

FREE

# Environment

## MATTERS

Autumn/Winter 2025

Positive  
power  
for a  
**BRIGHT  
FUTURE**



Bigger is  
better for a  
**SPECIAL BIRD**



High-tech  
conservation  
**TACTICS**



[ipswich.qld.gov.au/subscribe](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/subscribe)

Image: Golden-headed cisticola by Matt Parker





## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Big changes are rolling out across our city for a cleaner, greener future.

One of the most significant is the rollout of a Garden Organics (GO) kerbside collection bin to all households – just in time for your autumn and winter garden pruning!

This initiative will divert an enormous amount of garden material from landfill each year. Valuable garden material can instead be transformed into compost and returned to the soil.

The GO service (lime green lid bin), together with the yellow lid recycling bin and on-demand FLEXiSKiP, means Ipswich residents can make a real difference in diverting household waste from landfill.

**Mayor Teresa Harding**  
City of Ipswich



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Creating positive environmental change takes all of us working together.

We have so many great examples of people caring for our environment, from Bushcare volunteers at working bees across Ipswich, to landholders creating wildlife havens on their properties.

One of the ways you can start creating change at home is through council's Free Plant Program. Discover a whole world of incredible and resilient native plants suited to Ipswich's conditions.

Find out how to collect your free plants at [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/freeplants](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/freeplants)

**Cr Jim Madden**  
Environment and Sustainability Chairperson

**WANT TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS NEWS DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX?**



Sign up at [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/subscribe](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/subscribe)

## ENVIROPLAN LEVY COMMUNITY FUNDING

Have a project to protect and maintain Ipswich's natural environment and need some support?

Not-for-profit community organisations and schools can apply for up to \$3,000, and wildlife carers up to \$1,500.

There are two rounds per year, in March and September.

See [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/funding](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/funding)

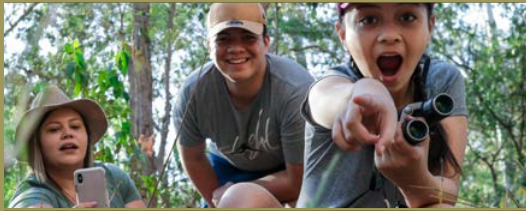


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## CREATURE FEATURE

The Golden-headed cisticola can be found from India to Adelaide but it can be hard to find.

The tiny birds - approximately 10cm tall and weighing about 10g - like to live in dense wet grasslands, where they creep and hop around feeding on insects and seeds.

It is in these thick, tangled grassy environments they build cosy rounded nests, stitching together living grass, leaves, plant down and spiders' webs.

In winter the male and female birds look much the same, but in breeding season the males' head, throat and breast become a bright golden orange.



It's



time  
for Ipswich

Every household in Ipswich will move to three kerbside collection bins this year, with GO kerbside collection becoming part of our core service.

**The citywide rollout is a vital component of reducing the amount of landfill we create, by recovering valuable garden organics (GO), turning it into compost, and returning it to the environment.**

By the end of 2024 almost a third of Ipswich households had a 240L GO bin by signing up to service while it was opt-in.

The rollout to the rest of our community will be a massive undertaking, requiring:

- purchase and delivery of approximately 70,000 new GO bins
- purchase of six new GO trucks to service the city
- increase in Resource Recovery drivers.

**Q. Why are you rolling out GO citywide?**

Every tonne of household waste that goes to landfill is a cost to ratepayers. Our bin audits have found that about 50 per cent of household waste is compostable material. By providing every household with a GO bin, we can divert more garden organics from going to landfill.

**Q. Will the service change for residents who already have a GO bin?**

There will not be any service changes for residents who have already opted into the GO service.

**Q. When will my GO bin be collected?**

Collections will be fortnightly, on alternating weeks to your yellow lid recycling bin.

Acceptable items
Prunings
Grass clippings
Shrubs
Weeds
Leaves and loose bark

Unacceptable items
Plastic bags
General waste or recycling
Stones, concrete or masonry
Large logs, branches or stumps that may make the bin too heavy to service



**Queensland Government**

This initiative received funding from the Queensland Government's Recycling and Jobs Fund.

# Come and try *Bushcare*

Wherever you are in Ipswich,  
there is a Bushcare group near you!

Every weekend there is a working bee with at least one of the sites. It is easy to drop into a regular working bee, meet the volunteers and find out what it is like.

See the Volunteer Portal at [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering)



*Denmark Hill volunteers*

## CENTRAL

### **Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve, Ipswich**

The site in this Enviroplan conservation area had been overrun with weeds but the volunteers have replanted it with local native species.

Group leader Ginny Fogerty said Denmark Hill was an accessible area of bushland in the centre of the city – quiet, but full of life and biodiversity, also with a lot of cultural and historical elements.

‘What makes our site special to us is our volunteers. They’re such a great bunch of people! It’s a great way to learn about native plants, gain skills and make some new friends,’ she said.

**Other groups:** Bundamba Creek, Bundamba; Friends of Smith Park, Woodend; Garden of Eden Project at Cribb Park, North Ipswich; Lorikeet Street Reserve, Bundamba.

## WEST

### **Masons Gully, Rosewood**

Over decades, West Moreton Landcare and volunteers have transformed this site from an empty street corner to a haven for Rosewood Scrub species.

Group leader Chris Rinehart said the site was special because only about two per cent of Rosewood Scrub remains, and the plantings were a legacy of local environmentalist Arnold Rieck.

‘I enjoy trying to learn about the Rosewood Scrub species, and being with other people with a common passion and feeling that I am contributing to the community as well as nature,’ she said.

**Other groups:** Banyula Road Reserve, Thagoona; Peace Park Arboretum, Rosewood.

## EAST

### **Woogaroo Creek at Eugene Street Reserve, Bellbird Park**

Woogaroo Creek corridor has been lovingly restored by a dedicated band of volunteers, with the group holding monthly working bees.

Group leader Keith McCosh said the whole area was once a prominent rainforest.

‘Through regular Bushcare we hope to conserve a beautiful patch of the Woogaroo Scrub along Woogaroo Creek, which supports a diversity of species from platypus to the powerful owl,’ he said.

**Other groups:** Opossum Creek Regenerative Project, Brookwater; Bridgewater Park, Springfield.



# New ways to *Experience Nature*



Ipswich's Enviroplan conservation estates and natural areas provide clean air, habitat for native plants and animals, and preserve biodiversity. They are also places where you can unwind, exercise or enjoy time with family and friends.

In celebration of our precious Enviroplan conservation areas, autumn will be bursting with unique activities and events for you to join!

- Try out new nature-based recreation hobbies from meditation to mountain biking with the Active and Healthy program
- Discover nature at night with special guided moonlight walks with Discover Ipswich
- Join exclusive guided bushwalks of Rosewood's Stirling Road Reserve, normally closed to public access
- Expand your horizons by learning about something new, from indigenous astronomy to creating a nature sketchbook
- Network with regional experts and those connecting conservation corridors at an event celebrating the Little Liverpool Range initiative.

**For details and to register, see [ipswich.qld.gov.au/experiencenature](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/experiencenature)**



## Find the Agents of Discovery missions for your chance to win!

**You have an important mission this autumn: discover the secrets of our local environment.**

Download the free Agents of Discovery app and explore a range of natural areas with family-friendly augmented reality games.

### **MISSION ONE: The Quest for Queens Park icons**

Visit Queens Park and show your 'mission complete' screen to staff at the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre for a fun reward.

### **MISSION TWO: The Search for Enviroplan Gems**

Each month, between March and May, there will be a new Agents of Discovery Mission at a different Enviroplan conservation estate or reserve.

Complete the mission to enter the competition for a random draw prize. Each week there's an explorer pack and each month a VIP package with guided tour of Ipswich Nature Centre!



# This *nest box* is a big deal



**The nest box was so heavy it had to be lifted out of the ute by two people. When it was placed on the ground it towered over the other 'standard' sized nest boxes like a wooden monolith.**

The enormous scale was to simulate a large tree hollow, something that would take more than 200 years to form in the wild.

This special nest box was tailored for black cockatoos. It was something of a prototype, modified by Hollow Log Homes from a palm parrot nest box – and the heaviest one there was.

Two of these incredible nest boxes were installed on the 20 hectare Calvert property of Mark Headridge who joined Land for Wildlife and council's Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program at the start of 2023.

Mark said he hoped the nest box would be used by the rare Glossy-black cockatoos that often visited his property.

'We get them at dusk, they feed on the she-oak trees at the front and then congregate on the dam,' he said.

Slowly, the giant nest boxes were raised high and secured in tall trees. Glossy-black cockatoos are a wary species, often spending a long time 'checking out' new nesting sites before using them.

The nest boxes and installation were funded through the Nature Conservation Grants, part of council's Enviroplan initiative.

Mark's grant has allowed him to carry out conservation improvements on his property. As well as the nest boxes, he has made significant progress on lantana control, and is working on upgrading his dam.

Mark hopes the habitat improvements will bring more wildlife to his property, including restoring his property as part of the 'koala corridor' in his region.



## GLOSSY-BLACK COCKATOO

**They are the smallest of Australia's five species of black cockatoos and are listed as Vulnerable in Queensland.**

Despite their 'glossy' name, they are actually rather dull in colour compared to other species.

Glossies are very quiet compared to other cockatoos and are often seen in small groups.

They have a very particular diet, only eating seeds from selected Casuarina and Allocasuarina tree species.

**Get involved!** Birdlife Australia's Great Glossy Count is in early September. Find info at [Birdlife.org.au](http://Birdlife.org.au)



Female Glossy-black cockatoo,  
*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*

# Heat seeking drones track *creatures of the night*



In the deep forest of Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate, areas virtually inaccessible for humans, live rare and threatened native mammals such as the koala and greater glider.

These species are the perfect mix of hard-to-find for traditional fauna survey methods, being cryptic, nocturnal and spending most of their life high in trees.

New technology was trialled at Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate in 2024 with environmental consultancy Ecosure. A drone with a camera flew over a large area during the day, scoping and photographing the terrain.

The same flight path was run at night, with the drone carrying a thermal camera to pick up heat signatures of native mammals. In just one night, the thermal images picked up two koalas and several squirrel gliders.

The method can be more efficient than humans on the ground with spotlights, and allows surveys of various terrain.

## SCIENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

There are lots of ways science and technology are helping conservation efforts. It is an ever-changing field full of exciting advances.

**eDNA** – environmental DNA detects genetic material left by organisms in the environment. It is a non-invasive way to study biodiversity and monitor ecosystems. In Ipswich, eDNA is used to detect the presence of platypus in our waterways.

**Satellite mapping** – we have a clearer picture of our natural world with high resolution satellite mapping providing more detail than ever before. It has multiple benefits, including providing insight to hard-to-reach areas and the ability to see changes over time.



*Image courtesy of Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland*

**AI data screening** – artificial intelligence can greatly reduce the manual labour required to collect conservation data. It can learn how to identify target species out of thousands of images or detect an animal call from hours of field recordings.



# Positive power for a *sustainable future*

## Excitement is building at Swanbank with a powerful milestone happening 2025 – the energising of CleanCo’s first big battery.

CleanCo chief executive officer Tom Metcalfe said the organisation was proud to invest in and advocate for Queensland’s energy future, supplying large-scale and low-emission energy that will help communities thrive in a net zero future.

“In line with our ambition to create a clean energy future, CleanCo is transforming the Swanbank Power Precinct into a Clean Energy Hub which will include contemporary energy generation and storage technologies,” he said.

“CleanCo is building Ipswich’s first big battery on the site of the former coal-fired B station, continuing Swanbank’s vital role in supporting reliability for Queensland’s energy network.”

The 250MW/500MWh battery with 138 modules will be one of the largest in Queensland and have the capacity to power the equivalent of up to two

thirds of Ipswich for two hours during peak demand periods.

It is expected the battery, built in partnership with Tesla and Yurika, will be energised in the second half of 2025.

The Swanbank Clean Energy Hub Masterplan was created through extensive engagement with the Ipswich community.

This includes community infrastructure projects to enhance the 336 hectare precinct’s public spaces. This involves improvements to Swanbank’s lake park and recreation area, the lookout space on the northern border of the site, and the wetland area adjoining the lake.

The designs for these spaces are being fine-tuned through further community engagement, ensuring the spaces will meet the needs of this fast-growing community for decades to come.



## IPSWICH AS AN ENERGY-SAVING CITY

A major target of Ipswich City Council’s Sustainability Strategy was to reduce organisational carbon emissions by 50 per cent by 2026.

That target will be met early with a recent contract between council and CleanCo Queensland that now powers major buildings and over 30,000 streetlights with 100 per cent renewable energy from Queensland wind farms.

The change will reduce council’s scope 1 and 2 operational emissions by 13,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Other ways council has been saving electricity and the environment:

- Retrofitting streetlights on Brassall bikeway to LED
- Retrofitting more than 600 lights at Ipswich Art Gallery with LED technology which also reduced operational costs and provided best practice lighting for artworks.

# Benefits that flow *beyond borders*

**A \$4 million project will transform nine priority waterway sites across Ipswich, improve water quality and bring enormous benefits for rare and threatened species of plants and animals.**

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, with the support of Ipswich City Council.

More than 14,000 square metres of riparian corridor will be rehabilitated over four years. Project sites are located on the Bremer and Brisbane rivers, Woogaroo Creek, Bundamba Creek and Ironpot Creek.

This project aims to prevent approximately 18,000 cubic metres of sediment entering the Brisbane River and the internationally important Moreton Bay each year.

More than 30,000 native plants will be planted to restore habitat, provide bank stability and resilience, bringing benefits for many threatened or significant plant and animal species and their ecosystems.

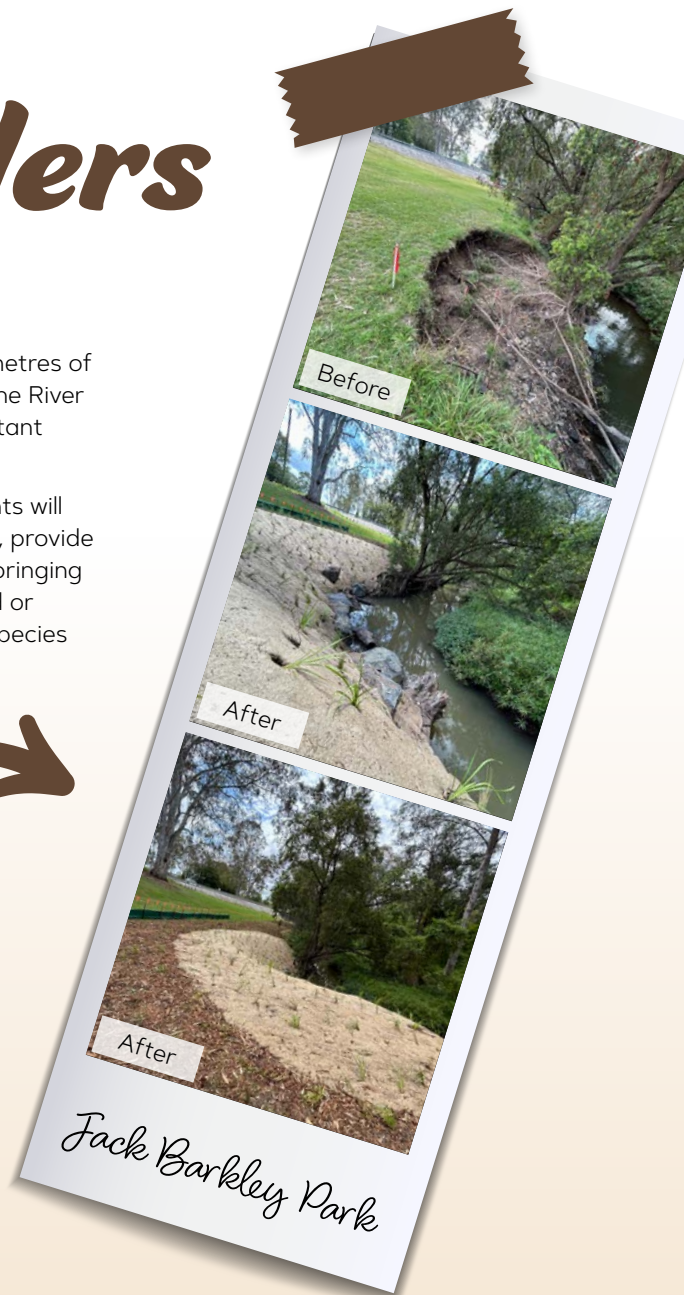


## THE WORK HAS BEGUN!

The first site in the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program was Jack Barkley Park, North Booval.

On-ground work at this site included stabilisation at two areas of major erosion, installing rootballs and aquatic habitat features, and a dense planting of local species suited to waterway corridors.

On the bank there is also a habitat feature, with a timber stack with hollows to provide shelter for birds, lizards, small marsupials and insects.



### Building resilience in the Bremer catchment

On-ground works in the Lockyer Valley and Scenic Rim are benefiting downstream communities across the region such as Ipswich.

Resilient Rivers SEQ, an initiative of the Council of Mayors (SEQ), delivers cross-boundary and coordinated catchment management to protect our water and improve the health of our shared catchment.

This includes removing fish barriers, re-stocking and monitoring of Mary River Cod through the Bremer River catchment, platypus eDNA and hydrological assessment of sub-catchments.

With many sites on private property, the initiative works closely with landholders and supports on-ground works such as bank and gully stabilisation, revegetation, stock fencing, off-stream watering points and weed management.



# Timing is everything for *cool burns*

**For a few brief windows of time in autumn and winter, the right combination of conditions comes together, and the smoke of controlled burns hangs in the air.**

Commonly referred to as 'cool burns' Rural Fire Service Queensland Area Manager Inspector Corey Bock said these seasonal mitigation burns were an important tool to reduce the potential for devastating bushfire in the hotter months.

Inspector Bock said generally burn windows opened briefly between May to August, ideally soon after a frost and when humidity was sitting 30 to 60 per cent.

'Depending on the overall broader weather patterns, it can go from too wet to too dry very quickly. In 2024 the window was pushed back and most burning couldn't start until late July,' he said.

Inspector Bock said weather conditions made a difference to the intensity of a fire.

'(In a cool burn) it could be 30cm flames, instead of three to four metre flames off the same vegetation in bushfire season,' he said.

Inspector Bock said the lower-intensity controlled fires had practical environmental and community benefits, such as encouraging new growth, managing weeds, or creating buffers to high-risk areas.

He said between July and November 2024 there were 8,200 fire permits issued to landholders in the region spanning six local government areas.

'If you have a fire over 2m in any direction you do require by law to have a permit, which can be obtained from your local fire warden,' he said.

'It's important that you have a plan for how you're going to control your fire. We are getting some escaped burns, and while it's a small percentage we want to push that margin even lower.'

Inspector Bock said people in urban areas should also be proactive in preparing their homes for bushfire risk, such as clearing gutters, trimming overhanging trees and keeping lawns mowed.

'Intense fires can have spotting, where through convection currents the hot embers move through the air – they can travel kilometres in the right conditions – and if they land in something combustible such as leaves in gutters it can catch pockets of your house or yard on fire,' he said.

**[Fire.qld.gov.au](https://www.fire.qld.gov.au)** ➤

Know what you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property ahead of bushfire season.

**[Disaster.ipswich.qld.gov.au](https://www.disaster.ipswich.qld.gov.au)** ➤

Stay informed of current bushfires and other hazard conditions on the Ipswich Disaster Dashboard.



*Ipswich City Council conducts hazard reduction burns across its natural area estate*

*In 2024 bushfires impacted western Queensland including Muckadilla. Credit: Queensland Fire Department*



# What's On

Want to get outdoors and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of our environment? Here's a selection of ideas...



## OUTDOORS

### Experience Nature

March – May 2025

Connect with nature through a season of free and low-cost activities focused on Ipswich's outstanding Enviroplan conservation estates and reserves.

[ipswich.qld.gov.au/experiencenature](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/experiencenature)

## PLANTING



### Trees for Mum

Sunday 11 May 2025

Spend a lovely morning planting a tree with, or for, a special lady in your life and help improve habitat along a local creek.

[ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com](http://ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com)

### National Tree Day

Sunday 27 July 2025

Join Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event. These community efforts will help plant one million native trees!

[Treeday.planetark.org](http://Treeday.planetark.org)



## PLANTING

## COMMUNITY

### Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 2 March 2025

Pull on some gloves and support the 35th annual Clean Up Day – sure to be the biggest yet! There is a site near you.

[Cleanup.org.au](http://Cleanup.org.au)





## AT HOME

### Habitat Gardens

Join this free council program to boost biodiversity efforts in your backyard. Members receive an additional 20 free plants per year and access to exclusive workshops. See [ipswich.qld.gov.au/lcpp](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/lcpp)

## CHILDREN

### Bush kindy

The Queens Park Environmental Education Centre has a free Bush Kindy program once a month perfect for under-5s. Follow [ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com](http://ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com)

## COMMUNITY

### Volunteer week

From 19–25 May we celebrate our volunteers and recognise the crucial role they play in supporting our environment. Interested in joining? See [ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering)

## THERE'S A DAY FOR THAT ?!



### International Day of Forests

Friday 21 March 2025



### Save the Frogs Day

Monday 28 April 2025



### World Bee Day

Tuesday 20 May 2025



### Global Wind Day

Sunday 15 June 2025

## PLANTING



### Waterway restoration

Saturday 15 March 2025

Be a part of restoring Ipswich's vital waterways through the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program with a community planting at Jack Barkley Park, North Booval.

[ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com](http://ipswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com)

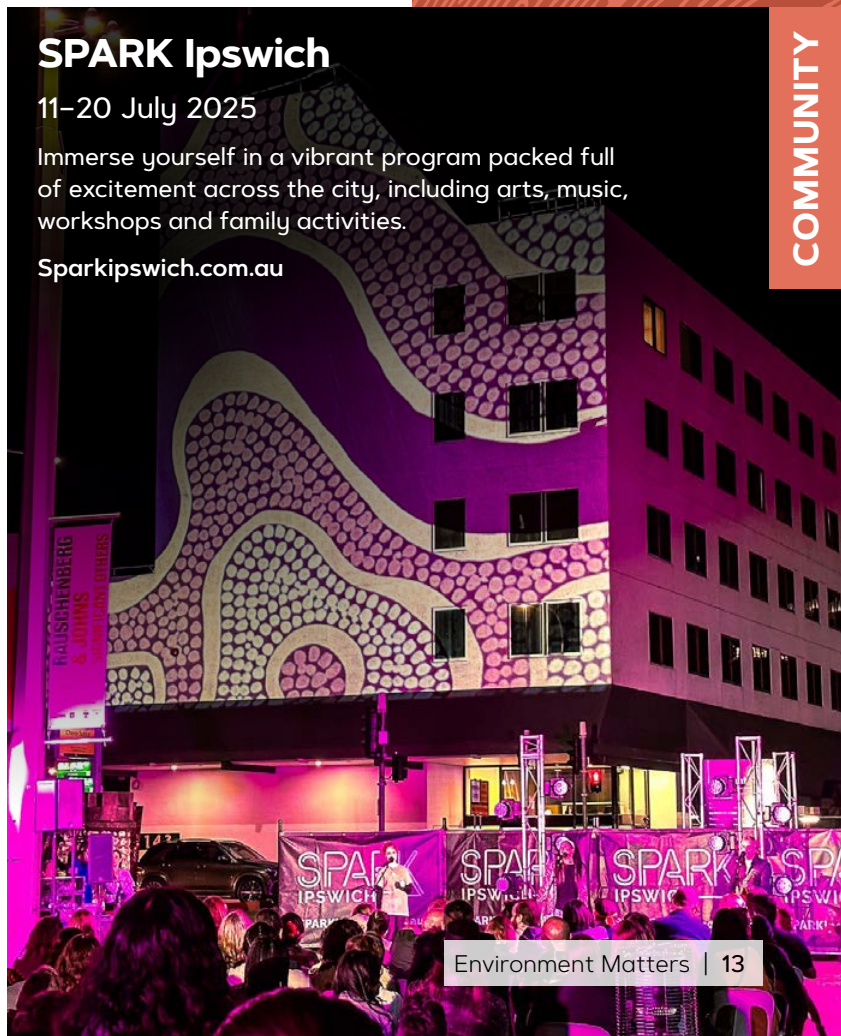
## SPARK Ipswich

11–20 July 2025

Immerse yourself in a vibrant program packed full of excitement across the city, including arts, music, workshops and family activities.

[Sparkipswich.com.au](http://Sparkipswich.com.au)

## COMMUNITY



# KIDS CORNER

## The growing movement of *bush kindy*



**Queens Park now has a monthly bush kindy program, free for children and their caregivers to engage with natural elements.**

Program leader Areta Farrance, from Bush Kindy Teaching, has been an educator since 2003 and has been involved in bush kindy for about 13 years.

Bush kindy is a broad term, but originated from the Scandinavian forest school concept of learning outdoors. It has become popular in Australia, particularly with early learning centres.

At Queens Park, Areta has adapted the bush kindy concepts for nature play in a park space.

'Children are leading their own play, using difference senses. I use natural materials, with a focus on sustainable and recycled materials,' she said.

'Our program is community focused. The parents and grandparents come and it's a multi-age setting.'

Areta said interacting with nature offered holistic development.

'First and foremost, children are really building their confidence and their resilience, making friendships and learning social skills, building muscle strength and more,' she said.

'Nature offers that wonderful environment for open ended learning. You can have the same environment, but different age children will access it in their own way.

'Our brains develop at a young age by touching and feeling and smelling, and the textures and tastes of nature like earth, water and sand. Meaningful connections with caregivers and nature play is what builds brains.

'We are born to do it, it's innate – to walk on uneven ground, to climb. Naturally, babies and toddlers want to explore nature. It's an essential part of life.'

**Queens Park Bush Kindy is held once a month. Register for an upcoming session at [lpswichcitycouncil.eventbrite.com](https://www.lpswichcitycouncil.com.au/eventbrite)**



Magic Bush Wands

### MAKE A MAGIC BUSH WAND

You will need:

- ✓ A small stick
- ✓ Some long leaves or twigs with leaves
- ✓ Wool or twine.

Gather the leaves at one end of the stick. Wind some wool or twine around and around and around – make them nice and secure! Cut and tie the end of the wool or twine. Give your bush wand a shake and make the magic happen!

# Support for schools to *go green*

There are various ways council can help local schools with environment and sustainability initiatives.

## **Queens Park excursions:**

School groups can have a guided tour of Ipswich Nature Centre, learning about the native animals, and explore Queens Park Environmental Education Centre.

## **Waterbug kits:**

Teachers can borrow these full kits for fun outdoor learning, as well as find out local creeks suitable for excursions.

## **Tangalooma Ecomarines:**

Council is proud to sponsor this educational program that inspires young leaders to reduce our impact on the earth through on-ground support.

## **Teacher Professional Development:**

Interesting topics linked to curriculum are offered each term, from composting to bush kindly!

## **Funding:**

Schools and centres with an environment-focused project can apply for up to \$3,000 in the Enviroplan Levy Community Funding, with rounds in March and September each year.

## **Free plants:**

Schools can claim 100 free plants a year from council's nursery. The plants are suited to Ipswich's climate and conditions, and feature many great native species.

To find out more, see [ipswich.qld.gov.au/enviroed](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/enviroed)

# DID YOU KNOW?

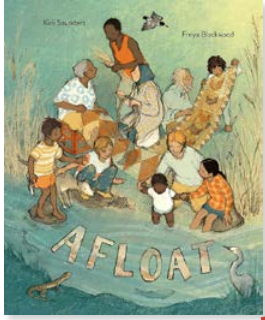
## **The floral emblem of Ipswich is the Plunkett Mallee (*Eucalyptus curtisii*).**

It grows into a small tree or shrub, with puffs of cream flowers in spring.

This rare tree only has a few small populations remaining in South-East Queensland, including White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate.

Sometimes it can also be found in urban areas of Ipswich where it has been used as a street tree or in backyards. Council's nursery sometimes has tubestock available – maybe you can plant it too!





**Afloat**  
Kirli Saunders, 2024

**FOR CHILDREN**

At your  
**library**

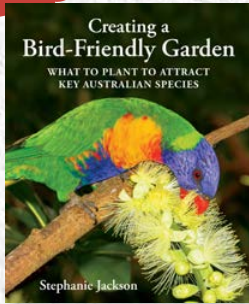


Something  
for everyone...

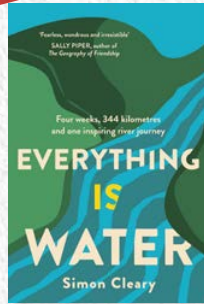
**FOR CHILDREN**



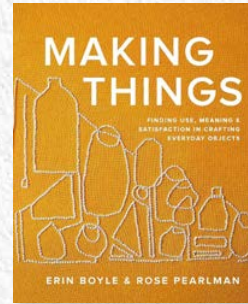
**Djinang bonar: Seeing seasons**  
Ebony Froome, 2024



**Creating a bird-friendly garden: What to plant to attract key Australian species**  
Stephanie Jackson, 2024



**Everything is water**  
Simon Cleary, 1968-2024



**Making things: Finding use, meaning and satisfaction in crafting everyday objects**  
Erin Boyle and Rose Pearlman, 2024

## **IPSWICH LIBRARIES**

### **Have you visited your local library?**

There's something for everyone at Ipswich Libraries.

Check out the line-up of events and activities at [ipswichlibraries.com.au](http://ipswichlibraries.com.au)

#### **Ipswich Central Library**

Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

#### **Ipswich Children's Library**

Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

#### **Redbank Plains Library**

Moreton Avenue, Redbank Plains

#### **Redbank Plaza Library**

Redbank Plaza Shopping Centre, 1 Collingwood Drive, Redbank

#### **Rosewood Library**

Corner John and Railway streets, Rosewood

#### **Springfield Central Library**

Cnr Main Street and Sirius Drive, Orion Springfield Central



## **IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN**

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