



# Glossy Black Conservancy News

## No. 13 December 2014

*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 across South East Queensland and the north coast of New South Wales, through a partnership between government, private enterprise, researchers and the wider community.*

### 2014 Birding Day

The 2014 Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day was held on Sunday 19 October across south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales. A total of 154 observers signed on with 89 birds sighted and 95 feed trees recorded.

This number is up from the 69 birds reported from the previous October count in 2012 but down from the 132 birds reported in last year's May count. On a positive note, 14 juvenile birds were recorded – the second highest total since the surveys began in 2010!



Redland City Council (50) recorded the most birds this year (including 28 birds on Russel Island, 20 on North Stradbroke Island and 2 on Macleay Island) followed by the Gold Coast (16).

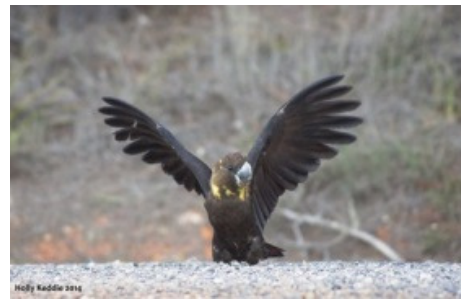
Whilst the main purpose of the Birding Day is to collect information on Glossy Black-Cockatoo numbers (to help us determine population size), another very important outcome is records of feed trees. These confirm an area is being used by Glossies and the sites can then be visited in subsequent Birding Days.

Bird sighting and feed tree data from the 2014 Birding Day are summarised in the table below:

Region	No. of Observers	No. of Trees	Birds Seen
<b>Gold Coast</b>	27	35	16
<b>Brisbane</b>	6	9	0
<b>Scenic Rim</b>	8	0	4
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	17	5	6
<b>Moreton Bay</b>	3	0	0
<b>Logan</b>	23	0	0
<b>Redlands</b>	40	24	50
<b>Tweed</b>	19	12	0
<b>Noosa</b>	11	10	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>

The Glossy Black Conservancy is extremely grateful to all participants from this year's and previous year's Birding Days. Glossies are a vulnerable and cryptic species that can be difficult to find and we thank everyone who has taken the time to look for them! Bird sighting and feed tree information from the Birding Day will be uploaded into the Conservancy's database, where it will be used to guide habitat conservation.

We hope you can participate in next year's Birding Day, scheduled for **Sunday May 3!**



*Glossy Black-Cockatoos seen on Russell Island. Photo credits: Holly Keddle (top), Lisa Bailey (above), Tony Powell (left).*



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## Congratulations to Prize Winners!

Congratulations to the lucky Birding Day participants who were this year's prize winners!

- Andrew Bingham – Midweek stay at Mt Barney Lodge (major prize!)
- Noah Ireland – Family pass to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nadia Lees – Copy of "Parrots of the World" by Joseph Forshaw

Thank you to all our prize sponsors!

## Habitat Planting at Minjelha Dhagun

Greenfleet, a not-for-profit organisation which provides Carbon offsets by planting native trees, undertook a revegetation project at Minjelha Dhagun bordering Mt Barney National Park in 2008, working with local Aboriginal people.

Mt Barney National Park is a key habitat for glossy black-cockatoos, and several hundred forest she-oaks (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) were included in the planting to provide important food resources for birds.




*Photo of forest she-oak (Allocasuarina torulosa) included in the planting at Minjelha Dhagun. Photo credit: Greenfleet*

## Glossy Black-Cockatoos at Merimbula, NSW


A landcare group has recently erected an educational sign, on a nature walk that follows the beach at Merimbula on the far south coast of New South Wales. The sign includes information about three local cockatoo species (including glossy blacks) with the Conservancy supplying an image.

### MUNDOOI WALK



David Cook Wildlife Photography



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a raucous noisy bird that is often heard before being seen. It is very fond of wood-boring grubs. It tears bark strips off the melaleucas to enlarge a hole to reach the grubs that it can hear inside the trunk.



Tina/Phyllis/Phyllis

Glossy Black-Cockatoo prefers to eat the seeds of the allocasuarinas. The birds' presence is often indicated by a layer of cracked cones that have accumulated under favoured casuarina trees.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a large white parrot. It eats seeds, berries, fruits and nuts. When a flock is feeding on the ground, at least one remains in a tree and keeps watch for predators.

Tura/Mirador Landcare was assisted to produce this sign with a grant from Bega Valley Shire Council's 'Community Environmental Grants Program'

*Educational signage at Merimbula, NSW*

## Ageing & Sexing Glossies

To definitively sex and/or age a Glossy Black-Cockatoo, a combination of features should be used, including ear and wing coverts, body barring, tail feathers and the presence/absence of yellow feathers on the head and neck.

- Juveniles of both sexes have spotting on the feathers covering the ear (lost by 12-18 months old)
- Young of both sexes have yellow/orange spotting on upperwing and underwing coverts (lost by 12-18 months old, although some adult females have a few yellow spots throughout life)
- Young of both sexes have 2mm-wide yellow bars on otherwise black feathers of the throat and belly (some females may retain some



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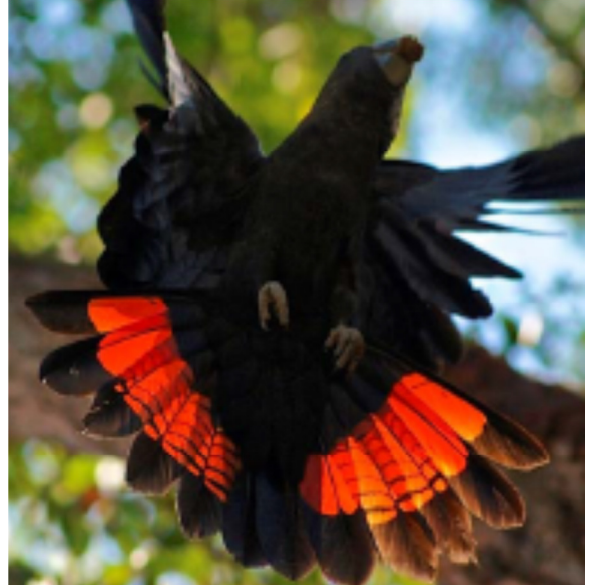
barred feathers as adults, especially on the tail coverts)

- Males typically lack any yellow feathers on the head and neck, whereas females start to acquire yellow feathers at 1 year old with the number increasing by 2 years old
- Only adult male glossy black-cockatoos have solid bright red panels in their tail feathers, whereas younger birds of both sexes have orange/yellow panels in the tail with additional horizontal black barring across these coloured panels. Barring is narrower in older females than juveniles.

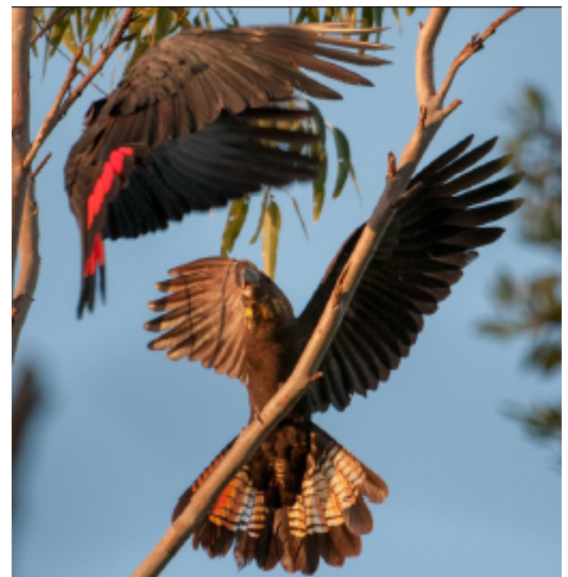
Some helpful photos are included in this newsletter to illustrate some of these features.



*Juvenile glossy black of indeterminate sex showing spotting on ear and wing coverts (Photo: George Gornacz)*



*Male glossy black aged between 2 and 6 years, showing clear (adult) and barred (immature) tail feather panels (Photo: Bobbi Marchini)*



*Adult male (above) with unbanded red tail panels, and female aged between 1 and 3 (below), with wide barring on tail coverts but extensive yellow on head (Photo: George Gornacz).*



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*Juvenile female showing yellow spotting and barring on belly. A few yellow feathers are emerging on the head (female characteristic). (Photo: Anonymous)*

Please remember to report all of your bird sightings to the Conservancy website at [http://www.glossyblack.org.au/Submit\\_sightings.html](http://www.glossyblack.org.au/Submit_sightings.html). The more information that can be reported (i.e. age, sex, bird activity), the better!

### **Are your Glossies moulting?**

Recent observations of a flock of Glossy Black-Cockatoos on the Bay Islands found that several birds are moulting. As birds often moult annually, and usually after the breeding season whilst food is still relatively abundant, this is a great time to check your Glossy feeding, roosting and watering sites for feathers that could contribute to the Conservancy's genetic research project (refer article in Feb 2014 newsletter). If you do find feathers, please don't

collect them (unless you have a permit to do so), rather contact Dr Ian Gynther on (07) 32020 0250 or by email [Ian.Gynther@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ian.Gynther@ehp.qld.gov.au) as soon as possible so he can put you in touch with the nearest Conservancy permit holder.

### **Recent GBC Sightings**

This photo was taken of a Glossy Black-Cockatoo family at Russell Island in southern Moreton Bay. A female can be seen at the nest entrance, with a fully grown juvenile peering out a side hole! Large eucalypt trees (living or dead) with hollows are essential for glossies to nest and rear their young.



*Glossy Black-Cockatoo family at Russell Island (Photo: Holly Keddie)*

Do you have an interesting photograph or story about Glossy Black-Cockatoos? Email the Conservancy at [gbc@biodiversity.tv](mailto:gbc@biodiversity.tv). We would love to hear your stories and share them with others!



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### Conservancy Year In Review 2014

2014 was another busy and productive year for the Glossy Black Conservancy. In late November, Glossy Black Conservancy partners met for their regular annual year in review.

Key activities were reviewing the actions undertaken by partners, sponsors and friends during the year to implement the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Conservation Guidelines, and deciding the priority actions for 2015.

Highlights for the year were: hundreds of new records of Glossy Black-Cockatoos, over 1000 feed trees planted, habitat mapping, habitat protection through land purchase and planning provisions, the annual Birding Day, displays at events, and talks to council officers community groups and schools.

The full details of the review will be summarised and made available on the Conservancy's website in late January/early Feb.

The spectacular facilities and sumptuous food provided by host (and Conservancy partner) [Mt Barney Lodge](#) created just the right atmosphere to reflect and reinvigorate.



*Conservancy partners gathered at Mt Barney Lodge for the annual Year In Review meeting.*


At the Year In Review meeting, it was decided that the recipient of the Conservancy's annual "Golden Ort" Award would be Russell Island resident Holly Keddie. Holly has become a wealth of information and knowledge for birds that fly daily between North Stradbroke Island and Russell Island.

Holly also showed tremendous dedication and commitment in attempting to save a stranded Glossy Black-Cockatoo chick in September, sleeping beneath a tree overnight to keep predators away from him

Congratulations and thank you for your efforts Holly!

*Male Glossy Black-Cockatoo on Russell Island (Holly Keddie)*





### Like us on Facebook

If you haven't already, **be sure to like us on Facebook** to be kept up to date on news, research and upcoming events related to glossies! Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Glossy Black Conservancy.