

# Conservation Park Chronicles

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Official Stakeholders Newsletter of the  
Friends of the Deception Bay Conservation Park Inc.



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## Management Committee

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Volunteer Co-Ordinator	John Shepherd	0400 794 699	dbcpfriends@gmail.com
Publicity Officer	Phil Mowbray	0400 707 709	friendsdecbayconspk@gmail.com

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Who to call when	Organisation Name	Contact number
Injured bird life	Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc.	0404 118 301
Injured koalas	Moreton Bay Koala Rescue	0401 080 333
Rescuing all wildlife in need	Australian Wildlife Hospital	1300 369 652
Wildlife Vet	Deception Bay Veterinary Clinic	3888 3677
Wildlife Hotline (wildlife emergencies, marine strandings and pollution incidents)	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service	1300 130 372

## Calendar of Planned Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
20 August 2011	2.00 pm - 5.00pm	Park excursion	Deception Bay Conservation Park*
TBA Sept 2011	TBA	Weed control	Deception Bay Conservation Park*
12 Nov 2011	2.00 pm - 5.00pm	Rubbish Removal	Deception Bay Conservation Park*
TBA Nov 2011 (date TBA)	TBA	Annual General Meeting	TBA

**\*Note:** Deception Bay Conservation Park – meet at Antigua Crescent or Bermuda Avenue accesses.

## From the President

This past month has been busy for the association as we conducted a social get-together and BBQ. The weather was kind to us, but thank goodness the toad bust was cancelled as the heavens opened that night.

I have completed a review of the Baseline Survey that was conducted for the QPWS in May/June 2010. This baseline survey identified flora and fauna, both native and exotic, as well as the regional ecosystems present in the park, and problems found in the park with degradation and what reparation work needs to be done. I went for a wander through the park and decided to read the baseline study once again. This led to my review as it initially for my benefit in learning about the park, but grew into a document that outlines the issues, threats and opportunities presented from the baseline survey.

There is much to do in the park, and I didn't know there were so many risks from thorny bushes, milky mangrove, toads, and the like.

An example the baseline survey highlighted is the habitat being ideal for the water mouse (*Xeromys myoides*), so it would be a start to see if there are vestiges of this animal occurring in the park.

With winter nearly behind us, the committee is working to organise a variety of activities in the park. See the Volunteer Co-Ordinator's section for more details.

Also, as we are into a new financial year, it is time to renew membership. Please find the membership renewal form at the end of this newsletter.



Gavin Dale  
President.

## From the Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Thank you to all those who came along to the sausage sizzle on Saturday afternoon. I've attached some photos.

With all the wonderful sunny winter days we've had recently we were more than a little apprehensive that our Saturday get-together might be a wash-out but the decision was to carry on regardless and it proved to be the right decision. The rain held off all afternoon and I think all who attended would agree that it was a success. The toad hunt that was planned to follow the barbecue was postponed due to the overcast conditions and the possibility of rain which would have made the toads wet and slippery and hard to catch. That's our story and we're sticking to it. In fact we chickened out because it would have been a cold, wet and uncomfortable night. The event will still happen sometime in the very near future.

The Pelican and Seabird Rescue guest presenters gave us all an insight into the escalating problem they face with tracking down and releasing birds and other wildlife that have been entangled in litter and discarded fishing tackle. Their contact details are attached.

We were very fortunate to have our local Federal M.P, Yvette D'Ath, and State M.P Dean Wells along and we are thankful to both for the interest they show in our

organisation. Our thanks also go to James Fitzpatrick from QPWS who not only supplied most of the food but also cooked it for us.

As some of our volunteers have not had the opportunity to venture into the park to observe the diversity of plant and wildlife that make up the Deception Bay Conservation Park it was decided that an excursion in the park would be a rewarding experience. This field visit will be a casual meander through the higher timbered areas and onto the mudflats with a focus on identifying some of the flora and fauna and ecosystems outlined in the 'Baseline Flora & Fauna Survey' that was undertaken in June 2010.

The proposed time and date for this excursion will be 2pm to 5pm on Saturday 20 August 2011. I will be sending out more information on this activity as it gets closer but please put it in your diary and let me know if you are able to attend.

## Injured Wildlife

**The numbers to call are now on the front of this and subsequent issues of the newsletter.**

## Fisheries Act – Protected marine plants

The Baseline Survey mentions that "marine plants" are protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Section 123 of the *Fisheries Act 1994*, provides for the protection of marine plants as mentioned thus:

### **123 Protection of marine plants**

*A person must not unlawfully—*

- (a) remove, destroy or damage a marine plant; or*
- (b) cause a marine plant to be removed, destroyed or damaged.*

*Maximum penalty—3000 penalty units.*

*Example of removing a marine plant—*

*removing seagrass from a beach or foreshore*

*Example of destroying a marine plant—*

*burning saltcouch*

*Example of damaging a marine plant—*

*pruning or trimming mangroves*

A "marine plant" is defined in section 8 of the same Act:

### **8 Meaning of marine plant**

*(1) Marine plant includes the following—*

- (a) a plant (a tidal plant) that usually grows on, or adjacent to, tidal land, whether it is living, dead, standing or fallen;*
- (b) material of a tidal plant, or other plant material on tidal land;*
- (c) a plant, or material of a plant, prescribed under a regulation or management plan to be a marine plant.*

*(2) Marine plant does not include a plant that is a declared pest under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.*

So from the definition the majority of plants in the conservation park are classified as marine plants under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, and are therefore protected from removal, damage or destruction.

## History of Deception Bay – Part 1

(excerpt provided by Tom McLoughlin)

### The Bay's Appeal is No Longer a Secret

Compiled by Mrs. Patricia McLoughlin – 1996

I have been very fortunate over the years to be able to talk with long time residents of this lovely area of the Caboolture Shire. What follows are the results of those conversations together with extracts from publications that have been printed from time to time.

Deception Bay was so named by Lt. John Oxley in 1823 who thought the Bay was a river and because of his mistake and the shallowness named it Deception Bay.

In the early days of Deception Bay the area was mainly bush. The Bay was a petty muddy place with only two small sandbanks, some rocks and the remains of an old jetty. Near a small creek there were a number of dead stumps. There were plenty of crabs and oysters - fish as well. Black swans were abundant and many other water birds.

In 1881 Dr. Joseph Bancroft bought 150 acres (60 hectares) on Burpengary Creek at Deception Bay. He gradually added to it until by 1890 he owned 3780 acres (1512 hectares) between Deception Bay and Burpengary. Some isolated blocks may have been chosen for their different soils or vegetation, and a large area was for the pasturing of cattle. A block with a long sea frontage was bought in 1883 and here he built a house overlooking the bay. He travelled at weekends by train to North Pine (Petrie) or Narangba where he was met by an employee with a buggy, who drove him to the property at Deception Bay.

In or about 1890 Dr. Joseph Bancroft built a meatworks at Deception Bay to produce his pemmican. Dried vegetables and mullet were also processed. At first the venture was not remunerative but shortly after Joseph's death, the British War Office placed orders for the Army as part of their emergency rations. He bequeathed his estate to his wife, and to his son and daughter as tenants in common. His wife and daughter taking houses at Brisbane and Deception Bay. Dr. Thomas Bancroft (his son) took most of the Deception Bay farm including the meatworks and built a new house to which he moved with his bride Cecillia Mary Jones in 1895. He assumed control of the pemmican factory which was profitable until 1904 when the War Office did not renew its contract. At that time the price of cattle rose sharply and the operation was no longer viable. Thomas sometime later moved his house to Brisbane where he built a tannery from the building materials from the Deception Bay meatworks.

Dr. Joseph Bancroft also spent considerable time and money on plant hybridisation experiments producing new varieties of strawberries, wheat, grapes and castor oil plants. He established experimental plots for testing potentially useful plants at Deception Bay. He was also instrumental in attempts to produce a rust-resistant strain of wheat suited to the local environment. Dr. Thomas Bancroft like his father, was interested in economic plants and did some work on cultivating cotton and castor oil at Deception Bay.

It is said that Dr. Thomas Bancroft did his best work at Deception Bay. His marine collecting is attested by his specimens of fish in the Queensland Museum. It was here that he collected algae, fruit-flies, mosquitoes and where he distributed giant panic grass. It was here that he did his classical work on the transmission of filariasis.

Today a memorial cairn stands on the foreshore on Captain Cook Parade to commemorate the work that these two Bancrofts undertook. The rough hewn pyramidal block of granite highlights the towering biological achievements of these two doctors and flags their lives as role-models for medical practitioners and biologists of the future.

The Bancrofts built several wells close to the beach and also cut out a hole in the sand stone rock for Mrs. Bancroft to bathe in. This is still there today and one can note that it is self drain on the turn of the tides.

*(continued next issue)*

## Communicating with members

Some members are not in a position to receive e-mails, so have to receive correspondence, including this newsletter, by post. This can be time consuming, especially if an urgent notice has to be sent out to members, as the notices are hand delivered.

An idea that the committee wish to pursue, is that members who live close to those members who do not have e-mail access, be paired up to get this information coverage. If any member is able to assist or requires further information please contact the Volunteer Co-Ordinator.

So far no-one has come forward asking for assistance in being able to receive communication from the association, nor volunteering to provide hard copies of e-mails to members that reside in their vicinity. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in this newsletter:

**DBCP** – Deception Bay Conservation Park ('the park')

**FDBCPI** – Friends of the Deception Bay Conservation Park

**MBRC** – Moreton Bay Regional Council

**QPWS** – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

***This newsletter is currently being edited by the President, Gavin Dale. If any member wishes to take on the role of Editor, or has any article to publish in this newsletter, please contact the President.***

This newsletter is produced using LibreOffice, the free open source office software fully compatible with Microsoft Office Suite.

## Membership Renewal

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:**

**HOME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOBILE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM RENEWING:**  
(PLEASE TICK)

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE MEMBERSHIP | \$2.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP | \$5.00 |