



# WHAT'S ON IN THE WETLANDS

As the weather cycle now moves from Spring to Summer, the cycle of life at the wetlands turns as well. But there is still time to come on down and walk the boardwalk before things turn hot again.

Whilst the colder weather saw the reduction of our crab and insect activity, the warmer weather now sees many species out and about again.

One interesting crab species that was noted over the last couple of months is the Smooth Sentinel Crab. Fully grown adults measure only 12mm across the carapace and their colour is similar to their background so, as with most crab species, you need to be slow and steady to see these fellows. However, patience and stillness will open up our amazing crab world for you.

The River Mangroves will be flowering soon and the flowers should be out for a long time. A good spot to see these is on the first loop walk, so look for a shrub growing to about 4 metres with clusters of beautiful white flowers. The River mangrove also has a distinctive means of expelling excess salt. It does this through the leaves, which are quite visibly covered in white salt crystals. Be sure to stop and take a close look at this adaptation to living in the wetlands environment.

Our early inhabitants used these crystals as a means of supplementing their salt intake.

The June/July school holidays saw another very successful EcoHunt conducted with many locals and visitors keen to participate. Almost 800 visitors over this period enjoyed the beautiful weather and, for many, the fun of the hunt as well.

The competition was in the form of an online App called Questagame, where the competitors take and upload photos, then earn points for each photo depending upon its rarity, identification etc.

## THE WINNERS WERE:-

Champion Spotter – Local Bli Bli resident Rae Bennett and her 7 year old daughter, indigo, who won a \$100 Whites IGA voucher.

Best Find – Sunshine Coast resident Heather Smith, with her spotting and correct identification of a Golden Whistler. Heather won a Family Day Pass to the Rivershore Resort, Bli Bli.

Champion Identifier - Penelope Mills from the University of Q'ld, who won a Family Pass from Maroochy River Cruises.

## DATE CLAIMERS

Oct Thurs 11th	General Meeting 7.00pm
Oct Sunday 21st	Maroochy Wetlands Bird Observers Outing
Dec Sunday 16th	Maroochy Wetlands Bird Observers Outing

For further information please contact us at the wetlands.

## THE MAROOCHY WETLANDS SANCTUARY

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Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group

Active Adventurer – Josh Tucker who also won a Family Pass from Maroochy River Cruises.

The prize presentations were held on Tuesday 31 July here, at the Sanctuary and we congratulate all the winners. We also sincerely thank the sponsors and promoters for their support. These included Whites IGA, the Rivershore Resort, Maroochy Nature Cruises and McMartins Strawberry Farm.

Lisa Ryan, representing Sunshine Coast Council said in talking with the winners it was clear that the Eco-Hunt has not only encouraged visitors to Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, but also engaged them in innovative and thought-provoking ways.

So life at the sanctuary is still glorious at the moment and I urge you all to take advantage of this and come on down for a walk.

The boardwalk is open every day and the Information Centre is manned every Sunday by a volunteer who is available to answer any questions you may have, or to simply have a chat.

