



# Glossy Black Conservancy News

## No. 2 March 2007

### Welcome to 2007!

And welcome to new Conservancy partners, the Mary Local Government Authority Cluster and Griffith University's Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies!

### 2007 Action Plan

The Conservancy's 2007 Action Plan identifies priority actions for the year ahead. Small working groups have been identified to further develop specific actions to be delivered in 2007, such as:

- Training workshops
- Website creation
- Develop information kits and fact sheets
- Organise community walks & information displays
- Produce a quarterly newsletter
- Undertake an annual review of actions
- Further develop sightings database & link to GIS

If you can help with any of these, either financially or 'in-kind', big or small, please get in touch.

### 2006 Year in Review

Approximately 40 people representing Conservancy partners attended the November 2006 'Year in Review' to present individual initiatives and formulate the 2007 Action Plan. The Annual Report presenting achievements from the year is now available.

### Sighting Stories

#### Ben Bennett Birds

In December 2006, Caloundra City Council's coastal conservation officers working in Ben Bennett Botanical Park heard a juvenile GBC squawking. A family of three (previously seen mid-November) were in an *Allocasuarina* tree. The team leader called me and I raced out to the park for my first encounter! It was a fantastic experience!! A short time after observing them, the mother started feeding the juvenile [S. O'Keefe].

#### Sunset at Sunrise

A pair of Glossy Black-Cockatoos was observed flying over Dame Patti Park, Sunrise Beach, around 5:15 pm, on 10 and 11 December 2006. Where did they come from and where were they going? [B. Carey]

#### VCA Landholders protect GBC habitat

Wamuran landholders in the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program offered by Caboolture Shire Council, were rewarded with sightings of Glossy Black-Cockatoos in November 2006 [N. Weston].

### Sightings in Brief

- Mt Archer, 24 July 2006, [F. Pierce & J. Mattiske]
- Munruben Woods, 8 Sept, pair with juvenile [P&S Garside]
- Logan Reserve, 8 Sept [R. Dowling]
- Glasshouse Mountains, 19 Sept, pair with near adult young feeding [J. Eby]
- Logan Reserve, Nov, several sightings of 3 birds [I. Reynolds]
- Karalee, Nov, pair feeding for over a week [J Mann]
- Clagiraba, 7 Dec, 6 feeding [C. Collins]
- Mount Tibrogargan, 13 Dec, family of three [S O'Keefe]
- North Tamborine, 25 Dec, 3 birds all day in 2 trees [A. Howes, et.al]
- Mudgeeraba, 18 Jan 2007, male and female with an immature female feeding [C. Collins]
- Goomburra, 27 Jan, 19 birds flew over, all heading in same direction down from the hills in groups from two to five [M. Glipin]
- Spring Mountain, 2 Feb [P. MacDonald]
- Spicers Gap, 10 Feb, 2 birds feeding [D. Stewart]
- Griffith University, Southport, 22 Feb, 3 birds (adult pair and subadult female) feeding all day in one *A. littoralis* trees [G. Castley]
- Grandchester, 24 Feb, 12 birds flying to water; 3 March, 4 birds flying to water [P. Copping]
- Little Mountain, March, new record [S. O'Keefe]
- Bundaberg, 18 March, pair feeding [L. Dorahy]



Glossy Black at Spring Mountain, note the red tail (Photo: P. MacDonald)

## Ort Report

Finding chewed cones, or orts, under casuarinas trees is a pretty good clue that Glossy Black-Cockatoos may have been feeding in the tree. The colour of the chewed flesh indicates how long ago the birds were there; the whiter the cone, the more recently a bird was there. Below are some reported ort locations:



- David Low way, Sunrise, 12 Dec 2006, week old chewings under a street tree (*C. littoralis*) last seen used maybe 6 months ago [B. Carey]
- J.C. Trotter Park, 21 Feb 2007, one tree with many orts out of about 50 checked [D. Niland]
- Mt Barney National Park, Lower Portals Track, 18 March, no orts, though others reported some in the area this day; a landowner advised that 20 have regularly been seen over past 50 yrs [D. Niland]

## Curious Behaviours Favourite Roost Tree

8-12 December 2006 a flock of 12 birds (4 pairs, a lone female and a family trio), arrive each evening to roost. The trio and female mostly roost apart from the other birds. The pairs arrive into any of 4 trees, however, no matter which tree they first fly to, eventually, and after much squabbling, they end up in one particular tree [B. Carey].

## Pair Bonding?

A male bird was observed one evening swinging underneath his mate, fanning his tail, and then regaining his perch beside her. They then appeared to peck at each other's beak before, finally, the female flew off. When the male flew over to her, the other birds in the flock seemed to join in a bit of a squawking match for several minutes; then all flew to a preferred roost tree. A male was also observed feeding a female, no begging calls heard. Why would a bird feed another, when it is not nesting? Or is this a more common occurrence? [B. Carey]

## GBC Partner Activities Friendly Fauna Friends Found

A pilot community fauna survey conducted in the Burnett and Mary Catchments yielded important results for Glossy Black-Cockatoos, as well as Quolls, Yellow-bellied Gliders and Phascogales.

Forty-three reports of Glossy Black-Cockatoos were received; 10 positive sightings, 27 negative and 6 possible sightings. In addition to gathering significant species information, the pilot indicated a high level of interest within the Burnett community for wildlife and

conservation and their desire to be informed and participate in land management.

The pilot will form the basis for further survey work, community awareness and conservation efforts in the Burnett Catchment and surrounding region. For more information, contact Lee Dorahy, Burnett Inland North Local Government Cluster NRM Coordinator, on 07 4165 5406 or at [nro@mundubbera.qld.gov.au](mailto:nro@mundubbera.qld.gov.au)

## Noosa Actions Signs

Noosa Shire Council has erected a sign in Noosa National Park to raise awareness of GBC habitat and to protect a regularly used drinking soak [B. Carey].

## Nest boxes in Caloundra

Nest boxes were recently installed for Glossy Black-Cockatoos in a reserve where GBCs have been sighted [S O'Keefe].

## Griffith University

The Conservancy's website is in the final stages of development. The site will be hosted and maintained by Griffith University and the Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies. We'll keep you posted!

## Report your Sightings!

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found evidence of their feeding, eg. cone chewings, please complete a Sightings Report available from Conservancy partners or via [GBC@biodiversity.tv](mailto:GBC@biodiversity.tv).

## Advertisement

### The Elusive Cockatoo

Songbird Films have produced a 19-minute film called "The Elusive Cockatoo". The film is devoted to the status of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo in Noosa Shire. In addition to excellent footage, the film contains a discussion of local conservation issues. The DVD is available for \$25, with \$5 per sale going to the Glossy Black Conservancy. Inquiries to [GBC@biodiversity.tv](mailto:GBC@biodiversity.tv).

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

