

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group

Newsletter 2010

Celebrate Green June and the Noosa Biosphere at the 6th Annual Noosa Festival of Water ~~ Sunday 20th June 2010 ~~ ~~ 10 am to 3 pm ~~



The Noosa Festival of Water is now an annual environmental event in the northern Sunshine Coast Region. Held at the **Noosa Botanic Gardens and Lake Macdonald Amphitheatre**, the Festival celebrates the Noosa Biosphere and Green June on the Sunshine Coast.

The Festival offers excellent opportunities to learn about local environmental issues including water supply and conservation, plans for Stage 2 of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector and some of the iconic threatened species in the Noosa Biosphere.

Be entertained in the Amphitheatre, bring your children to the **Take a Kid**

Fishing Clinic or the **Arting About** activity, learn to paddle with **Qld Canoeing**, visit the range of displays including **Geckoes Wildlife's** live exhibits, and enjoy the Noosa Botanic Gardens.



Free boat trips will operate across the lake throughout the day to the Noosa Hatchery and the Water Treatment Plant. This year, **Cooroora Camp** will open its doors to showcase their facilities and members of the **Noosa Boat Club** will be on hand to introduce patrons to the sport of rowing! Noosa Landcare are offering two **free trees** to Biosphere residents on presentation of a rates notice and the Mary River Catchment Committee will provide a **free water testing** service for dam, creek and bore water samples. Food vendors will cater for all tastes on both sides of the Lake. There is even an opportunity to **win a \$450 voucher** from Australia's foremost manufacturer of environmentally friendly architectural coatings, Rockcote.

Parking is available along Lake Macdonald Drive with a courtesy bus provided for transport to the Festival. Read on for more information and a copy of the Amphitheatre Program or pick up your free copy of the Program and site map at the Festival. The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group acknowledges the support of the following organisations:

**Sunshine Coast Regional Council,
the Mary River Catchment Committee,
the Burnett Mary Regional Group,
Seqwater, Noosa Landcare,
Rockcote and Pristine Water**



*Take a kid Fishing is supported by Dave Whelan and the Lake
Borumba Fish Stocking Association, Australian Monofil,
Alvey Reels, DPI-Fishcare, Fisherman's Warehouse Gympie,
Cooroy IGA, Anaconda Kawana Waters, BCF Noosaville and
Westpac Gympie.*

About the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group

The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group was established in 1999 to address a range of issues, including management of the major infestation of a south American native, *Cabomba caroliniana* in Lake Macdonald. The Group meets on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month, continuing to involve a range of organisations and landholders in natural resource management issues and catchment health improvement activities. Landholders in the vicinity of Lake Macdonald are welcome to attend these meetings. For more information, contact the Secretary, Raul Weyhardt, on 07 5441 8674.

Cabomba is a Class 2 weed which is on the list of the top 20 weeds of national significance. It is a difficult weed to control due to rapid growth and underwater habitat. It is also easily spread to other waterways by transport of plant fragments. Activities that can spread cabomba include deliberate plantings in waterways, dumping of unwanted aquarium contents in or near waterways, and plant fragments accidentally caught on boats, propellers, boat trailers and fishing gear.

Seqwater currently use a mechanical harvester to “mow” cabomba in strategic areas of Lake Macdonald. Whilst this technique may improve safety for boating and fishing, it is not a long term solution. Since 2003, the CSIRO have been undertaking research into finding a suitable bio-control agent for cabomba. Their research led them to South America where potential predators of cabomba were identified, and transportation to research facilities in Australia arranged. The following article provides an update on the CSIRO's research.

Update on the Cabomba biological control project - Shon Schooler, CSIRO Entomology

The cabomba biological control project has been progressing slowly over the past year. On the positive side, we have begun the host specificity testing of the weevil, *Hydrotimetes natans*. This requires a number of steps; collecting the weevil from lakes in northern Argentina, obtaining export permits from the Argentinean provincial and federal governing bodies, obtaining import permits from the Australian government, rearing the weevil in an Australian Quarantine Inspection Service approved quarantine building, collecting and propagating native species for testing, and carrying out the host specificity tests. The key to this testing is to show that, under the same conditions, the weevil can complete its life cycle on cabomba, while it cannot complete its life cycle on our native aquatic plants. Over the past year we have been able to test the most closely related species to cabomba in Australia, watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), and found that the weevil did not complete its life cycle on this species while we did get a few weevils through to adulthood on cabomba. This is positive in that it indicates that the weevil is probably sufficiently host specific for release in Australia. On the negative side, we are having difficulty maintaining a population of the weevils in our quarantine building. While we can rear self-sustaining populations of most terrestrial insects in our quarantine, this aquatic weevil is proving frustratingly difficult. Apparently neither the weevil nor cabomba enjoy our indoor aquaria. In addition, the Argentinean federal government has recently been blocking all permits to export biological material, including those from other countries. Currently our collaborators in Argentina are trying to work through this problem. However, we cannot continue the testing until we receive more weevils and we cannot import more weevils until we are granted the permits.

Meanwhile we continue to improve our cabomba rearing methods in our quarantine building and studying the ecology of cabomba in Australia. We are setting up larger aquaria in our quarantine as we have found that cabomba prefers larger tanks with silty substrate. We are also examining the population dynamics of cabomba in three Queensland lakes (Lake Macdonald, Ewen-Maddock Reservoir, and a farm dam near Eumundi). We hope to soon get our problems resolved and continue with the testing.

Draw down- Does it work? - Phillip Moran, Noosa Landcare and National Aquatic Weeds Management Group



Benthic blanket on Lake Benalla

Draw down is where a water body is drained, either partially or totally, in order to control aquatic weeds. I am often asked “Why don’t you just drain the lake/ dam etc?” This method of control has been tried many times, in many different situations, on different species of weed. I suppose it depends a lot on what you call “control”. As far as I know there have been no instances of a draw down *eradicating* an aquatic weed. A recent trial in Mildura, Victoria, has some chance of success. It is a small area, with concrete surrounds. The floor of the water body is soil or dirt, and as it is in drought conditions the water body has remained dry for a long time. Results are still coming in.

Marlow Lagoon, just outside Darwin in the Northern Territory is heavily infested with *Cabomba caroliniana*, the bane of Lake Macdonald.

The lagoon is not large, so it was decided to try draw down. This was done, and the lagoon was kept dry for a few months [until it rained!]. The cabomba grew back. The lagoon was then drawn down again and the bottom excavated with a dozer...it grew back. Next they used a herbicide [which is only registered for use in NT], and it has worked really well. I was always a bit concerned about use of herbicides in an aquatic situation, but having visited Marlow Lagoon, I have to say it looks really good. All the native aquatic plants have grown back since the treatment.

Another place they have tried draw down on cabomba is in Lake Benalla, Victoria. This Lake is fairly small, right in the centre of town. It was drained about three years ago. When it rained and filled up again, the Cabomba quickly came back. Dozers were used in the second attempt to try to get rid of all the 'puddles' in the Lake. When it filled, the cabomba came back. The last time this was done, a benthic blanket was trialled to suppress the cabomba. The benthic blanket did work...quite well. The problem here will be when sediment deposits on top of the blanket, allowing the fragments of cabomba to get started again. However compared with the area that was not covered it has had a good result.

We have been talking to Seqwater to see if benthic blankets might be an idea next to boat ramps to reduce the risk of boat trailers moving the Cabomba to another water body. So, does draw down work? Eradicating a weed...no. Giving some limited control...yes.



Lake Benalla after draw down and benthic blanket



Noosa Boat Club

The Noosa Boat Club is Queensland and Australia's newest rowing club. Our sculls are housed at the Fish Hatchery on the edge of Lake Macdonald. We have been fortunate having wonderful support from Vince Collis and Dom Courtney of Seqwater who allow us storage and easy access to the water.

Our group of happy rowers have been rowing mates for up to 15 years having rowed on the Noosa River in the past. Due to the many hazards that are sometimes encountered on the Noosa River we decided to look for a more tranquil environment at the Lake. Recently the club competed in our first regatta, the Queensland Masters and returned with 10 medals. Our members have had success at National level and also at the Worlds last year.

The change of venue has expanded our activities to mountain biking around the wonderful trails leading from the lake and we encourage anyone interested to please join us on a Sunday for our weekly outing which normally heads off at 6am from the boat ramp near the hatchery. On our return we have tea and coffee and a good chat and often a laugh about our ride.

We are looking forward to teaching new rowers of all ages and should you be interested to learn please contact Linda Grams (Rowing Captain) on 0402 484 614, email lgrams@bigpond.net.au or visit our display near the Hatchery at the Noosa Festival of Water.

Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 2

The Northern Network Alliance (NNA) will be attending the Noosa Festival of Water.

Representatives from NNA will be on hand to provide information regarding the construction of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector – Stage 2 which is currently underway in the Cooroy and Lake Macdonald area.

For information prior to the event please call the project team on Freecall 1800 243 998 or visit www.nnalliance.com.au

Sunshine Coast Council Trails in the Vicinity of Lake MacDonald – Geoff Black, Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Around the lake there are many opportunities for enjoying the wildlife, waterways and natural environment by spending time in spots away from residential areas in the catchment. Council trails are a good way to access some of these less visited places.

Noosa Trail Network

These trails cater for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Free maps of the network are available at many tourist and business outlets in the area. The Noosa Trail network is not in the catchment of the lake as none of it is upstream of the wall of Lake Macdonald. However there are two trails that pass just north of the water treatment works and ultimately connect to Pomona (Trail 7) and Kin Kin (Trail 4).

Trail 4 Starts from Mary River Cod Park next to the fish hatchery. It passes Camp Cooroora, operated by the Scout Association, where camping by members of the public is welcomed. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the camp phone 5442 5285 or visit the website at www.campcooroora.scoutsqld.com.au. The trail passes along Collwood Road and Gumboil Road down the steep incline to Old Tewanin Road. From there it climbs back up a track to Forest Acres and Ringtail Forest Reserve. Much of this section of the trail is through lush, wet sclerophyll forest, with eucalypts being the largest trees and with many rainforest species. Species of note in this area are the Richmond Birdwing butterfly and its host plant, the vine *Pararistolochia praevenosa* and the rare tree, southern Penda, *Xanthostemon oppositifolius* that was once common in the scrub around Cooroy and Kin Kin.

Trail 7 leads west from Mary River Cod Park and reaches Pomona via Yurol Forest Reserve. Once again there are low lying sections of wet forest and some creek crossings. The forest nearer to Pomona is more elevated and passes by plantations of Gympie messmate.

Canoe Trails

Three canoe trails cross different parts of Lake Macdonald and end at the boat ramp and pontoon at Mary River Cod Park. A canoe washing facility is located there. The trails are shown on the Noosa Trail Network map. Canoeing on Lake Macdonald allows quiet enjoyment of land and waterscapes and an approach to wildlife such as water birds, water dragons and turtles.

Noosa Bird Trail

This trail is a series of locations throughout the northern Sunshine Coast where good “birding” is possible. A bird trail brochure is available from the same outlets as the Noosa Trail Network map. The Fearnley Bird Hide on Lake Macdonald, along a short track from the end of Grange Road is an excellent place to observe water birds. (See separate article on the bird hide in this newsletter).

So explore the environs of the lake and enjoy some of its beautiful natural features.

Bird activity at Lake Macdonald – Valda McLean, Noosa Parks Bird Observers

All waterfowl are currently enjoying the benefits of recent unusually high rainfall. I have noticed that ducks in particular are all breeding. One enterprising pair of Pacific Black Duck have used the relative safety of Wallace Park puddles to rear their family. There is a large number of Magpie Geese on Lake Macdonald, along with Australasian Grebe and Plumed Whistling-Duck. We spent the last week out at Jandowae where we saw hundreds of Plumed Whistling-Duck. We also saw Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, and Pacific Black Duck all with young. (We visited many dams out there along the way, and all were clear of weeds which was wonderful to see.) Back at Lake Macdonald, the little Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*, is visiting again. On the 18th April, I saw six birds near the hide on Grange Road. They have been recorded as breeding in June at Lake Macdonald, so hopefully they will find a suitable site again this year. Apparently, a 'suitable site' is a hollow, high in a dead tree in, or near the water's edge. I have not seen a nest and few have been described. Although this rare and beautiful bird spends most of the time on the water, preferring deep water lagoons, it actually belongs to the family of perching ducks. The closely related Australian Wood Duck also nests in tree hollows, and I have seen them jump from the nest hollow into water! Unlike its close relative, the Green Pygmy-goose of North Queensland, the Cotton Pygmy-goose is not a diving duck but likes to eat the seeds and seed heads of aquatic plants. These birds are usually seen in pairs, apparently mating for life. According to field guides, the Cotton Pygmy-goose is present in numbers around Ayr in North Queensland but we rarely see them here. Look for a small, 34-38 cm bird with a white face and neck and enjoy their presence while they are visiting. Today as I write, 9th May, another visitor brings great excitement to bird watching at our property. The Eastern Spinebill has returned to sip the nectar of a flowering Grevillea near the deck. We rarely see this honeyeater at our place, so his visit is also very welcome. *More information about the Noosa Parks Bird Observers and the Noosa Bird Trail can be found at www.noosaparks.org.au*

The Fearnley Bird Hide, Jabiru Park – Ered Fox, Sunshine Coast Regional Council

With the Noosa Festival of Water just around the corner, Lake Macdonald is once again in the spot light. Lake Macdonald is a remarkable asset to have in the Noosa hinterland, with an abundance of parks providing access to the water's edge, allowing stunning vistas, tranquil settings and a chance to glimpse elusive fauna and unique flora. One park which is set up for intimate viewing of fauna is Jabiru Park on Grange Road. This access point is often overlooked and is part of the Noosa Bird Trail. Jabiru Park is well set up, with a bird hide, park table, and canoe launch. Bird observers have seen approximately 150 species of birds in and around the lake edge. Magnificent birds like the Jabiru/Black Necked Stork are a rare and graceful subject to watch herding fish in the shallows, while Ospreys dive feet first below the water to catch their prey. Jabiru Park is just off the old Cooroy-Tewanin Road and you can see the old wooden bridge and power lines exposed when the lake's water level is low.

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***In memory of Gerry Cook – Ben McMullen, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Chair of the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group***

It is my very great pleasure to write a few words to give some remembrance and celebration to the life of Gerry Cook. Gerry passed away recently at the age of 94. I feel that it is important celebrate Gerry Cook's life, because he was an extraordinary individual, who did extraordinary things and is well and truly deserving of extraordinary recognition. Gerry did many noble and charitable things in his time including fighting for the allies in World War II and reaching the rank of Major in the English Army. Gerry was also an accomplished electrical engineer and a loving husband, father and grandfather.

I knew Gerry best for his work on the conservation and rehabilitation of the Mary River Cod. In the mind of many nature lovers the Mary River Cod is like the Bengal Tiger of the South East Queensland and Mary River regions. It is a large, beautiful, awesome, captivating, charismatic top predator. It is also particularly vulnerable to population decline through over hunting and habitat loss. Some 30 years ago, the Mary River Cod was critically endangered. It was a species on the brink of extinction from habitat loss, over fishing and neglect.

Enter Gerry Cook. Gerry was a man on a mission. He was a man who saw an opportunity to give something back to the sport of fishing, which he loved and also to save this magnificent, majestic, wonderful species from extinction. In short, Gerry took on what would have seemed at the time an unachievable task. Why did he do it you might ask? The answer is simple. Gerry took on this seemingly impossible task for me. He took it on for me and my kids, and for you and your kids. He took it on for our grandchildren, and for their children's grandchildren. He took it on for all of us. Having taken on the task Gerry did not rest. Gerry and his mates worked out of each other's sheds, and cobbled together equipment. They tried and failed, then they tried a little more and failed some more and so on. But over the years of determination and effort, Gerry's work provided the foundation for what we have today. That is a conservation recovery breeding program that is consistently successful and has formed the basis of more than just the recovery of a species on the brink; it has also been the catalyst for a social movement. The attraction of the Mary River Cod and the passion that blokes like Gerry Cook have brought to its conservation have inspired people from across this beautiful, unique and special landscape to do something to rehabilitate it, and repair it, and to look after it a bit better than we did in the past. I have no doubt in my mind that if it had not been for Gerry Cook and his mates, and all the people that they in turn have inspired, energised and educated to join the cause, that the foundations of the Traveston Crossing Dam would already have been poured and would now be curing in the sun. It is the fire in the belly that Gerry passed on to each of us that I believe ultimately put the flames to the plans to build that dam.

If I was asked to describe Gerry to you, I would say that he was a gentleman and a scholar, and just a really lovely guy. To me Gerry was an inspiration. He has shone a light on the path that those of us who would choose to protect and heal this amazing blue planet must walk down together. It is said that "the tragedy of humanity is not that we fail, but that we give up when we are so close to success". Though Gerry has passed beyond us now, he has left us many successes of which we can be truly thankful. For me, the most profound of which has been determination not to give up on his passion, and in doing so, I think he has shown us the path to grace. It is for this that we should remember and thank him.

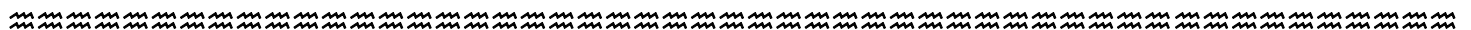
***Gerry Cook Hatchery – update on the Mary River Cod breeding program***

The captive breeding program of Mary River cod pioneered by Gerry Cook is continuing at the hatchery which is named in his honour. Over the last two decades close to half a million fingerlings have been bred and released into south east Queensland impoundments, and the Mary River and its tributaries.

Whilst the success of the breeding program is due largely to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the process is reliant upon a number of other factors. Mary River cod form pairs and spawn annually around spring in hollow pipes in the hatchery ponds.

Spawning is known to take place when the water in the ponds is within a certain temperature range. In 2009, the water temperature was too warm, which resulted in no spawning taking place at all. Strategies are being put in place this year to ensure that this scenario is not repeated.

In the meantime, sustainability measures at the hatchery are being implemented to recycle water where possible, and use solar power to reduce energy costs. ***To visit the hatchery during the Noosa Festival of Water, take a free boat trip from the boat ramp near the Amphitheatre, or drive to the car park near the Water Treatment Plant at the end of Collwood Rd.***





### **Small Mammals on Rural Properties** – Martin Fingland, *Geckoes Wildlife Presentations*

Since the European settlement of Australia, small mammals more than any other group of wildlife, have had the highest rate of local (and broad scale) decline and in some cases extinction. The main threats have been and continue to be from habitat changes and predation by introduced species. South-east Queensland (SEQ) has a high diversity and relative abundance of small mammal species, particularly compared to other regions with large human populations. Given the fragmented nature of the protected areas in SEQ, private landholders are integral in the long term conservation and viability of many species of small mammals. This article provides a general look at the issues surrounding small mammal conservation on private properties.

The first issue when trying to manage and conserve native mammals on acreage properties is identifying what you have. Unlike birds which can often be readily identified from their colours and calls, or reptiles and frogs which vary considerably in their shapes, colours, and patterns, the majority of small mammals are difficult to tell apart because they are small, brown and furry. Add to this, most are difficult to see anyway because they are secretive and the vast majority are nocturnal. The identification process is further compounded by the fact that many small mammals look superficially 'rodent-like' even though they may not be, and native species are in some cases so similar to introduced (feral) species that it takes an expert to tell them apart.

#### **Starting the Identification Processes**

Managing these animals is problematic if you're not even sure what you've got. However, there are a number of techniques which can help. Opportunities to identify these animals do arise when on occasion they are found orphaned, sick, injured or dead. A good guide book such as the Queensland Museum's 'Wildlife of Greater Brisbane' can be a handy reference in these situations because it only has species found in SEQ, meaning you're not going to have to wade through lots of similar species not found locally. Secondly, this guide book has up to date, accurate information, particularly relating to habits, habitats and the local status of each species along with good quality images.

#### **Become a Bush Detective**

Evidence of an animal, such as scats, skulls or other skeletal remains, foot prints, chewings, nests, etc. can all be identified by referring to an excellent little field guide called 'Scats, Tracks and Other Traces'. This is a unique book that will help you sift through the possibilities and match up your evidence against good photographs, illustrations and descriptions. If you aren't much of a bush detective, try your local 'Land for Wildlife' officer (or equivalent). They will have good local knowledge of the likely suspects. The Qld Museum Enquiry Centre (South Bank) has staff dedicated to helping you solve wildlife mysteries. Often a good photo (and an accompanying description including time, specific location, weather conditions, etc.) emailed will often get a quick, accurate response.

Probably the simplest and often the most effective technique to find mammals is to head out after dark with a powerful torch or spotlight and scan the property. Look in trees, amongst undergrowth, along creeks and around buildings (watch out for snakes!). You may be disappointed by the lack of sightings. This is often due to weather or seasonal conditions. The worst nights are windy, wet or bright moonlit nights. The best nights are dark, still and often overcast or humid. Eye shine is the best way of locating animals. Identification is not always easy unless the animal is stationery.



**Martin Fingland with friendly python at last year's Noosa Festival of Water**

The way mammals move often indicates what group they belong to. Hopping animals are likely to be related to kangaroos, such as a bettongs, potoroos or pademelons, if it bounds it could be a bandicoot, jerky, erratic and unpredictable movements indicate a small carnivorous marsupial such as an antechinus, and as most of us would be familiar with, rodents of most types scurry!

#### **Mammal Management**

Once you've worked out what you've got, you need to determine whether you want to encourage, maintain, or perhaps in some circumstances, discourage them, particularly the feral species. Not changing land use practices and habitats is probably the best course of action for maintaining existing populations. Expanding or linking up the habitats where the species is found, or could potentially be found, will probably encourage a species.

Often an animal exists because the habitat contains some essential requirement such as an appropriate composition of ground cover, shrub or tree canopy. Changing or altering the vegetation composition will almost always have consequences for animals.

Overgrazing or constant slashing and mowing will reduce the value of land for most small ground dwelling mammals. The removal of dead, fallen or standing timber will rapidly reduce the number of shelter sites for many mammals. Placement of nest boxes will provide a short term solution to a reduction in 'habitat trees' and may help support local populations of animals like glider possums.

Lantana, despite the fact that it is a highly invasive weed species, has probably been the reason that many small, terrestrial species have survived in an area. It is so dense and impenetrable to larger, predatory species that it acts as a safety net for many vulnerable forms of wildlife.

When removing it, ensure it is done over time and replaced with a dense understorey of native grasses, vines and shrubs. The optimum habitat management for a wide range of small mammal species (and other types of wildlife) is a patchwork of vegetation incorporating areas of open grass and sedge lands, shrubs and forested areas.

Dense, multi-layered vegetation along watercourses is often the only habitat corridor that allows for the movement and/or dispersal of small mammals. The age and condition of native habitats can be quite important to the health and long term viability of small mammal populations (see notes on fire below).

Something as simple as soil type is sometimes the reason why a species is present or absent. Proximity to large, continuous bushland areas will normally result in a greater number of species and likewise, fragmented and smaller patches of native vegetation, surrounded by intensive farming practices and greater urbanisation, all compound to decrease species abundance and diversity.

#### **Predators**

Foxes and cats are the predominant feral predators of small mammals and can be responsible for the local scarcity, or even extinction of some species. Controlling the numbers of these pests on your property will probably be the single most important management action you can undertake to ensure the short to medium term survival of small mammals. Remember that the use of poison baits and traps for foxes and rodents can have unintended consequences for native species.

#### **Fire**

It is known that fire plays a significant role in the conservation of many small, local mammals. Fire can have disastrous short term effects and if too severe or frequent, lead to the local extinction of some, ground dwelling species. On the other hand, in general terms, fire of the right frequency and intensity, is sometimes essential to the longer term survival of species. The cyclical role that fire plays can best be summed up by its ability to change the productivity of the environment through its effect on vegetation. This occurs firstly by reducing the dead and unproductive accumulating material in the ecosystem which during a fire is highly flammable and quickly converted to ash which in turn provides the nutrient for a new generation of vegetation, triggered to germinate after the fire. The abundance of nutritious foliage after a fire leads to an increase in the number of herbivorous wildlife and ultimately provides more food for carnivores. Populations of small mammals often rise dramatically in the years following a fire. Controlled burning should aim to provide a mosaic of burnt and unburnt areas, allowing ground dwelling species to escape the fire and then quickly repopulate burnt areas as conditions allow. There is much still to be learnt about the role fire plays, but its absence or overuse is likely to be detrimental to wildlife such as small mammals.

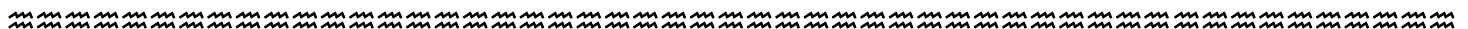
#### **Conclusion**

Managing for small mammals can be challenging and often difficult to monitor. Maintaining and conserving these species will have flow on affects for other species and given the connections between species this has to prove beneficial. Many people get a real buzz from sightings of native mammals on their properties. As someone involved in wildlife education, my observation is that there are plenty of people who don't care much for reptiles, frogs and some other forms of wildlife, but it's rare to find a person not captivated by mammals. In SEQ we are fortunate to still have an abundance of small mammal species, particularly the charismatic marsupials. In many ways these mammals are the motivation for many people getting involved in wildlife conservation and actively devoting part of their property for this purpose, an aim which is both commendable and vital.

***You can visit Martin and his collection of native animals at the Geckoes Wildlife display, and also watch Martin's presentation in the Amphitheatre at 12.10 pm at the Noosa Festival of Water.***



*Martin shows the tail feathers of a Red tailed black Cockatoo at last year's Noosa Festival of Water*



## NOOSA FESTIVAL OF WATER 2010 – SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 10 am to 3 pm

### Noosa Botanic Gardens and Lake Macdonald Amphitheatre

#### Amphitheatre Program

|          |                                                                                                                        |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.10 am | Noosa Pipe Band - selections of Scottish and Irish pipe music from the band wearing the ancient Lake Macdonald tartan! |
| 10.30 am | Worm farming and composting – Sandie Johnson from Envirocom will talk about Council's free workshops-                  |
| 10.50 am | Ian Mackay – Poetic license from a Mary Valley icon                                                                    |
| 11.00 am | Noosa District Concert Band - 35 musicians play popular, jazz and classical music                                      |
| 11.40 am | Gubbi Gubbi Dance troupe- indigenous artists & performers celebrate the dances of their homeland                       |
| 12.00 pm | Welcome to Country - Lyndon Davies, Gubbi Gubbi people                                                                 |
| 12.05 pm | Official Opening - Mayor Bob Abbott                                                                                    |
| 12.10 pm | Geckoes Wildlife presentation – Martin Finland will introduce you to his collection of native animals                  |
| 1.10 pm  | Anatolian Rhythms – Zafer Saraç and friends play traditional Turkish music                                             |
| 1.40 pm  | Pomona A Capella Choir –local singers harmonise popular songs                                                          |
| 2.00 pm  | Monkey Dog – Cooroy four piece band playing rock classics and originals                                                |
| 2.50 pm  | Close                                                                                                                  |

#### Festival Activities

**Take a Kid Fishing Clinic** with Bush and Beach journalist, Dave Whelan and volunteers from the Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association. Learn to fish from the experts. Fishing gear provided or bring your own. The Clinic will take place on the shore of the Lake to the left of the boat ramp near the Botanical Gardens.

**Camp Cooroora Open Day** – Located next to the Hatchery in Collwood Rd, Cooroora Camp offers a range of facilities to all members of the Scout & Guide movement and to the General Public. This is your opportunity to visit the Camp and check out what's on offer. A free boat trip from the Botanical Gardens will get you there, or drive to the end of Collwood Rd and park near the Water Treatment plant. You can also visit [www.campcooroora.scoutsqld.com.au](http://www.campcooroora.scoutsqld.com.au)

**Gerry Cook Hatchery and Water Treatment Plant tours** - catch a free boat ride from the Amphitheatre to Mary Cod park for a self guided tour of the Hatchery, or a guided tour of the Water Treatment Plant. Numbers are limited for the WTP tour and small children must be closely supervised. Check with the attendant at Mary Cod Park.

**Qld Canoeing free instruction** – Queensland Canoeing Inc. is the state body responsible for the management, coordination, development and promotion of Canoeing in Queensland. Qualified instructors will be at the Festival offering free instruction. Located at the lake edge in the Botanical Gardens near the display tents.

**Arting About** – bring the children to the Arting About activity in the big marquee where Lyn McCrea will help budding artists to decorate the giant Lake Macdonald mural with all manner of aquatic creatures.

**For more Festival information call 07 5482 4766**

**For your chance to win a \$450 voucher from Rockcote, Australia's foremost manufacturer of environmentally friendly architectural coatings, fill in your details below, tear off and drop into the entry box in the Amphitheatre at the Noosa Festival of Water!! The winner will be announced after the Official Opening.**

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number.....Email.....