

**From:** Darling Downs Environment Council info@ddec.org.au  
**Subject:** DDEC's Update for August  
**Date:** 30 July 2024 at 4:52 PM  
**To**



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PO Box 4123, Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4300  
info@ddec.org.au | www.ddec.org.au  
Protecting and promoting the environment in our region.  
Local. Adaptive. Sustainable.

Dear ,

Welcome to DDEC's update email for August.

It has been a big month in which we had our AGM and also released our Keep Toowoomba Cool report.

This newsletter is a our biggest so far this year, as our supporter list, networks and community involvement grows so does the amount of information and events we have to share does as well.

I want to take a moment to formally thank the outgoing committee members Hugh Krenske and Linda Selvey. We thank them for their service to DDEC and our environment.

We are grateful to welcome back Don Carlson as President, Jenny Withnall as Secretary and David Tutty as Treasurer. In addition we thank the returning Christel Pidcock, Ros Darracot and Sandy Brown. We are excited to welcome the oncoming new members Scot McPhee, Eakraj Adhikari, Peter Albion and Joshua Waters.

Below is a photo of them all bar Joshua about to enjoy some of Jenny's amazing cakes (P.s. DDEC AGMs are informative and extremely well-catered ways to meet amazing people, join us next year).

Until next time.

Regards,

Ahri Tallon

DDEC Coordinator

Darling Downs Environment Council  
<https://www.ddec.org.au/>





## DDEC Updates



In case you missed it DDEC released a report last week calling for [more action to Keep Toowoomba Cool](#).

Here is some of the media coverage of the release on [Seven](#) and in the [Chronicle](#).

If you are interested in getting involved our next meeting is [5pm Tuesday the 20th of August](#).

We are looking for other ways to engage the community in the lead up to the Planning Scheme review where we hope to get as many community members as possible to voice their call for increased canopy cover by planting and protecting more trees.

We are planning a campaign launch in September and are also looking into a community chalking event where we draw the canopy we would like to see on a street with no trees. If you have a street with no trees (or a park with a small area with

street with no trees. If you have a street with no trees (preferably a quiet one with low traffic) and are awaiting them being planted, and would like to host a chalking event please get in touch.

## Part time Regional Environmental Advocate Position Available

Want to work part time to help improve the growth in renewable energy in inland Southern regional Queensland?

QCC are looking for someone to work out of the DDEC Buru dain dan Eco Hut to engage the community around how nature can benefit from renewable energy expansion.



The screenshot shows a job listing on the EthicalJobs website. The job title is "Regional Environmental Advocate - Toowoomba" at the Queensland Conservation Council. The listing includes details about the location, hours, term of employment, and remuneration. There is a "Apply now" button and a "Save" option.

**EthicalJobs** Job search About us Career advice Join us Sign

### Regional Environmental Advocate - Toowoomba

Queensland Conservation Council

- Location: Toowoomba, Hours: 0.5 FTE. May include some evening and weekend work.
- Term of employment: 16-month contract.
- Remuneration: \$42,993.10 per annum (pro-rata at 0.5 FTE) plus 11.5% superannuation and 17.3% holiday leave loading. You will also receive Christmas-New Years as additional paid leave on top of four weeks of annual leave.

**QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

[Apply now](#)

[Save](#)

[Find out more or apply here](#)



## Help DDEC Earn when you Return

When taking your eligible recyclable containers to a container refund point you can donate the proceeds to DDEC by using our member number (**C10571344**)— that's twice the impact for the environment!

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Glass wine and spirit bottles from 150ml to 3L are now accepted for a 10-cent refund at container refund points across Queensland.

## Upcoming DDEC Events

[RSVP Here](#)



### **DDEC Energy Working Group Meeting**

**When: Thursday 8th of July 5pm-6.30pm**

**Where: Buru Dain Dan DDEC Eco Hut 1at Heller St Rangeville**

Are you passionate about improving the rollout of renewables?

Or concerned about Nuclear energy and want to help educate the community?

DDEC is starting a Energy Working Group where we plan to explore how we can engage with policy, advocacy and community education in support of a clean, just, affordable and reliable energy system.

Contact Ahri via [info@ddec.org.au](mailto:info@ddec.org.au) for more info.



[P.s. Here is a supporter submitted article on Nuclear by Ron Fawcett.](#)

RSVP Here



## Last Chance: Winning the Fire Ant Fight — Toowoomba

You've probably seen it on the news. Fire ants are still on the march. They reached the Murray Darling Basin catchment in Queensland, are spreading through northern NSW and now threaten vulnerable Wallum Sedge Frog habitat on the Sunshine Coast.

Fire ants can be lethal to humans, and government reports have said they will have a greater economic impact than cane toads, feral cats, foxes and rabbits - combined.

We've successfully secured \$593m from governments for the fire ant fight, but it's not enough to ensure fire ants are successfully eradicated. We're also yet to secure commitments from all political parties in Queensland, vying to be Queensland's next Premier, that they will continue to fund the fire ant fight. That puts all Australians and our environment at great risk.

If there's one man who can convince decision makers to act, it's Dr. Robert Puckett from Texas in the USA. Robert is an entomologist and fire ant expert and has been part of the United States' decades-long struggle with these tiny killers. Robert will be touring the front lines in Queensland and New South Wales in August and sharing his extensive lived experience of fire ants in free public talks hosted by the Invasive Species Council.

You're invited to join us and Dr. Puckett on the fire ant front line and learn how we can save Australia from a life sentence with fire ants.

can save Australia from a dire sentence with fire ants.

**Forums coming up:**

**Oakey Civic Centre, Tuesday, August 27 · 10am - 12pm AEST**

**Toowoomba City Library, Tuesday, August 27 · 1 - 3pm AEST**

[RSVP for Toowoomba](#)

[RSVP for Oakey](#)

## **Nature Drinks Event Tuesday 17th of September, Mouse Proof Brewery**

Join us for a talk by USQ Professor Fabrizio Carmignani on why we need a new industrial revolution built on green technologies, and a braver macroeconomic policy stance.

### **Summary of the talk**

There is a close association between economic and human development. However, economic development is rather unusual event in human history. Over the last two millennia, it has occurred only recently and as a result of the combination of two elements: scientific discoveries and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, for economic development to translate into human development, the growth of Gross Domestic Product alone is not sufficient, inequalities need also be tackled. That is, the long-term prosperity of our community depends on: scientific discoveries, effective entrepreneurship, the sustainability of economic growth, and greater equality. A true vision for the future should incorporate these four elements. This is not really happening at the moment, which explains why both economic and human development are essentially stagnating in spite of (what we believe it be) some amazing scientific progress. What is missing? The short answer would be: a new industrial revolution built on green technologies, and a braver macroeconomic policy stance.



[RSVP Here](#)

## **Community Updates**



**LOCKYER VALLEY FRUIT & VEGGIE COOPERATIVE LTD**

**WE NEED YOU!**

Become a member and part owner in the Lockyer Valley Foods Processing Facility (Cannery)! Scan the QR Code below or go to [www.lfvcoop.com.au](http://www.lfvcoop.com.au) and click **join** to become a member! Choose from Lifetime membership for \$1000 or Associate membership for \$500 (payment plans are available).

For more information, please contact us at [admin@lockyervalleyfoods.com.au](mailto:admin@lockyervalleyfoods.com.au) or call us on **1300 920 000**.

**Support Aussie Growers!**  
 ✓ Our Cooperative supports Aussie Fruit and Veggie Growers.

**Support Aussie Products!**  
 ✓ A Full Member Share or an Associate Supporter in our Cooperative supports Australian made and owned products for Australian Consumption.

**Support Aussie Ownership!**  
 ✓ Our goal is for our Cooperative Members to be the majority owners of the Lockyer Valley Foods processing facility (incorporating a cannery).

**Let's stop the imports!**  
**Scan here to join!**  
 or call us on **1300 920 000**

## Queensland Conservation Council Campaign:

### Have you seen the LNP's renewable energy plan? *Neither have we!*

The State LNP, led by David Crisafulli, supported the new 75% emission reduction target by 2035 in April. But this week, his response to the Queensland Budget, which included \$26bn for renewable energy, showed the LNP does not have a plan to roll out renewable energy to actually achieve that 2035 target.

We've worked hard together to force the Queensland Government to update the climate target, and release their Energy and Jobs Plan, but still our communities and Great Barrier Reef are being ravaged by natural disasters.

We need every side of politics to prioritise taking climate action and protecting nature and communities. Will you tell Crisafulli to show us his renewable energy plan?

[Click here: Tell David Crisafulli to show us his plan for renewables](#)

## "Wild About My Garden" Competition

The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club is hosting a project called "Wild About My

Garden", in collaboration with [Gardens for Wildlife Toowoomba Region](#) (g4w). We are inviting contributions from the public which convey a special moment with nature, either as photography, nature journaling, poetry and prose or works of art. Two Paula Peeters workshops on Nature Journaling will be held at Amaroo Environmental Education Centre, as part of the project. For more information on the "Wild About My Garden" Project follow the link to: <https://toowoombafieldnaturalists.blogspot.com>

[For more information about the the workshops click here.](#)

Link to Paula Peeters Eventbrite sites:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/928267070797?aff=oddtcreator>

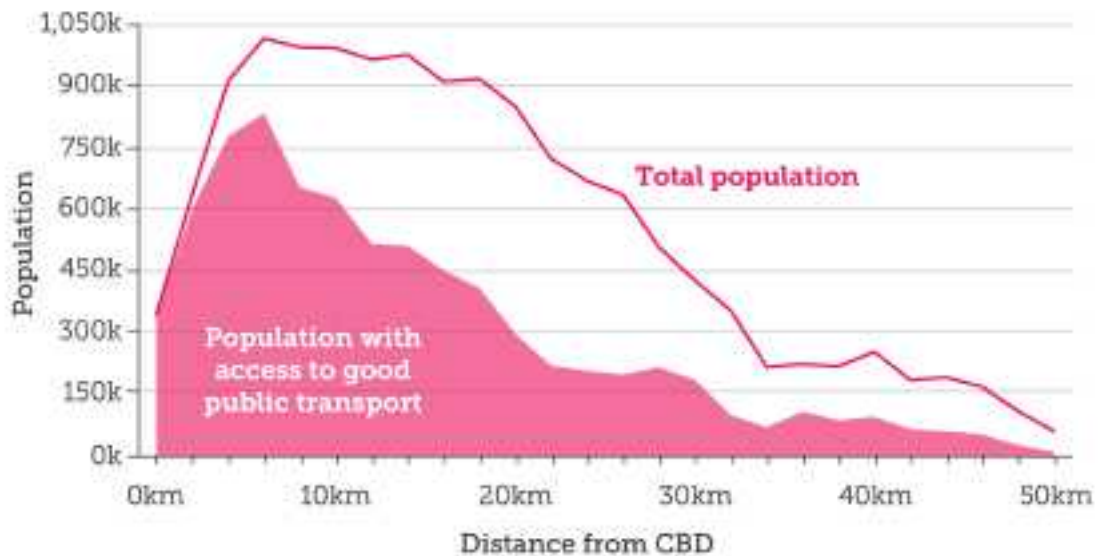
<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../introduction-to-nature...>



**MOST PEOPLE LIVING MORE THAN 10KM FROM THE CITY CENTRE**



## DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO FREQUENT, ALL DAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT



[Tell Your State or Territory Transport Minister You Want Investment in Clean Transport](#)

**Shared and active transport needs to be convenient, reliable, safe and enjoyable for people to choose it over private cars and help drive down climate pollution.**

[Next Stop Suburbia: Making Shared Transport Work for Everyone in Aussie Cities](#), digs deeper into our *Seize the Decade* roadmap to cut climate pollution this decade, by spelling out exactly what governments need to do to make shared and active transport a real alternative for people in our big cities (5).

We will be bringing the findings and policy recommendations from this report to Australia's State and Territory Transport Ministers in the coming weeks & months, to show them that with the right infrastructure and services in place, we can make shared and active transport more attractive and accessible for more Australians, cut climate pollution further and faster this decade, and create safer, cleaner streets.

**Help me by [emailing these decision makers](#)**, so they can hear the chorus of Australians wanting better access to public transport so we can see our transport emissions plummet!

## Circular Economy Investment Program

The \$5 million Circular Economy Investment Program (Program) will encourage Queensland's transition to a system of waste minimisation and avoidance, that also keeps resources in circulation at their highest value for as long as possible.

The Program is open to:

- individual businesses
- industry clusters and/or cooperative groups
- social enterprises
- charities
- not-for-profit organisations
- multisector partnerships - including a mixture of private sector, entrepreneurs investors, universities and/or non-government organisations.

Successful applicants will receive between \$250,000 and \$750,000 (excl GST) per grant to introduce new, or transition to, circular economy business practices/models and systems.

Projects that reduce consumption of virgin materials maintain products at their

Projects that reduce consumption of virgin materials, maintain products at their greatest value for the longest possible time, and offer lasting solutions for products or materials that have few or no existing solutions in Queensland will be highly regarded.

Stage 1 applications close 3pm Monday 29 July 2024.

More information about the Program, including eligibility and the application process is available in the [Program guidelines \(PDF, 696 KB\)](#).

[More information here.](#)

## ***Breaking news from QCC: Our new report shows that a mass solar switch off would be required to accommodate just one nuclear power station in Queensland.***

**That's right, by the time we could build a nuclear power station in Queensland we'd have to turn off the equivalent of 45,000 rooftop solar systems every day to make space in the grid for this inflexible technology.**

The idea of switching off affordable, clean solar energy to make way for expensive nuclear power is outrageous.

**Together we have to share with the broader community what's at stake with the Federal Coalition's half-baked nuclear proposal. Can you share the findings of our report on social media? [Share on Facebook here](#) or [X here](#).**

[Read the report here.](#)

Enhancing water quality information for the Condamine Balonne Catchments





*Beardmore Dam about to overflow in February 2024*

**CBWC Report, July 2024**  
Page 1 / 39

[Click Here to read the report](#)

## **Thesis: Host farmers: Silence at the centre of the unconventional gas people-place-law nexus**

Dougall, Shay (2024) *Host farmers: Silence at the centre of the unconventional gas people-place-law nexus*. PhD thesis, Queensland University of Technology.

This thesis describes and frames the unconventional gas(UG)-host farmer-work health and safety nexus and analyses co-location governance using the host farmer's perspective and their right to a safe workplace. It presents the Psychosocial Safety Climate Policy Scorecard as a normative and upstream approach that may be used to engage in this new nexus. It may be used by host farmers and advocates to amplify their voice. It may also be incorporated into future research as a policy analysis tool to stimulate systemic change to governance arrangements for this nexus.

[Click here to access the thesis](#)

## **Save Deongwar Latest Parliamentary Petition**

The Save Deongwar Campaign would like to share with you our latest petition to the State Government regarding the adverse impact intensive selective logging is having on our publicly owned native forests and arboreal hollow dependent native species.

The petition draws attention to the not fit for purpose Code of Practice and the ineffective Greater Glider Protection Measures that enable our State forests to be intensively logged at the lowest permissible threshold compliance.

Native forest logging policy is intended to strike a 'balance' between timber production and the maintenance of forest structure and ecosystem function however history has shown that it is failing to do so.

Whilst this petition is primarily focused on State forests in South East Queensland the logging rules impact roughly 5.5 million hectares of publicly owned State forest and Forest Consent area on freehold land. Please see the attached image below.

[Sign Here](#)

## **Community Events**

# Community Events



## **TAVERN TALK - August 2024**

Speaker: Paul Carmody

Topic: Bush foods & First Nations plant uses

Date: Thursday 8 August

Time: 6 pm for 7 pm presentation

Place: Highfields Tavern

Cost: Nil (but purchase your own dinner and drinks)

### **Paul Carmody:**

I'm First Australian through my father, our fellas on our maternal line are Bunjalung southern Gold Coast, Northern rivers of NSW, Byron Bay, Lismore, Casino areas. Through Grandad our fellas are Lama Lama of Cape York and Mum was a Migaloc from the Toowoomba area. I grew up on the Condamine plains, Toowoomba and the Moonie River.

I joined the College of First Nations at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba as a lecturer in December 2022 and have spent the last 11 years in Environmental Education and 10 years before that on class in the State, Catholic and Independent education systems. Before that I've worked at a coal facility, been a transport driver, a Marina Maintenance Officer, been a courier and worked for state and federal government departments.

### **Synopsis:**

First Australians have been on this continent for somewhere between 65, 000-100,000 years. The plant knowledge gathered in this time period was extraordinary. Unfortunately, a lot of this knowledge has been lost since 1788.

In our Tavern Talk we'll explore some First Australian plant usages still known- medicines, foods, tools, weapons, clothing, shelters. All of the plants are in the local area, if not endemic certainly easily found.

[Register here:](#)







## Join us for a online workshop and launch of #Stand Up for Nature.

**August 21, 2024 at 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

We are in a really important election year. We can't afford to go backwards on nature protection or climate action.

Right now it's vital to show your local decision makers that you care about action to protect nature and they must too.

We will look at how working together, we can better protect nature across our beautiful region.

This morning workshop will include:

- Updates on key conservation developments, such as regional and bio-region: planning, koala protection regulations and Olympics legacy activity - and what they mean for us locally.
- Opportunities to help develop and sign up for future actions and training events, like media training, social media, community outreach etc.
- Launch of #Stand up For Nature, including resources for groups

Come join us online and become a partner in the Stand Up for Nature Campaign!

P.s. If you want a blue Stand for Nature sign come get one from DDEC, we have heaps to give away.

[RSVP Here](#)





Join hundreds of environmental leaders and concerned citizens in a critical discussion with [National Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek](#) about strengthening our nature laws.

Weak environmental laws allow land clearing of threatened communities, coal mines in koala habitats, and logging that kills gliders. We need stronger laws and a robust Federal EPA to protect our unique wildlife.

You're invited to the [2024 National Evening with the Minister - Strengthening Our Nature Laws Webinar](#) on Thursday, August 15th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

We need to show Minister Plibersek that Australians care about protecting our wildlife. Lets make sure that hundreds of people attend.

[RSVP Here](#)







The Toowoomba Region Koala Habitat Project has brought the movie to Toowoomba.

[Buy Tickets Here](#)



[Register here](#)



Echo Valley Farm invites you to join in the celebration of community, ecology and regenerative food and farming.

2024 marks 10 years of Echo Valley working with the landscape to feed our community all while ensuring its practices are **Good for the animal, Good for the land, Good for the farmer, and Good for you.**

[Find out more here.](#)



The PeaksToPoints Festival is a Brisbane based festival aimed at engaging the community in nature.

[Find out more here:](#)





THE CROW'S NEST  
SUNDAY  
1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT  
2024

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY...**

Progress Crows Nest | High Country Koala Action Group  
Toowoomba Regional Koala Habitat Project

# HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER

for High Country Koalas



As part of Save the Koala Day, join us for High Tea with all monies raised going to the High Country Koala Action Group Inc. to continue to fund koala rescue and rehabilitation, community awareness, education and conservation centring on koalas in the Crow's Nest surrounds.



Join us on  
**SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**

A scrumptious High Tea in the Crow's Nest Community Hall from 10.30 am to 12 noon with music, conversation and a special Guest speaker.



Tickets  
\$20

Hosted by the High Country Koala Action Group Inc.  
GENERAL ENQUIRIES: Call Sandie on 0437 734 556.





## National Tree Day at Mount Peel

Saturday 28th of September 8am-10am

**Darling Street car park (corner of Darling and Westminster Streets):** Follow Anzac Avenue south and turn north-west onto Darling Street. The reserve has a well-signed car park at the intersection of Westminster and Darling Streets.

More information here: <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10030342>

**APCC14**  
*From little things...*

**14th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference**  
**Toowoomba, Queensland**  
**13-17 Oct 2024**

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc

You may or may not be aware that the Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) is holding its biannual conference in Toowoomba later in the year (13-17 October). This is the [14<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Conservation Conference](#), but notably the first time it will have been held in Queensland. Everyone and anyone with an interest in plant conservation is welcome to attend and present – early bird registration and abstract submission is currently open. A key focus of the conference is strengthening existing and building new plant conservation networks and, in particular, raising the profile of plant conservation in Queensland, including through the [Queensland Threatened Plant Network \(QTPN\)](#), which works to support and facilitate groups and new partnerships for the conservation of native flora and threatened plant recovery across the State.

### Sub-themes:

#### Northern Connections

Across the tropics and subtropics, many organisations are engaged in innovative projects of research to conserve plant species and their habitats. The APCC has traditionally been more focused on mainland issues, and this is the first time this flagship conference has been held in Queensland.

This theme explores the issues facing plants and ecosystems in the vast expanses of northern Australia – subtropical and tropical forests, savannahs, and rangelands – and what is being done to protect them (including the

#### Navigating Natural Disasters

Australia is experiencing an increase in the intensity and frequency of natural disasters driven by climate change, including more extreme flooding, cyclones, bushfires, drought, heatwaves and destructive storms. These climate-fuelled events have serious and often unprecedented impacts on our plants across many areas of Australia's landscape. While some species and ecosystems have the capacity to recover following these extreme events, many are being pushed to the brink of survival in already stressed ecosystems.

establishment of the Queensland Threatened Plant Network. It's an opportunity to explore the northern half of our continent, and to hear how various organisations are tackling conservation issues that are sometimes similar, and sometimes very different, from those in the temperate and Mediterranean climates of southern Australia.

What are the impacts of these repeated events, how do we improve species resilience and how do we facilitate recovery from such disasters in the future? This theme will highlight some of the post-disaster management of threatened flora and ecosystems across Australia. It will explore the learnings from these approaches and future challenges and opportunities.

## Living on the Edge

Across Australia, plants face complex threats including climate change, habitat loss and altered fire regimes. Others are naturally rare, restricted in space and time, but still demonstrate a tenacity to survive and recover from threats.

This theme explores how threatened plants persist in the face of different ecological and anthropogenic factors, and the strategies they employ to survive.

Plants living on the edge offer insights and lessons that can be applied in recovery action plans and in general management strategies for all threatened flora.

## Fighting Feral Pathogens

All over the world, plant diseases that affect natural environments are a growing threat. Key patterns of global travel, trade and exchange of biological material, coupled with ever-increasing pressure on natural environments, are promoting the spread and impact of environmental pests and diseases, both native and introduced.

In recent years, exotic diseases like Myrtle Rust (Australia and NZ), Beech Dieback (Queensland) and Hazel Dieback (NZ) have established and are having severe environmental and cultural impacts. Phytophthora Dieback in Western Australia and many other states is a longstanding threat with devastating impacts. Combating these diseases and preventing further introductions is a growing focus in science, cultural land management and plant conservation. Under this theme we will share information and experience from these efforts.

Register here.



**Darling Downs Environment Council**

DOEC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, people of the Wakka-Speaking Nation, the "Bunya Buma".

Darling Downs Environment Council · Australia  
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