

TRRCR Spring Notes 2020

- Water levels in the reservoir and ponds have remained high which augers well for summer, though there was a slight deliberate lowering of the level of the constructed ponds by council personnel.
- Problems with the water and power supply to the toilet have been resolved and it has been reopened to the public for daytime hours.

Featured Flora

Austral Indigo or Australian Indigo is an ornamental shrub that also provides nectar and food for butterflies. It has an unusual flower ranging from pink to purple. It is of the Pea family and may be straggly and leaning one way in the wild though they can be trimmed to help straighten them. A plant grows to about 2 metres tall and wide, and is fairly hardy tolerating some frost and drought. It also is not prone to disease or pests, grows in most soils free from lime and prefers part shade.



Working Bees

- With the easing of some restrictions by LCC, volunteer activities have resumed but with a number of safeguards. Registered volunteers need to sign in at the Shed, have a temperature check, ensure PPE is worn, and maintain a 1.5m working distance from others. Our main working bee is on the first Saturday of the month, between 9.15 and 11.30am.

Visitor numbers

- High numbers have continued, especially now that the evenings are longer - between 2000 and 3000 visitors each week.

Projects

- An on-site meeting between Council, our committee and possible contractors has been held re the replacement of the Middle Bridge. Works may start in Feb, hopefully.

Supporters

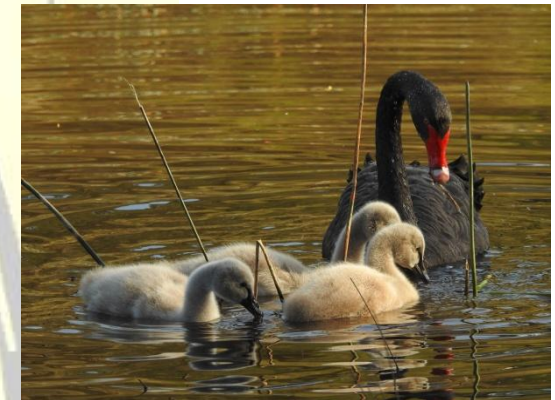
- Thanks indeed to Officeworks who helped us with whiteboards for the Shed.

Featured Animal

Black Swan. This much photographed Black Swan family has kept visitors entertained. Six cygnets were hatched this season, three of which have survived and look likely to grow to maturity, unlike last year's clutch which had no survivors.

Black Swans are found throughout much of Australia wherever there is a wetland, but not at Cape York Peninsula. Their Conservation Status is Secure and they are protected. Black Swans have a trumpet-like call. The adult swans are

mostly black with white wing tips and an orange-red bill with a white band towards the tip. The white eye becomes red during breeding season. Older swans pair for life, with both adults raising one brood per season. The nest is a mound of reeds and grasses. There are usually 5-6 eggs but can be up to 9 eggs. The cygnet chicks are covered with a light grey down and are precocial, ie. able to swim and feed for themselves as soon as they hatch. Black Swans moult every year after breeding season and are unable to fly during this period.



The Black Swan is a vegetarian plunging its long neck into water up to 1 m deep to reach algae and weeds but also associated invertebrates with it. Sometimes the swan will graze on land but are clumsy walkers.

The practice of feeding bread and other food scraps does birds more harm than good, as they do not get the right nutrition and adult birds may fail to teach juveniles how to find natural foods. They may become dependent on humans for food losing their natural instinct to forage and have a decreased wariness of predators.

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