

# Beating 'round

# the Bush

Happy 10th Birthday  
IndigiScapes

Spring issue 2010



## Indigi Day Out... 10 years and on...



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## Message from the editor

**Aiba Godwin, Natural Resources Education Officer**

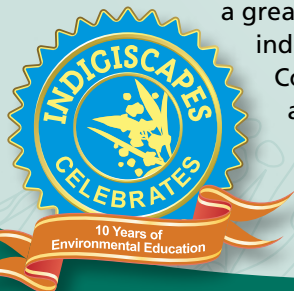
**W**ell, it's been great to join the team here at IndigiScapes and become part of such a well respected and successful environmental education facility. Our last issue presented a bit of IndigiScapes history, so, I thought this edition should be jam packed with all the goings-on at IndigiScapes today and what the next ten years might bring, plus a wrap up of Indigi Day Out 2010. I'm sure all of you who attended this year's Indigi Day Out & Folk Redlands Festival of Music would agree it was a great celebration indeed.

Congratulations and thanks are in order

to all the staff and dedicated volunteers. We had a record 5,200 visitors through the gardens in two days, and there was a fantastic line-up of performers, displays, stalls and workshops that kept visitors thoroughly entertained. I brought my family on the Sunday, and my main highlight was seeing my new workmates in action at their information stalls, the nursery and cafe, the colourful street performers, and of course, the star performance by John Schumann and Hugh Macdonald, performing the hits of Redgum.

What a fantastic weekend!

*Aiba Godwin*



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# IndigiScapes: *the next ten years*

By Craig Doolan, IndigiScapes Centre Management

**T**he start of our second decade at IndigiScapes has seen a lot of action at the centre, with new entrance signage, interpretive displays inside, and our own little audio visual 'theatre' in the corner of our atrium.

These overdue changes to the centre have reinigorated us to ensure IndigiScapes continues to evolve, whilst maintaining its character. I believe the future of IndigiScapes lies in providing an attractive place for families to come, and providing information that suits all ages and levels of expertise.

With the number of children that visit IndigiScapes, we see that the opportunities this presents are endless, if we improve our educational activities. But at the same

time, in the effort to make everything accessible to visitors, what is often lost is some of the more technical information. So, it is important that we balance the needs of all our visitors, and continue to provide quality technical advice and information to a higher level.

We are starting to see some changes to the gardens of IndigiScapes that will offer different experiences for those that have been coming here for a long time. The IndigiScapes 'niche' of local native plants is a terrific one, and I honestly believe we have the potential to be one of the best small botanic gardens in the country. Delivering on that potential is my biggest challenge.



Installation of the native plant display wall as part of the 'Your Backyard Garden Program'



Some of the IndigiScapes team with John Shuman at the end of a successful Indigi Day Out 2010.

## Supporting the progress

By Jeanette Adams, Centre Coordinator

**T**he last ten years gone has seen some major changes at IndigiScapes, and for the admin team, that often feels like a daily occurrence!

Alice, Chantel, Michelle and I provide the administrative support to the team at IndigiScapes, as well as keeping the centre running smoothly and ensuring our visitors are well catered for and enjoy their time here. Most of you would have had contact with at least one of us in your dealings at the centre. It is a job we all enjoy and are proud of.

With visitor numbers hitting 56,000 in the last 12 months, we find we are catering to a truly diverse range of visitors. With increasing numbers of weddings and functions, training and workshops, our days can be hectic. There is, however, always the calming influence of this place, which can never be underestimated.

Where to from here? Well, for us, we'll continue the commitment to great customer service and ensuring a fabulous experience for all of our visitors. Please make sure you say hello next time you are here!

*Indigi Day Out fact*

200kg of clay was crafted into creative creatures by kids at the Sculptors Qld Workshop tent.

## The thing I love the most about my job is...

"being able to work in a bushland is amazing!"

*Stacey Edwards, Hospitality Trainee*

"the events!"

*Chantel Jackson, Events Coordinator*

"the surroundings!"

*Alice Gillespie, Administration Officer*

"working with a lovely bunch of people."

*Michelle McManis, Administration Trainee*

"working with the community to create a positive change in our local environment."

*Travis Green, Bushcare Extension Officer*

"working with people who are passionate and motivated about making a positive change in the environment."

*Kylie Burton, Bushcare Extension Officer*

# IndigiScapes nursery - *teaming with life!*

By Jill Heilbronn, Nursery Hand and Martyn McVicar, Nursery Trainee

**T**he IndigiScapes nursery is run by the two of us, and we are responsible for propagating and maintaining all the babies.

We couldn't do this without the 30 dedicated volunteers who participate in the many nursery-run programs aimed at benefiting our environment and residents. Workshops include a propagation group run by the awesome Bob Douglas every second Tuesday, seed collection field trips, seed processing workshops and our monthly plant sale. What would we do without our invaluable plant sale volunteers: Coleen, Ted, Bob

and Bev. The nursery also provides plants to the 43 Bushcare groups and community tree plantings, as well as supplying the Waterways Extension Program with plants.

Indigi Day Out was huge! We moved half of the nursery, shelves and all, down to the gardens to join in on the festivities. We got to enjoy the fantastic music and sold most of our stock.

Want to join in? Please go to the IndigiScapes website under Get involved > Bushcare or phone IndigiScapes for more information.



Jill and Marty (standing) with Alan, Rosemary, Will and Francis who are enjoying a mornings' seed processing

## Art at IndigiScapes!

### Sculptors Qld Exhibition

Saturday 16 October through to Sunday 21 November

Come and check out the sculptures on display in and around the IndigiScapes gardens.

### Ecological Art Exhibition

Throughout December and January

A collection of beautiful works by Nicola Moss will be displayed throughout IndigiScapes' trails and gardens for the summer months.

## The Tea Garden cafe - *a delight!*

By Donna Davison, Cafe Team Leader

**T**he IndigiScapes Tea Garden cafe, set in lovely Australian native bush, boasts wholesome goodies and speciality hot meals.

From it's opening in 2005 with just part-time staff, homemade scones and a wee pot of tea, we now have two full-time staff, seven part-time staff and a volunteer to cater for many weddings and other functions. We have a signature cake made with fresh apples and dates (Indigicake) which is a sure treat, and our homebaked fresh scones are served daily and accompanied with Bush Flower jams & Lemon Myrtle butter. We make great coffees and are regularly booked out for lunch. I have a great team at the moment made up of Amanda, Stacey (our hospitality trainee), Michelle, Georgina, Rebekah, Julie, Jenay and our volunteer, Carolyn. Our combined passion for native bush flavours, our environment, and excellent customer service will keep you all coming back for more.

We are open each Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 4pm. See you there!

Tea Garden cafe fact  
IndigiCake is our signature cake and is made in-house.

## Straight from the ground

By David Stone, IndigiScapes Groundsperson

**H**ello, I am the groundsman for IndigiScapes and I have now taken part in seven Indigi Day Outs.

This one just gone has been the biggest and the most successful. My area of responsibility has always been parking the visitors' cars, helped by a crew of volunteers. However, day to day at IndigiScapes I care for the centre grounds and the variety of display gardens, with the help of five regular volunteers who join me for one or two days a week.

What I like most about my job at IndigiScapes, and the way it has changed over the seven and a half years of my employment here, is that every day is different and rewarding. It is good to be part of a unique team and to be proud of what we are accomplishing for the residents of the Redlands.



David (far left) with a few of his trusty volunteers - Geoff, John, Albert & Neil.



# Protecting Redlands habitat

## How do we do it?

**By Melanie Harrison, Senior Habitat Protection Officer**

I am currently filling Gavin's role, and work with Mark and Danielle in this program, and we have all observed change on the ground through projects on private lands and in people's environmental values from a variety of backgrounds.

Working with private landholders is an important part of nature conservation and environmental management. Wildlife does not stop at conservation reserve or fence boundaries, nor do environmental weeds. Our focus is to protect these values across the broader landscape. This gives working with landholders a sense of purpose and value in our careers. It is the motivating factor that has contributed to the expansion and participant growth of the private landholder programs and a high level of support and commitment from both Council and staff within the team.

Going into the future, we seek new opportunities, equal to or better than current programs, that are both beneficial to the landholder and the Redlands environment; so that one day a revegetation project reaches remnant status, waterways are rated above average and support a diversity of aquatic wildlife and the koala population and other wildlife are secure. This is our goal!

Indigi Day Out 2010 was great! Danielle had a catchment model and invited the kids to use play-doh and toy farm animals to make a healthy catchment. They made fences for the farm animals to prevent sediment and nutrients entering the waterway, and put lots of trees and shrubs on the creek banks (or 'riparian areas'). The children took away some basic catchment management principles whilst the parents also learnt about some changes they can make at home to help improve Redlands' creeks. The kids really enjoyed the activity and some parents even got into it too!



Children learning how to create a better future for the Redlands



A sun shiny day at the Habitat Protection Stall at Indigi Day Out

### How we protect Redlands habitat through a range of important programs:

- Our *Land for Wildlife Program* has grown to 145 participants throughout the Redlands protecting close to 720 ha of wildlife habitat and close to 50 ha under restoration. We currently have a private property research project which looks at wildlife diversity on private land. This project will allow us to continue to survey and monitor wildlife and wildlife movement between private and public lands.
- The *Rural Support Program* has 91 participants supporting an area of 922.14 ha.
- The *Koala Conservation Agreement Program* is a formal agreement between council and landholder to conserve and reinstate koala habitat on private lands. We currently have 36 participants protecting 55.61 ha of koala habitat on private lands.
- The *Volunteer Conservation Agreement Program* involves placing a legal covenant over the land protecting its environmental values in perpetuity, while offering support to the landholder. We currently have four properties in the program, with two properties still in the process.
- The *Your Backyard Garden Program*, although initially offered as a one-off visit, now involves up to three visits over a 12 month period for participants. Previously, over 500 participants have been involved in the program with 44 participants involved in the revised program. As to the future of the program, we will continue to promote greater awareness and understanding of the importance of urban habitat to wildlife in the Redlands!
- The *Waterways Extension Program* is our most recent program, which currently has 32 participants and over 230.39 ha of property involved, to manage issues related to waterways health. A number of trials have commenced, such as water sampling of dams, soil sampling, and the inspection of septic systems and manure containments to identify and manage sediment and nutrients from private land entering our creeks. Earlier this year, the program was recognised for its ongoing efforts to improve the health of the Redlands waterways as a finalist in the government category of the Healthy Waterways Awards 2010.



*Indigi Day Out fact*  
2000 plants were either sold or given away over the 2 days

## Kids rule at Indigi Day Out!

**By Ruth Vickery, Environmental Education Schools Program Extension Officer**

**A**s you are probably aware, this year's Indigi Day Out was one of the best ever! We sure did celebrate our 10th birthday in style and I was so happy to see so many Indigi friends come and share the weekend with us.

There was great food, music, information stalls and workshops, but I reckon the kids activities were the best! Once you faced the challenge of climbing the rock wall you could challenge yourself even further and learn new skills at the circus area with hoola hoops, juggling, spinning plates and more! If you needed a bit of a rest, there were seedlings ready for planting or you could find yourself checking out the wildlife on display. If you were feeling a bit creative you could get your hands dirty playing with clay and sun-print or screen-print a calico bag with pictures and messages to help save our koalas. And, if you really needed a rest after all of that, there was always the chance to take a seat in the line up for the world's best (in my opinion!) face painter – Fairy Lorraine. Sadly, after two awesome days Indigi Day Out ended, but we now look forward to next year's festival. I hope that you don't wait until then to visit us because there is always so much you can do here. See you soon!

## The bush is worth caring for

**By Boyd Essex, Bushcare Team Leader**

**F**or over ten years, the Community Bushcare Program has been operating and is older than IndigiScapes itself.

Ten years in the future; no one knows if there will be flying cars, robots and a cure for cancer, but one thing is for sure; the Community Bushcare Program will still be here, working for the Redlands community and our environment.

As the Bushcare Team Leader, I look to the past to see the future. Being able to now see the results of the hard work done by the original Bushcare groups, reveals just what can be achieved in the future with continued commitment and enthusiasm. It is that which I admire the most from our volunteers, and I would like to harness that power to steer the Community Bushcare Program into the future.

Imagine the future you want, with or without flying cars, but imagine a world where the Community Bushcare Program has more active Bushcare volunteers who, over the years have helped to restore over 40 natural areas. In those Bushcare areas, koalas happily feed on the gum trees planted, birds have increased in number and the weeds have been reduced and maintained.

Through the resources and training provided to the Bushcare volunteers by IndigiScapes' expert Bushcare Officers Kylie Burton, Travis Green and myself, the Redlands environment is a healthier and happier place.

This year for Indigi Day Out, we showcased the weeds of the 'Wild South-East' with a 'Wild West' themed display. It was an excellent opportunity for the Bushcare team to educate everyone on the most threatening weeds now found in South-East Queensland, while having a lot of fun doing it! Indigi Day Out is just getting bigger every year and if you haven't been along to one yet, don't miss it next year. It's a great day out with the family!



*Bringing the Bushcarers together at this year's Annual Social Day on 31 July*



*Kylie being helpful at Indigi Day Out, just outside of the 'Wild West' themed information stall*

# Spring into your natural areas!

By Craig Doolan, Service Manager

**E**arly spring is a great time to get out and about in the Redlands, as the mornings start to warm up and the flowers start to bloom.

Our local woodlands and heathlands are great wildflower locations, with wattles starting in mid winter and most of the other plants in bloom from about mid August. Pop into IndigiScapes and get your free copy of the Redlands Walkabout Guide to find out a bit about some of our local reserves and how to get to them. If you need a bit of help getting started, there are some great local references to help identify our wildflowers too. My favourite spring wildflower locations would have to be Days Rd Reserve (Redland Bay), Greater Glider Reserve (Alexandra Hills) and Turtle Swamp (Russell Island) but just about any area of open woodland will yield some nice species.

It's not just plants to keep an eye out for, our cuckoos are making lots of noise and spring migrants such as bee-eaters, drongos and orioles are all around. If you head down to the foreshore our international visitors, the migratory waders, can be found – Point Halloran is a great spot! If you're looking for something specific, plant or animal, give us a call at IndigiScapes and hopefully we can help.



Vanilla Lily  
*Sowerbaea juncea*



Eastern Curlew  
*Numenius madagascariensis*

## Upcoming events

### Spring Wildflower Walks Free! Annual events

**Walk 1 – Judy Holt Bushland Reserve**  
Saturday 28 August, 8 – 10am

**Walk 2 – Squirrel Glider Reserve**  
Sunday 11 September, 8 – 10am

**Walk 3 – Russell Island Heathlands**  
Saturday 19 September, 8 – 10am

### Workshops at IndigiScapes

**Introduction to Nature Photography**  
Saturday 25 September  
8.30 – 11.30am

**Drawing on Nature**  
Sunday 3 October  
9.30am – 12.30pm

**Stepping Naturally into Sustainability**  
Saturday 16 October, 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Basket Weaving with Weeds (FREE)**  
Saturday 23 October, 10am – 1pm

**Bush Tucker**  
Sunday 7 November, 9 – 11am

**A Birders' Breakfast**  
Saturday 14 August  
7.30 – 10am

*The morning is hosted by the Redlands IndigiScapes Friends Association (RIFA) and will finish with a hot BBQ breakfast.*

*Note: Cost is \$10 + refundable booking fee. Bookings are essential through IndigiScapes.*

**Dog's Day Out at Capalaba Regional Park**  
Sunday 22 August  
from 9.30am – 2pm

**Glossy Black Cockatoo Community Tree Planting for Threatened Species Day**  
Saturday 4 September  
9.30 – 11.30am

**Trees for Weeds**  
Saturday 23 October  
10am – 4pm

**Koala Phone-In Survey**  
Saturday 23 & Sunday 24  
October, all day 8am – 5pm

**Halloween at the Black Swamp, Cleveland**  
Saturday 30 October  
4 – 7.30pm

**Glossy Black Cockatoo Birding Day (we need you!)**  
Sunday 31 October  
exact times TBA

**Redlands wildlife photographic competition**  
Entries close 4pm  
Tuesday 20 November

Workshops cost \$5 per person plus \$25 deposit refundable on the day (unless advertised otherwise). Bookings are essential. For more information on events or workshops phone 3824 8611 or go to our "What's On" page for more details at [www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au)

## Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

17 Runnymede Rd Capalaba Ph: 3824 8611

[www.indigiscapes.com.au](http://www.indigiscapes.com.au)



Last year's winning shot: can you top this?