



# BIEPA News



## Editorial



Dear Readers

It is August and Spring is almost sprung. The sun is warming the earth and drying out Bribie Island's Wallum Heathlands. And..... the Wildflowers are already spectacular in some areas. In other areas, the bushes are laden with buds and the promise of yet another wonderful **Spring Wildflower Festival**.

BIEPA's **Wonders of the Wallum** walk will be on Sunday 30th August from 8am - 11am.

Meet: Cnr Cotterill Ave & Protea Dve Bongaree

*See Page 8 for more information.*

**BRIBIE ISLAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
ASSOCIATION INC**

[www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	1
Guest Speaker August	1
Vice President's Report	2
Saving Urban Biodiversity	2
ACF defends EPBC Act	3
ABC RN transcript/links	4
Kakadu Bird Roost and Maintenance	5
Contacts	7
Wonders of the Wallum	8



**BIEPA MEETING  
MONDAY AUGUST 24th  
GUEST SPEAKERS**

***Unity Water***

We have an interesting night planned with the folk from Unity Water who will follow up on our tour of the



**Woorim Sewerage Treatment Plant on 9th July. We will hear about the wider operations and Unity Water's emphasis on monitoring and minimizing the environmental impacts in their operations when treating what is sent down the sewer pipes in the urban environment. Bring your questions to the meeting.**

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 2014 - 2015

Dear Fellow Members of BIEPA,

*'In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy'*

John Sawhill The Nature Conservancy.

With this in mind, everyone must be cognizant of the fact that our Council (MBRC) **does not** have a Tree and Vegetation Protection Policy ..... unlike neighbouring councils.

BIEPA has been a consistent lobbyist over many years and council did promise a Policy would be in place in 2008....7 years ago!!!

BIEPA has come a long way on this issue and it must be noted that it is not just the responsibility of council to take action but rather the community. So BIEPA needs your support to **shout and shout louder** to our government representatives.....it's time the region had a policy to save our delicate and unique ecosystem and ultimately our lifestyle.



*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*  
The Wedding Bush is spectacular this year



BIEPA's primary task must be to focus on continuing to inspire people, and engage our community to come along with us to take pride in our Island's natural assets that set us apart and make our community unique. We need to introduce practical alternatives to environmentally destructive practices.

BIEPA's activities throughout the year have also included many excellent guest speakers, newsletters, markets, wildflower walk and project submissions, all thanks to the committee members' dedication.

New arrivals to Bribie are finding BIEPA. These new members, 'new blood', are encouraged to please become involved in the committee and help advance BIEPA.... you have everything to gain.

*David Percival* Vice President 2014 - 2015

## The Future of Large Old Trees in Urban Landscapes averting long term risk to urban biodiversity!

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4062419/>

A recent study of large old trees in urban landscapes in Canberra predicts that under existing management practices, the number of hollow-bearing trees will decline 87% over 300 years (with worst-case scenario predicting 100% loss in 115 years). Is South East Queensland facing a similar scenario with councils allowing developers to transform our landscape into a desert littered with unimaginative brick boxes? What can be done? Testing the efficacy of alternative urban management strategies found that the only way to arrest the decline of large old trees requires a collective management strategy, supported by communities, that ensures: (1) trees remain standing for at least 40% longer than currently tolerated lifespans; (2) the number of seedlings established is increased by at least 60%; and (3) the formation of habitat structures provided by large old trees is accelerated by at least 30% (e.g. artificial structures) to compensate for short term deficits in habitat resources. Immediate implementation of these recommendations is needed to avert long term risk to biodiversity. (Thanks to SEQ Catchments for passing on this information.)



# AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION DEFENDS ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT

*Ornamental snake - vulnerable*



*Yakka skink - vulnerable*



On Wednesday morning 19th August, the ABC Radio RN Breakfast program covered Prime Minister, Tony Abbott's proposed environmental legislation reform that will strip Australians of their democratic rights to oppose environmentally destructive mining and development, such as the Adani project in the Galilee Basin.

*(The Galilee Basin is in western Queensland and is part of the Great Artesian Basin drainage basin.)*

Prime Minister Abbott says, "If we get to the stage where the rules are such that projects like this can be endlessly frustrated, that's dangerous for our country and tragic for the wider world".

The Attorney General, George Brandis says, "Legislative reform is needed to prevent the rise of "lawfare" where community groups use the law as a political weapon".

Those interviewed were: Senator Glenn Lazarus; Queensland Resource Council's Chief Executive, Michael Roche; Australian Conservation Foundation President, Geoff Cousins; and former head of India's Ministry of Power, Dr E.A.S. Sarma. Listen here:

[http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2015/08/bst\\_20150819\\_0743.mp3](http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2015/08/bst_20150819_0743.mp3)

[http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2015/08/bst\\_20150819\\_0851.mp3](http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2015/08/bst_20150819_0851.mp3)

Fran Kelly interviews Geoff Cousins: (Transcript)

FK The Attorney General calls Green group tactics in the Court, "lawfare" and "vigilante litigation". What do you call it?

GC Well, it's hardly vigilante, is it, when you go into a court. I would have thought that it's the exact opposite. That is, the due process of law. Some spin doctor came up with this "lawfare" phrase. My response to that is it is not lawfare. It is "fair law". This is a law that allows government decisions to be tested in courts by the people. That is good governance. That is what should happen in a democracy and this government is doing no more and no less, and it is pretty obvious to everyone, I would think, that they are trying to silence any voices that have a contrary view to their own.

FK But have these laws been used by Green groups to pursue a political agenda?

GC Not at all, because the Court actually didn't make a decision here - that's the misunderstanding. The Minister made a mistake and went to the Court and asked for his decision to be withdrawn. The Court actually never finally made a decision. So the government is like a lot of little schoolboys who've been caught making a mistake and then get angry with everybody else. The only person they should be angry with is the Minister for the Environment - as he is called - but at the moment I would have to say, Greg Hunt actually is the Minister against the environment.

FK This is always going to come to a head though. The Queensland Resource Council reminds us that the 2012 Greenpeace booklet, "Stopping the Australian Coal Export Boom", which talks about a need for an ongoing campaign to change the story of coal and create investment uncertainty after the battle for the Galilee is won. This does appear to have been a strategy the Green movement was planning to launch to stop big money projects. Is that what we are seeing in action?

## Interview with ACF president, Geoff Cousins (continued)

GC Well, there'll certainly be a campaign against coal by the Green groups and I'm proud to be part of that. I've been talking to banks about the Adani coal mine and as you've seen, the CBA is no longer supporting this. There are eleven other major international banks who have refused to support a project that carries coal out through the Great Barrier Reef, which of course the Adani project would do. So when the Prime Minister and the Attorney General - who seem to think this is just a few people and a few little Green groups - are actually confronting a large part of the financial industry now as well as one and a half million Australians of voting age who are members and supporters of the environmental groups, (*do they realize*) this is an awful lot of people to pick an argument with!

FK Yeah, but is the financial industry only backing off a project like the Carmichael mine because it doesn't want to get caught up on something that can be dragged through the Courts by Green groups. It doesn't want to get entangled in that. Is that why it is?

GC It's a reputational issue for them, is what it is and that's a position I've put to them and it's a position I've put in various other environmental matters as well. And, of course a lot of these banks are signatories to the Equator Principles which binds them not to fund projects that will damage the environment. So, the government is basically saying, "We support loggers and miners. We don't support anyone who cares about the environment." <http://www.equator-principles.com/>

FK Well, the government says it supports jobs and a lot of people in Australia would like the government to support jobs and let's face it we've just done well off a mining boom.

GC But you see these coal jobs are going. There are not 10,000 of them at Adani anyway. The representative of that company says there are 1464. So how the Prime Minister gets his 10,000 I wouldn't know. But, the point is this: The biggest user of coal in Australia is AGL. Their CE says they are getting out of coal completely by 2050. Those jobs are going. And if you are out by 2050 you don't start closing the coal plants down in 2049. The coal jobs are going. The question for Australia is whether we will get the new jobs in the clean renewable energy industry or whether they'll go to some other country. And, at the moment the Prime Minister is supporting coal while the rest of the world is supporting renewables. I mean, we are going to lose out here. Even on the jobs issue, even if you don't care about the environment and I have to tell you most Australians do - but even if for some reason you don't, you just want to look at it from a business point of view where jobs will be created. The new jobs won't be created in the coal industry. They'll be created in renewables.

FK In terms of investing and jobs, former Labor government resource minister, Martin Ferguson, sits on the board of a big gas company. He said after the Carmichael decision he's been told Australia is losing its attractiveness for potential investors. He says it's not easy getting a project up in Australia. Investors object to our environmental laws being game from a legal point of view. As a former businessman, do you have any sympathy for that view? Do you hear that view?

GC None what ever. Businesses aren't there to damage communities and the environment. They are there to do things to build and help communities and Martin Ferguson is completely wrong. And that's demonstrated in this case. Here's Adani wanting to invest billions of dollars in Australia. They want to. I don't see any people running away. People are trying to invest in this country, but we don't allow them to invest in a way that will damage our future and our environment. Australians won't put up with that.

FK What about Australians who are set to have jobs in that area, who like having mining in their regions and near their towns. What do you say to them?

GC What I say to them is, technology always wins. It wins against governments. It wins against corporations. You know, this is like Kodak saying, "Film will always be there". Well film isn't there anymore and Kodak isn't there anymore. Technology overtakes and the wonderful thing that's happening in renewable energy technology now is battery storage. So a lot of people are going to be able to go off the grid completely. They'll put solar panels on their house. They have a battery in the house that stores the energy. They won't need to be on any grid at all and the Prime Minister talks about countries like India and so on. He's apparently now focused on helping India rather than Australia. The wonderful thing about places like India and Africa is, instead of building a big distribution network like poles and wires and all this sort of business to carry electricity, that electricity can be generated by solar energy in a local community. You don't need that massive distribution system that takes decades to build and costs billions of dollars. Technology is moving much faster than this Prime Minister has any idea about.



# MAINTENANCE - KAKADU WADER BIRD ROOST

## Banksia Beach

Dear Readers

In July we received a communication from a very concerned bird watcher who observed council carrying out works at the Kakadu Bird Roost at Banksia Beach, which were perceived as being inappropriate. That is, grass was being mowed and vegetation (mangroves) trimmed and removed.

The most important fact that we need to understand is that the Kakadu Bird Roost is a manmade refuge for migratory wader/shorebirds birds. They had been roosting in the area, adjacent to the Pacific Harbour canal development, where habitat had been created by clearing and tidal flooding. But, if not maintained and groomed, it would revert to the original casuarina forest and mangroves and would not service the migratory shorebirds

We received responses from Council and experts from Birding Australia and the Queensland Wader Study Group.

The following advice, from a birding expert and adviser to council, contains the definitive answers and information about the maintenance necessary for this man-made roost for migratory wader/shorebirds birds:

*The Kakadu Beach wader roost is being managed by Council in accordance with the maintenance manual, and they do a very good job. As always, before they groom the roost, they send an advice to key players such as Birding Australia and Queensland Wader Study Group. When the roost was built, a forest of casuarinas had to be knocked down. Without regular grooming the roost would revert to a casuarina forest.*

*A really major roost was being lost because of a pre-existing approval for a development. The birding experts worked with the developer to create an artificial roost to compensate for the loss of the existing roost (which was also not natural, but accidentally created by clearing and tidal flooding of the site).*

*Waders do not like vegetation, and prefer open roosts where they have full view in every direction. (Refer Wayne Lawler's roost building manual.) An open roost was created, but also a maintenance manual was compiled at the time, because without regular grooming the roost would eventually revert to a casuarina forest or a mangrove forest, depending on the elevation. (Mangroves at tidal level, casuarinas above tidal level.)*

*The problem that keeps rearing its head is that the roost was built for waders, and in particular migratory waders. It was not built for Pied Oystercatchers, Beach Stone-Curlew, and so on, to breed. The fact that these resident species have been attracted to the Kakadu Beach roost is a consequence of its creation, not the reason for it. The roost is not suitable for Beach Stone-Curlews to breed, though they keep trying. If the roost were to be modified to suit Beach Stone-Curlews, casuarinas would have to be planted and then waders would not like it. It can't be both ways. As the roost currently operates, the regular grooming keeps it open so that on the highest tides there is somewhere for the waders to go.*

*Over the years regular criticisms have surfaced from well-meaning birders, but everyone can be assured that Council is meticulous in following the maintenance manual, and their efforts are applauded.*



### The manual:

<https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/uploadedFiles/common/forms/environment/MBRC-Shorebird-Habitat-Mapping-project-report.pdf>

## MORE ON KAKADU BIRD ROOST MAINTENANCE

### From Moreton Bay Regional Council.....

For your information, the below points are some details about the site, approvals and who council consults with on a regular basis. We hope this assists but if you have need of further information, please contact the Environment Dept at Moreton Bay Regional Council.

#### Construction

- Kakadu Beach Shorebird Roost is an artificial high tide shore bird roost constructed by Hegira Limited between 2000 and 2002;
- This roost replaced, in part, the Dux Creek roost that was consumed by the Dux Creek Canal and Marina development.

#### Approvals (permits)

- The work to maintain the shorebird roost is carried out under several different permits:
  - o MPW2013/MBMP0039 – Marine Parks Permit – covers removal of vegetation from the roost and regrading of the foreshore where necessary – Issue Date: 10 Oct 2013 and Expiry Date: 9 Oct 2018;
  - o 2007DB0196 – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Permit – covered the removal of marine plants from the site – Issue Date: 28 Mar 2008. This has now no longer required as maintenance can be carried out on the site as the work being done is to maintain develop works carried under the approval described below;
  - o DA/26993/2012/OPW - A development approval was also obtained from Council on 10 August 2012 to carry out further development works on the shorebird roost. The works under this development approval were fully completed on 31 July 2014. The works undertaken under the development approval can now be maintained going forward under current legislation without the need for permit 2007DB0196 above. The marine parks permit is still required.
  - o A referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) was also submitted for the development works in 2014. The decision handed down by the Federal Government was that the works were not a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

#### Maintenance Plan

- Hegira Limited commissioned HLA Envirosiences to produce a maintenance plan for Kakadu Beach and the plan was finalised in 2003;
- The plan was updated by Council in 2014.

#### Consultation

- In preparing the original maintenance plan for the site HLA Envirosiences consulted with:
  - o Officers from Caboolture Shire Council (Chris Minetti and Graham Burgdorf);
  - o Members of the Queensland Wader Study Group;
  - o Officers from DPI and QPWS; and
  - o QM Properties.
- In updating the original maintenance plan Technical Services consulted with:
  - o Members of the Queensland Wader Study Group;
  - o Parks Operations Team Leaders and Supervisors (Paul Whyte and Matt Danes);
  - o Erin Porter from Environmental Planning and Compliance; and
  - o National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who approved the maintenance plan as required under the permits held.
- Both the original and updated maintenance plans were developed in consideration of the most recent state government guidelines regarding the management of shorebirds.

#### Implementation of the maintenance plan

- The purpose of the maintenance plan is to prescribe maintenance practices that will facilitate the long-term use of the site by both resident and migratory shore birds;
- To feel secure at a roost site, shorebirds generally require an area with relatively little vegetation. The shorebird roost site is an artificial site and was originally covered with mangroves. The roost therefore suffers continual encroachment by mangrove seedlings, which need to be regularly removed, along with marine couch and other vegetation growing on the roost;

## MORE ON KAKADU BIRD ROOST MAINTENANCE

From Moreton Bay Regional Council.....

### Implementation of Maintenance Plan (continued)

Vegetation on the roost is removed as per the maintenance plan, which includes provision for the use of a tractor and stick rake and some spraying above HAT; and

- Work is undertaken at low tide and maintenance crews try to restrict most of the work to periods when the birds are not at the roost so that there is minimal disturbance to the shorebirds.

### Notification Processes

- Council's Natural Areas Supervisor notifies DPI&F at least 5 working days prior to any maintenance being undertaken on the roost;
- Council's Natural Areas team display works notification signs around the roost at least 5 working days prior to works being undertaken;
- There is no longer a requirement to notify marine parks of works;
- Council's Natural Areas Supervisor notifies nominated members from the QWSG and other key stakeholders;
- Council's Natural Areas Supervisor notifies DPI&F of the completion of any maintenance works within 15 days of works being completed.

### Recent Maintenance Work Undertaken

- Recent maintenance work carried out on the shore bird roost by Natural Areas was completed today;
- The notification process as outlined above was followed;
- All work was carried out in accordance with the maintenance manual and in compliance with the state permits

### Beachstone Curlew at the site

The roost is not managed specifically for the breeding pair of Beachstone Curlew at the site, however their needs have been considered, including the provision of shelter for the pair.



ABN: 18064 697 900  
PO Box 350  
Bribie Island Qld 4507  
Email: [biepa.mail@gmail.com](mailto:biepa.mail@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)  
Phone: 3410 0757



### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Diane Oxenford	President
Ron Watson	Vice President
Lia Saint-Smith	Treasurer
Jenny Walker	Secretary
Kathleen Catalan	Committee
Kay McIntosh	Committee
Therese Puffett	Committee

### WILDLIFE & GENERAL CONTACTS

Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue, 0400 836 592

Aust Zoo Wildlife Hospital, 1300 369 652

Turtles: Diane: 0438 111 163;

Val: 3410 8192; Ann: 3410 1771

QPWS: marine strandings: 1300 130 372

QPWS Rangers: Bribie Island: 3408 8451

Wildlife Hotline: RSPCA: 1300 ANI MAL

Snakes: Qld Wildlife Solutions,  
Geoff: 0414 962 688 (Fee charged)

Bat Rescue Hotline - 24 hours 0488 228 134

Dept Agric, Fisheries, Forestry (DAFF)

Fishwatch Service for reports on marine  
plant damage (eg. mangroves)  
1800 017 116 (24 hour hotline)

Pelican & Seabird Rescue (Brisbane): 24  
hour hotline: 0404 118 301 [http://  
birdrescue.com.au/](http://birdrescue.com.au/)

### WILDLIFE & GENERAL CONTACTS

Twinnies Pelican & Animal Rescue

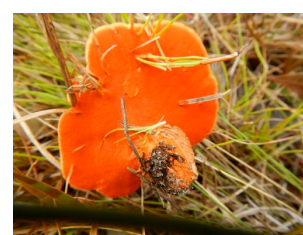
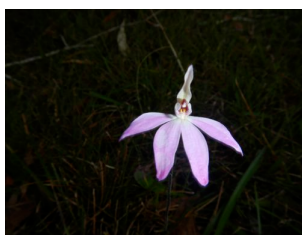
(Sunshine Coast) Tel: 07 5439 9995

Mob: 0421 476 561

MBRC Requests: (Ask for Reference #)  
3205 0555

Wildlife Emergency: (Tegan Lather - Bribie  
Island) [www.wildlifeemergency.com.au](http://www.wildlifeemergency.com.au)

Walum Action Group Phone: 34100088  
[wallumactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:walumactiongroup@gmail.com)





**Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association Inc**  
[www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)

## WONDERS OF THE WALLUM

Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival - Bribie Island

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 2015 - 8:00am to 11:00am

Members of the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association welcome visitors to join our annual "Wonders of the Wallum" Spring Wildflower Walk. Enjoy a walk with fellow wildflower enthusiasts. Recommended Attire: Hat, long pants, long sleeves, sturdy hiking/walking shoes, sunscreen. Bring: cameras, binoculars (for birds) and refreshments.

**Meet:** Cotterill Avenue  
Bongaree  
Bribie Island  
Brisbane UBD: Map 53 H16  
GPS: Cnr Cotterill Ave and Protea Dve, Bongaree

**Information:** Diane: 0438 111 163  
[www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)

