



# BIEPA News

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to 2016 and the new BIEPA website!  
[www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)



**BRIBIE ISLAND  
 ENVIRONMENTAL  
 PROTECTION  
 ASSOCIATION INC**

*Caring for our special  
 habitat and its residents*

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Dear Readers

The BIEPA Committee is proud to present the new and improved BIEPA website. Above is our new front page. We have been planning to update our website for quite some time. When we realized we needed to engage the services of a webmaster, the committee decided to fund raise to cover the costs.

Please browse the new site and become familiar with the new format and content.

We wish to thank our webmaster, Miriam Battersby for her invaluable expertise and assistance. For now, Miriam will continue to consult with us to ensure you are kept abreast of what is happening with BIEPA and our work on Bribie Island *in Caring for our special habitat and its residents*. Also, thanks to Glenda Charles and Geoff Ginn for the lovely artwork that now graces our web site. See: *Plant of the Month* - Page 8.

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Next BIEPA Meeting - 7pm Monday 25th January - Bribie Island Library

## GUEST SPEAKER



**Professor Rob Capon**  
Institute for Molecular Bioscience  
University of Queensland  
<http://www.imb.uq.edu.au/rob-capon>

On 11 December 2015, a concerned local resident contacted BIEPA about a possible cane toad tadpole infestation located at Freshwater Creek, Woorim. BIEPA contacted the Environment Dept at Council who approached Professor Rob Capon and Research Officer Angela Salim from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, for recommendations towards control mechanisms available. Professor Capon recommended a site at the mouth of Freshwater Creek for field trials of the **newly developed cane toad tadpole bait and funnel trap**.

The field trial period from 15 December 2015 to 8 January 2016, included regular monitoring by Council staff and a total of five (5) individual traps strategically placed throughout the mouth of Freshwater Creek,

These field trials have successfully removed more than 12,000 cane toad tadpoles from the mouth of Freshwater Creek.

This does not include the two traps that were vandalized on 17 December 2015 during one of the overnight trials which were observed to be laden with tadpoles early that morning before being damaged.

The traps have proved successful in reducing the recruitment of cane toad tadpoles within Freshwater Creek, thus breaking the breeding cycle.

**COME AND HEAR PROFESSOR CAPON TALK ABOUT THIS EXCITING RESEARCH AT THE BIEPA JANUARY 25 MEETING.**



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**BIEPA'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

**WORLD WETLANDS DAY**

**Wetlands for our future: Sustainable Livelihoods**

**9:00am 2nd FEBRUARY**

**BUCKLEYS HOLE**

**Bring refreshments, chair, hat and sun protection.**



## Editorial

# LIFE ON BRIBIE ISLAND

Bribie Island is recognized as a Sanctuary where Flora and Fauna are protected by United Nations International Conservation Agreements (signed by Australians in 1991, 1993, 2015) and the Federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (*EPBC Act 1999*).

Residents of Bribie Island are fortunate to enjoy a lifestyle, like no other, in our relatively unspoiled natural environment surrounded by the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Summer on Bribie is a time of plenty and our Natural Assets are returning prolific dividends, especially after some rejuvenating rains. Everywhere we can hear the joyful sounds of birds and bats celebrating the bounty of food and shelter Bribie's trees and vegetation provide. The insects, bees and butterflies buzz and flutter amongst the blossoms. Wallabies and kangaroos visit our neighbourhood gardens at night and the possums clamber around on roofs and tree branches. The migratory birds are enjoying their annual warm vacation on our shores after their long flight from the frozen Arctic tundra. Our endangered South Pacific Loggerhead turtles are down from their foraging areas in the Great Barrier Reef to lay their precious clutches of eggs in Bribie's dunes.

And no matter what time of year it is, Bribie Island's Wallum Wildflowers will not disappoint.

Let us all work together to ensure the continued protection of and investment in conserving Bribie Island's unique Natural Assets that provide all its residents sanctuary.

**Common Tern**



[http://birdsqueensland.org.au/shore\\_birds\\_waders.php](http://birdsqueensland.org.au/shore_birds_waders.php)

**Rainbow Lorikeet**



**Swamp Wallaby**



*Porpita porpita* Blue button  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpita\\_porpita](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpita_porpita)  
Photographed on Woorim Beach





# TURTLE TALK

## Value of Long Term Investments in Science & Research



Flatback Hatchling

**Protecting** the future of turtle populations on the Queensland coast has been the life's work of Dr Col Limpus. He is a legend in the international and Australian turtle world and he has made Mon Repos beach near Bundaberg in Queensland a turtle haven. Watch this 6 min video!! <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2544848.htm>

We hope you enjoy the following update from Dr Limpus about an '**old friend**' of his from Mon Repos Research and Conservation Park which he established ~ 50 years ago.

It demonstrates the importance of the long term investment in the tagging program here in Queensland – as we learn so much from the long term data on long lived species! It is important that politicians and bureaucrats understand that funding for this sort of research is not a 3 year project, but more likely a 30 year investment. ENJOY!

### **X23103 IS BACK!!**

***Flatback turtle X23103 was again back at Mon Repos beach laying eggs on 23 November 2015. When QPWS ranger Cathy Gatley rang me that night to get a history of this turtle laying eggs in the middle of her tour group, I actually got excited as the data rolled across my computer screen: X23103 is the longest studied marine turtle in the wild. Our tagging records begin with her in 1976 when she was probably beginning her breeding life – so 39 years later she is ashore laying her eggs for her 13th recorded breeding season with an adult breeding life of 39 years. She should have been about 21 years of age when she began laying and that puts her current age at about 60 years. She is still laying large clutches of large eggs: she laid 61 eggs – well above average for flatbacks; average size = 5.3 cm in diameter, 81 g in weight. A good Aussie breeder! Over these 39 years, we have recorded her coming ashore to lay eggs on 65 occasions and always on the 1.6km of Mon Repos beach. Impressive site fidelity! We do not know where this turtle lives but based on recaptures of other tagged flatback turtles from south Queensland breeding sites, we expect her to live somewhere in the deeper waters between coral reefs within the Great Barrier Reef. We last saw her nesting in 2010-11 breeding season, 5 years ago. She used to breed about every 2 years and lay 4 clutches of eggs in a season. In the last few seasons she has laid fewer clutches with longer intervals between breeding seasons. Are we now observing the consequences of old age in flatback turtles – with fewer eggs being laid in a season and at less frequent intervals? Observations of additional turtles of similar age are needed to confirm this. Tagged turtles at our long term study sites like Mon Repos continue to teach us about the longevity and reproductive capacity of these incredible but threatened species that inhabit Queensland's waters and migrate to lay eggs on our beaches.***

Thanks to Kate {Conservation Officer (Wildlife Management/TurtleCare) Environmental Operations / Infrastructure Services Sunshine Coast Council} for sharing this wonderful news with the volunteer Turtle Carers on the Sunshine Coast and Bribie Island.



Nesting Flatback

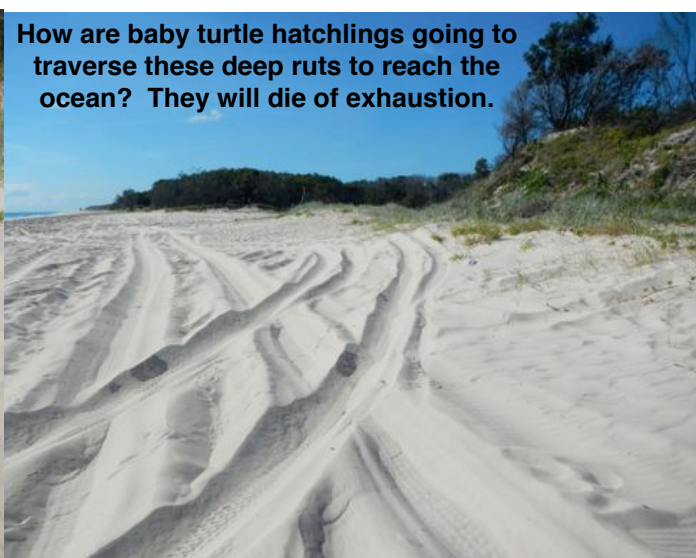
© Ben Osborne / naturepl.com



# More Turtle Talk

## The Hazards Endangered Loggerhead Turtles Face Nesting on Woorim's 4WD Beach

Loggerhead nest laid Friday 15th January 2016  
She traversed this dangerous "highway" to lay  
her precious eggs in the dune



How are baby turtle hatchlings going to  
traverse these deep ruts to reach the  
ocean? They will die of exhaustion.

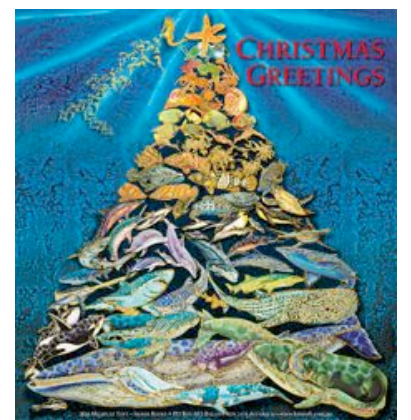
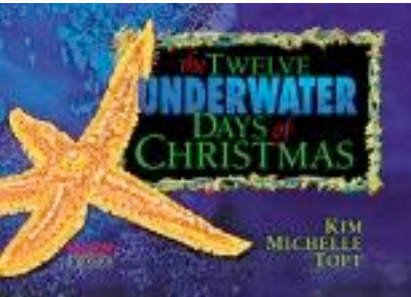
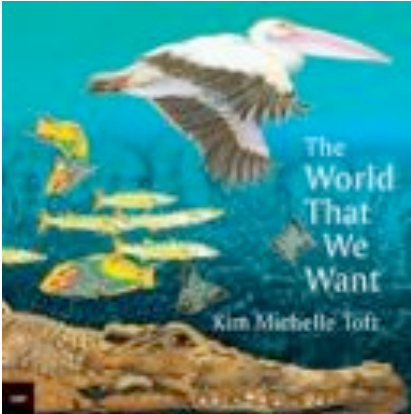
4WD vehicle destruction of  
turtle nesting habitat

**OUR POLITICIANS TELL US THIS FORM OF "RECREATION" IS TOO MUCH OF A 'CASH COW' TO SAVE THESE TURTLES FROM EXTINCTION!** Yet in March 2015, Environment Minister, Hon Greg Hunt signed a UN Single Species Action Plan committing all Australians to take all measures to save our turtles from extinction.

# AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

## Kim Michelle Toft

<http://www.kimtoft.com.au/>



BEIPA receives regular updates from the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

<http://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

As with many environmental groups, fundraising is a priority to continue working to protect the *Things We Love*. Just before Christmas BIEPA received an email from AMCS with suggestions for Christmas presents that celebrate Marine Conservation and featuring Kim Michelle Toft's exquisite children's books. <http://www.kimtoft.com.au/>

Kim says, ***"Children are our future and I believe my books are valuable tools towards heightening awareness of the need to preserve many of our endangered sea creatures and the oceans they live in. Therefore each book has a strong environmental theme and provides child friendly information at the back.***

The illustrations in all Kim's books are enchanting and stunningly beautiful, invoking the fecundity and splendour of our Great Barrier Reef. Her words appeal to the imagination and intellect of all generations. ***"The World That We Want"*** is an example:

**As worlds unite  
And habitats grow  
Find 45 creatures**

**Which ones will you know?**

***\*This is the air that circles the world that we want.***

***\*This is the forest that filters the air that circles the world that we want.***

***\*This is the river that weaves through the forest that filters the air that circles the world that we want.***

***\*This is the mangrove that follows the river that weaves through the forest that filters the air that circles the world that we want .....***

***\*This is the ocean that shapes the atoll that grows from the reef that feeds the tide pool that lies on the beach that meets the mangrove .....***

AMCS is one of the original conservation groups to emerge in the late 60s as a response to the Bjelke-Petersen government. It all began a long way from the sea, around a campfire in central Queensland in 1965. A group of marine scientists and avid bushwalkers from the Uni of Queensland and the CSIRO were sitting under the stars one night on a camping trip at Carnarvon Gorge. Eddie Hegerl (founding Director) and others were discussing their concerns about overfishing and coastal pollution, and there and then they pledged to do something about it. So these concerned colleagues started an independent body for our oceans, a united voice that would speak out against the injustices to the sea and its wildlife, which can't speak for itself. And the precursor of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) was born. Their first major campaign commenced in the mid 1960s, when they legally contested and successfully defeated an application to mine coral on the Great Barrier Reef. This culminated in the formation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park World Heritage Area - an international tourist destination and one of the natural wonders of the world!

AMCS Patron, Tim Winton - ***"At a time when politicians are hell bent on silencing environmental charities it's worth reflecting on what would be missing today if AMCS had not been doing its job for the past 50 years. From the Great Barrier Reef to Ningaloo, no other organisation has done more to secure a healthy future for our seas and shores."***





# BIRD OF THE MONTH



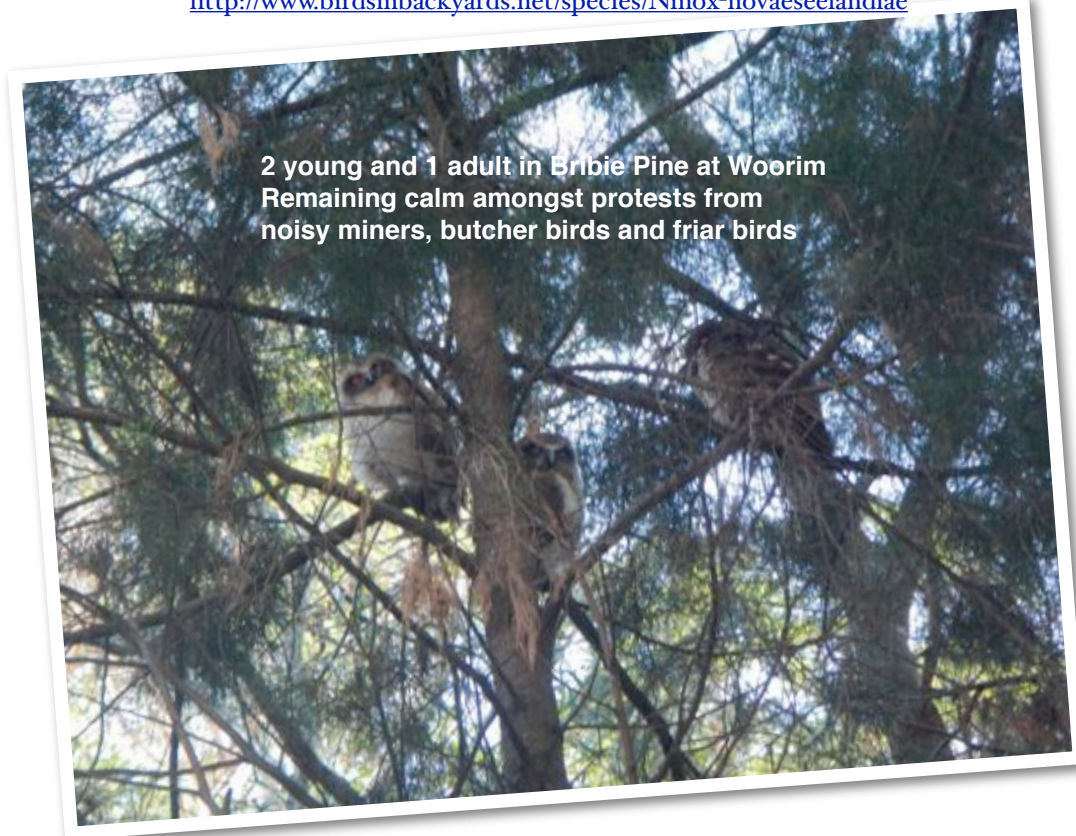
## Southern Boobook

*(Nonox novaeseelandiae)*

“Mopoke”

Listen here

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Ninox-novaeseelandiae>



The Southern Boobook (“Mopoke”) is the smallest and most common owl found throughout mainland Australia, Tasmania and some coastal islands. It is identified by its plumage, which is dark chocolate-brown above and rufous-brown below, heavily streaked and spotted with white. The bill is grey with a darker tip, and the feet are grey or yellow. The facial disc is chocolate brown and the eyes are large and yellowish. Young Southern Boobooks are almost entirely buff-white below, with conspicuous dark brown facial discs. They are mostly nocturnal, feeding on insects and small mammals (mice and small bats) which they hear and see from a tall perch. The birds are often observed perched on an open branch or tree-top. The nest is usually a tree hollow, sparsely lined with wood shavings, leaves and small twigs. The female incubates the eggs and both sexes feed the young.



### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

7am - 10am SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2016

WOORIM BEACH

Meet at ANZAC Memorial Cnr North St and First Ave

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## *Grevillea Banksii*

Red silky oak, Dwarf silky oak, Banks' grevillea, Byfield waratah

The design for this linocut featured on the front page of BIEPA's new web site, was inspired by *Grevillea Banksii*, native to the Queensland coast. This *Grevillea* and its many hybrids flourish in the sandy soils of Bribie Island, their flowers providing a valuable food source for Bribie's nectar-feeding birds.

This linocut was produced and coloured by Geoff Ginn and Glenda Charles, artists living in Bongaree. Anyone wanting limited edition prints of this stunning artwork, or indeed of any Bribie flora or fauna, please contact Geoff and Glenda, Phone: (07) 3408 0759, [www.glendacharlesartist.com](http://www.glendacharlesartist.com) Proceeds of any sales/commissions would go to BIEPA.



*Grevillea banksii* was first described by the botanist Robert Brown, who gave it its epithet in honour of Sir Joseph Banks. It is a tall, slender or spreading shrub, or small tree up to 7 m (23 ft) high. Its leaves are pinnate with 3-11 deeply divided, linear to lanceolate segments 5–10 cm (2–4 in) long and 1 cm wide, with curled-back margins. Flowers are bright red or creamy-white, in clusters up to 15 cm (6 in) long. It flowers for most of the year. *Grevillea banksii* is found on the Queensland coast from Ipswich to Byfield National Park. Various forms of *Grevillea banksii* have been in cultivation for many decades, however it is less seen now than previously as it has been replaced by smaller, more compact, hybrids such as *G.* 'Robyn Gordon' and *G.* 'Superb'. These newer plants are more compact and have longer flowering periods. However, *Grevillea banksii* has left a rich horticultural legacy, being one of the parents of *G.* 'Robyn Gordon', one of the most commercially successful garden plants in Australian horticultural history. It is also parent of other garden plants *Grevillea* 'Honey Gem', *G.* 'Superb', *G.* 'Misty Pink', *G.* 'Pink Surprise', and possibly *G.* 'Moonlight'.





# NATRASHA IS COMING BACK TO VISIT US ON BRIBIE ISLAND FROM 19TH FEBRUARY TO 4TH MARCH



Last time Natrasha visited Bribie Island was 3 years ago - February 2013. That visit coincided with BIEPA's support for the Healthy Waterways, **Plastic Pollution Revolution!** The BIEPA News included an article, **The Perils of Plastic** and added it to our web site for you to read any time. Our guest speaker, the Manager of Target's Environment Department, came all the way from Adelaide to present to us on how Target was addressing their plastic packaging problems and saving money on disposal of plastic. At that time Target had replaced plastic shopping bags with environmentally friendly composting bags. We heard about the difference between so-called "biodegradable" plastic bags and "compostable" bags. Plastic bags made from petrochemicals do not totally break down and continue to contaminate our environment leaving small particles that enter the food chain. Compostable bags are made from vegetable matter and are safe for your worms to eat.

At this year's February 22nd meeting, we have Toby Hutcheon from Boomerang Alliance speaking on their **Cash for Containers Campaign**. <http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/>

Everyone has seen drink containers littered in our streets and parks, caught along creek banks and lying on beach sands, floating out to sea. But did you know that every minute 15,000 bottles and cans are littered or landfilled in Australia? The problem began in the 1970s when drink companies like Coca Cola introduced the disposable drink container, terminating the returnable bottle system that put a price on each bottle. As these containers flooded the market, the litter plague quickly overwhelmed parks and public spaces. The community called for the return of the 'bottle deposit' but governments and industry effectively blamed the consumer (not industry) for discarding single use containers, and pursued anti-litter campaigns instead.



# B.I.E.P.A.

*Caring for our special habitat and its residents*



## 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

## DATE CLAIMERS

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES

January 25 BIEPA Meeting  
 January 26 Australia Day  
 February 02 World Wetland Day  
 February 22 BIEPA Meeting  
 February 22-March 05 Sea Week  
 March 03 World Wildlife Day  
 March 06 Clean Up Aust Day  
 March 06-12 Nat'l Groundwater Awareness Week  
 March 19 Earth Hour  
 March 21 Int'l Day of Forests  
 March 22 World Water Day  
 March 23 World Meteorological Day  
 March 28 BIEPA Meeting  
 April 16-24 Aust'n Heritage Wk  
 April 18 World Heritage Day  
 April 22 Int'l Earth Day  
 April 25 BIEPA Meeting

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 Web: [www.biepa.org](http://www.biepa.org)  
 Phone: 3410 0757



## How to support BIEPA's ongoing work

We wish to thank all those BIEPA members who have so generously made donations to the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association in the past.

We continue to work, lobby and advocate to prevent environmental damage to Bribie's natural assets.

All donations to BIEPA's Public Environment Fund are tax deductible and may be easily and securely made by bank transfer to:  
**BIEPA Inc Public Environment Fund - BSB 064448, Account 06444810041186**

Receipts will be mailed to donors, so please remember to put your name on the transaction and follow up with an email to: BIEPA Treasurer at [biepa.mail@gmail.com](mailto:biepa.mail@gmail.com)

## 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/>

Twinnies Pelican & Animal Rescue (Sunshine Coast) Tel: 07 5439 9995  
 Mob: 0421 476 561

MBRC Requests: (Ask for Reference #)  
 Ph: 3205 0555

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

## BIEPA BOOKS FOR SALE

Bribie Birds..... \$16:50  
 Annotated Check List Birds of Bribie Island ... \$ 6:00  
 Wildflowers of Bribie Island ..... \$17:00  
 Wildflowers and Birds Package (2 bks)...\$20:00  
 All 3 books ..... \$25:00

There will be a screening and discussion of this 90 minute film - **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**. It is based on the book of the same name by Naomi Klein. The seven case studies show struggles to live with Climate Change and confront the economic system which underlies it. An excellent follow up to the Paris Climate Change Conference.

**When?** 9.30am - 12 noon, Saturday 27 February  
**Where?** Happy Haven, St Vincent's Centre, 125 Queens Rd, Nudgee  
**RSVP:** by 22 February to [earthlink@mercy.org.au](mailto:earthlink@mercy.org.au)  
 Or phone 0417 79459  
**Organised:** by Earth Link Web Page: [www.earth-link.org.au](http://www.earth-link.org.au)  
**Entry:** by gold coin donation  
**BYO mug**  
**Tea, Coffee and snack provided**

