



Streamlines

Newsletter of the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group Inc.

May 2020

Since the February issue of Streamlines, we have moved into uncharted waters facing circumstances most of us have never experienced before and a future that is not at all clear but will, hopefully, be better than the past.

I've been amazed by the number of people who have told me that they are visiting Anstead Bushland Reserve regularly during this time. People I would have thought did not even know of its existence! Those who do visit regularly have commented on how much usage has increased. Our first item is written by a Mum, teacher and local resident who describes how her family has used Anstead Bushland Reserve, Pullenvale Forest Park and Moggill Conservation Area for entertainment and education while in isolation. She has also developed a series of activity sheets for children.

Our Wildlife Officer, Irene Darlington, gives us a very personal insight into life as a wildlife carer, the range of community support that enables her to continue caring and opens our eyes to the range of possible ways of supporting her efforts. Being in isolation has had very little impact on her usual lifestyle!

Be warned! Fire Ants have reared their ugly heads again with one of our Committee members finding nests on her Anstead property. Make sure you check your own property for the presence of these dangerous pests! The ants were described in the May 2015 issue of Streamlines. An extract from a recent Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries publication describing the current fire ant situation appears on page 7.

I've been wondering what has happened to all the rainbow lorikeets that used to frequent our grevilleas and a neighbour's feeding stations. Apparently the answer is 'lorikeet paralysis syndrome' or 'clenched-foot syndrome'. Some information about this disease extracted from an ABC Sunshine Coast report by Kathy Sundstrom and Rob Blackmore posted on 1 May 2020 appears on page 8.

All members are welcome to submit articles to Streamlines via helian@pretirementresorts.com.au. Articles by members on what they have done to restore habitat on their own land are always popular. If you would like to share your story – either written by yourself or in conjunction with me – I would love to hear from you at the above email address. The deadline for the next issue is 15 August 2020.

Helen Ogle

Editor

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Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

A Landcare Group

Meetings

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road, Pullenvale.

Website

www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au

Working Bees

Anstead Bushland Reserve – 1st Sunday of the month, 8.30 - 11 am.
Pullenvale Forest Park – 2nd Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am

Tools, gloves, etc are provided at Working Bees. Just wear sturdy boots, tough clothes and bring water and a hat!

Committee Members 2020

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Membership Options

Membership fees are:

- Annual Membership – \$10 per person payable on March 1 each year
- Life Membership – \$100 per person

We are delighted to accept donations.

- a) Send a cheque payable to PPCG to PO Box 1390, Kenmore, 4069 or
- b) Transfer the funds electronically to BSB 064 152, Account No.10107038 Ref: your name.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

“The PPCG acknowledges the support of the Lord Mayor’s Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Programs for a grant to help with administrative, bushcare and educational costs”

NEWS

Previous issues of Streamlines have mentioned the continuing planting of **Richmond Birdwing Butterfly** vines in Pullenvale Forest Park to encourage the return of this once abundant butterfly to the area (See Streamlines August 2019 for more information).

One working bee involved Girl Guides from Kenmore. Fiona McMillan, a science writer and mother of one of the Guides involved, has written an interesting and informative article on the project acknowledging the work of Cody Hochen, Lynn Brown and other PPCG members.

The Guides secured a mini-grant from the Roots & Shoots Program set up by Jane Goodall, the 'Chimpanzee Lady', to support grass-roots and community environmental projects. The Guides used the grant to buy Richmond birdwing vines and planted them in Pullenvale Forest Park to establish 'stepping stones' between existing areas where the vine has established to allow populations of the butterfly to move and intermingle. For the full article, see Australian Geographic March-April 2020 pages 19 and 20.

Coronavirus 2020: A Bushland Parental Release and Educational Opportunity

Karen Roberts

Although we don't technically classify as locals (having only been Bellbowrie residents since 2002), we've been regular visitors to the Anstead Bushland Reserve, Pullenvale Forest Park and the Moggill Conservation Park since moving here from the bushy western suburbs of northwest Sydney.

Previous bush adventure highlights have included a walk down Little Ugly Gully Creek or Pullen Pullen Creek (in the Moggill Conservation Park) after a summer storm, a ride along the road up to the Anstead Quarry lookout for morning tea (and a hard rock extraction history lesson) and riding along the Pullenvale Forest Park walking track. However, during the recent "non-essential travel" restrictions and "home schooling PE/science and nature lessons" we've embraced the opportunity to explore some different "off-track" areas with our kids.

Early in April we enjoyed a scramble along the Pullen Pullen Creek from the Mill Road entrance to the Moggill Conservation Park. The boys spent time just being boys while I marvelled at the HUGE tadpoles (QLD museum confirmed they're great barred frog tadpoles), yabbies and blue tiger butterflies along the creek.



Boys being boys along Pullen Pullen Creek



Great barred frog tadpoles



Yabbies in Pullen Pullen Creek



Blue tiger butterfly

We've also been delighted to see a pair of black cockatoos feeding on a decrepit old black wattle as we ventured into the Pullenvale Forest Park. (We must always check for tadpoles if there's water in a creek).



Black cockatoos feeding on a dead wattle



Searching for tadpoles

Towards the middle of April, after seeing numerous posts on the 4070 Community Facebook, we decided to go "Koala hunting" in the Anstead Bushland Reserve. Our first attempts were unsuccessful, but we found a beautiful 2.5 m carpet python as we returned to the carpark.



Carpet python

As April passed and the challenges of being a home schooling parent, working parent, normal parent and friend to the kids became a little more "intense" we needed another bushland break. I made up an Anstead Bushland Reserve excursion sheet for the kids and, with the Moggill State School excursions to PEEC being cancelled this year, we decided to have a home schooling excursion morning. We all had an absolute ball ticking off our "looking challenge" then the "listening challenge" sheets. And most excitingly - we finally found the koala!



Exploring Anstead Bushland Reserve



Anstead Bushland Reserve's koala

We've also spent time taking the pencils out to sit and capture some of the sights and sounds for our Coronavirus Isolation Scrapbooks.



Exploring Moggill Conservation Park

Perhaps the most fun part of our adventures so far was completed on the Labour Day Long weekend. Friends challenged us to a socially distant Nature Scavenger Hunt – we went to Moggill Conservation Park and they went to Pullenvale Forest Park. We took our “looking, listening and making” challenge sheets and facetimes on Monday afternoon, after we were back to the safety of our homes, to check who won. We startled a red bellied black snake (no photo – I was a little “excited” keeping the kids away), saw a scarlet finch (red must have been the theme for our day) and we made beautiful nature art to print out and put on Mother's day cards. Our Pullenvale Forest Park friends found an owl and a unicorn (even if they were only visiting as part of another fun Community Facebook challenge – going on a bear hunt). Our record for stacking single rocks on top of one another was 29 – how many rocks can you stack?



Artworks from natural materials and the rock-stacking challenge

We hope some of this story inspires you to get out and enjoy some of our local natural areas too.

Wildlife Notes

Irene Darlington

Well what a 'new world' we live in today from the last Streamlines edition. How differently we live, have to think and have to do the most basic tasks. Social isolating has been provided so much attention and been at the core of frustration and suffering for so many people. Being on your own, unable to see visitors, merely going out for the day or a camping weekend. Having no money for yourself as you spend it all on the animals. Or not socialising with friends and family. Frustrated with doing the same old thing over and over again....

Like many wildlife carers, I live alone. Its nuts trying to find a partner who can devote their lives personally, socially and financially to looking after wildlife and raising these delightful bushbabies. That's what our wildlife carer lives are. Sounds familiar?

Often people on the phone ask me "Hey Irene, you must feel so isolated and alone during this time?" To tell you the truth, there is very, very little most wildlife carers are going through during this time which differs from our normal lives! I ring my wildlife carer girlfriends and we all laugh about this point. People feeling so sorry for us and how it must be, but in truth it is all so familiar to us wildlife carers and part of our daily lives. Most of us can't tell any difference during this Covid19 pandemic and our normal lives.

We are doing the same thing over and over again. Cleaning aviaries and cages, cutting up animal food, gathering wild food and branches for the wildlife, washing loads of pouches and baby blankets and animal towels over and over again. Feeding hungry mouths, washing mounds of animal dishes every day. Never going out and seeing people and friends as we are so time poor, and let's not even go to the money aspect of running these wildlife homes. Crumbs! It's isolation, frustration, never knowing where the next cent is coming from to feed the animals, and so on. Thus my girlfriends and I laugh and say "What's so different to how we live anyway? Nothing's changed!"...

Well, there are a few changes in my personal life with this Covid19 situation. I have gorgeous friends I mentioned in my last newsletter who help me with fetching my shopping, (I am physically disabled) cutting leaf, picking up my animal fruit and helping cutting it up. I refer to them as my 'angels'. They make this place and the animals I help 'do-able' I tell my friends. Susan, Loren, Bev, Liz (also our PPCG Secretary), Louise, Abby, Harry, Katrina. Bless all their socks. Helen, our PPCG newsletter editor, had organised her lovely group of ladies and gents who help charities through knitting and sewing items, to get some gorgeous special winter pouches and mittens for possums with terrible burns to their feet and hands, to be made for my carers and myself. Thank you.

I, too, have a mother and missed seeing my mum on Mother's Day as most of us have sadly. But amongst us carers, we telephoned each other and wished each other a lovely Mother's Day as that is what we are to all our furry, feathered and scaly darlings. I actually had a furless orphaned baby possum sleeping in my bra cup against my warm skin, as he was hearing my heart beat and feeling my chest rising up and down, just as he did in his mother's pouch. It was very sweet.

So as we slowly return to a 'New Normal' in society (handwashing and social distancing will actually become a norm I believe!), we wildlife carers just plod on. There are not too many of us but sadly the animals just keep coming in. Car hits, orphans, cat and dog attacks, poisoned and sick wildlife are coming in every day. Nothing has changed in that respect. Disinfecting and washing everything when you are a wildlife carer is normal behaviour to us, so nothing new there either.

Just on an end note, I would like to thank anyone local reading this who had responded to a call out my friend Bev organised on Facebook 4070 site a few weeks ago. Struggling financially as I always am, I went through a 10 week period of not having any hot water system. The old one was 20 years old and irreparably broke down. I just did not have the money or any way of saving for a replacement. Impossible! So my lovely friend Bev put out a call to our local community, some of whom would be PPCG members, to help donate toward my new hot water system. I have one now. Amazing, the beautiful generosity of people in hard times. It makes my work here with the animals so so much

easier having hot water to wash everything with. Many people left lovely notes with their donations such as 'thank you for helping me a few years ago when I found a little orphaned possum' or 'I brought you that injured Tawney Frogmouth, remember?' It was all very sweet and I am very very grateful. Thank you everyone who donated.



Two of Irenes' babies

Fire Ants



Fire ants

'Fire ant treatment season is underway across South East Queensland in both eradication and targeted suppression areas

Fire ants are a 'super pest'—aggressive, highly-adaptive and well-equipped for survival. They are considered category 1 restricted matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program has successfully eradicated 5 incursions of the pest, and is working on a sixth.

Our [10-year eradication plan](#) is currently focusing on the western edge of the infestation in the Lockyer Valley. The program will gradually work through Ipswich, Logan, the Gold Coast and Redlands over the coming years.

Just 2 years into the plan, and residents in parts of the Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and the Ipswich local government area are telling us the strategy is working. Watch a video of landholders telling us—"[there used to be fire ants, now there are none.](#)"

We are raising awareness that biosecurity threats are an issue for the whole community, from individual property owners and businesses to public landowners such as councils. Under the [Biosecurity Act 2014](#), everyone, including individuals and organisations, has a general

biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of fire ants. Queenslanders are legally required to report suspected sightings of fire ants within 24 hours of their discovery or face heavy fines.

We have put [fire ant biosecurity zones in place](#) to help manage the movement of materials that could spread fire ants such as soil, hay, turf and other carriers. Learn more about what we are doing to prevent the spread of fire ants.'

Extract from the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome or Clenched-foot Syndrome appears to be caused by a virus. It leaves the birds with clenched claws so they can't land and hold onto a branch or walk. Some quite literally fall out of the sky. On the ground, they either starve to death or are attacked by predators or ants.

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome has been recorded at different times in eastern Australia since the 1970s. This year, cases are being reported predominantly from Brisbane but also the Sunshine Coast. The virus spreads quickly when birds are in close contact (sound familiar?) and lorikeets aren't very good at social distancing!

If you find a bird on the ground and it appears to be dead or injured, it's still worth taking to a vet. Treatment will vary depending on how badly they are affected.



Lorikeets in south-east Queensland affected by the paralysis syndrome (*Supplied: Darryl Jones*)