

# Glossy Black Conservancy News No. 9 October 2010

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.

#### **Birding Day 31 October 2010**

The Conservancy's first regional Birding Day is fast approaching.

The status of the SEQ population is difficult to determine as Glossy Black-Cockatoos are cryptic in their behaviour and use of natural habitats. Despite a number of agencies maintaining databases for many years there is still little knowledge of the estimated population size and distribution of the species in the region.

The regional Birding Day aims to gain a better estimate of Glossy Black-Cockatoo population size, enabling researchers at Griffith University to assess the viability of the populations and determine habitat areas of frequent use. This information will help to create and improve conservation strategies for this species.

#### Can you help?

You can participate in the census by either searching your own property or searching a known Glossy Black-Cockatoo locality, either as an individual or in a larger group (e.g. schools, scouts, guides etc.).

#### **Fantastic Prizes!**

Observers who volunteer for a full day and submit a completed datasheet will go into the draw for the following prizes:

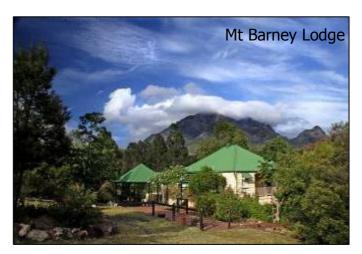
- Mt Barney Lodge getaway
- Family passes to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Australia Zoo
- Bird club memberships
- Books, specifically 'Cockatoos' by Matt Cameron

If you would like to help, you must register. Please get in touch with your regional coordinator (see list below) or if outside these areas, directly with Guy Castley.

#### **Conservancy Logo**

The growing membership of the Conservancy has led to the development of a single logo to represent the collaborative approach to Glossy Black-Cockatoo conservation. The organisations represented by the logo in 2010 are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

The new logo provides clear branding and identification of Conservancy materials and features on the revised brochure and poster, available now!







Council area	Coordinator	Email	Telephone
Brisbane City - SEQ	Robyn Jones / Lyn Cole	robyn.jones@brisbane.qld.gov.au	07 3403 6606
Byron Shire - NSW	Scott Hetherington	scott.hetherington@byron.nsw.gov.au	02 6626 7324
Gold Coast City - SEQ	Guy Castley	g.castley@griffith.edu.au	07 5552 8918
Logan City - SEQ	Lyndall Rosevear / Rod Bloss	LyndallRosevear@logan.qld.gov.au	07 3412 4860
Moreton Bay - SEQ	Andrew Evans	Andrew.Evans@moretonbay.qld.gov.au	07 3283 0227
Redland City - SEQ	Lisa Bailey	lisa.bailey@redland.qld.gov.au	07 3820 1105
Scenic Rim - SEQ	Tracey Larkin	tracey@mtbarneylodge.com.au	07 5544 3233
Sunshine Coast - SEQ	Conor Jenkins / Eric Anderson	Conor.Jenkins@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au	07 5499 5142
Tweed Shire - NSW	Tanya Fountain	tfountain@tweed.nsw.gov.au	02 6670 2787

COCKATOOS

#### **Conservation Guidelines to be launched soon**

The Glossy Black Conservancy (the 'Conservancy') operates as a partnership between government, community groups and business to facilitate the management and conservation of Glossy Black-Cockatoos within South-eastern Queensland (SEQ) and far Northeastern New South Wales (NE NSW).

A major focus for the Conservancy over the past two years has been the development of a Regional Management Plan for Glossy Black-Cockatoos in SEQ and NE NSW that summarises the ecology, threats and appropriate research and management actions for addressing the conservation needs of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo. Following further consideration of the contextual implications of a 'Management Plan' that is to be applied across Local Government and State boundaries, it was decided that the development of 'Conservation Guidelines' would be a more appropriate and achievable outcome, and one that could form the consistent basis of individual Management Plans for each of the authorities.

The objectives of the Conservation Guidelines are to:

- Facilitate the conservation of viable populations of Glossy Black-Cockatoos and their habitats;
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of the interactions between Glossy Black-Cockatoos, the environment and threats;
- Provide stakeholders with the information to establish and implement strategic, adaptive management actions and associated monitoring regimes that achieve the conservation objectives for the species and its habitats;
- Provide advice on practical measures that can be used to achieve enhanced protection and conservation of Glossy Black-Cockatoo habitat;
- Assist the implementation of management actions by coordinating a collaborative effort of stakeholders via a consistent approach;
- Raise public awareness of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, the threats it faces, and what the community can do to ameliorate these threats.

The Conservation Guidelines were developed collaboratively by all Conservancy partners. A first draft was developed by key Conservancy partners and circulated in early 2009 to all partners for comment. A revised second draft, circulated to all Conservancy partners in early November 2009, formed the background to individual feedback meetings between a Conservancy coordinator and representatives of Department of Environment and Resource Management and councils involved in the Conservancy. Council representatives participating in these meetings included staff from the planning, development assessment, parks, community partnerships, and environment sections. The outcomes of these meetings were presented at a two-day workshop (2-3 December 2009) involving most Conservancy partners and kindly sponsored by Mt Barney Lodge,

where the proposed guidelines were discussed and commented on in detail. This feedback informed the preparation of a final draft of the Conservation Guidelines that was circulated to all partners for further comment in mid-December 2009. The finalized Conservation Guidelines are available from the Conservancy's website and will be officially launched later this year.

Principal guidelines identified by the Conservancy are to:

- Survey Glossy Black-Cockatoo populations regularly to monitor population trends, recruitment and distribution;
- Identify and conserve feeding habitat. High priority actions include developing a habitat suitability map for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo in SEQ and NE NSW to include in future Biodiversity Planning Assessments undertaken at State level, and protecting feeding habitat from land clearing and tree removal through the development approval process;
- Identify new nest sites, monitor the use of known nest sites and protect nest sites and suitable nesting habitat through the development approval process and incentives for private land conservation;
- Encourage ecological research on the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, particularly its movements and use of the broader landscape, and the fire responses of its principal feed tree species;
- Promote and facilitate community interest and understanding of Glossy Black-Cockatoo habitat requirements and conservation;
- Promote and facilitate community participation in Glossy Black-Cockatoo conservation; and
- Adopt a strategic planning approach to Glossy Black-Cockatoo conservation at the local and regional level by maintaining the Conservancy and implementing the recommended actions as resources permit.

The guidelines are accompanied by a summary of current statutory and policy frameworks relevant to Glossy Black-Cockatoo conservation.



Keeping watch! A vigilant female on sentry duty near a nest hollow. See page 6 for exciting news. Photo: Boyd Essex.

#### **Schools Update**

A year ago the Conservancy completed our Envirofund project. Here's what some of the schools have been up to..

#### Aratula S.S.

She-oaks for Glossy Black-Cockatoos were planted on National Tree Day. The planting was supported by Scenic Rim Regional Council.





#### Bald Hills S.S. Louise Brennan, Teacher Aide

Our initial planting is doing well, despite a flood that inundated the area one week after planting!

Our plan is to enlarge on this by planting new trees for the Glossy Black Project each year with new prep students and their families.

Pictured are some keen volunteers from this year's planting.

### Bunyaville E.E.C. Noeleen Rowntree, Principal

## **`From little things big things grow'**

Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre (EEC) was delighted to bring together the local biodiversity cluster of schools in the Albany Creek area as part of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed tree project. Each school in the local cluster



took part with Bunyaville EEC planting Casuarina trees in the Bunyaville Conservation Park.

As you can see, 'from little things big things grow.' The trees were planted in the forest on the hill with help from all our staff, Year 2 children and a Green Corps team. The planting was valued by all including the landholders, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

We have made a big book using the power point information found in the pack.

This is used in the field for sharing the information visually with the teachers, adults and students.

A really big thank you to the Glossy Black Conservancy team for organising the trees for everyone to make a difference for the habitat and the future of the forest with the Glossy Black-Cockatoo awareness and feed tree project.

We look forward to helping in other ways in the future.





#### Eatons Hill S.S. Sandy O'Reilly, Teacher

Our she-oak trees have grown quite a lot.

Nine of the initial 50 trees died and we replaced these on National Tree Day 30 June.

Pictured is a Year 7 student with a she-oak six months after planting.

### Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra Trish Fay, Year 2 Teacher

Glossy Black-Cockatoo awareness has been incorporated into a program called 'kids teaching kids'.

I have used the Conservancy's lesson plans/teaching package and knowledge gained to teach my Year 2 children all about Glossies. In the week 30 August to 4

September, my students visited other classes, taught them about the birds and did some worksheets and craft activities with them. By doing this I hope to have all the children in the lower school fully aware of the Glossy Black-Cockatoos so that as they move up the school they are mindful of the birds and their habitats (especially at our school).

We had such fun learning about the birds last year; we even had an excursion called 'Glossy Black Hunting' where we went searching for the birds around Moffat Beach as one of the kids had found orts and had taken a picture of one feeding.



Redland Bay S.S. Patricia Mortensen How they've grown!!





### **Woodcrest College Chris Sarra, Year 2 Teacher**

Our she-oaks were planted with a range of other natives to enhance habitat values (see picture, right). We plan to extend the planting this year and also use the kit in the

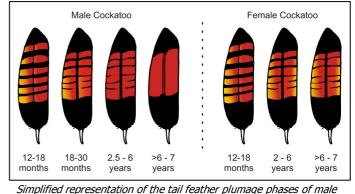
classroom. We entered our project into the Ipswich Environmental Awards last year and received a Gold Award for our efforts.



#### **New Identification Fact Sheet**

A new fact sheet on Glossy Black-Cockatoo identification is now available from the Conservancy's website.

The fact sheet contains tips on how to separate Glossies from other black-cockatoos and how to distinguish male, female and juvenile birds by using the patterns and colours on the tail feathers.



and female Glossy Black-Cockatoos (adapted from Courtney 1986)

#### **Sighting Stories**

### **Edward Corbould Reserve Regulars C.Jenkins**

Sunshine Coast Council staff have been monitoring a site in Caloundra know as Edward Corbould Bushland Reserve East, which is adjacent to Corbould Park racecourse on Caloundra Road, since December 2009. The site is utilised heavily by a daily minimum of three Glossy Black-Cockatoos, although up to eight birds have been sighted in this 19 hectare reserve. Around 60 *Allocasuarina littoralis* have been identified as feed trees within three hectares of this reserve, and recently a few more trees have been identified on the northern side of the reserve. This site appears to be a key feeding area for at least one breeding pair with a juvenile the pair is trying to move on. On one occasion three pairs were witnessed,

two of which had juveniles; it was obvious that one of the juveniles was very young due to its size and raucous behaviour, which the adult males were not very impressed by and were heard screeching back at the juvenile.



Legend

#### Cedar Creek Cockatoos T. Rogers

Having recently joined the Land for Wildlife program through the Logan City Council, we have been receiving information and support from the Environmental team. On one of the visits I was asked about the Glossy Black-Cockatoo and whether we had seen any. At the time I wasn't sure if I had or not. We had seen



lots of the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos and black-cockatoos with red tails, but didn't know how to identify the GBC. After the visit I spent some time studying the information sheet and visiting the Conservancy's website.

We often walk in the Plunkett Conservation Park in the early morning and in May we had our first sighting of a GBC eating in a Casuarina tree about 100m along the path. The only reason we noticed the bird was that my husband thought the noise we were hearing was a tree branch about to fall. However, instead there was a GBC eating the cones. It was a solitary bird that continued eating while we talked around the base of the tree. Unfortunately we didn't have our camera with us so I picked up some of the chewed cones to help with identification as I still wasn't entirely convinced that this was indeed a GBC.

We watched about 10 minutes and then continued on our walk – we returned about an hour later but by this time the bird was gone.

On subsequent walks through the Park in the following months we have seen GBCs. Sometimes it has been a single bird and other times there have been up to three.

Fortunately we have had our camera with us on some of these occasions so have been able to have the sightings confirmed.

Each time the birds were feeding in casuarinas trees adjacent to the walking path, about 50 metres apart.

In June we were very happy to see four GBCs in a stand of casuarina trees alongside our driveway. We have subsequently seen up to three GBCs in this area as recently as July.

It is very likely that we have just not noticed the Glossy Black-Cockatoo in the past and of course now that we are aware we make an effort to look out for them.

Feed Trees

Zone 1 Reserves

#### **Best Job in the World**

International volunteers with Conservation Volunteers Australia experienced "the best job in the world" in August at Mt Barney Lodge. In August, they gave a mulch 'n' weed makeover to the 140 she-oak trees (Allocasuarina torulosa) planted a couple of years ago as a voluntary conservation project at Mt Barney Lodge. The amazing backdrop of Queensland's most impressive mountain, the surrounding World Heritage-listed Mt Barney National Park, and winter blue skies contributed to their unique Aussie experience.

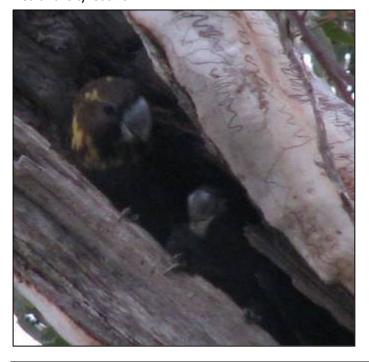
The conservation plot extends the natural stand of mature she-oaks at Mt Barney Lodge that are known to be annual food trees for the Glossy Black-Cockatoos in the area. The trees are now over two foot high, and are likely to be producing cones in four years time. Mt Barney Lodge is investing in valuable "environmental infrastructure" to assist with the feeding and nesting resources Glossies need for continued survival.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is gaining recognition and support in the Scenic Rim as an iconic native species and features during Birdweek at Mt Barney Lodge.

There are a number of man-made threats to the Glossy's habitat, and these are causing it to continue to slide towards a "threatened" existence. There are also a number of positive actions the community can do to ensure the bird's continued survival.

#### **Welcome Mergy!!**

Keen eyes and vigilant observation have resulted in an opportunity to photograph a young Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Mergy, emerge from its nest hollow. Mum keeps watch and visit regularly to feed the young bird which has yet to fledge. Photos courtesy Boyd Essex, Redland City Council.



#### **Report your Sightings!**

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found some chewed sheoak cones (orts), please let us know. Simply fill out a sightings report (online or in our brochure) or email <a href="mailto:gbc@biodiversity.tv">gbc@biodiversity.tv</a> with details of your sighting.

### **2010 Partners, Supporters & Friends**

#### **Partners**

- BAMM
- Birds Australia Southern Queensland
- Birds QLD
- Brisbane City Council
- BrisBOCA
- Byron Shire Council
- Department of Environment and Resource Management
- · Gold Coast City Council
- Griffith University
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Mt Barney Lodge
- North Burnett Regional Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- SEQ Catchments
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Tweed Shire Council

#### **Sponsors**

• Bundaberg Regional Council

#### **Friends**

- ARROW
- Gympie Regional Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan & Albert Conservation Association
- Tweed Bird Observers
- Wildlife Queensland, incl Fraser Coast Branch
- West Moreton Landcare Group Inc.

