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Protecting and promoting the environment in our region.
Unite Advocate Innovate

Welcome to our August newsletter!

What a joy it is to open this edition by celebrating a beautiful new beginning. Congratulations to Ahri and Ellen on the arrival of their baby girl, Sage! We are so delighted for your growing family and send you all our warmest wishes as you settle into this precious new chapter.

It has been a big month of finding my feet and touching base with so many of you. I am deeply grateful to be included in such a welcoming community of passionate environmental defenders. Your energy, care, and quiet persistence continue to inspire me every day.

Here are a few highlights from the past month:

- **Gowrie Creek Clean-ups:** These monthly efforts keep going strong. We have now pulled a remarkable **1,950 kg** of rubbish from the creek — an incredible achievement that belongs to every volunteer who has turned up with gloves, bags, and determination.
- **Tree Planting at Gummingurru:** DDEC was proud to support Toowoomba State High School's Certificate II Conservation and Ecosystem Management students as they planted 100 trees alongside Paul Carmody and Peter Macqueen. It was a powerful day of learning, caring for Country, and putting roots (literally) into the future.
- **Volunteer Survey:** A huge thank you to every volunteer who took the time to complete our recent survey. We truly appreciate your honest feedback and are actively listening as we shape how we support and work with you all moving forward

And the biggest date for your diary this month:

DDEC Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 16 September | 5:30 pm

Eco Hut, 1a Heller Street, Middle Ridge

This is our chance to come together, celebrate the year that has been, elect our committee, and set the course for the year ahead. Please mark it in your calendars — we would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you for the warmth with which you have welcomed me, for the work you continue to do, and for the care you hold for this beautiful region. I feel privileged to be walking alongside you.

With gratitude,

Holly Paterson

Nature Organiser



DDEC Events

DDEC Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: Wednesday 16th September

Time: 5:30pm

Address: Bu'ru Dain'dan Eco Hut, 1a Heller Street, Rangeville QLD

DDEC's governing management committee is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the collection of individual representatives nominated from each member group. If you wish to obtain a nomination form or receive more information, please contact Christel Pidcock: secretary@ddec.org.au

VALID Nomination Forms must be FULLY completed, signed by all parties AND given to the Secretary (by mail, email or at the club house) two weeks prior to the AGM – i.e. 02 September 2026.

Only financial club members can participate in the voting process. Please renew your membership using this link [Become a member - The Darling Downs Environment Council \(DDEC\)](#) and complete the online membership renewal form <https://forms.gle/q6JVgQfFHCNxBz1x5> for individuals and <https://forms.gle/kqoavCQJMNJCPwAS7> for groups. Please also use the online *Membership Renewal Form* to update your details.

Wildlife Nest Box Workshop

Join your local community supporting wildlife
and caring for Country **\$70 per box**

Wildlife nest box workshop

**Sunday
August 9
2-4pm**



Bu'rū Dain'dan ecohut • 1 Heller Street, Rangeville

Following the success of our April nest box workshop, Tiff and Sandy are excited to be hosting another nest box workshop this August the 9th.

In April's workshop , we built around 12 nest boxes that are now finding homes in local schools and learning communities, giving children the opportunity to observe wildlife throughout the seasons while learning about the importance of tree hollows and the animals that depend on them.

Our August workshop will focus on supporting pale head rosellas, parrots and other small

Our August workshop will focus on supporting pale head woodhens, parrots and other small hollow-dependent birds. With the loss of so many mature trees and natural hollows over the past year, we wanted to create a practical way for our community to care for Country while learning how we can all play a role in protecting local wildlife.

This project has also been a wonderful opportunity to build community connections. We're grateful to the Men's Shed for partnering with us to help prepare the nest box kits, making these workshops more accessible and possible.

Looking ahead, Sandy is hoping to expand the project to support native mammals, including sugar gliders and possums, as we continue learning and growing this initiative together.

We'd love for you to join us at our August workshop

[Bookings & Further Information](#)

DDEC Updates

Gowrie Creek

Our monthly Gowrie Creek clean up days continue to show the power of coming together as a community to enact positive change in our environment. A massive thank you to every volunteer that has come to a clean up day, we couldn't do this without you.

Bunnings Toowoomba North donated equipment to support our clean up efforts in July, including rubbish pickers, gloves, nets, tarps, heavy duty rubbish bags and hi-vis vests. This generous donation means our volunteers will have more of the tools they need to safely remove rubbish from the creek and continue caring for this beautiful local waterway.

As of our July clean up, we have removed over 1,950kg of waste and over 3 tonne of scrap metal from the Gowrie Creek!





Gummingurru Tree Planting

On the 24th of July DDEC had the pleasure of supporting Toowoomba State High School's Certificate II Conservation and Ecosystem Management students as they planted 100 trees at Gummingurru.

It was lovely watching this incredible group of young people learn from the wonderful Paul Carmody and Peter Macqueen about Caring for Country. Their energy and care for the land was really special to witness.

Huge effort from everyone involved!



Affordable Housing

Tiny Homes Update

One of DDEC's members has had some very constructive and positive meetings with Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC), including the Deputy Mayor, key members of the planning and compliance teams, and the Vice President of the Australian Tiny House Association.

A report recommending changes to Subordinate Local Law No. 1.3 (Establishment or Occupation of a Temporary Home) — specifically around allowing longer-term occupation of tiny homes and temporary homes on private property — will be presented to Council next month for a vote by councillors.

If the recommendation is supported, there will be a 100-day public submission period. This will be a crucial opportunity for our community to have their voices heard in favour of the proposed changes.

We'll keep you posted as soon as we have more details on timelines. If we reach the submission stage, we'd be incredibly grateful for your support — every submission in favour will help demonstrate the strong community need for compassionate, practical solutions during the housing crisis.

Watch this space — and thank you for standing with us on this important issue!





Community Updates

QCA Discernment Forum: From Stories to Issues

FROM STORIES TO ISSUES

ALLIANCE DISCERNMENT PART 1



Date: Thursday 6th August

Time: 6:30pm- 8:00pm

Location: Online via Zoom

For the first half of 2026 our Alliance has been in Listening mode.

In 15 Listening Actions across Queensland we have built local connections, grown leadership and shared stories of the pressures on ourselves, our families and communities.

Join us on Thursday 6th August to hear the outcomes of the Listening Campaign, connect on the stories that moved us, and begin identifying the next steps that will strengthen our Alliance and achieve meaningful change.

Register today to discuss the key pressures that we face and how we will come together to act on them.

[Registration & More Information](#)

H5N1 Bird Flu and Australian Wildlife Webinar



This webinar is a collaboration between Australian Marine Conservation Society, Biodiversity Council, BirdLife Australia, Doherty Institute, Invasive Species Council and Wildlife Health Australia. The panel spoke about the impact bird flu has had globally, key risks to Australia's unique native wildlife, how the federal government can increase resilience of the most at-risk native species and what we can all do to mobilise action and mitigate harm.

With reported bird flu cases rising nationwide, government agencies and conservation groups are increasingly focused on what we can do to better prepare and plug potential gaps in the national response.

[Watch Online](#)

Leading conservation groups are calling on the federal government to invest \$200 million to deliver a five-point plan over two years.

To help give Australia's wildlife a fighting chance against bird flu, please follow the Invasive Species Council's lead and write to Environment Minister Murray Watt supporting their call for increased investment.

[Complete The Online Form](#)

Community Events

Toowoomba Region Koala Count - Koala Smart

Toowoomba Region Koala Count - Koala Smart Teacher Assistants Wanted

Toowoomba Region Koala Count is planning koala smart visits to 17 local state schools during October 2026 in preparation for our annual count across the Region every November.

Volunteers wanting to attend as koala smart teaching assistants will need blue cards. Please contact Pascale Egan on 0401 435 860 to start this process now



Pittsworth State School 2025 winner

Madeira Challenge - Spring Event



Friends of the Escarpment

A warm thank you to everyone who has supported the Madeira Challenge in the past. We'd love your help promoting our next working bee as we tackle one of the last pieces of the Madeira puzzle on this spur — working downhill from the previous challenge site.

Date: Saturday 29 August

Time: 8:00–11:00 am

Location: Redwood Park

The Redwood FEP team can't do this without outside assistance, so please share the invitation far and wide with anyone who might like to join us.

Bookings are preferred. This time we're also opening the Challenge to secondary students, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

Come along, get your hands dirty, and help us finish this important section of the work.

[Booking & More Information](#)

Community Advocacy for 'Nature Positive' Outcomes



**ecologically just transitions
learning network**

Community Advocacy for 'Nature Positive' Outcomes
Tues 11 August @ 12noon AEST
<https://events.humanitix.com/ejt-11aug>

annette kilarr **david carr** **carol shantal** **sarah houseman**

australian earth laws alliance
www.earthlaws.org.au/just-transitions

Date: 11th August

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm AEST

Location: Online

How can communities ensure they have a role in guiding 'nature positive' initiatives in their regions?

regions:

Join AELA's Ecologically Just Transition (EJT) Network for our next free webinar on 11 August @ 12noon AEST. We'll be in discussion with members of the Biodiversity Reference Group for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NE RZE). The NE RZE has been working with government and other stakeholders, to ensure ecological needs are grounded in regional expertise, and suit the needs of local communities when transitioning to renewable futures.

This model of locally informed advocacy is seen as a prototype for future transition projects in other parts of Australia.

More Information & Tickets

2026 Toowoomba Birding Festival



Birdlife Southern Queensland Darling Downs local branch and the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club are proud to invite you to the second Toowoomba Birding Festival, from September 20th to October 3rd 2026

Date: Sunday 20th September - Saturday 3rd October 2026

The festival features guided bird walks, talks on birds at the Queensland Museum Cobb+Co, special activities for kids, and a rolling slide show of stunning Australian bird photos by local photographers on the Darling Downs.

Every event is free but does require bookings because spaces are limited. Remember to BYO binoculars!

For further information please visit: <https://bsqdd.com.au/2026/06/21/2026-toowoomba-birding-festival/>

Further events for the birding festival include:

[Guided bird walk at Duggan Park](#)

Sun, 20 Sep, 7:50am - 9:30am

[Talk on Toowoomba Birds and the Festival, Cobb+Co Museum](#)

Sunday September 20th, 1pm

[Guided bird walk at Lions Park, Hodgson Vale](#)

Sat, 26 Sep, 7:50am - 9:30am

["Did You Spot It?" – Children's puppet show about birds](#)

Sat, 26 Sep, 9:30am - 10am

[Guided Birdwalk for Children – at the Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat](#)

Sat, 26 Sep, 10am - 10:45am

[Borders to Bunyas Project and Glossy Black Cockatoos - Talk by Mitchell Roberts](#)

Sat, 26 Sep, 1pm - 2pm

[Guided bird walk at Loveday Cove, Cooby Dam](#)

Sat, 3 Oct, 7:50am - 10am

[Talk "Austalian Parrots and Cockatoos", Cobb+Co Museum](#)

Sat, 3 Oct, 1pm



Donate & Support