The Glossy Black Conservancy is coordinating its fifth annual survey on Sunday 19 October in an effort to gain a better understanding of population size and distribution throughout SEQ and NE NSW.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is listed as a vulnerable species under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act; despite this status little is known about this enigmatic species.

For more information on Glossy Black-Cockatoos and the Glossy Black Conservancy please visit the Conservancy’s website http://www.glossyblack.org.au

Continued on page 2
If you would like to assist in the conservation of this species then please volunteer your time and spend the day bush walking and looking and listening for the tell-tale signs of a Glossy. To register your interest email mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au. Please include your address, phone number and if you have a specific area you wish to monitor in – it may be your own property or a local park or reserve. Those that do not specify a location will be allocated a location based on previous sightings and proximity to home. The survey runs from dawn till dusk as we aim to gather data on where the birds are roosting at night, feeding during the day and drinking in the evening. Identification and information workshops will be held to provide all the information required to monitor on the day including survey protocols, how to positively identify a Glossy and even how to distinguish between adult males/females and juvenile birds. The workshops will be aimed at those wishing to volunteer for Birding Day; however anyone that would like to learn more about this species is welcome to come along.

Caloundra Workshop
Thursday 16 October – 3pm to 5pm
Caloundra Admin Building,
Omrah Avenue, Caloundra

Nambour Workshop
Thursday 9 October – 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Fred Murray Building, Currie Street, Nambour

Booking for workshops is essential and can be done online via Council’s Community Hub http://community.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/events

To make your booking enter in the Find Event fields Glossy Black and the Suburb (Caloundra or Nambour).

Conservation field day cancelled

Sadly we have had to cancel the Conservation Field Day that was planned for August. We had unfavourable weather conditions two weekends running and due to a number of reasons we have been unable to find a suitable alternative date.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in its organisation and our presenters, suppliers, and those of you who registered and put things on hold for us while we tried to find a new date, but it just didn’t work out. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Instead we encourage you to consider attending the number of Land for Wildlife and Community Nature Conservation workshops programmed over the coming months. Please refer to your latest copy of the Land for Wildlife newsletter and the workshop flyer in this edition of Bush hands for workshop details or call council’s customer service centre on (07) 5475 7272 or email us at communitynature@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

We look forward to seeing you all at next year’s Conservation Forum.
Capparis arborea otherwise known until very recently as Capparis velutina and previous to that known as Capparis arborea; yes it has gone back to its original name! is known by the common names of Brush Caper Berry, Caper, Large fruited Caper etc – it really is no wonder this is a particularly prickly character given the confusion with which we name it. Nomenclature issues aside, this is one of my favourite local natives for so many reasons.

First up, the form and nature of the plant reminds us that this plant evolved in a very different Australia, when spines were beneficial protection from the large herbivorous megafauna that once grazed and browsed upon the flora of eastern Australia’s rainforests. As a juvenile seedling and sapling the plants produce a spine in the axil of each leaf to produce a formidable armoury so as to dissuade herbivores from nibbling upon them. However once the plant is above head (grazing height) the spines in the leaf axils are no longer produced, one would assume because they are not needed. But that’s not the end of an aggressive defensive strategy for this small tree; as they get larger they produce a unique and robust double spine arrangement on the stem that is quite distinctive and helps identify the larger Capparis species in forests. When they are present in a patch of scrub they are exceptionally easy to find in steep country as they are invariably the trunk you grab to help stabilise yourself on the slopes, owww!

The flowers are spectacular, with long white petals and even longer stamens; they are hard to miss. The large round green fruit up to 6cm diameter are another reminder of their evolution with the megafauna and are great eating if you’re happy to chew on the fruity pulp that surrounds the numerous seeds. Although slow growing initially these are a very worthwhile addition to your rainforest revegetation project.
Wallum, it is a significant part of the ecosystem on the coastal floodplains on the Sunshine Coast, and is deserving protected by national parks conservation areas, with the Noosa-Maroochy Wallum having been listed on the National Estate Register almost 20 years ago. As with many place names or references on the Sunshine Coast, the word ‘wallum’ comes from the local KabiKabi/GubbiGubbi language, and refers to the species Wallum Banksia (Banksia aemula), noted for its large, creamy and green flower (Henderson, 2000).

Over August many people and community groups have been visiting the heathland and enjoying events celebrating the Wildflower Festival. These areas are habitat to a range of endangered species such as the Ground parrot, Water mouse, Jabiru or Black-necked stork, and a variety of bats as well as the Beach stone-curlew, Glossy black-cockatoo, Sooty oyster catcher and Eastern curlew. Three fish species, the Oxleyan pygmy-perch, Honey blue-eye and Ornate rainbow fish are largely restricted to coastal acid drainage systems. Other vulnerable species include the Swamp crayfish (Tenuibranchius glypticus) which has a narrow distribution in southeast Queensland as well as three skinks, Ophioscincus truncatus, Lampropholis guichenoti and the Arcane striped skink (Ctenotus arcanus) which are also confined to coastal wallum. Some of the more common and much loved species found here include the Eastern grey kangaroos, Swamp wallabies, Echidnas, Lace monitors, and native bush rodents like the Melomys.

This abundance of diverse native plant life and fauna may be thought of as a very natural occurrence or the result of evolution in the absence of man. Yet, for nearly all the time that humanity has lived here on the Sunshine Coast as we know it now, these wallum areas have been extensively managed by Aboriginal people for at least the last 8,000 to 10,000 years. This legacy is apparent in the reproductive needs of a variety of species such as banksia,
Sunshine Coast Council

Bush Hands

Spring 2014

xanthorrhoea, hakea, eucalypts and an array of native grasses. Not only has this management shaped the evolution of the flora but, it also had a considerable influence on fauna such as the Ground Parrot whose survival is intricately linked to the plants that inhabit this area as a result of burning techniques or mosaic burning (giradjoonga).

Historically, before colonisation, these wallum areas were and still are, a vital part of the Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, containing a network of Aboriginal pathways and features that later became roads such as the David Low Way. Numerous kitchen middens or Aboriginal shell middens attest to thousands of years of people gathering and harvesting local shellfish such as pippis, oysters, mud whelks and mangrove snails. Thousands of stone tools and food grinders have been picked up by curious collectors over the last two centuries and have been taken away to private and public collections. Yet for generations beforehand, local Aboriginal People collected the rhizomes of the native yam and bungwall, or the seed of the pandanus and bunya tree for processing and consumption with these implements. Food production was also carefully managed without the need for fences or tree clearing, by the use of firestick and mosaic burning to manage the native pastures (birunorbaan) for the emu, kangaroo and wallabies.

Half a century ago, Coaldrake (1961) in his studies of the Sunshine Coast’s wallum, determined that the biodiversity and productiveness of such places sustained some of the largest populations of Aboriginal people in Queensland. Barbara Henderson, who studies and writes about the wallum, advises that a great expanse of wallum used to stretch from the NSW border, along the coast and up to Buderim. In 1842 a portion of this area (through the Maroochy District Bunya Proclamation) was excised and placed out of bounds to white people, including timber-getters and graziers, to protect the bunya tree in the interests of Aboriginal people. This was then repealed in 1860 in favour of timber exploitation and grazing. Parts of this area again received protection as a national park in 1949, which was later revoked in 1959 for developments such as the Maroochy Airport, tourism and housing (Henderson 2000).

Development interests and rapid population growth continue to threaten the remaining wallum areas (over two-thirds of which have been lost in the last two centuries). There is still much work to do. While substantial resources have been invested in ecological field-work, research, biodiversity strategies and environmental restoration for the wallum areas on the Sunshine Coast, little has been done to research, record and collate the cultural heritage values, derived from a legacy of humanity being thousands of years old. There is certainly a need to support and resource Traditional Owners and consider the need for an extensive cultural heritage assessment and heritage conservation management plan. Members of Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation, who include KabiKabi Traditional Owners and historically connected Aboriginal People, have been fortunate to work in short-term projects in parts of the Noosa-Maroochy Wallum and surrounds by helping in weed control, restoration and wildlife surveys.

This work has provided valuable experiences in re-visiting the Traditional Estates of their Old People and re-telling stories about traditional ways of life and the overwhelming abundance and diversity of plant and animal species that once occurred in the wallum. In this spirit, members are working with the community and the Sunshine Coast Council to raise the awareness of the heritage and biodiversity values of the wallum areas, and are seeking partnerships and resources to implement cultural heritage studies and a management plan, as well as an Aboriginal Ranger Program.

If you have an interest Caring for Country and have time to help out please call Kerry Jones on 0401 205 367.
If you look carefully where there are areas of dry sand – but not on the beach – you might see what look like little craters about 40 mm across and up to 20 mm deep. The sides of the craters are smooth and in any type of sand are all at the same angle sloping inwards. This is known as the Angle of Rest; it just balances gravity and friction. If the slopes were any steeper they would collapse; if less steep, they would not work as the intended trap.

What sets the trap and lives in the little hole at the base of the cone is a most vicious creature, only about 5 mm long, the size of a match head. After hatching from an egg laid in the sand it has dug the crater by backing into the surface, throwing excess sand out with its head. Then it sits in ambush and waits. Any unlucky insect, usually an ant, that crawls onto the edge or side of the slope is unable to climb out again and slides down into the cone of death where it is immediately seized by the monster’s ferocious pincers. In quick time it has been sucked dry and its exoskeleton thrown out of the trap. Another victim of the Antlion!

Our studies (in our terrarium) have shown that the traps are more successful when made in fine sand and the denser the population of antlions the smaller are the traps. Also, the bigger the trap, the better it works, letting fewer ants escape. Nothing works perfectly and some ants do manage to climb back out of the crater. But not many!

The antlion has a strategy to deal with that. As the ant starts to climb up the steep side the antlion flicks sand on and above the ant. The sand rolls down the slope again bringing the ant with it. We have noticed too that when a wandering ant comes to the rim of a crater it usually does not sense danger and back off but seems to have a death-wish, intent on running down the slope. When two or more ants fall
into the crater, usually all except the first one get away. We swear we have seen an ant push another one in. We have also seen an antlion flick sand into another one’s trap.

Surprisingly, the blood-thirsty little killers in the sand are the larvae of a beautiful winged creature, the Antlion Lacewing, somewhat like a delicate little brown dragonfly. The veined, clear wings of about a 50 mm span are longer than the body (unlike dragonflies) and when folded cover the insect’s body like a tent. Mainly nocturnal and attracted to light, the lacewing’s flight is slow and of short duration. Like other insects of that group they go through a larval stage, then pupate, before metamorphosing into the flying adult. The species described here is the Common Brown Lacewing, Myrmeleon acer. Antlions, beside their ferocity, have another claim to fame; the larvae, unlike other creatures, do not have an... um.... bottom. They store their waste matter until at the end of the pupa stage it is cast off with the other pupa remnants. It took over a year but finally we saw the pupae – the casings are small balls of silk with a protective coating of adhering grains of sand. The fully-fledged Myrmeleon emerge from these spherical cases, usually at night.

There are many species in the Myrmeleon family. They are all carnivorous; some actively stalk other insects while only a few build sand-traps. We think they are the most interesting ones and as usual when we study ferocious little creatures we are so glad that they are not bigger.

The observation of antlions has some historical context. In 1836 a young naturalist sat on the bank of Cox’s River on Wallerawang Station west of the Blue Mountains in NSW. He was there to observe that (then) almost mythical creature – the platypus. He became distracted when he noticed the traps and behaviour of some antlions and the similarity between these and European species. He started musing about the then held theories about creators and Design...... His name was Charles Darwin.

Footnote: Most of this article is based on personal observation of the antlions. Several ants were sacrificed in the cause of science.
Sunshine Coast Council has delivered more than half a million dollars to 24 environmentally focussed community groups through the 2014/15 Environment Levy Partnerships Program.

The $60 Environment Levy, contributed by all ratepayers annually, funds an important program which assists to protect and enhance the Sunshine Coast’s environment.

The Environment Levy Program provides up to three years partnership funding to community groups whose operations or services contribute to the Sunshine Coast environment. These partnerships allow Council to better engage and work with the community to build effective partnerships to assist in the delivery of Council’s environmental strategies, including the Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020, Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021 and the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016.

This year the Partnership Program included an expression of interest phase, which allowed Council to sit down with groups and establish some shared goals and priorities. There was overwhelming interest in the funding program with the Sunshine Coast being fortunate enough to have so many community groups who work tirelessly for the environment.

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee covers the largest catchment area in the region and was successful in receiving a three-year partnership of $66,601. This group is a well organised long term partner coordinating with council programs and delivering catchment care in the Sunshine Coast hinterland including environmental extension, water quality monitoring, biodiversity investigation and monitoring, education and project support.

Barung Landcare Association Incorporated has over 700 active members and has been contributing to the protection and enhancement
Hello there,

I’ve temporarily taken up the role of Senior Community Nature Conservation Officer previously filled by Michael Gilles.

For the last five years I have been very busy delivering the Environment Levy funded Mooloolah River Corridors Restoration Project which was concluded in June this year.

Many of you will know me from Caloundra Council days where I led the Community Group Support Team for several years. Previous to that I was a Habitat Brisbane Officer with Brisbane City Council for many years.

I’ve been out over the last couple of weeks acquainting and reacquainting myself with many of the Community Nature Conservation group sites around the Sunshine Coast. I look forward to meeting many of you in my travels over the next few months.

Till then….

Kenneth McClymont
Community Nature Conservation

of the region’s natural assets for 25 years. This group will receive a three year partnerships of $47,000 per year.

Maroochy Waterwatch Incorporated facilitates community actions that contribute to the sustainable use and management of the Maroochy River and the catchment. This group will receive a three year partnerships of $46,507 per year.

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care is another successful applicant receiving a three year partnerships of $23,950 per year. This group is an active and inclusive community group that undertakes activities such as turtle monitoring, dune rehabilitation, education and the management of a community nursery.

The invaluable contribution of the Coast’s wildlife carers was also recognised with several wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups receiving funding including Wildlife Volunteers Association Incorporated, Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Twinnies Pelican and Seabird Rescue, Bat Rescue Inc. and Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors.

your environment levy
your habitat
Regional Ecosystem 12.2.6
Scribbly Gum woodland

This ecosystem is found locally on some coastal dunes and beaches as well as swales protected by dunes. It may also be found on coastal plains, fringing lakes and swamps. Soils are generally low nutrient, leached. The Queensland biodiversity status is ‘No Concern at Present’ and the Vegetation Management Act class is ‘Least Concern’.

It is estimated that pre-clearing this ecosystem covered 73,662 ha and 69,695 ha (95%) still remains. Within the Sunshine Coast region remnants are protected on State or council reserve land.

Description
Scribbly Gum (Eucalyptus racemosa) open forest or woodland with a grassy or shrubby understorey provides habitat for a number of threatened species.

Flora commonly found in this ecosystem include:

- **Eucalyptus racemosa** subsp. racemosa  
  Scribbly Gum
- **Banksia aemula**  
  Wallum Banksia
- **Corymbia intermedia**  
  Pink Bloodwood
- **Corymbia gummifera**  
  Red Bloodwood
- **Angophora leiocarpa**  
  Smoothbark Apple
- **Allocasuarina torulosa**  
  Hop Bush
- **Dodonaea triquetra**  
  Hop Bush
- **Austromyrtus dulcis**  
  Midyim
- **Xanthorrhoea johnsonii**  
  A large range of heath or rainforest species may form the understorey depending on the dunal or coastal plain location and fire regime.
Habitat for threatened species
*Acacia attenuata* Attenuate Wattle

Management considerations
Fire forms part of the regeneration cycle for this ecosystem so it does require a fire regime which ensures continuance of the flora species diversity.

Threats to the maintenance of ecosystem biodiversity are caused by inappropriate recreational use, arson as well as changes in hydrology i.e. changed levels in the water table.

Some of the common garden weeds regularly removed from this ecosystem include:
- Introduced grasses
- *Lantana camara* Lantana
## Events calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 30 October</strong>&lt;br&gt;5.00pm – 7.00pm&lt;br&gt;Futures Centre&lt;br&gt;65 Pavilion St, Pomona</td>
<td>Weeds as a Tool in Revegetation Workshop&lt;br&gt;presented by Phillip Moran and Paul Sprecher&lt;br&gt;Workshop is free to members and $10 to non-members and includes light supper on arrival</td>
<td>Call 5485 2468 to make a booking or email <a href="mailto:info@noosalandcare.org">info@noosalandcare.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 5 November</strong>&lt;br&gt;9.00am – 12.30pm</td>
<td>Community Nature Conservation Volunteer Group Coordinator Workshop&lt;br&gt;An opportunity for coordinators to evaluate what has worked, what needs to be done and what needs to change for council to assist volunteer groups more effectively</td>
<td>Maroochy Botanical Garden, Arts &amp; Ecology Centre, 33 Palm Creek Road, Tanawha (adjacent to Tanawha Golf Course) UBD Map 77, P18 – For info and bookings, contact Kenneth McClymont on 07 5499 5120 or email <a href="mailto:communitynature@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au">communitynature@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 19 November</strong>&lt;br&gt;9.00am – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Tour of Success – See the power of volunteers and their endeavours in the conservation and protection of natural areas across the region – Bus to depart Nambour for various locations</td>
<td>For information and bookings, contact Ashley Goodman on 07 5475 7358 or email <a href="mailto:communitynature@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au">communitynature@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 22 November</strong>&lt;br&gt;10.00am – 12.00pm&lt;br&gt;Beginners&lt;br&gt;12.30pm – 2.30pm&lt;br&gt;Advanced</td>
<td>Basket Weaving with Cat’s Claw Creeper Workshop&lt;br&gt;Beginners class make a round basket and advanced class make an oval basket – Workshops at Maroochy Waterwatch offices, Donaldson Road, Nambour – $40 for members, $50 for non-members (materials and equipment included)</td>
<td>Book by phoning 5476 4777 or email <a href="mailto:info@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au">info@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 27 November</strong>&lt;br&gt;5.00pm – 7.00pm&lt;br&gt;Futures Centre&lt;br&gt;65 Pavilion St, Pomona</td>
<td>Frogs, Tadpoles and Native Fish Workshop&lt;br&gt;presented by Eva Ford and Chris Rosin – Workshop is free to members and $10 to non-members (includes light supper upon arrival)</td>
<td>Call 5485 2468 to make a booking or email <a href="mailto:info@noosalandcare.org">info@noosalandcare.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 28 to Sunday 30 November</strong>&lt;br&gt;Departing Nambour 8am and returning 3pm</td>
<td>Fraser Island Voluntourism Adventure&lt;br&gt;Assist Rangers on Fraser Island with revegetation and other environmental management activities</td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:jacqui@ecollaboration.org.au">jacqui@ecollaboration.org.au</a> for costs and details – spaces are limited</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 7 December</strong>&lt;br&gt;4.00pm – 8.00pm</td>
<td>Lights on the Lake – Family friendly festive season festival with a sustainable theme – Free entertainment, kids’ activities, Hugo the Waterways Turtle and Santa, food, arts and crafts, and a spectacular decorated kayak and canoe water parade on Currumundi Lake at dusk</td>
<td>Enquiries phone Tony 5438 8267 or email <a href="mailto:cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au">cccginfo@currimundicatchment.org.au</a>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/">http://www.currimundicatchment.org.au/</a>&lt;/br&gt;lights-on-lake/</td>
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