



BIEPA News

Editorial



Dear Readers

It's time for BIEPA to close 2014 with a bang. Come and hear our final guest speaker for the year and celebrate the beginning of the Festive Season on Monday 24th November. **(There will not be a meeting nor BIEPA News in December.)** We've had an awesome year with wonderful guest speakers and opportunities to attend interesting and educational workshops, seminars and

conferences. BIEPA volunteers continue to put their hands up for new projects. Our environmental networks continue to expand. Thank you to all our members for your on-going support in our quest to protect Bribie's **special habitat and its residents**. The BIEPA Committee wishes everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. First BIEPA meeting for 2015 will be Monday 26th January - AUSTRALIA DAY!**

GUEST SPEAKER - NOVEMBER 24 VANDA GRABOWSKI

Vanda holds a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Australian Environmental Studies. Vanda's expertise lies in the area of wildlife and human interaction with a particular focus on Queensland's "vulnerable" koalas. Her unenviable mission in life is to educate a seemingly apathetic public while constantly battling with public officials and private entrepreneurs to slow down the demise of Queensland's faunal emblem - **AUSTRALIA's ICONIC KOALA.**



BRIBIE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION INC

Caring for our special habitat and its residents

www.biepa.org

Email: biepa.mail@gmail.com

PO Box 350

Bribie Island Q 4507



**NEXT BIEPA MEETING WILL BE 7PM
MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 AT THE
BRIBIE ISLAND LIBRARY**

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2014 for BIEPA

Recap of 2014 Guest Speakers

January: Fiona Cameron-McGill (anthropologist) presented a general overview of Indigenous land-use practices from many parts of Australia.

February: Jo Bragg (lawyer) Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) spoke about the EDO and North Qld Conservation Council beginning their legal case against the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

March: Dave Logan (Senior Science Officer with Healthy Waterways) explained the latest Report Card on the health of our region's waterways.

April: Bimblebox movie instead of a guest speaker.

May: John Oxenford presented on Green Army projects as our guest speaker had to postpone.

June: Matthew Campbell (DAFF, Dept Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented his research into wildlife entanglements from discarded waste fishing tackle. Results showed a decline in entanglements with the use of special bins at strategic locations.

July: Dr Norm Duke and Jock McKenzie (from MangroveWatch Hub, Centre for Tropical Water & Aquatic Ecosystems Research, James Cook Uni.) gave a fascinating presentation on the ecological importance

of mangroves and their citizen science project, MangroveWatch.

August: Bernadette May, Robyn Moffat, Glen Miller (MBRC Environment Dept) explained council's new Green Infrastructure Networks and the importance of mapping and planned environmental corridors to upgrade and provide healthy ecosystem services to the region.

September: Dr Megan Saunders (Marine ecologist/oceanographer and Post-doctoral Fellow at Global Change Inst, Uni of Qld) spoke about the effects of human stressors, including Climate Change on coastal areas such as Moreton Bay and potential solutions.

October: Dr Phillip Williams (Civil and Environmental Engineer and Scientist and Uni Griffith lecturer) who talked about where our water comes from and where it goes when we have used it.

November: Vanda Grabowski (Bachelor of Science/ Australian Environmental Studies) who will speak on wildlife, in particular SE Queensland's iconic faunal emblem, the koala. Vanda will highlight the devastating effects political decisions, developers and the ceaseless human encroachment on koala habitat is having on their survival in South East Queensland.

Recap of 2014 Plants of the Month

January: Coast Banksia

February: Beach Bean / *Canavalia rosea*

April: Woombye / *Phebalium - Rutaceae*

May: Wedding Bush / *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*

July: Paperbark / *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

August: *Boronia Falcifolia*

September: *Mitrasacme paludosa* (Longaniaceae family)

October: Honesuckle Oak / *banksia integrifolia*

November: Moreton Bay Ash / *Corymbia tessellaris*

Recap of 2014 Birds of the Month

January: Eastern Whipbird

February: Scarlet Honeyeater

April: Eastern Curlew

May: Red-backed Fairy-wren

July: Book: *WHERE SONG BEGAN - Australian birds and how they changed the world.*

August: Welcome Swallow

September: Pheasant Coucal / Swamp pheasant

October: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

November: Golden Whistler

Recap of 2014 Books of the Month

January: *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepup and Cuddlepie* (Children) by May Gibb

February: *A Short Introduction to Climate Change* (Adult) by Tony Eggleton

April: *Tanglewood* (Children) by Margaret Wild

May: *Seeds of Hope* (Children) by Jane Goodall

July: *Blessed Unrest - How The Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No one Saw it Coming* (Adult) by Paul Hawken

August: *Salmon Forest* (Children) by David Suzuki and Sarah Ellis

September: *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate* (Adult) by Naomi Klein

October: *Coral Battleground* (Adult) by Judith Wright

November: *Christmas Nevermore* by Marc Cadieux & Herve Bastien and *Mert the Anxious Evergreen* by Claire Bowman. (Both for children from 8 years to 95 years!)

BRIEBIE ALERT Are You Breathing? Thank a Tree!

It seems not everyone understands this connection

There are a number of healthy mature trees **dropping their leaves** in Arcadia Avenue Woorim, which has been brought to Council's attention by some nearby residents who want them removed.

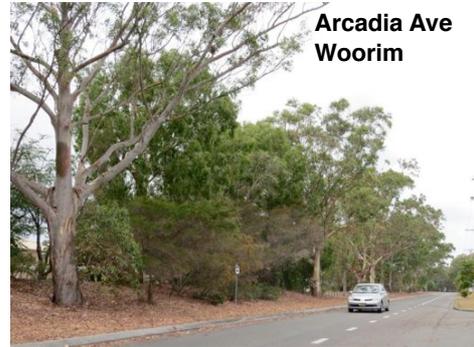
It's a bit like your body continuously dropping dead skin cells but you don't have to tell your health insurer.

This matter would be laughable, if it weren't so serious.

Everyone knows that trees and vegetation lose their leaves Council will be investigating and BIEPA has written to Cr Parsons, our Division 1 representative, asking him to keep us informed, as he will sign off / authorize on the request.

Also, fortunately, Council's Policy on Urban Tree Removal outlines that leaf and tree litter will not be considered sufficient reason to substantiate the removal of trees. Council introduced this Policy to ensure consistency, openness and transparency in the determination of residents' requests for the removal of trees in parks, reserves and urban road reserves.

Council advises that trees on Council managed land, are valuable community assets, essential to local amenity, and highly valued for these reasons by local residents.



Arcadia Ave Woorim

- Street trees help to:**
- *Improve property values
 - *Add to the identity of our suburbs and the subtropical character of Bribie Island
 - *Provide cooler, greener, more comfortable pathways for walking and cycling
 - *Improve air quality
 - *Reduce and clean stormwater runoff
 - *Bribie Island's trees are estimated to be returning \$1.7m each year in air quality, rainfall interception, carbon storage and sequestration benefits. Etc.

Trees make oxygen.... Trees eat our carbon dioxide.... Be kind to our Trees

BENEFITS OF TREES:

Trees sooth & relax. Green is a calming cool colour, and helps eyes recover from strain.

Trees in neighbourhoods prevent crime. Trees calm traffic. Trees improve a community's appearance and increase property values.

Trees are wind breaks; absorb & block noise pollution; reduce glare; trap dust, pollen & smoke. Fallen tree leaves reduce soil temperature & moisture loss.



Trees are natural air-conditioners making less environmental mess than fossil fuels. Trees shade & lower ambient temperature. Trees minimize paved surface heat load & radiation.

Take a clean breath and thank a tree. Trees emit oxygen, absorb CO2 and other air pollutants

Trees reduce surface water run-off, recharge groundwater & prevent soil erosion. Trees provide habitat & food for birds, insects & wildlife.



KOALAS APPEAL TO G20 LEADERS

Koalas whisper to G20 world leaders: "We cuddly 'toys' may be Queensland's faunal emblem and Australia's iconic marsupial, but we are heading for extinction! Did you world leaders know that Australian politicians are letting cruel developers and their bulldozers crush us and our homes? Please help before it's too late!"

EDO Alert!!

Australia's carbon bomb must be stopped.



Environmental Defenders
Office (Qld) Inc
30 Hardgrave Rd
West End QLD 4101
www.edo.org.au/edoqld

I don't want to see a world where temperatures increase by two, three, or four degrees. I'm sure you feel the same way.

Yet the Australian and Queensland Governments are actively supporting the expansion of the mining industry in Queensland at an unprecedented rate.

[The proposed Carmichael coal mine](#) in Central Queensland will open up the currently untouched Galilee Basin coal reserve, which [is a carbon bomb on a global scale](#).

Fossil fuel combustion is already responsible for the majority of global carbon dioxide emissions and the resulting climate change impacts of any increase will be devastating on Queensland, particularly on the Great Barrier Reef.

That is why the Queensland Environmental Defenders Office is launching our latest campaign to help communities directly challenge big mining corporations and governments that back them.

We'll need your help if we're to tackle climate change and [make a big difference](#).

Please watch out for my next email that will launch this campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Jo-Anne Bragg

CEO, Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc

P.S. Australia's carbon bomb must be stopped so if you'd like to have an early peek at the campaign and maybe add your support please [see the special webpage](#) we've set up.





KOALAS OR TOMBSTONES? That is the Question!



Why can't we see the trees for the coffins?

It has recently been proposed that 11 hectares of native vegetation be cleared for a cemetery in Tallowood Drive, Deception Bay. (Ironically, Tallowood is a koala food tree!) With the koala on the brink of extinction in this area, it is beyond the imagination of anyone interested in saving our koalas to understand why Moreton Bay Regional Council would dream of approving the clearing of essential vegetation in order to bury the dead. Protective Legislation and Acts are in place; the science and mapping by experts is complete. Why waste time contemplating. The dithering must end. Koalas must take precedence.

As Matthew Fynes-Clinton writes in his requiem style story in Qweekend, April 2012: **OUR FADING EMBLEM - blinky on the brink:** *The relentless march of industry and infrastructure, coupled with debilitating disease, could see*

Queensland's koalas die out within decades.

He quotes from a 1941 Wildlife magazine:

"Advancing settlement inevitably disturbs the balance of nature to the imminent danger of the less adaptable creatures, and sufficient has been seen of the effect of settlement upon the notoriously unadaptable koala to make wise men pause and think seriously of what is to come in the next decade...."

Matthew continues: *"It is more than 70 years since those words were penned ... and how staggeringly well they were ignored."* **For shame!!**

Tallowood eucalypt



TURTLE TALK

It's that time of year TURTLE NESTING SEASON



And, it's always exciting when the first set of tracks up and down the beach is identified.

Last Saturday I attended an all day workshop at the Buddina Surf Club organized by the Sunshine Coast Council's **TurtleCare Sunshine Coast**. There were close to a hundred "turtle" people there who take care of the nests along the Sunshine Coast beaches.

Not long into the proceedings, the exciting news came in that the first nest on the Sunshine Coast had been identified that morning.

It was an intense day of hands on experience, such as learning to identify the tracks of different

species, finding the nest in the huge pit and relocating "ping pong balls" to higher up in the dune. We had presentations on turtle biology and ecology; the findings of long term research; findings from studies done on the impacts of light pollution on beaches (even a lecture from an optometrist on how sea turtles see light); marine debris (36% of turtle deaths are from plastics); one presentation was titled "The Slug Show". You can not imagine how beautiful our marine slugs are! It was David Attenborough stuff. Go to: <http://www.nudibranch.com.au/> and link to: **Nudibranch Workshop Gallery**.

See you on the beach. *Diane.*



Marine turtles have inhabited the Sunshine Coast & Bribie Island for many years, but only recently have they been studied. A 50-80% decline in nesting Loggerhead turtles was identified between 1970 and 1990. Caused by:
****Predation by introduced and native fauna; **Urbanisation adjoining nesting beaches; **Human destruction through recreational and commercial activities; **Human and animal disturbance during nesting activity.**

PSYCHOLOGIST GIVES INSIGHT INTO WHY SOME OF US ARE NOT “WIRED” TO ACCEPT CLIMATE CHANGE



Dear Readers

We thought you would be interested in this 14 minute video, linked below. Dr Susie Burke is Senior Psychologist, Public Interest, Environment & Disaster Response at Australian Psychological Society and she gives a good insight on why some of us are not 'wired' to accept Climate Change and how we can respond to this challenge. It was sent from the Climate Action Summit held in Brisbane in September 2014. The important message is to communicate to those who are not “wired” that the science is in. There is no debate. 97% of scientists have established that human induced Global Warming and Climate Change are scientific fact. Dr Burke points out that it is important to remember that people

are social beings and tend to listen to and trust those with whom they socialize and feel they are like them. It is more comfortable and engenders a sense of belonging and camaraderie to mix with people who are like-minded rather than confront the realities that may require changes to how we think and live. This is the reason, Dr Burke points out in her video, that solutions, adaptations and mitigations for Climate Change need to be presented from a positive and doable (not too hard) perspective.

<http://www.climatesummit.org.au/videos.html>



People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.

***Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

OBSERVER’S REPORT FROM KAKADU BIRD ROOST

Recently BIEPA was contacted by a resident at Banksia Beach, concerned that every day she “witnesses the indiscriminate discarding of rubbish especially plastic bags from bait, fishing lines and other items relating to fishing”, at the Kakadu Bird Roost.

She also reported that a Beach Stone Curlew had a chick last year but this year the juvenile chick is hobbling around with fishing line on its leg. She has observed that most of the time it hides in the mangroves. At her request, the Pelican and Seabird Rescue team (<http://twinnies.com.au/>) came and spent three hours trying to capture the bird, without success. Our resident bird watcher also has written to her Federal, State and Council representatives but has not had a response to date. An update came with the happy news that the Beach Stone Curlew parents are sitting on another nest and that the little juvenile is still hopping around. Our bird watcher did everything possible to help the injured juvenile, but asks, “Is it time to ban fishing where wader birds and other endangered species are?” What do you think?

BIEPA has written to our councillor asking for a meeting to discuss improved and more frequent wildlife signage around the Island.



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE.....

The BIEPA News will be hosting a Members’ Conversation Corner in the New Year. Send in your comments and see yourself in print. We look forward to your stories.



Land Clearing and Its Impacts

Australia is still clearing too much vegetation

Where's my home?
Where's my family?



Though the extreme rates of land clearing that placed Australia in the top 10 land clearing nations in the world have reduced over the past 5 years, we are still clearing much more native vegetation than is being replanted or that is regenerating naturally. This ongoing net loss and decline continues to threaten Australia's environment. Clearing increases erosion and sedimentation of waterways and reduces water quality. Clearing removes habitats leading to the direct loss of millions of native animals and plants every year and creates an extinction debt.

Rates of land clearing in Queensland and New South Wales are still unacceptably high and proposals continue for development in northern Australia involving clearing of hundreds of thousands of hectares. There is a risk that the severe consequences of clearing vast areas of southern Australia for agriculture will be repeated in the north.

Revegetating land to a complexity that resembles intact native vegetation is difficult and expensive. Recent reviews of natural resource management programs have highlighted the expense and difficulty in restoring an area to original condition and the incongruity of continuing to allow further clearing given the existing problems and environmental challenges being dealt with in cleared landscapes.

What is land clearing doing to Australia

European settlement has significantly altered Australia's natural landscape, and with it, Australia's biodiversity. About 90% of native vegetation in the eastern temperate zone has been removed for agriculture, industry, transport and human habitation. About 50% of Australia's rainforests have been cleared and the proportion of Australia covered by forest or woodland has been reduced by more than one third (Source: Creating Markets for Biodiversity, Productivity Commission, Canberra, April 2001). The effect of these changes has been considerable. Around 5% of Australia's higher plants, 7% of reptiles, 9% of birds, 9% of freshwater fish, 16% of amphibians and 23% of mammals are listed as Extinct, Endangered or Vulnerable.



Impacts

Death and extinction of native birds, wildlife and biodiversity

Over 5 million parrots, honeyeaters, robins and other land birds are killed each year by land clearing. For every 100 hectares of bush destroyed, between 1,000 and 2,000 birds die from exposure, starvation and stress. Half of Australia's terrestrial bird species may become extinct this century unless habitat destruction is rapidly controlled.

Nearly half our mammal species, including some wombats, wallabies and bandicoots, are either extinct or threatened with extinction as a result of land clearing, habitat destruction and other threats. Australia has lost more plants and mammals to extinction than any other country and has more threatened animals than 98% of the world's countries.

Salt-blighted farmlands and water supplies

Salt will poison over 17 million hectares of Australian farmlands by the year 2050. As trees and native vegetation are bulldozed and cleared, water, once used by native plants, rises through the soil bringing with it ancient salt deposits. This salinity reduces soil and farm productivity, and seeps into rivers and water supplies.

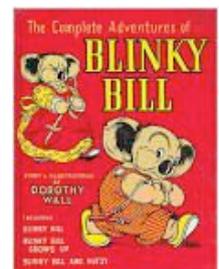
Salt damage to regional towns, cities and infrastructure

More than 200 regional cities could be affected by 'clearing induced' dryland salinity by 2050, with a larger number of small towns also at risk. Some of Australia's biggest cities such as Sydney's western suburbs, are also at risk with salinity affecting foundations, parks, gardens, roads, buildings and other infrastructure. Rising groundwater caused by land clearing threatens to undermine 20,000 km of major roads and 1600 km of railways, with this threat expected to double.

Greenhouse gas pollution

The Australian Greenhouse Office has estimated that land clearing contributed 13% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions during 1996. Bulldozed, rotting and burning bush emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Land clearing's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions costs Australia around \$1.6 billion annually.

http://www.bushheritage.org.au/what_we_do/managing-the-land/natural_world_land_clearing



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Moreton Bay Ash *Corymbia tessellaris* Family: Myrtaceae

The statuesque Moreton Bay Ash is a large tree typically with a solitary trunk, branching at upper levels with pendulous foliage. The trunk is distinctive with the top part being smooth and white, while the bottom is very rough, dark brown / black and tessellated. Leaves are narrow with pointed tips. They are long and tapered, generally being light to dull green with yellowish veins.

The small, creamy flowers are white and found in large clusters, appearing in the late dry season. Fruit is typical of other Eucalypts. They are cup shaped capsules that house many tiny seeds that look like splinters. This tree can live in a variety of soils and is very hardy.

It is wind resistant, salt tolerant and attracts birds such as Lorikeets and Honeyeaters that feed on the nectar and insects. An excellent tree for large gardens. The Moreton Bay Ash is on the Noosa Council's "Preferred Species List". See attached video of a house at Marcus Beach designed to celebrate a 50 year-old Moreton Bay Ash.

<http://www.barkdesign.com.au/index.php?q=news/marcus-beach-house-farewell-owen>



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Golden Whistler - *Pachycephala pectoralis*



The Australian Golden Whistlers can be found in almost any wooded habitat, especially dense

forests with protective underbrush. On Bribie Island, they can be heard and seen along the Ian Fairweather Trail (on First Ave) and on trails in Bribie's Wallum. They eat berries, insects, spiders and other small arthropods and usually feed alone obtaining their food from the lower to middle tree level. They may alternatively take part in mixed-species feeding flocks. The Golden Whistler breeds between September and January. Both the male and female work on the nest,

which is a shallow bowl made of twigs, grass, and bark, and bound together with spider web. Only

one brood is raised per season and both birds share incubation and care of the young. Incubation, hatching to fledging takes approximately 4 weeks. You can hear their distinct call here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBbB7-ZaWWQ>



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

CHRISTMAS NEVERMORE by Marc Cadieux & Herve Bastien (Illustrated by Christina Zakhozhay)

Are you looking for last-minute Christmas books to place alongside *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss (reviewed November 2011 BIEPA News) and other environmental “keeper” books on your shelves?

Two new publications -- *Christmas Nevermore* by Marc Cadieux and Herve Bastien, and *Mert the Anxious Evergreen*, by Claire Bowman -- revisit the spirit of Dr. Seuss’ cautionary tale about corporate greed and environmental degradation, and all within a holiday-season setting.



Although their themes appear dark, both stories offer imaginative, often humorous solutions that will inspire and delight every youngster from ages eight to 95 and above. Not just for children, these ecological

tales offer important messages to adults, too: from the environmentally conscious, to those who’ve lost their childlike imagination, to fossil-fuel and land-development supporters.

Whoever reads these stories will find a common scenario: The villains regret what they have done. They admit defeat, and realize that environmental care must become primary on the planet’s

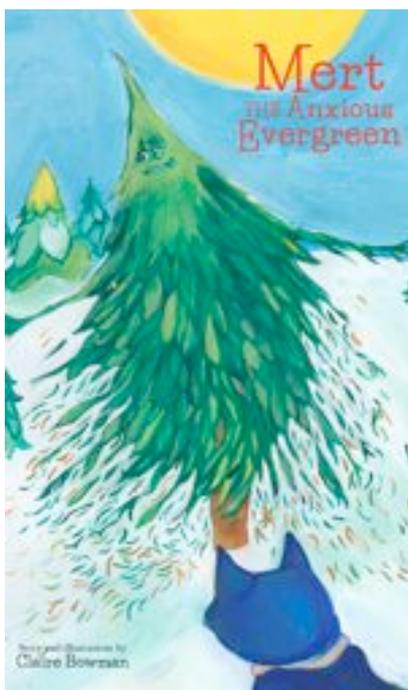


universal “to do” agenda. <http://www.onmyagenda.org/>

REVIEW: “Christmas Nevermore

combines Inuit wisdom, environmental advocacy and holiday fantasy in a beautifully-illustrated story of two orphaned native children and their quest to save their village -- and ultimately the globe -- from an ecological disaster. Prepare to be enchanted!”

Evelyn Iritani - Author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. <http://www.christmasnevermore.com/index.html>



Mert the Anxious Evergreen by Claire Bowman

Troubled by encroaching land development, Mert hopes to be chosen as a Christmas tree so he can save Hickory Flats farm and forest. Mert’s understanding of Christmas spirit evolves as he conspires with his friend John the cat to overcome new obstacles. This charming, witty and emotionally captivating tale is perfect for all ages. “People don’t always grasp that nature has inherent value beyond its usefulness,” Bowman said, acknowledging that writing of Mert is “more about how things could be than about how things are.”

Both *Christmas Nevermore* and *Mert the Anxious Evergreen* capture the fragile preciousness of our home planet with insight and beauty, combined with smashing good plots. One closes the final pages of each with a warm heart and spirit, reminded again, of what goodness and compassion can accomplish when they are linked to perseverance.



B.I.E.P.A.

www.biepa.org



*Caring for our special habitat
and its residents*

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Lia Saint-Smith	Treasurer
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Ron Watson	Committee

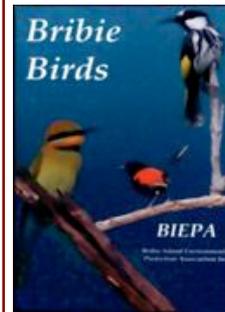
DATE CLAIMERS

Nov 24 BIEPA Meeting
 Nov 19 International GIS Day
<http://www.gisday.com/about.html>
 Nov 21 World Fisheries Day
 Dec 05 International Volunteer Day
 Dec 10 Human Rights Day
 Dec 11 International Mountain Day
 Dec 13 Rotary Mkts/BIEPA stall
 Jan 26 BIEPA MEETING 2015

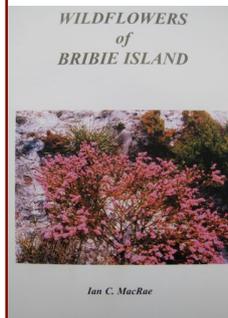
WILDLIFE & GENERAL CONTACTS

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
 MBRC Requests (Ask for Reference #)
3205 0555
 Dept Agric, Fisheries, Forestry (DAFF)
 Fishwatch Service for reports on marine
 plant damage (eg. mangroves)
 1800 017 116 (24 hour hotline)
 Pelican & Seabird Rescue: 24 hour
 hotline: 0404 118 301
<http://twinnies.com.au/>

BIEPA BOOKS FOR SALE



\$16.50



\$17.00



\$6.00

(All three books for \$25.00)

