



**November 2023**

Welcome to the November edition of *Streamlines*, the quarterly newsletter from Pullen Pullen Catchments Group. The newsletter begins with the announcement of our Annual General Meeting and an advertisement for a Secretary to replace Liz who has been the vital link in our Group for as long as I can remember.

The first article features Karen’s winning entries in a local Bake-Off aimed at building awareness in the community about our remarkable and unique threatened wildlife. Great work, Karen!!

Our series of articles from the Watergum website on toads and frogs continues with images of frogs of varying shapes and colours that may be confused with toads.

This is followed by an article describing Fireweed, a Weed of National Significance that is increasing in occurrence in our area.

To end the year, we have a good news story about fish traps and platypuses and a very responsible and reactive shop keeper at the Friendly Grocer in Karana Downs.

All members are invited to submit articles to *Streamlines* via [helian@pretirementresorts.com.au](mailto:helian@pretirementresorts.com.au). The deadline for the next issue is 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Seasons’ Greetings to all our readers and their friends and families. May the time until we meet again be happy and healthy.

Happy reading!

Helen Ogle  
 Editor



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# Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

## A Landcare Group

### Website

[www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au](http://www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au)

### Meetings

Meetings are held at 6 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road, Pullenvale unless advised otherwise.

### Committee Members 2023

<b>President:</b>	John Ness	3202 7556	<a href="mailto:john.ness@emsolutions.com.au">john.ness@emsolutions.com.au</a>
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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.

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

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

Anstead Bushland Reserve – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am (April-September), 7 – 9.30 am (October-March); 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month when advertised, 2-4.30 pm (April-September), 3.30-6 pm (October – March)

Pullenvale Forest Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am (April-September), 7.30 – 9.30 am (October-March)

Woodward Place Park – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am (April-September), 7.30 – 9.30 am (October-March)

See also the Events Calendar on the website (<https://www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au/events-calendar/>)



"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"

*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

## **Pullen Pullen Catchments Group**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday December 3rd at 3.00pm at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre in Grandview Road, Pullenvale.**

**Our guest speaker is ecologist Tamielle Brunt who is an expert on platypuses. She has conducted walks and run workshops on the platypus during the year and she was also very involved in the September Platy Project in Brisbane. Her presentations are always very illuminating.**

**We also have some hampers to be won - kindly donated by Dr Christian Rowan and our local councillor, Greg Adermann.**

**And, of course, the meeting will be followed by the usual scrumptious afternoon tea**

## **Position Vacant – Secretary**

PPCG's long term secretary will be retiring at the end of 2023 but will be able to assist an incoming secretary in the short term. The main roles for the secretary are:

1. Attend monthly PPCG meetings, take minutes and circulate minutes to committee members
2. Organise paperwork/on line material for monthly meetings and AGM
3. Circulate notices of working bees, events, general points of interest etc to PPCG members
4. Occasionally attend Brisbane Conservation Network meetings when PPCG delegate is unavailable
5. Act as contact point for liaison between committee and members of the public
6. Assist with completing the annual return, surveys and membership details.

Monthly meetings are held from Feb to Nov on the first Wednesday of each month at the Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre on Grandview Rd typically from 6-7.30pm. The AGM is normally held on Sunday in early December.

The position requires computer literacy and the laptop and other facilities are provided by PPCG or occasionally the Brisbane City Council or the local elected members of all three levels of government.

## Threatened Species Bake-Off

The Threatened Species Bake Off organised by the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, was an invitation to Australians to bake a dessert in the shape of a threatened species. The Bake Off aimed to build awareness in the community about Australia's remarkable and unique threatened wildlife.

This year's Bake Off theme highlighted the threatened species that don't often hit the headlines and the species that some people might call ugly or uncharismatic. It's a reminder that these species matter too. They play important roles in our ecosystems and are valued parts of Australia's biodiversity.

Participants were invited to take on the challenge to enter a baked creation that encourages other to love the unlovely or get to know the unknown.

Karen Roberts, a local Mum and very active PPCG member, took up the challenge celebrating the Collared Delma, a local legless lizard (see Streamlines May 2023 for a report on a local project aimed at increasing suitable habitat for the Collared Delma).

Karen commented 'In the spirit of "loving the unlovely" (this year's theme for the threatened species commissioner's bake off) I've made these (no baking involved) for a morning tea at work today and have orders for school tomorrow (actual Threatened Species Day). All in the name of raising awareness of our special legless lizard.'

Karen won the people's choice award for her collared delma cake and also received a highly commended award from the judges!

Congratulations, Karen!



Karen's celebration of the unlovely Collared Delma legless lizard

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## Master Plan for Victoria Park Unveiled

The Victoria Park/Barrambin Master Plan has been released, showcasing Brisbane City Council's long-term roadmap for the 64 hectares of inner-city greenspace. Support for the project remains high with 78% overall support for the Master Plan to restore the natural landscape, revitalise the park's wetlands and waterholes, increase tree canopy cover to 60% and create unique spaces such as the Tree House and nature water play gully.

## Frogs That May Look Similar to Cane Toads

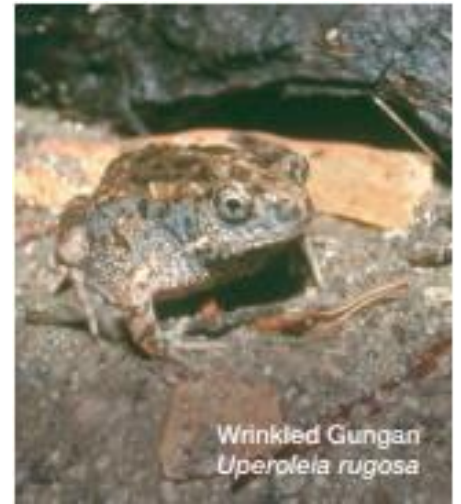
'Below, we have profiled some native frogs that live around the Gold Coast and that may be confused with cane toads. If you look closely and take note of their features, you should be able to recognise that they are frogs and not cane toads. You will notice that some of them are marked as CWS (City-wide significant), V (vulnerable) or E (endangered), so it is important that people don't make ID mistakes when removing cane toads from the environment. All pictures are property of City of Gold Coast.



Marsupial Frog  
*Assa darlingtoni*



Ornate Burrowing Frog  
*Platyplectrum ornatum*



Wrinkled Gungan  
*Uperoleia rugosa*



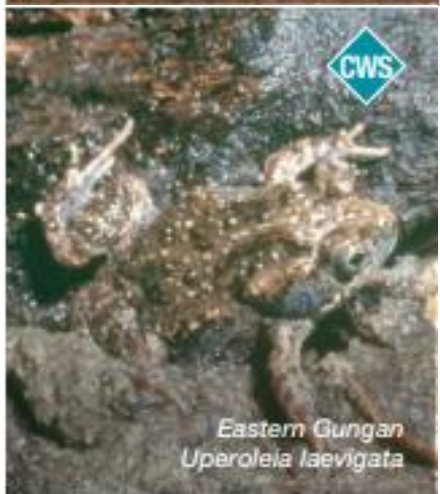
Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk  
*Limnodynastes terraereginae*



Sandy Gungan  
*Uperoleia fusca*



Great Brown Brood Frog  
*Pseudophryne major*



Eastern Gungan  
*Uperoleia laevigata*



Fleay's Barred Frog  
*Mixophyes fleayi*



Great Barred Frog  
*Mixophyes fasciolatus*



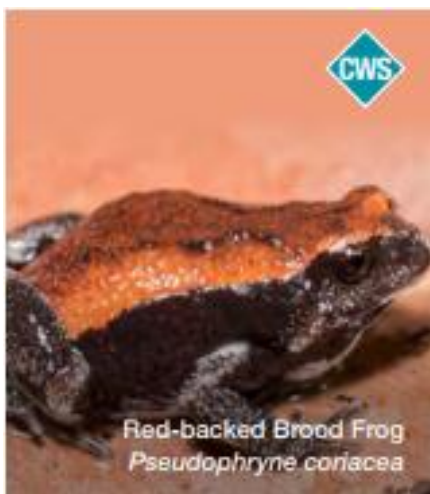
Beeping Froglet  
*Crinia parinsignifera*



Masked Mountain Frog  
*Philoria loveridgei*



Tusked Frog  
*Adelotus brevis*



Red-backed Brood Frog  
*Pseudophryne coriacea*



Wallum Froglet  
*Crinia tinnula*

Published with permission from Watergum, a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity that helps the community engage in real, on-ground work to restore, maintain and protect the natural environment.

## Another WoNS in our Area – Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*)

WoNS? What's that? Weeds of National Significance, a list of the most problematic plant species in Australia as determined by the Federal Government based on the weed's invasiveness, impacts, potential for spread and socioeconomic and environmental values.

And we have a WoNS in our neighbourhood which is rapidly increasing in occurrence. That plant is Fireweed, *Senecio madagascariensis*. As you might guess from its scientific name, it is originally from Madagascar and coastal South Africa. It was first seen in Australia in the Hunter Valley in 1918.

Under the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014, Fireweed is classed as Category 3 – invasive plants that must not be distributed either by sale or gift, or released into the environment.

Fireweed is a small plant with attractive, bright yellow daisy flowers. The plant grows up to 20-60 cm tall with many branches and may become woody. Its stems are upright and smooth. The flower heads are 1-2 cm in diameter and with up to 15 'petals'. The 'cup' surrounding the base of the flowers consists of about 20 greenish bracts. The flowers occur in clusters at the ends of the branches. It flowers between late autumn and early spring. Flowers are followed by 'seeds' (up to 18,000 per plant) that are brown, cylindrical, 1-3 mm long, downy on the surface and attached to fine, white feathery hairs (4-6.5 mm long) that aid their dispersal by wind. The leaves are smooth, alternate on the stem, clasp around the stem, much longer than wide (20-70 mm long and 3-10 mm wide), usually bright green with smooth, lobed or serrated edges. Fireweed grows and reproduces rapidly and may complete its life cycle up to four times in one growing season.



Whole plant



Flowers and 'seeds' showing fine white hairs attached to 'seed'

Fireweed occurs in pastures, open woodlands, grasslands, suburban bushlands, roadsides, disturbed sites, wastelands, parks and coastal environments in subtropical and warmer temperate parts of the world. It is currently found along the east coast of Australia from Victoria to Central Queensland. It does not grow well in shaded or wet areas.

The light, hairy seeds are easily spread by wind, mostly within 5 m of the parent plant. Further spread more likely occurs through human activity such as moving contaminated hay, silage and grain products, or on clothing, vehicles or machinery. Livestock, birds and other animals can also spread the seeds.

Fireweed is poisonous to horses, cattle and other livestock. Symptoms of poisoning include gradual weight loss, jaundice, fluid in the lungs, blindness, sudden death, aimless wandering, abdominal straining, rectal prolapse and irritability. Fireweed also reduces productivity and is hard to control.

Fireweed could be confused with other introduced and native species of *Senecio*.



Bracts surrounding flowers



Hairless erect stem, elongate bright green leaves with toothed edge, leaf base clasping stem

Compiled from information on numerous websites – Department of Primary Industries Victoria, Department of Primary Industries New South Wales, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland, Wikipedia.

# Opera House Nets

Jim Williams

We don't know what we don't know and it can be reassuring when good comes from this.

There was a great deal to be learnt about the Platypus by attending the platy-project information morning held at Lake Manchester in August. What an amazing "thing" this creature is, how it has evolved, with its strange and unique combination of features. A semi aquatic poisonous egg-laying mammal that uses electricity to seek out food.



An Opera House net trap

The way man has severely compromised its existence was also addressed. An element unknown to me, was the use of "Opera House" nets (and similar) to catch fish and other aquatic creatures in creeks and rivers.

Basically, bait is placed inside the submerged net and attracts creatures to enter. The trap is a one-way device, the trapped creature cannot escape. Unfortunately for Platypuses if this happens, they die as they cannot resurface to breathe.

The day following the talk I was up early and took part in the Platypus observation survey of Kholo creek, sadly no Platypus were seen that day by participants.

After sunrise and on the way home I dropped into our local family run supermarket. It was both disappointing and concerning to see the "Platypus death traps" for sale out on the forecourt. I picked up one of the nets and located a business owner and carefully and respectfully explained the potential danger to the Platypus and asked them to consider the implications of having these items for sale.

They simply did not know what they did not know.

The good news is that by the next day the nets had been removed from sale. PPCG wrote a thank you letter and we can now reflect upon how community businesses wish to do the right thing for our environment.

As an end note I am happy to report that there has been a confirmed sighting of Platypus in Kholo Creek recently. I look forward to catching up with the owners of the local supermarket to pass on this wonderful update of Platypus being sighted just 2.5Km away.

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**Postscript 1:** Brendan added the following comments to discussion of the platypus survey:

*'I thought it would be worth reminding you all, that it's just as important to record absence as well as presence of platypuses on the Australian Conservation Foundation Platy-project.*

*So please record your data in the following webpage and click the green button 'RECORD': <https://platy-project.acf.org.au/>*

*Please also note, that when recording absence (Number of platypuses = 0), you still need to select the option 'Certain' under the section 'Are you confident of the species identification' to progress with your recording. Otherwise nothing is recorded.'*

**Postscript 2:** Opera House nets (which appear to be mostly used to catch yabbies) are banned in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Queensland allows use of the nets only in limited areas where platypuses or at-risk animals such as freshwater turtles and water rats are not located. Which only goes to emphasise the need to know just where platypuses occur!