



Glossy Black Conservancy News

No. 7 May 2009

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.

For further information on any of the articles in this newsletter, copies of the 2009 Action Plan or fact sheets, please visit www.glossyblack.org.au, get in touch with your local Conservancy partner or email GBC@biodiversity.tv.

2009 Partners, Sponsors & Friends!

Earlier this year the Conservancy confirmed its supporter organisations for 2009 and introduced a new more flexible 'structure'; comprising:

- Partners: \$5,000 or more financial &/or other support
- Sponsors: <\$5,000 financial support
- Friends: any other support or assistance

Partners, sponsors & friends for 2009 are:

Partners

- Biodiversity Assessment & Management Pty Ltd
- Birds Australia Southern Queensland
- Birds Queensland
- Brisbane City Council
- BrisBOCA
- Byron Shire Council 
- Department of Environment & Resource Management 
- Gold Coast City Council
- Griffith University
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council 
- Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat 
- North Burnett Regional Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council 
- SEQ Catchments Ltd
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Tweed Shire Council 

Sponsors

- Bundaberg Regional Council

Friends

- Gympie Regional Council 
- Ipswich City Council



Up close and personal with Walligan's Glossies. Photo: J.Appleton

Birding Day, Saturday 9 May

More volunteers needed!!

The first ever census of Glossy Black-Cockatoos on the Gold Coast is on Saturday 9 May! Just how many birds are there??

Join the census and be part of an important research project to increase knowledge and understanding of this enigmatic bird.

A workshop to help volunteers with bird identification and outline how the surveys will be run and what data needs to be recorded will be held on 6 May, 6:30-8:30pm, at the Nerang Bicentennial Hall, Nerang-Southport Road, Nerang.

The event is being organised by Glossy Black Conservancy partners Griffith University and Gold Coast City Council.

To register your interest or find out more, visit the website, www.glossyblack.org.au, or contact Michelle Stock, 0403 474 148 or m.stock@griffith.edu.au.



Students help conserve Glossies!

Students from Caloundra State High School recently created habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoos. After a presentation by Sunshine Coast Regional Council staff, students and teachers had fun planting 50 she-oak feed trees in the school grounds. Glossy Black-Cockatoos are known to feed in the local area and it is hoped that once the young plants mature, the birds will make the most of the new food supplies.

Other schools participating in the project so far include:

- Bald Hills State School
- Coolnwynpin State School
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra
- Redland Bay State School
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Alexandra Hills
- Unity College, Caloundra
- Woodcrest College, Springfield

Interested schools are invited to contact their local Conservancy member.

The presentations and tree-plantings are part of a Schools Project being rolled-out by Conservancy partners to schools in target areas across South East Queensland. The project is funded by the Australian Government's Envirofund program. The project's free, easy-to-use educational kit is already available from the Conservancy's website, www.glossyblack.org.au.



These young she-oaks will mature in 5-10 years and hopefully attract local Glossy Black-Cockatoos to the school. Photo: S.O'Keefe, SCRC



How many she-oaks did we plant? Caloundra State High School students celebrate at the end of a good day's work! Photo: S.O'Keefe, SCRC

2009 Action Plan

The Conservancy's 2009 Action Plan identifies priority actions for the year:

- Continue with community awareness activities and training for partners and the community:
 - Complete the Envirofund schools project;
 - Maintain, update and enhance the Conservancy's website;
 - Develop new fact sheets (urban areas and feed trees) and newsletters;
 - Conduct training workshops in North Burnett and northern NSW; and
 - Disseminate existing Conservancy educational material.
- Support research that will assist in better understanding species' movement patterns, habitat utilisation and key threats to Glossy Black-Cockatoo resources:
 - Griffith University research; and
 - Finalise regional management plan for the species.
- Utilise data received to enhance our understanding of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo:
 - Progress the analysis and mapping of current Conservancy data.
- Expand the Conservancy:
 - Target new partners in SEQ to ensure a regional approach
 - Investigate expansion into northern NSW.

If you would like to be part of the Conservancy's 2009 Action Plan, please get in touch with a Conservancy partner or email GBC@biodiversity.tv.



Cornubia Forest Park has recently been expanded to include more habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoos, thanks to Logan City Council and the Australian Government. Photo: L. Rosevear

Cornubia Forest Park Expansion

Logan City Council and the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts recently jointly purchased an area of nationally significant bushland in Cornubia. The 43ha of bushland, located to the immediate north of the existing Cornubia Forest Park, was identified by Council and the Logan community as being of high biodiversity significance. The bushland provides important habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoos with numerous feed trees identified within the general vicinity of the site. As well as providing Glossy Black-Cockatoo habitat, the site contains koala habitat and is home to numerous other significant species including the Powerful Owl, Greater Gliders and the Great Barred Frog.

Subsequently the site was confirmed to be of national environmental significance and the Federal Government allocated a \$1.5 million National Reserve Scheme grant to assist Council with the purchase. Logan City Council contributed \$1.2 million to the purchase, with all money coming from the Environmental Levy paid by Logan ratepayers.

The official opening of the expansion of Cornubia Forest Park on 19 April was attended by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, along with other dignitaries. The day was a great success with Logan City Council staff handing out free native plants to community members and leading a bush walk through the newly acquired area.

The next step is to develop a management plan for the area, which will take into account actions for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

Logan City Council has identified a number of other environmentally-significant properties throughout the city and will be working hard in partnership with the Federal Government and other South East Queensland Councils to secure more funding to protect vital habitats for Glossy Black-Cockatoos and other significant species.

[L.Rosevear]

Sighting Stories

Wonderful Walligan

My partner Andrew and I moved to Walligan, between Hervey Bay and Maryborough, over six years ago.

Our bird identification skills at first were very limited and we invited the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers out to the property, which has become an annual event.

When we first encountered these beautiful birds they were accompanied by Yellow- and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos; it was obvious they were very different.

Since then, we have only sighted Glossies.

When we first told the Birdwatchers they were sceptical to say the least, but after visiting when the birds were here they were so pleased to find them so close to the Bay. Since then people from all over Australia and from overseas have visited and enjoyed the company of these great birds.

With the exception of 2008, when only three birds (two adults and a juvenile) visited for a couple of days, as many as eight birds "move in" for the summer. The smallest number that have stayed was five and this year eight birds including two juveniles spent the whole summer here, in fact they were still here on ANZAC Day. They usually arrive at daybreak and spend the entire day feeding quietly (except for the juveniles), leaving at sunset; although on a couple of rare occasions they have stayed overnight.

I have circulated a flyer round our local area in an attempt to raise awareness and have since received a couple of other reports within a 5km radius. [C.Greet]

She-oak Identification: Black she-oak

The Black she-oak, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, is one of 12 she-oak species found in South East Queensland and one of four species favoured by Glossy Black-Cockatoos. Key features of Black She-oaks:

- Tree habit: Upright, tall shrub to small tree 5 to 8m
- Seed cone: Narrow and cylindrical, 15 x 25mm
- Branchlet: fine branchlets with 6 'teeth'
- Tree bark: dark grey and finely fissured
- Habitat: open forests, typically coastal and sub-coastal hills



Photo: Knox Environment Society

Black she-oaks are upright tall shrubs to small trees (5-8m), typically found in the coastal & sub-coastal hills of SEQ.



Summer feasting at Walligan. Photo: A. Muscat-Clark

Recent Records

Sightings in Brief

- Numinbah Valley, 17 Apr, 3 birds seen [G.Castley]
- Ben Bennett Botanical Reserve, 27 Mar, 1 bird feeding and flying over [D.West]
- Weyba Esp, Noosa Heads, Mar-Apr, pair often seen flying over [I.Pert]
- Sharyn Bonney Reserve, Caloundra, 23 Mar, two pairs feeding [D.West]
- Griffith University, Gold Coast, 19 Mar, male and female being mobbed by Torresian crows [G.Castley]
- Tristran Pde, Mullumbimby, 14 Mar, pair & noisy juv - being fed? [Rawlins]
- Griffith University, Gold Coast, 10 Mar, male and female [G.Castley]
- Weyba Esp, Noosa Heads, 23 Feb, pair flying west over Weyba Creek, first sighting in 2 months [I.Pert]
- Spoonbill Street, Sunrise Beach, Feb, male, female & juvenile birds regularly seen early morning and evenings, also calling; 4 key feeding trees in the street, now tagged for preservation [L.Bollen]
- Warragai Pl & Tarina St, Noosa Heads, 29 Jan, pair feeding in *A. littoralis* street tree, soon left & flew south [B.Carey]
- A.W. Dann Park, Noosa Heads, 29 Jan, pair on a new feed tree (*A. littoralis*), may be same birds as at Warragai Place [B.Carey]
- Killawarra Dve, Lake MacDonald, 22-29 Jan, birds heard, first calls this season for the area; presence in the hinterland coincides with reduced observations on

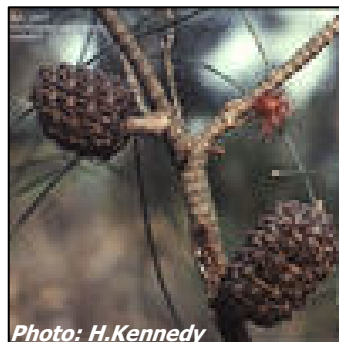


Photo: H.Kennedy



Photo: SEQC

Black she-oaks have relatively narrow, cylindrical cones and finely fissured, dark grey bark.

- the coast; seasonal distribution change leading up to the start of their breeding season [J.McKendry]
- Podargus Pde, Peregrine Beach, 22 Jan, 2 sightings of a pair trying to settle in National Park heathland, but harassed by a mob of Blue-faced Honeyeaters, and didn't settle [B.Abrahams]
 - Orcades St & Boxsell Rise, Sunrise Beach, 1-7 Jan, one pair noted on just 2 occasions roosting, very quiet (main flock of 8 birds left after New Year's Eve) [B.Carey]
 - Boxsell Rise, Sunrise Beach, 18 Dec, pair sitting quietly in roost tree mid-morning, rare to see them at the roost tree at this time of day [B.Carey]
 - Burgess Creek, Castaways Beach, 8 Dec, 5 birds at drinking soak [B.Carey]
 - Sunrise Beach, 30 Nov - 16 Dec, 11 roosting birds in 3 close sites (largest no. since this time last year) [B.Carey]
 - Sandalwood Close, Marcus Beach, 3-4 & 10 Nov, 2 birds flying over [E&R.Crook]
 - David Low Way, Castaways Beach, 28 Nov, 4 birds flying north [B.Carey]
 - Flagship Court, Castaways Beach, 28 Nov, new feed site in a healthy *A. littoralis* tree [B.Carey]
 - Reserve off Spoonbill St, Peregrine Beach, 16 Nov, 2 birds [L.Bollen]

Ort Report

Finding chewed cones, or orts, under she-oak 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 present.



- Fire Station, Langura St, Noosa Heads, 3 Apr [I.Pert]
- Flagship Court, Castaways Beach, 30 Nov, new feed site in a healthy *A. littoralis* tree [B.Carey]

GBC Partner Activities

BAAM

- Fact sheet prepared on 'Glossy Black-Cockatoos in Urban Backyards', available from Conservancy website
- Developing draft regional management plan for Glossy Black-Cockatoos
- Article for January-February 2009 edition of the Parrot Society of Australia's magazine 'Parrot News'
- 2008 Annual Report [A. Caneris]

Birds Australia Southern Queensland

- Presentations at Glossy Black-Cockatoo Training and Information Workshops at Burpengary and Gatton
- Activities with schools as part of Envirofund Project [E.Anderson]

Birds Queensland

- On-going maintenance of the database; 40 new sightings since Nov 2008. [D.Niland]

Brisbane City Council

- Activities with schools as part of Envirofund project [K.Matthews]

BrisBOCA

- Working with Main Roads to protect Glossy feed trees on verges of arterial roadways [R.Bloss]

Griffith University

- Coordinating a Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day on the Gold Coast on Saturday 9 May (see front page article for details)
- Working with NSW DECC to undertake research in northern NSW and Tweed Coast areas
- Interactive distribution map for Gold Coast Glossies created using GIS and Google, see Conservancy website [G.Castley]

Mt Barney Country Lodge

- Glossy Black-Cockatoo activities as part of Bird Week, 9-13 September [T.Larkin]

North Burnett Regional Council

- Including information on Glossy Black-Cockatoos in displays at regional shows [L.Dorahy]

Redland City Council

- Activities with schools as part of Envirofund project
- Reporting of sightings in database [L.Bailey]

SEQ Catchments

- Management of Envirofund project
- Newsletter compilation [L.Gould]

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

- Activities with schools as part of Envirofund project
- Guidelines for Conservancy supporter contributions
- Compilation of 2009 Action Plan [S.O'Keefe]

Report your Sightings!

If you have seen a Glossy Black-Cockatoo or found some orts, please complete a Sightings Report.

The Glossy Black Conservancy acknowledges the support of:

