



News Update

2 November 2023

This weekend's Dunecare along Norfolk Beach and the wetlands, Saturday 4 November from 2-4pm will see Coastcarers tending windswept dunes, fixing fences and weeding. If you can spare an hour or so, please come and join us. Afterwards there's refreshments and always a great chat over a cuppa.

MEET where the Coastcare flags fly at the picnic area by the southern entrance to the Wetlands, James Street. Please BYO water and just a reminder to wear covered shoes, long pants, hat, sunscreen & insect repellent.

Newcomers are always welcome.

Please ring Graeme on 0413352511 or Bryan on 0487054127 with any query



Celebrate the end of the year at the Coastcare Christmas Party

Please book your tickets now and collect at the Coastcare stall at the Christmas markets on Sunday 26 November for an unforgettable night **at Mudlo on Friday 1 December from 5-9pm.**

With live music by Jose, dinner, dancing and great company it promises to be one of those

memorable nights to wind-up another successful year and relax with friends.

During the evening we'll draw the winner of the annual monster raffle – a wheelbarrow filled with Christmas goodies.



Please keep the wildlife wild

by Jay Lima

If anyone is feeding local wildlife mince or any other food, can you please stop?

People who feed wildlife generally have good intentions, however the long and short term consequences for the animal and any offspring is only harmful. Artificial feeding of wildlife creates a range of issues, including loss of foraging skills and dependency on humans, inadequate nutrition, spread of disease and loss of fear of humans.

There is a more than adequate supply of natural foods on Coochiemudlo Island for our birds and reptiles to forage. They do not require support feeding.

Providing alternate food, even in small amounts, impacts on how they obtain the necessary calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D they need, in the correct ratios, for each to be absorbed. An incorrect balance of these components causes a disease: Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD), and is a direct result of artificial feeding.

Common names given to this disease include rickets, bendy beak, paralysis, chalky bones, paper bones and weak leg syndrome.

Symptoms include:

- Broken bones
- Bone deformity
- Painful joints
- Legs not able to support the bird's weight

- Weak, drowsy, generally quiet birds
- Beak may be soft, bendable or deformed
- Reluctance to walk, perch or use legs properly

Without extensive treatment, birds and reptiles that have developed MBD suffer painful degenerative changes that ultimately result in death.

If you have any concerns about wildlife, please consider contacting one of the following for advice:

Redlands Wildlife Rescue

Phone: 3833 4031

Wildcare Australia

Phone: 5527 2444



Respecting the intelligence of trees

By Nici Buirski PhD

If we are lucky, we live in a place where there are indigenous trees. Many people admire trees, and for so many reasons. Mature trees can be tall, strong, and majestic. They give shade and comfort to humans, and habitat to other fauna and flora alike. Trees are peaceful to be around, they are not silent, and yet, not noisy. Gentle rustling of leaves and boughs provide a mindful meditation for anyone who so desires to be guided. It is not surprising that humans and trees have a common ancestor. A billion years ago you and your tree cousins parted ways genetically, but you still share a quarter of your genes with trees.

On the Colorado Plateau, USA, there is a forest of Aspen where individual trees above ground are about 80 years old, but underground, there is a rhizome body that is a single, giant, clonal mass that is too old to date. At a guess, it has been around for a million years (Powers, 2018). Closer to home, in the Daintree, northern Queensland, is the largest remaining rainforest in Australia. In a symbiotic relationship, the trees are coated with a bacterium called *Pseudomonas* that gets swept up by winds into the atmosphere and are the nuclei around which water molecules attach and grow and fall to the earth as rain. Without these trees there would be no rain, nor rainforest.

A symbiotic relationship is a close, long-term interaction which can be mutually beneficial to both organisms. Here on Coochiemudlo Island, we have an interesting phenomenon, where in numerous instances around the island, a eucalypt is growing directly against a cypress tree. Is this a mutualistic symbiotic relationship where the one tree is providing nutrients, and the other, a stabilising pH? Or did humans plant the cypress underneath and up against the gum? Look out for this phenomenon on your next walk around the island.

Trees are intelligent and have a sophisticated ability to communicate with each other: through the air and through their roots. A tree can save water when it is scarce. Trees feed their young. Trees take care of each other as in a community. They transmit chemical warnings to each other and send out signals to wasps to come and save them from insect attacks. A forest is wired up underground through fungal synapses, called mycorrhizae. The fungi dissolve stone to supply their tree with minerals. In return, the tree stores extra sugar in their fungi's synapses, to provide energy and for the sick, or too shaded, and wounded neighbouring trees. There are brains down there, the roots have plasticity, solving problems and making decisions. Different species of trees are linked together underground, and they are aware of each other: they taste, touch, smell, and even hear and see each other, sharing food and medicine and taking care of each other as the forest builds the local climate it needs to thrive. How marvellous!

However, the forests of the world, including those in Australia have melted away. There has never been a more useful material to humans than wood. Forests have fallen to many things – drought, fire, jobs, infections, and for land: globally, three percent of the world's forests is left, and 97 percent is gone.

On Coochiemudlo Island, however, we can still preserve and protect our coastal floodplain trees, such as the swamp- *Melaleuca spp.* and *Eucalyptus spp.* Next time you are out on your walk through the Emerald Fringe or Melaleuca Wetlands, pay your respects to the trees of Coochiemudlo Island and make a promise to yourself to be a guardian and custodian of these magnificent living beings that have been here for a lot longer than we have, and who, with our care, will outlive us all.

Bibliography

Powers, R. (2018). The overstory. Penguin Random House. UK.

Keep up-to-date on herbicide spraying on island

Many islanders are unaware they can add their names to Redland City Council's herbicide spray notification list to be kept informed of the location of treatment and avoid exposure.

An email is sent to subscribers at least a week prior to herbicide application.

Here's a sample of what was circulated last week,

"A quick email to notify you that a Council appointed contractor will be undertaking weed management works on the embankment adjacent to Victoria Parade South and above the Golf Club from the 30th of October to the 3rd of November - weather permitting and allowing for current resourcing constraints.

The intent of this email is to notify residents prior to works commencing who have indicated they have health conditions and affected by herbicide sprays, this notification is intended to give these residents time to put measures in place to minimise any affect from the herbicide treatments. The email is not intended to be a notification or explanation of the actual works being undertaken.

I can ensure you all that the weed management works are being carried out by qualified operators, trained in the correct use of herbicide application, using registered chemicals for their intended use with all works to be undertaken in accordance and consistent with RCC approved weed management practices."

If you'd like to register or seek further information on the program overseen by Parks and Conservation contact Council on 38298999 or email rcc@redland.qld.gov.au

Coastcare Date Claimers

Saturday 4 Nov 2.00-4.00pm Dunecare, meet at the Southern Wetlands entrance James street.at Norfolk Beach

Sunday 26 Nov Christmas markets, Lions Christmas cakes & puddings available along with our wheelbarrow raffle, Coastcare shirts and tickets to the Christmas party.

Friday 1 December 5-9pm Christmas Party at Mudlo

A reminder - is your annual membership due?

Membership fees

- Single annual membership \$2
- Family annual membership \$5
- Life Membership Single \$50
- Life Membership Family \$100

Choose your membership level and Direct Deposit to Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc – Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-149 Account 10096929.

You can:

- Return your form with payment to 94 Victoria Parade, Coochiemudlo Island; or
- Email your form and a copy of your payment receipt to coochiecoastcare@gmail.com

(If paying electronically, please include your full name as the reference.)

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare - Caring for your Island

www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au

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