



Glossy Black Conservancy News

September 2006

Welcome!

This is the first edition of Glossy Black Conservancy News, the newsletter of the Glossy Black Conservancy. The Glossy Black Conservancy is a not for profit consortium, that seeks to increase awareness and promote a collaborative conservation management approach for Glossy Black-Cockatoos (GBCs) across SEQ, through a partnership between government agencies, private enterprise, researchers and the wider community.

Breaking News!

Neville Lawrie Reserve in Logan has been uncovered as a hotspot for Glossy Blacks! Six birds have been seen regularly at three sites in the reserve over the last couple of months, with numerous food trees now mapped. Logan City Council officer, Jim Napier, was awed to come across the birds, who sat quietly feeding and dropping debris on his head and camera! The Reserve and the birds will feature in Channel 10's 'Totally Wild' on Tuesday 19 September.

Other recent sightings:

- Twin Bridges, Fernvale
- Perseverance Creek, Crows Nest
- Cornubia Forest Park
- Andrea Ahern Park, Caloundra

Glossy Black Cockatoo Tree Planting

Saturday 9 September, 10am-1pm (rain or shine) at Lions Park, The Boulevard, Russell Island (UBD268 P15).

- 400 plants including 130 GBC nesting and feeding trees;
- free BBQ;
- mainland residents - catch the ferry from Redland Bay at 9.05am and return on the 1.30pm ferry; and register so that transport on the island can be arranged

Call Indigiscapes on 3824 8611. Part of National Threatened Species Day activities

(<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/ts-day/index.html>).



Glossy Blacks at Neville Lawrie Reserve. Photo: J.Napier

Events & activities

Bird Week, 23-30 September

Birds Queensland is coordinating a plethora of FREE activities, including:

Guided walks to see and learn about birds. Just turn up to take part. All walks start at 8am; further walks at 8:30am and 9am.

- Sherwood Forest Park (Arboretum), Sat 23rd (Jolimont St, Sherwood, UBD178 K19.)
- Boondall Wetlands, Sun 24th (Bicentennial Way-Gateway Motorway, UBD111 C14)
- Oxley Common, Wed 27th (Sherwood Rd, Sherwood, UBD179 B20)
- Araucaria Walk, Brisbane Forest Park, Sat 30th (Mt Nebo Rd, The Gap, UBD137 G19)
- Anstead Bushlands, Sun 1st Oct (Hawkesbury Rd, Anstead, UBD195 P3)

Library talks on Glossy Black Cockatoos and their very specialised feeding habits at:

- Ashgrove, Tue 26th 6:30pm
- Capalaba, Tue 26th 10:30am
- Carindale, Fri 28th 10am

- Chermside, Mon 25th 4:30pm
- Coopers Plains, Sat 23rd 10 am
- Corinda, Wed 27th 4pm
- Garden City, Thu 28th 5:30pm
- Inala, Mon 25th 10am
- Indooroopilly, Tue 26th 6:30pm
- Mt Ommaney, Wed 27th 4pm
- Sunnybank Hills, Thu 28th 4:30pm
- Toowong, Thu 28th 10:30am

Library displays featuring Glossy Black-Cockatoos at: Annerley, Ashgrove, Banyo, Beerwah, Bracken Ridge, Bulimba, Caloundra, Capalaba, Carina, Carindale, Chermside, Cleveland, Coopers Plains, Corinda, Everton Park, Fairfield, Garden City, The Grange, Hamilton, Helensvale, Holland Park, Inala, Indooroopilly, Ipswich, Kawana, Maleny, Mary Cairncross Park, Mitchelton, Mt Coot-tha, Mt Gravatt, Mt Ommaney, Nundah, Redbank, Redbank Plains, Robina, Sandgate, Southport, Sunnybank Hills, Toowong, Victoria Point, Wynnum and Zillmere.

For more information contact Lyn, phone 3378 3763 or email netcole@bigpond.com.

More about Glossies

Three factors are critical to GBC survival:

- they feed only on she-oaks seeds;
- they nest in hollows; and
- they need water every day.

Let's look at each in a little more detail.

Food: In south-east Queensland, Glossy Black-Cockatoos primarily feed on *Allocasuarina littoralis* and *A. torulosa*, though are also known to feed on *Casuarina equisetifolia* (in parks only) and *C. cristata*.

These she-oak species are dominant in only 10 of the 151 regional ecosystems found in the region. Of the six *Allocasuarina* dominated ecosystems, five are considered 'of concern' under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA) and the other is 'not of concern'. All three *C. cristata* dominated regional ecosystems are considered 'endangered' under the VMA, whilst that dominated by *C. equisetifolia* is 'not of concern'. Representation of all these ecosystems within reserves is low.

She-oaks are also generally pioneer species, becoming less common as the vegetation matures, meaning that in many areas, regrowth rather than remnant vegetation may be more important as a food source.

Nest sites: Glossy Black-Cockatoos need large hollows in which to raise their young. Suitably-sized hollows may take over 200 years to form¹. Clearing of 75% of bushland in south-east Queensland (since European settlement, circa 1820²) left only mostly higher altitude areas (above 60m along the coastal ranges and above 160m further west) virtually uncleared – these may be the areas providing nesting hollows.

Increasing populations of more aggressive, hollow-nesting birds such as cockatoos (eg. galahs, sulphur-crested cockatoos, long- and short-billed corellas) and possibly Common Mynahs, are also limiting the availability of nest sites for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

Water: Seeds are dry food, so Glossy Black-Cockatoos need to drink water every day. Reliable watering points are essential for survival. Recent research has found that watering holes need to be within two kilometres of the nest site in order for the male bird to support the female whilst she stays in the nest hollow for nearly six months to brood and then feed the nestlings.

¹ Conservation Management Note 5 (1999), NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

² Catterall, C.P. and Kingston, M. (1993) Remnant Bushland of South East Queensland in the 1990's: its distribution, loss, ecological consequences, and future prospects. Institute of Applied Environmental Research, Griffith University.

What does this mean?

Glossy Black-Cockatoos have very particular habitat needs:

- Old growth forest containing, or within 2 kilometres, of permanent water, needed for breeding; and
- Regrowth needed for feeding.

Conservation of habitat (feeding, nesting and watering sites) is critical to the long-term survival of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo. Vegetation mapping can help identify potential habitat, however, sighting data is needed to determine actual habitat.

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found evidence of their feeding, eg. cone chewings, please complete a Sightings Report available from Glossy Black Conservancy sponsors or via email GBC@biodiversity.tv.

The Glossy Black Conservancy acknowledges the support of:

