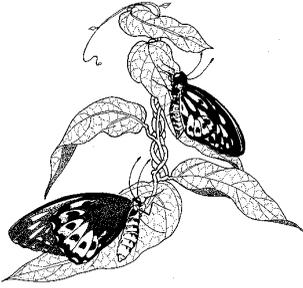


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The **RICHMOND BIRDWING RECOVERY NETWORK INC.** has promoted conservation of the Richmond birdwing butterfly *Ornithoptera richmondia*, its food plants, *Pararistolochia* spp. and protection of its habitats. Membership of the *Network* is open to anyone interested in conserving the Richmond birdwing and other insects of conservation concern. The *RBRN* encourages liaison between community members, catchment and Landcare groups, and relevant local and state government authorities. The *RBRN* holds quarterly General Meetings and occasional Regional or Special Meetings. A Newsletter is published 3-4 times annually. Occasional Supplements are published for Workshops. From 1 July 2010, RBRN Members will be invited to transfer their membership to the *Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network* (RBCN). The conservation activities of RBCN will continue under the “umbrella” of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

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NEWSLETTER NO 18

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EDITORIAL

The contents of the RBRN Newsletters Nos 4 –18 reflect the high quality of information that has been published in this series. Authors are to be congratulated for their notes, articles and scientific information. I hope that copies of the Newsletters will be retained and survive the electronic era, and I hope they will be available for readers of butterfly literature and for insect conservationists. The Newsletter series and the Workshop Supplements also contain many valuable contributions on the broader topics of natural history and environmental education.

I thank members of the RBRN Editorial Panel, in particular Sue Scott, Rachel Griffith, Annette Flower, Dawn Muir and Chris Hosking. They have given up much of their time to editing, printing and binding the Newsletters and Supplements. My thanks to CSIRO for allowing reproduction of many Double Helix Science Club illustrations and to CSIRO Entomology for the use of their facilities and other items for producing the Newsletter.

Grants have enabled the production of the RBRN Newsletter without calling heavily on subscriptions. Special thanks to South-East Queensland Catchments, Brisbane City Council, several Australian Government Community Schemes, CSIRO and the Queensland Government's benefit fund. Several donations were gratefully received from anonymous members and their support has been valuable in many ways.

There are no plans to change significantly the format of the RBRN Newsletter when the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN) takes over the role of printing Newsletters. After amalgamation of RBRN under the umbrella of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, editors will be asking for articles for the RBCN Newsletter, particularly those articles that help community members with recovery of the threatened Richmond birdwing butterfly and its food plants.

NEW AND ON-GOING EXPERIMENTS FOR SCHOOLS IN SOUTH-EASTERN QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Susanne Scott

From 1994 to 2000, CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club introduced and co-ordinated a series of experiments for schools in south-eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales with scientific guidance from Dr Don Sands, CSIRO Entomology. These projects were part of the objectives of the "Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia* [Gray]) Recovery Plan 1996 – 2001" that was lodged with the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and distributed to the Queensland Department of Environment and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service on May 1, 1996. The recovery plan was designed to ensure that co-ordination of schools, community groups and interested individuals; federal, state and local government authorities; and, other interest groups would lead to practical and sustainable conservation projects for the Richmond birdwing butterfly.

The first stages of the school projects focused on:

- Providing school and community talks and workshops; background scientific information; talks and publications through the print and electronic media; supporting school and public awareness campaigns about the threatening processes that had led to the extinction of *O. richmondia* from two-thirds of its original range from Maryborough in Queensland to Grafton in New South Wales.
- Studying the successful growing requirements; growth habits and impacts of climate, soil types and other factors for the introduction and successful cultivation of the lowland larval food plant, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, in school grounds and home gardens to provide information to support future larger plantings of *P. praevenosa* in parks and bushland reserves to ultimately provide corridors for the re-introduction of *O. richmondia* to its former range.
- Supporting public awareness campaigns against the growing and commercial sale of the exotic *Aristolochia elegans* (the Dutchman's Pipe Vine), which has spread from home gardens and become a serious environmental weed over much of the

range of the Richmond birdwing. Female birdwings will lay eggs on the leaves of *A. elegans* but the emerging larvae die when they feed on the leaves.

- Studying the influence of local climate and other factors on leaf toughness, a critical survival factor for young *O. richmondia* larvae.

By 2000, 420 schools had become involved in the project and many hundreds of interested community members had assisted with the scientific research by providing valuable observations about the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and its larval food plants. Valuable information was gathered from the first school projects about the successful cultivation of vines that would support *O. richmondia* larvae. The vines are not always easy to establish, with many perishing in the first year after planting, from too little or too much water. It was found that young larvae require about one square metre of soft leaves to support their development (Bob Moffatt, pers com). Climate, soil types and amounts of light, water and fertilizer received by the vines, all affected the quality and quantities of sufficient soft leaves. Some of the broader outcomes from the school projects for the students and their school communities included:

- Understanding and appreciating insect life cycles, insect-plant interactions and the role of insects as indicators of environmental disturbance.
- Gaining an awareness of the historically uncontrolled habitat destruction that has happened in Australia and the devastating consequences this has had on our unique Australian fauna and flora.
- Learning the importance of scientific research in conservation projects and in finding solutions for environmental problems and the need for balance to be maintained between progress and the protection of our natural environment.

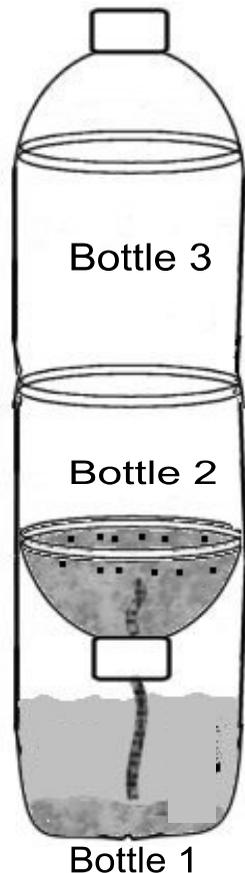
Between 2000 and 2010, practical projects involving the collection of seed pods and germination of seeds, cultivation of seedlings and growing vines to a size suitable for planting in schools, home gardens and in bushland reserves continued with the help of many dedicated community members and was co-ordinated through the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network. Members of the Network have been

providing talks and workshops on growing and propagating vines and have been working hard to re-establish *P. praevenosa* in gardens and bushland areas to provide corridors between the remaining natural stands of the vines. This has resulted in the successful establishment of planted vines in many areas with female birdwings visiting planted vines and larvae successfully developing on them.

The recent prolonged drought and water restrictions severely impacted on the successful establishment of *P. praevenosa* in schools, home gardens and plantings in reserves for the establishment of birdwing corridors. The planting of well-established potted vines has always been strongly advocated for the project. Seedlings and small plants in tubes should not be planted directly in gardens as they rarely survive. This results in the project being a disappointing experience for schools and community members.

In the first couple of years after planting if the vines are over-watered, they rot and if they are stressed by under-watering, they die. In general, it has been found the vines do not recover if they have been allowed to dry out and the stems to wither. Where volunteers have cared for planted vines with regular rostered watering and weeding and fertilizing, the vines have been successfully established. This leads to the next phase of school projects in developing methods of establishing vines where they may not be cared for on a regular basis. Problems for schools include: changes of teachers and other staff leading to breaks in the regular care of the vines; accidental destruction during working bees and care for the vines during school holidays. The question of signage for the vines for schools is a difficult one, distinctive signage protects the vines from accidental damage but also increases their chance of destruction by vandalism.

Experiments have been underway over the past ten years to establish the young vines in a modified 'bottle biology' apparatus. Rather than



then transplanting the vine, the whole apparatus is planted in a large tub of good soil with the bottom busted out of the pot and the pot semi-buried in the ground on the southern side of a tree in a raised garden bed that fulfils the criteria of 'well-watered and well-drained'.

The roots then work their way out of the soft drink bottle into the large pot and then into the ground. The bottom soft-drink bottle provides a water-well for the vulnerable-early stages; the roots eventually work their way through into the bottom bottle and then into the large pot and finally into the soil. This way the roots are never disturbed and the vine establishes a good, deep taproot. The method was trialled trailed successfully in a suburban garden that had typical Brisbane clay sub-soil that went rock-hard in dry weather and drained poorly in wet weather. Within five years the vines were well up into the canopy of trees and had plenty of soft leaves to support young larvae.

It is proposed that this method now be trialled in schools throughout the region to ensure it works in differing soil types and under the other constraints that operate in school gardens. For example, the soft drink bottles and large pots protect the vines from over-enthusiastic working bees and allow for signage that doesn't necessarily attract unwanted attention.

There are also a number of other experiments that can be conducted with the soft drink bottle method to determine how the vines grow with different fertilizers and soil mixes to maximise the production of soft leaves. The Richmond Birdwing project and other environmental projects (including the Australian Plant Biodiversity Project) have demonstrated that there is a lot of interest in the growing of other larval food plants for other butterfly species and a new teacher resource booklet on butterfly friendly gardening in schools is currently being developed. Following is an extract from a draft for this booklet (in preparation):

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR LOCAL BUTTERFLIES

Creating butterfly friendly gardens by choosing plants that are larval food plants for the larvae of local butterflies and designing the garden in a similar way to the natural habitats that the butterflies normally occupy can be a very valuable learning experience for students.

For this to be a positive experience, careful planning is needed as not all butterflies will come into man-made gardens. As well as larval food plants, some butterflies have other very specific habitat requirements. For example, some butterfly larvae are cared for by colonies of certain species of ants. The butterflies will only come to the garden if the right species of ant is also present along with the food plant.

Careful planning needs to be done by supervisors to ensure your students have a thorough understanding of the life cycles and of the specific requirements for the butterfly species you are trying to attract.

- What plant species are required? How many plants should be planted? Are the plants available?
- What companion plants are required to create the desired habitat?
- What climatic conditions are required? If your butterfly garden requires a lot of water do you have sufficient water available or should you choose plants that require less water? How are the plants going to be watered over holiday periods?
- What soil type is required for these plants? Can you use the soil you have or do you need to make significant changes?
- Does your school have a vandalism problem? How can you best protect your garden from intruders, or from problems with feral animals that may be able to enter the school grounds and damage the garden?

Divide the class into 4 groups for introductory planning tasks:

Group 1 should draw up a detailed plan of the school grounds and identify on the plan the different types of areas in the school. For example, low lying wet areas, higher dry areas, slopes where water runs off quickly and erosion is a problem. Also on the plan they should identify the amounts of sunlight that different areas receive. They need to identify the areas that are sunny all day, shady areas and areas that become shaded by buildings at certain times during the day.

From the plan and taking into account other school based issues, decide as a class where the butterfly garden/gardens are going to be located. Take into account availability of water: even when aiming for a low water-use garden, most plants will need watering when they are young. If there is not a tap and hose nearby or hosing is not allowed due to watering restrictions students may need to be organised on a roster for watering plants from buckets.

Group 2 needs to research biogeographical regions to determine what plants grow naturally in the area where the school is located and choose plants that normally grow together and have similar requirements. Students should also contact local nurseries for their advice and also to determine the availability and price of plants selected.

Groups 1 and 2 can then combine together to begin planning the best ways to prepare the gardens. At the same time they can also research for appropriate cultivation methods and establish compost heaps and worm farms to help provide nutrients and mulching for the gardens.

Group 3 will be responsible for determining which butterflies and other insects already inhabit the school grounds and nearby bush land areas. Also they can research which other species could be attracted to the garden if their larval food plants and habitat requirements are met.

Group 4 will be responsible for signage and preparation of recording charts for monitoring the project. To help generate interest in the project by the whole school community and to minimise vandalism they need to prepare some outdoor signs for the garden; handouts for other classes explaining what the project is about and asking for their co-operation; indoor signage for the classroom to record species of butterflies and other insects that visit the garden; and, charts and recording sheets for the classroom to record the growth rates of the plants etc...

This project introduces students to gardening concepts that mirror the natural environment by focusing on their local and school environments and relating these to the original biogeographical regions. The concepts can then be broadened to wider issues of

the preservation of remaining remnants of the original natural environment. Problematic issues such as rising water tables, acid soils and increasing salinity can also be discussed.

The practical investigations involved in designing butterfly friendly gardens develop students' skills of enquiry, research and data processing. Reliance on sound scientific data is necessary to make judgments about the plants chosen and the design of the butterfly friendly garden.

Understanding the concepts

- Cultivated and natural gardens are an integral part of our lives. As well as being important ecological and environmental features, gardens provide us with food, recreation and aesthetic pleasure.
- Biogeographical regions identify distinguishable topography, geological features, climatic conditions, and flora and fauna in an area. Recognition of these features allows for the re-creation of indigenous gardening conditions.
- Water-wise gardening practices are crucial for future fresh water sustainability in garden maintenance.
- Water-sustainability practices in the garden need to be environmentally supportive.

Challenges

- Population increase and the rapid growth of urbanisation in Australia has placed greater demand on limited water supplies and has permanently altered natural water flow patterns.
- Soils have been affected by the drought and erratic rainfall patterns of the past twenty years with some soils and surface mulches becoming water repellent.
- Water restrictions mean we can no longer depend on tap water for watering gardens, nor can we water gardens on a daily basis.
- Approaches to water conservation and reduction in water use for home and commercial gardens need to be carefully planned to be both economically and environmentally sustainable.

- Biodiversity is being threatened by human actions on ecosystems.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUR SINCERE THANKS ...

Pam and Ray Seddon

Our many friends and RBRN Members have been very kind to us both during Ray's unexpected visit to hospital. We would like to thank everybody for their concern expressed during his spell of ill health. You will all be pleased to know that he is recovering well and hopes to be back to his manual activities very soon. Special thanks to those who kindly donated their time and work to keep our birdwing vine nursery up to date and in order. Your help was most greatly appreciated.

ANNE STONE OAM

Rachel Griffiths

It is with great sadness that we farewell Beatrice Anne Stone OAM, known as Anne, born 3 November 1927 and she died on 17 April 2010.

Anne was a great supporter of the Richmond Birdwing Project and RBRN. She was a major, anonymous, donor to the RBRN and was instrumental in planting birdwing butterfly vines in Links, at two of her most dearly loved places – the Anglican Church in Kenmore, and the Erapah Environmental Centre. In recognition of her role, the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network granted her honorary membership in 2008. Anne and her husband Bernard were also passionate supporters of the Scouting and Guiding associations.

Anne and Bernard were especially involved in the development of environmental programs, and of the *Erapah Environmental Centre* in Redland, properly named *Erapah, the Charles S. Snow Environment Training Centre*, after Anne's father who had been Chief Scoutmaster for Scouts in Queensland. Anne was also instrumental in setting up *The Hut Environmental Centre*, located on the edge of Mt Coot-tha Forest in Chapel Hill, Brisbane. The Centre began when Anne and Bernard, together with Don Sands, decided (while attending an entomology conference in China!) that the dilapidated army hut, abandoned some years earlier by the Girl Guides, would be an ideal environmental and community centre. Anne in her inimitable way, garnered the support of various organisations and volunteers, found the funding, and the project was launched. At the time of her passing, she had recently been made an Honorary Life member of *The Hut Environmental & Community Association* (THECA, one of the RBRN founder Groups).

Thirty years earlier, in 1964, Anne launched an anti-litter campaign in Queensland, following the death of a small boy from a fall on a broken bottle. The project took off like wildfire, and evolved into the programme, *Keep Queensland Tidy Committee* and ultimately the *Keep Australia Beautiful Council Queensland Incorporated*. Anne's influence through family, friends, church, scouting, and community, was remarkable and inspirational.

The congregation at the celebration of her life at the Kenmore Anglican Church demonstrated the breadth and depth of her involvement in all these. In lieu of flowers, Anne's family requested that donations be made to the Eprapah Scout Fellowship (contact Judy 3203 4193).

We extend our sympathy to her loving family: four children and their spouses and twelve grandchildren.

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CORRIDOR COORDINATOR REPORTS

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

Eva Ford

Support for Birdwing activities has been received from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council during the past year. They have been consistent with funding the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee's biodiversity program in the Mary River Catchment for several years now. This has allowed us to think of the future and develop some forward planning.

Over the past 12 months about 700 vines have been provided to about 45 property owners in the Mary catchment. At this stage anyone who makes a request is eligible to receive vines and vines have gone to suburban sized blocks, rural-residential areas and large rural holdings. I like to advise people that extra measures must be taken if vines are planted in a less than suitable site. If someone is on shale clays, soils common in this area, then it is best not to take on too many vines and to plant where watering facilities are close at hand and a close eye can be kept on them. I find it much more productive to start most people off with a few vines so they can see what's involved before taking on the 30+ that is recommended. However, some people obviously have the time and dedication to take on a large number straight away.

At my property, I have planted 15 vines in the past on the eastern edge of a patch of rainforest. Sounds ideal, but they

have all died a slow death except one. We are on yellow podsolic soil; shaly clays of low pH which, despite enrichment with good soil, fertiliser and chook poo, and plenty of watering could not support the vines. I have since planted one next to my chicken pen, keeping it in a large pot and allowing the roots to come out the bottom at their leisure. After 18 months it is looking pretty good as I inspect and water it daily and provide added 'extras' from the chooks. Recently I have noticed it flowering however, no fruit has set as yet. Several people around the Mary have said that their vines have flowered after one or two years and some have set seed.

Over the next few years we hope to continue to supply birdwing vines but maybe become more strategic in distributing according to soil types and corridor linkages. I would also like to start following up on some of the vine recipients to determine the success, or otherwise, of plantings. While vine deaths or slow growth is evident from conversations with many people, there are also some success stories. It would be interesting to determine how many vines are required to ensure adequate survival and provide a critical amount of food material for caterpillars. It may also show us that some areas are difficult for vine establishment and that there needs to be better identification of suitable sites for planting vines.

Butterfly sightings are still scarce. This year one was spotted at Kilkivan west of Gympie but most reported sightings in the Gympie area seem to be from the west which leads me to believe that there are still some linkages throughout the state forests of the western ranges. A lady of around 70 years from Wondai reported seeing them out there when she was a little girl!

Kelvin Nielsen has been volunteering at our office and keeping records of vine recipients. He will very soon embark on the task of entering all the Mary catchment records into the database – not a moment too soon! Thank you Kelvin and many thanks to Ray and Pam for supplying fantastic vines and helping with the task of coordination throughout the past 12 months. We now look forward to the Fraser Coast workshop planned later in the year around October at which the regular crew and some newcomers will hopefully attend and present.

In 2010, not much has changed from earlier reports in which I said things like “less than favourable climatic conditions have meant less than desired outcomes generally” and “dry conditions have meant that many enthusiastic members have realistically scaled back plans”. However, I still believe given better weather conditions, I am confident this “Western Suburbs corridor will indeed provide a corridor to tempt the beautiful Richmond Birdwing back into Brisbane”. It just might take a while.

The ‘while’ is still in progress in 2010 and may have years to run. BUT, we have so many positives from RBRN activities in our western Brisbane suburbs. For a start, we have a fledgling corridor of *Pararistolochia* vines where few if any naturally occurring vines remained. We have over 30 of our *Links* on small acreage properties of 2-10 acres which makes larger plantings possible. We also have people taking renewed interest in the old vines planted years ago. We have people who have planted and nurtured vines to find out about the butterfly and its needs for the first time. This brings me to the best thing the RBRN has done in our corridor: it has introduced the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly to the community.

Going back 5 years, few in our area were familiar with the Richmond Birdwing butterfly or story, even though many were involved in conservation, revegetation and other ‘green’ activities. That has changed with Don Sands and the RBRN. The name, the story, the needs and the food plant of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly are now well-recognised in our catchment. The community has been engaged, informed, and involved, which was a key part of Don’s vision of having a ‘ground-up’ formation of network and project to bring back the beautiful Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. The butterfly hasn’t come back to our Brisbane western corridor but we are get-

FUTURE CORRIDOR COORDINATORS REPORTS

Please let the Editor of RBCN Newsletters have your reports for publication in the RBCN Newsletters. They are always appreciated by readers and provide a permanent record of conservation activities in your area. If you do not wish to continue in this role for 2010-2011 please notify the RBCN Network Committee by 1 August 2010.

GLASS HOUSE MOUNTAINS

Gwen Malcolm

This has been a very challenging year for our plantings of birdwing vines with lots of rain, floods and overcast weather. Some vines have been lost due to continual “wet feet”, but other more established vines have survived against the odds. Nursery stock has grown extremely well but moved slowly throughout the wet and humid summer. However, sales have been constant since the mosquitoes moved on! Over 60 vines were sold at the Beerwah garden and Sustainability Expo with a lot of interest demonstrated in the display. Many thanks to Pam, Ray and Kylie for their assistance on the day.

Sightings of butterflies have increased this year but mainly from one property. The same property at Glass House has also recorded the first sighting of Richmond Birdwing larvae. While flowering by vines has been erratic throughout this season, the fruiting (capsules) has been better than expected and seeds are germinating well. Surprisingly I have heard of more flowers on vines quite recently.

Nursery stock is ongoing from previous years and throughout the winter will be used to replace vines lost during the wet weather and to extend public plantings in local parks.

BRISBANE INNER & NORTHERN SUBURBS

Richard Bull

Overview: Weather conditions in the inner Brisbane suburbs based on my Indooroopilly rainfall data were relatively dry through early spring (August to October (2009) with no substantial falls until 26 October, when 37.5 mm were recorded over 3 days. This promoted a flush of young growth on *Pararistolochia praevenosa* vines in the Lower Witton Creek Corridor, but no birdwing butterflies or larvae were reported in the area. Following this good start to the season, extreme hot weather followed in November and again in January 2010, burning most of the young growth on exposed vines and setting back establishment of new

plantings. However, favourable rains followed in February, March and April resulting in a second seasonal flush of growth that regained much that was lost in the summer heat-waves.

Seed capsules and seed supplies: The severe summer heat took a heavy toll on *P. praevenosa* fruiting, with almost all suppliers reporting flowers failing to set capsules. A shortage of seed for propagation resulted. Fortunately, my old vines on Lower Witton Creek produced a moderate crop and I was able to distribute several kilograms of ripe fruit and 1000's of separated seed to the major propagators.

Seed viability: I discovered a zip-sealed packet of several 1000 *P. praevenosa* seeds I had put in my 'drinks' refrigerator in 2008 and gave these to Gary Einam to plant in March 2010. He reported they were germinating at the same time and density as 3-week old seed in an adjacent tray I took from the same vines in March 2010. This seems to debunk the accepted idea that *P. praevenosa* seed rapidly loses viability in storage. I would suggest that a sealed container to prevent moisture changes may be of importance.

Corridor Extensions; Lower Witton Creek plants have grown well and some vines have done exceptionally well. Vines in private land along Witton Creek below the University of Queensland Experimental Mine site were inspected. Despite several plants being flattened on two occasions by more than a metre of flood water, several produced new growth and reached tree canopies. U of Q Experimental Mine had a total of 17 vines in their re-vegetation plantings, but ran out of tank water in the November-January hot spell resulting in stagnation of all but a few vines. Although late summer/autumn rains stimulated strong growth in adjacent new trees, vines failed to respond similarly, and as we have often observed, it was apparent the earlier setback and poor soil quality had long-term effects on vine growth.

Cubberla Witton Catchment Network. Jutta Godwin reported slow growth of the vines her group had planted in Moore Park and in Cubberla Creek projects due mainly to the severe summer climatic conditions and small starting size of the vines.



AFTER HATCHING & EATING THE EGG SHELL
LARVAE NEED SOFT LEAVES TO FEED OR THEY
WILL STARVE.

WHERE TO GROW YOUR BIRDWING
VINES? CHECK OUT — EVA FORD'S
CHOOK PEN & VINE AT GYMPIE !



KYLIE WALKER ATTENDING THE RBRN DISPLAY ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



PREYING
MANTIS >

THE SEDDON'S BIRDWING BEING BITTEN AT BEERWAH



STEVE PETROVICH'S FEMALE BIRDWING RESTING
BETWEEN FEEDING AT MALENY



RBRN MEMBERS AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING



Photo by Rory Beaton

BIRDWING LARVAE SHED THEIR SKIN (= *ecdysis*) 5 OR 6 TIMES AS THEY GROW TO REACH FULL SIZE BEFORE PUPATING

There were no confirmed sightings reported of birdwing butterflies in the Inner Brisbane/Northern suburbs area apart from a 'possible' female sighted by Ross Kendall (butterfly expert) crossing Moggill Road near Kenmore Village at the end of May.

NOOSA AND TEWANTIN

Joan Heavey

Residents in the Noosa, Tewantin area continue to show interest in planting vines to encourage the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly back to the area. A keen resident at Boreen Point near Noosa has been encouraging local residents to plant vines and has recently been in contact to advise that more than 20 vines have been planted on private properties in the area. I believe all these vines have been registered on the RBRN site now and he is carefully monitoring them as he is keen to see them all survive.

The fifty vines purchased from funds by the Federal Government's Caring for our Country Coastcare Scheme, have been planted in our local Heritage Park in areas maintained by volunteers under the Community Nature Conservation Program. An extra ten vines were donated and planted, however the total number of vines in the Park is probably closer to 80 with the discovery of many wild vines in varying sizes. Most of the planted vines are doing very well, with some doubling in size since planting late last year. A couple have suffered, but seem to be improving since the constant rain.

Readers may recall I found a second large wild vine in the Tewantin State Forest last year. Another smaller one is growing several metres away from it and both have been registered on the web site. I earlier heard from a friend that a Richmond Birdwing Butterfly was photographed in Tewantin and I have requested a copy of the photo for identification. I will keep you posted.

Dutchman's Pipe Vine — a “Key Threatening Process” for the Richmond birdwing butterfly

Sincere thanks to Federal Minister Peter Garrett for listings of “Invasion of escaped garden plants”, including *Aristolochia elegans*, as a *Key Threatening Process* under the EPBC Act. Congratulations Minister and to proposers for a successful outcome. Let us aim to get rid of this menace from gardens and bush! **Ed.**

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

RICHMOND BIRDWING CONSERVATION SUBFUND BY-LAW

1. PREAMBLE

1.1 This by-law is made pursuant to *Clause* 12.1.3.9 of the Constitution of the not-for-profit Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (hereinafter referred to as 'The Society ') in order to regulate The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Subfund (hereinafter referred to as 'the Subfund').

The Subfund is established primarily to support and regulate the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (hereinafter referred to as the network).

The Society's State Council (hereinafter referred to as the 'Council') shall appoint a Subfund comprising 5 but not more than 7 fit and proper persons.

All persons appointed to the Subfund must be members of the Society, bound by the rules of the Society in undertaking their duties on the Subfund and enjoy financial status with the Network.

2. GOALS of the SUBFUND

2.1 The Subfund is established primarily to support and further the ongoing activities of WPSQ's Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network that has the following goals:

2.1.1 to plan and re-establish corridors for the butterfly, aimed towards returning the distribution of the butterfly to its former range.

2.1.2 to propagate, plant out and care for *Pararistolochia praevenosa* on public and privately-owned land within it's known natural range.

2.1.3 to strengthen (by planting food plants) outlying populations and establish new corridors at the northern, eastern and southern parts of the natural range of the butterfly.

2.1.4 to support and promote information sessions on butterfly conservation with school projects, workshops and newsletters and to use opportunities as they present.

2.1.5 to raise and disburse funds for all of the above goals.

3. POWERS of the SUBFUND

3.1 Except as otherwise provided by the Council;

3.1.1 shall have the authority and exercise all powers to ensure compliance of the Subfund's actions with the Society's constitution.

3.1.2 to ensure compliance with any relevant by-laws made by the Council.

3.1.3 to approve grant applications recommended by the Subfund following liaison with, and endorsement by the Council.

3.1.4 to approve establishment of, and guidelines for, sub-committees of the Subfund as and when required.

3.1.5 to have general control and management of the Subfund.

3.1.6 to invite from time to time persons with appropriate expertise to advise on matters to be dealt with by the Subfund. Such experts may attend and speak at meetings but have no right to vote.

4. MEETINGS

4.1. The sub-fund committee shall meet at least once per year and as necessary to conduct its business. Meetings may be held by teleconferencing or any suitable means.

4.2 .A quorum shall be 50% of appointed persons plus one.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1. One of the appointed persons shall be elected by the Subfund appointees to act as Chair and Council advised of such appointment.

5.2. The powers of that Chair shall be;

5.2.1 to call meetings when considered necessary or on the written request of at least 2 other appointees.

5.2.2 to approve expenditure up to a limit set from time to time by a meeting of the Subfund and agreed to by Council.

5.3 A bank account shall be maintained at all times. There shall be at least 2 signatures required to operate the account, all appointed by Council.

5.4 Council may, upon consultation with the Subfund, invest funds in the Subfund's account in interest-bearing deposits.

**LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF RBRN:
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
RICHMOND BIRDWING CONSERVATION NETWORK**

This by-law was made on 23 June 2010 by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ) State Council, pursuant to Clause 12.1.3.9 of the Constitution of the not-for-profit WPSQ in order to regulate The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Subfund. The Subfund in turn will overview the operation of the former RBRN Organisation known as the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network.

The Subfund is authorised to establish subcommittees and approve guidelines for the operation and powers of any subcommittees. A network subcommittee is to be established by the Subfund to undertake the day to day functions of the network. As yet the guidelines for this subcommittee are to be fully developed and approved by the Subfund, as while the subfund has been appointed by WPSQ Council, the appointees have yet to formally meet, consider, amend and approve guidelines for the operation of the Network Subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee will be elected by financial members of the Network. While the governance of the former RBRN will change, it is suggested that the most significant change Members of the Network will notice is the name of the organisation. Cheques are made out to, and publications will carry the WPSQ logo, as well as that of the Birdwing Network. In other words, it should be business as usual with enhanced service and activity when opportunities present. Your former organisation was effective and that will continue.

The Subfund appointees are: Don Sands, Christine Hosking, Greg Siepen, Jenny Thynne and Des Boyland.

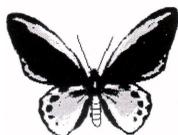


Des Boyland, Secretary WPSQ and RBCN Subfund Member.

SPIDERS ARE VORACEOUS PREDATORS !

Hugh Krenske

In February this year, while doing vine surveys in the Border Ranges, we had the opportunity to visit Booyong Flora Reserve, near Bangalow in northern NSW. *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, the Birdwing Vine was flourishing there. While we only saw one lone female butterfly moving about in the forest, we found numerous larvae of various sizes on the vines growing vigorously, and close to the ground in areas where timber had fallen allowing the light to penetrate to the forest floor. No doubt there were plenty more larvae well out of our reach and sight. We came across what appeared to be a large spider holding a larva about 2 to 3 cm in length. Unfortunately, in our haste to free the larva, we did not photograph the event. As we intervened the spider quickly dropped its prey but it was too late! Obviously suffering from the spider's venom the larva soon died. This may be an uncommon natural event where a large spider is seen to prey on a Richmond birdwing larva. I have heard that huntsman spiders have wreaked havoc in the DERM Captive Rearing Program — perhaps my observations were similar ?



RBCN

LOGO COMPETITION



Here is a chance to demonstrate your artistic skills and illustrating the Richmond birdwing butterfly.

Several RBRN Members have suggested a new “brand” for the *Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network* to replace the traditional inherited birdwing logo.

This competition is open to financial members of RBCN and the RBCN Subfund Committee will act as judges.

The winner will receive a 12 month subscription to the *WPSQ Wildlife Australia Magazine*.

Submit your entry to the RBCN ‘LOGO Competition’, PO Box 5212, Kenmore East Qld 4069. Entries close 10 August 2010.

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE MARY CAIRNCROSS SCENIC RESERVE, MALENY, ON 5 JUNE 2010

Meeting Opened: by President Steve Hooper, in the Chair. Steve Hooper reported on the two major achievements by the RBRN – the Mary Cairncross display and garden and the display at the Sunshine Coast Airport.

Attendance; members and visitors were asked to sign the attendance sheet

Apologies: Christine Hosking, John Moss, Don Sands, Dianne Sattler, Peter Webber.

Minutes: Previous Minutes as circulated in the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network newsletter Number 16 November 2009. it was moved by Ray Seddon and seconded by Ian Gynther that the Minutes of the general Meeting of 26.9.09 be accepted with the change to the speaker's name to Scott Burnett. Motion carried

General Business: *Reports*

Treasurer on the audited accounts. The Treasurer listed current assets, reported on the successful RBRN audit and the current financial position. The auditor, Gary Smith, had completed the audit quickly and very efficiently.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30/4/2010

Assets:

Cash at bank	\$21478
Stock on hand	<u>2912</u>
	24390

Current assets:

Plant and equipment at Cost	\$ 950
Less Provision for depreciation	<u>94</u>
	856

Total Assets	<u>\$25246</u>
	9394

Represented by Members Funds:

Opening balance	\$12531
Surplus for year	<u>12715</u>
	<u>\$25246</u>

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1/7/2009 to 30/4/2010

Income:

Grants	\$19116
Subscriptions	2180
Other	<u>813</u>
	22109

Less Expenditure:

Catering	635
Depreciation	94
Office requisites	1152
Postage and Printing	3048
Vines	360
Workshops	1578
Other	<u>2527</u>

Other General Business

1. The following Resolution was moved by Hugh Krenske and seconded by Ray Seddon:

In addition to the resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th June 2009 that the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network Inc. affiliate with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, the ownership of all assets owned by the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network Incorporated are to be transferred to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland for exclusive use by the new Organization, the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network - on or before the 30th June 2010. The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is to provide a receipt for all funds and other assets to the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network Incorporated for inclusion in the documentation to be forwarded to the Office of Fair Trading in accordance with the rules of termination of an incorporated voluntary community organization.

The discussion included an outline by Des Boyland of WPSQ structure, membership, personnel, and by-laws. WPSQ has appointed the following committee to oversee the RBCN - Des Boyland, Chris Hosking, Don Sands, Greg Siepen, and Jenny Thynne, to ensure RBCN operates in compliance with WPSQ by-laws, objectives and constitution. RBCN will have full facilities in the WPSQ office in George Street, Brisbane with phone, space and spare computer.

The \$10.00 membership fee is to continue. The RBCN will be covered by WPSQ for all insurances purposes. There will be a separate bank account for RBCN under WPSQ and the bank will accept cheques made out to *Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network*. WPSQ will appoint Don Sands, Chris Hosking and Greg Siepen as signatories for the RBCN account.

A WPSQ sub-committee will prepare the by-laws for the RBCN and welcomes input from RBRN members and committee members. The meeting agreed that the By-laws be tabled by the 30th June, and approved by the Management Committee. Similarly, the final audited accounts need to be sent to the Management Committee so that Management Committee members may formally agree to the signing off of the audited accounts

Following this discussion, the President commented that the new organisation would be as strong and as effective as possible if it remains a community-based organisation and the motion above (with the amendments – correction of WPSQ name and insertion of date) was passed unanimously by the meeting.

Other General Business

1. Hugh Krenske reported on the developments in northern NSW concerning Great Eastern Rainforest Alliance and Rainforest Rescue. The meeting endorsed, with acclamation, Hugh's attendance as representative of RBRN at any meetings he attended.

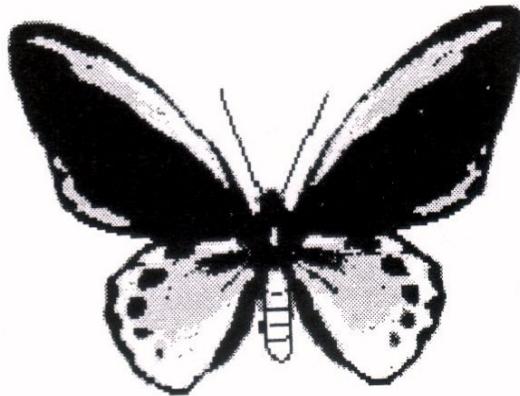
2. Ray Seddon reported on the Mary Cairncross Project which is a great success and enjoys much public interest. He has prepared a 40 page document for the community and Council on local RBRN projects and thanked members of the Friends of Mary Cairncross, Sunshine Coast Council and staff for their general and financial support.

The Mary Cairncross Scenic reserve has become a real focus point connecting with the community and the shire council and community input has been immense. 10,000 vines have been planted and the butterfly appears to have expanded its range.

3. Victor and Helga Hill reported on the newly announced Mary River Reconstruction project. Hugh suggested that close liaison between RBCN and this project was very desirable. The meeting agreed.

Alan Scott moved to recognise the commitment and input by Sue Scott and Don Sands in starting the Network – seconded by Steve Hooper and carried unanimously.

Close of Meeting. 12.00 noon



The General Meeting was followed by a visit to the Richmond Birdwing Display at Mary Cairncross Scenic reserve and to take group photos, since this is the last General Meeting of the RBRN.

RBRN Corridor Coordinators 2009-2010 *

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* From 1 July 2010, RBRN Corridor Coordinators will be invited by the RBCN Network Committee to consider their re-appointment as RBCN representatives. Corridor Coordinators may represent RBCN members at local Richmond birdwing and events or act as the *Network* contacts for community and Landcare activities in their areas. They will be asked each year, to report on the on-going birdwing projects and provide records for the birdwing vines planted at *Stations* (public land) and *Links* (private properties) in their areas. They will continue to assist local members with vine identifications, monitor vine survival and forward new records of wild birdwing vines for mapping and entry in the RBCN *Birdwing Data Base*.

The Inaugural General Meeting of the
Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network

**will be held on Saturday 21st August 2010, from
9.30 am to 1.00 pm in the Conference Room at the**

**David Fleay Wildlife Park,
Kabool Road, West Burleigh, Q**

Main items of the Agenda include
Election of the RBCN Network Committee and a presentation -

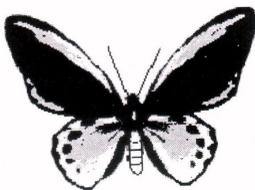
***Captive Rearing the Richmond Birdwing
to overcome in-breeding depression***

by

**Rosie Booth, Ian Gynther, Jacqui Seal
& Don Sands**

**a tour of the DERM birdwing rearing facilities
will follow, led by Jacqui Seal**

**RSVP Sophie, David Fleay Wildlife Park
phone (07) 5576 2411, before Wednesday 19 August**



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