



Photo: Lainie Peltohaka



**Pine Rivers
Catchment
Association**

INFO-FLOW Newsletter

WINTER/SPRING EDITION

2016 Events

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE
Second Tuesday of every month 3:00pm	PRCA Committee Meeting 15 Bunya Pine Crt, Eatons Hill. Free tea and coffee. Members and Guests welcome. Contact Sonya: 0438 199 102
Second Wednesday of every month 7:00am	Birding on South Pine River Meet at Kumbartcho Environment Centre Car Park. 15 Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill. Ask for Rita
Every Wednesday 7:30am	Rivers Warriors. Meet at Sargents Reserve, Eatons Hill. Contact MBRC for further information on 3480 6666.
22nd Oct	Deer and Feral Dog Interactive Workshop. Held at the Dayboro Uniting Church 9am—2pm. Contact Pazit on 0437 414 563
6th Nov	Tinchi Tamba River Clean Up - 8am start. Meet at end of Wyampa Rd, Bald Hills and look out for the PRCA tent to sign on. Ask for Ian 0427 772 919.
Every Thursday and first Saturday of the month 9am—11am	Drapers Crossing Rainforest Rescue Group Corner of Heather Anne Drive and Bunya Road, Draper.
2nd Saturday of the month 9am—12pm	Men of the Trees (MOTT) Meet at end of Dugandan Rd, Bunya

Coordinators Corner

Happy Spring to all! If you are looking to get out and about in this beautiful weather, we have several options for you. On the 6th of November PRCA will be holding a river clean-up at Tinchi Tamba. From 8.30am to 10.30am. We also have our monthly bird watching group who meet every second Wednesday morning of the month, at Kumbartcho Environment Centre, and with it being nesting season, there is sure to be plenty of action out there.

I have been working on Cats Claw Creeper on Cedar Creek with our partners MBRC for a few years now. Cats Claw Creeper vine is in flower at the moment. It is easily identified with its yellow flowers in the canopy of the tree. This vine smothers native vegetation - death to the tree is just a matter of time once this vine has appeared. I am currently seeking anyone who lives on or around Cedar Creek who think they may have this insidious vine, as we do have funding to assist with its removal and education on how to treat it and other exotics which have proven to be a problem on our waterways. Please call me if you think you may have this on your property.

Sonya (0438 199 102)

GOLD SCRUB OPEN MORNING

Article and photos supplied by Kerry Livingston

Gold's Scrub, in Gold's Scrub Lane, Samsonvale, is one of the few fragments of remnant coastal Hoop Pine dry vine forest still surviving in SE Queensland. For the past 18 years volunteers groups have been restoring this area in order to prevent it from being destroyed by weeds. The main degrading element was a suffocating infestation of cat's claw creeper, along with many other weed species.

Major contributing groups who have volunteered at Gold's Scrub include: Men of the Trees, Greening Australia Volunteers and Pine Rivers Catchment Association, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Moreton Regional Bushcare, and local residents have also contributed. Mrs Carol Bristowe has been involved with coordinating volunteer bush care workers since its inception, and work is ongoing.



Pictured: Some of the people present at the Open Morning



Over 30 people attended the open morning. Mr Ken Gold, the original owner of the land which was used for dairy cattle, before it was resumed for the creation of Lake Samsonvale, attended the open morning, and spoke of his family's early years on the land. He has written a book about this, adding to his father's early recordings of life on the land there. Janet Mangan, who organized the open day, provided a display of 30 posters of local butterflies and vegetation which they need for their survival.

Other speakers included Mr Tim Odgers (senior planner from SEQ Water), Mr Jim Dale (president of Pine Rivers Catchments Association), and Mrs Carol Bristowe.

Left: A large Araucaria cunninghamii (Hoop Pine) at Golds Scrub.

Key supporters of PRCA:



PRCA would not be able to operate without the assistance of our members. Please encourage your friends and families to assist our work by becoming a member. Contact the Catchment Coordinator (Sonya) or Admin. Support Officer (Trudi) to talk about taking up membership:

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

Catchment Coordinator

Phone (07) 3325 1577

Fax (07) 3325 1588

Mobile 0438 199 102 or

email catchmentcoordinator@prca.org.au

DISCLAIMER: PRCA does not necessarily agree with all opinions expressed in this *Info-Flow* Newsletter and is not responsible for any acts of plagiarism.

KOALA ACTION INC. MEDIA RELEASE

KOALA ACTION INC.

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ABN: 92 282 853 793

<http://koalactioninc.org>



As President/Secretary of Koala Action Inc. (KAI) I would like to comment as to the accuracy of the article titled *"281 koala deaths around Moreton Bay Rail Project"* and the article titled *"21,000 koala trees cleared for Moreton Bay Rail Project"* printed in the Brisbane Times on 27th July 2016.

It is extremely disappointing to learn that a respected lecturer and Griffith University Professor Darryl Jones would make such negative comments about a project that KAI members were involved in from the very start. Had he spoken to koala rescue/care/welfare groups "on the ground" such as ourselves or Moreton Bay Koala Rescue Inc. (MBKR) about the Moreton Bay Rail Link (MBRL) project he may have drawn a different conclusion.

As an Environmental Scientist I recognise the negative impact of habitat destruction and fragmentation on our already declining koala population which was why I was extremely concerned about the project. However, as a scientist I am also aware of the benefits of rail travel and getting people off the roads to reduce green house gas emissions. In fact, many koala stakeholders, environmental groups, other wildlife groups and some local residents were all conflicted and in two minds about this project.

Having worked with koalas in a range of roles for over 23 years I am fully aware of the escalating decline of the koala population fundamentally brought about by the loss and fragmentation of habitat which forces koalas to the ground in search of food, shelter and dispersal opportunities. This also places them at risk of being struck by motor vehicles or attacked by domestic, wild and feral dogs.

Of course it would have been preferable to have retained that bushland but that was not, nor would it have ever been considered an option by any level of government. However, KAI does not consider the MBRL project to be a "complete failure". Members posit this to be one of the most successful projects that we have been involved with for the following reasons:-

1. Community stakeholders were involved with Queensland Rail (QR) and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) from the beginning. In fact, the input of KAI and MBKR as well as the Pine Rivers Koala Care Association Inc. (PRKCA) was crucial to the Moreton Bay Rail Link Project Team. The excellent work done by TMR and QR in employing Endeavour Veterinary Ecology to help them on this project ensured that no koala was injured, killed or came to any harm during the process of vegetation clearing.

KOALA ACTION INC. MEDIA RELEASE

2. Suggestions from the koala/wildlife stakeholders were taken on board by the team and in many instances incorporated into the management strategies used throughout the site. Any concerns were addressed and stakeholders were kept fully informed about what was going on whether it was positive or negative.
3. The commitment and dedication of the Moreton Bay Rail Link Project Team to ensure that the outcomes for koalas and in fact all wildlife on the site would be the best they could possibly achieve reassured us all before and during construction.
4. All the koalas were captured and provided with health checks. Those koalas showing signs of advanced Chlamydial disease were humanely euthanased. The healthy animals were returned to their capture location after being fitted with radio tracking collars. All koalas were tracked over the entire period of the project, if koalas were not moving around or looking unwell they were taken into care immediately and treated.
5. Every effort was made to ensure the health and well being of the koalas and other wildlife utilising the site. Ongoing monitoring actually informed Endeavour Veterinary Ecology's understanding about the depth of the wild/feral dog problem in this region. It was only when everyone involved became aware of the numbers of koalas killed that strategies could be developed to ameliorate this peril.

To suggest that the project team is responsible for the impact of wild, feral or domestic dogs is disingenuous particularly as a great deal of effort and resources were put into addressing this very issue once it was discovered. We know 19 koalas were killed by pythons. Does Professor Jones believe that these deaths were also the responsibility of the Moreton Bay Rail Project Team?

The research generated by this project has been phenomenal. Dramatic evidence shows the devastating impact of wild/feral and domestic dogs as well pythons on the koala population. No one imagined the severity of any of these perils. Some of the koalas were provided with the Chlamydial vaccine which is proving to have beneficial outcome in reducing the symptoms of the disease and keeping the koalas reproductively viable.

As far as translocations were concerned a great deal of effort was involved to determine in what instances such measures were required. Ongoing monitoring of residential and translocated koalas was undertaken but no one can control the impact of wild/feral or domestic dogs. The impact of wild dogs on the 28 translocated individuals over 2 years was low. Apart from 2 koalas that did travel post-translocation, the rest developed stable home ranges. Data showed that those that did "get on the ground and walk for miles" didn't actually get killed by wild dogs as implied. Unfortunately they developed disease over time and both were euthanased. The majority of translocations were successful and almost all of the females have bred

Dr H. Beyer, one of the authors of the *2015 South East Koala Population Modeling Study* with Professor J. Rhodes, said that "the intensive management action of the dog and disease control programs associated with the MBRL project have profoundly benefited that koala population. Analysis suggests that the population is now increasing, not declining".

The major problems that koalas face is the increasing numbers of humans wanting to clear their habitat to build houses, shopping centers, schools, roads and all the infrastructure need to support the human population. For the first time in recorded history the State Government under the auspice of the MBRL project team actually did their utmost to provide a positive outcome for Queensland's faunal emblem as well as other wildlife. They should be applauded and encouraged to do more. Too constantly focus on the negative outcomes without looking at the positive outcomes isn't science nor is it fair.

With thanks Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski, President/Secretary, Koala Action Inc.

CLEAN UP AT ACACIA PARK IN MURRUMBA DOWNS

The Pine Rivers Catchment Association together with the Lawnton Scout Group collected rubbish around the beautiful picnic area at Acacia Park on Sunday, 28th August 2016 whilst walking the banks, combing the picnic area itself and some even canoeing at the river end of Pine Rivers Drive, Murrumba Downs.

The community and Scout members collected 243.5 kilos of rubbish.

Acacia Park is a beautiful park with serene bushland viewing right down to the river's edge. It is also a superb area for family picnics and barbecues, boating and fishing.

Unfortunately the park requires regular clean-ups as it is not always as pristine as it could be because of the large amount of rubbish that has either washed down through the catchments or has been carelessly discarded by people using the park. There are rubbish bins in the park, but unfortunately it seems many people don't use them.

Pine Rivers Catchment Association's Vice President Ian Smith said that through its early estuary clean-up efforts since 2014 we have cleaned up over a ton of rubbish.

Go and visit this fantastic park and walk along the tracks on the Pine River. The top walk is in the eucalypt forest and below is the mangrove forest. You will meander through swamp she-oak forest, swamp paperbark forests and marine couch-grass areas. The park provides habitat for many different birds and animals.

So enjoy it and help to keep it clean.

IAN SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT
VOLUNTEER
PINE RIVERS CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION

(Article and Photos supplied by Ian Smith)



The Lawnton Scout group with 243.5 kilos of waste at Acacia Park



Canoe rubbish from across the river



Acacia Park is a beautiful area

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men of the Trees has a new website!

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

MOTT is a non-profit, non-political international society dedicated in fostering the planting, maintenance and protection of trees.

Please see website above for further informative information.

HEALTHY WATERWAYS REPORT CARD LAUNCH

The Healthy Waterways Report card will be released on the 16th November instead of the 10th November. For more details check out their website <http://healthywaterways.org/>

KUMBARTCHO COMMUNITY NURSERY

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9.00 AM. - 3.00 PM.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

8.00 AM- 12 NOON

PASTURE IDENTIFICATION AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

What's it all about?

Learn how to increase the sustainability and profitability of your grazing enterprise through correctly identifying pasture species and implementing improved grazing practices

When: **Saturday November 12th, 9 am – 1pm**

Where: **Property of Greg and Leanne Currey, 268 Mount Samson Road, Armstrong Creek.**

To register, visit <http://dayboro-grazing-workshop.eventbrite.com.au>

This workshop is the second in a series aimed at assisting graziers to identify improved practices which will enhance the long term profitability of their business and improve catchment water quality. A final workshop will run enterprises through modules of the Grazing Best Management Practice framework.

What to bring: Includes a paddock walk— please bring appropriate footwear, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and a water bottle.

Your presenter : Damien O'Sullivan has spent many years working as a grazing extension officer for the Queensland Government. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in grazing practices and beef property management.

FREE

Includes morning tea & lunch

Register at <http://dayboro-grazing-workshop.eventbrite.com.au>

For further details, contact Michelle:

0457 106 252