’s absence, our guides took a few extra people in each group, but it still worked well, and we answered many questions, and received enthusiastic comments about the enjoyment of learning so much. We managed to arrive at the buildings with time to look at the displays and watch some of the DVD about the sanctuary, before setting off for lunch.

Lunch at the Strawberry Farm consisted of barbecued sausages and rissoles with salads, followed by strawberries and cream, and several visitors came back licking ice-creams or nibbling strawberries.

The earlier lunch time worked well in allowing a slower stroll back to the pontoon. Some of the guides walked back with smaller groups, some went more slowly and spoke with groups as they passed. There were also those who were using their Self-guided Walk brochure to learn for themselves. All comments on the brochure were very positive, as were the reports of the complete trip. Most of the disembarking passengers gave a genuine “Thank you” or “Great day” or “Wonderful tour” as they left.



Photographer: Deb Wedmaier – Under way on the beautiful Maroochy River



Photographer: Deb Wedmaier – Guides Terry, John 1 and Les awaiting our arrival

Annual subs now due

It is that time of year again and our membership subs are due. I have attached to your email a membership form so you can keep your membership current. For those members recently joined or renewed you can disregard this reminder, as your subs will take you through to next year.

Bird Observer's report Glenda Pickersgill's Farm, Mary Valley 18th August

Judy Hewitt

When we arrived at the property fog was covering all the valleys but the promise for a fine sunny day was soon realized. The morning was filled with birdsong. We commenced the morning with a short stroll down to several small farm dams then back to the house and cattle yard area. Glenda provided a yummy morning tea as we relaxed on the verandah in the sun doing passive bird watching.

It was then time to carpool and drive through the property to the junction of Kandanga Creek with the Mary River. This area was our focal point until lunchtime. After lunch we left the property and travelled a short distance to a large farm dam on the southern side of Kandanga Creek. After a short time here we disbanded and returned home. As I was merging onto the Bruce Highway a Swamp Harrier all but landed on my vehicle bonnet; a great end to the birding day. There were six members unable to attend and they missed a great day.



Birds:

Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Peaceful Dove [H], Bar-shouldered Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove [H], Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-necked Heron, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Eastern Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brown Goshawk, Bailon's Crake, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Australian King-Parrot [H], Pale-headed Rosella, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo [H], Little Bronze-Cuckoo [H], Fantailed Cuckoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-throated Treecreeper, Red-backed Fairywren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, White-throated Gerygone, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Eastern Whipbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Little Shrike-thrush, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole [H], White-breasted Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Spangled Drongo, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Leaden Flycatcher, Restless Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch [H], Eastern Yellow Robin, Tawny Grassbird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Mistletoebird [H], Red-browed Finch, Australasian Pipit.

Butterflies:

Monarch, Blue Triangle, Cabbage White, Yellow Migrant, Narrow-winged Pearlwhite, Large Grass Yellow, Clear Wing Swallowtail, Black Jezabel.

Others:

Eastern Sedge-frog [H], Hares.

Goomong Road farm dam:

Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Intermediate Egret, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Forest Kingfisher, Torresian Crow, Welcome Swallow.

Through the Sanctuary
with
Robyn Howard

Green Long-legged Fly (*Austrosiapus connexus*)

Robyn Howard

Several flies are known commonly as long-legged flies, and all belong to the order Diptera – the true flies. True flies have large compound eyes, piercing or sucking mouthparts, and short antennae. Their major distinguishing feature is that they have only one pair of flying wings. The second pair of wings evolved into small club-like appendages named halteres, and these are used to aid balance and direction in flight.



The bright metallic colouration

(mostly either green or bronze) of long-legged flies make them attractive and jewel-like. The Green Long-legged Fly obviously has long legs, is a mere 6 mm long, slimly built, with black circles around its abdomen, and dark “C”-shaped opaque markings on its otherwise transparent wings. They feed on small soft-bodied insects such as aphids. Their larvae prefer locations under decomposing tree bark or in damp soils, where they feed either by scavenging or by predated other insect larvae.

When not actively feeding, this fly often perches openly on flat green leaves. It is quite widely distributed and inhabits home gardens, parks, and forests.

This is the most common long-legged fly at the wetlands sanctuary, and is commonly found in the garden around the information centre, or on foliage in moist forest areas.