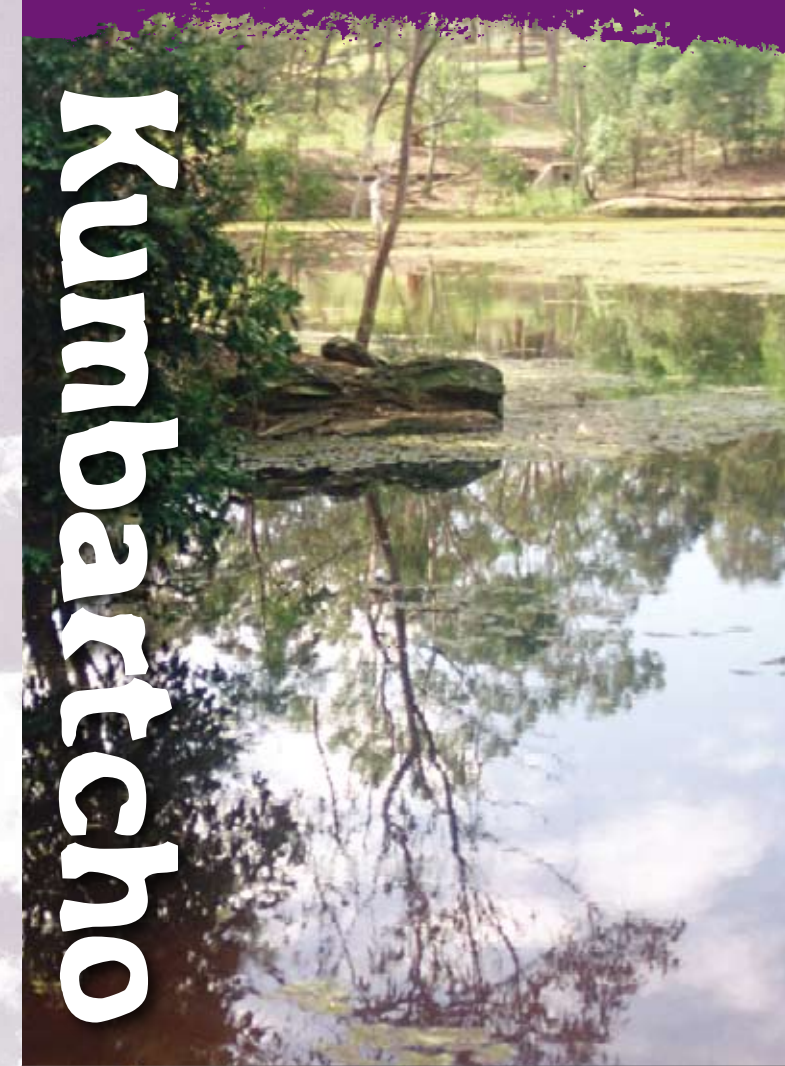


# LIVING WITH THE *Environment*

# Kumbartcho



Weeping Lilly Pilly  
(*Waterhousea floribunda*)



Native Holly (*Alchornea ilicifolia*)

Some of the frogs we often hear, and less often see, include the Dwarf Sedge Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog, Naked Treefrog, Graceful Treefrog and Tusked Frog.



Green Treefrog

Pleasant walks are to be had through the open forest and around the lagoon. Helpful volunteers are only too pleased to point out some of the many natural attractions, and talk about current projects and activities. Of particular interest is the riparian rainforest on the bank of the South Pine River, where a rich mix of vegetation attracts many birds, butterflies and other life forms. Look for Orchard Butterflies, Blue Triangles, Clear-wing Swallow-tails and Varied Eggfly butterflies.



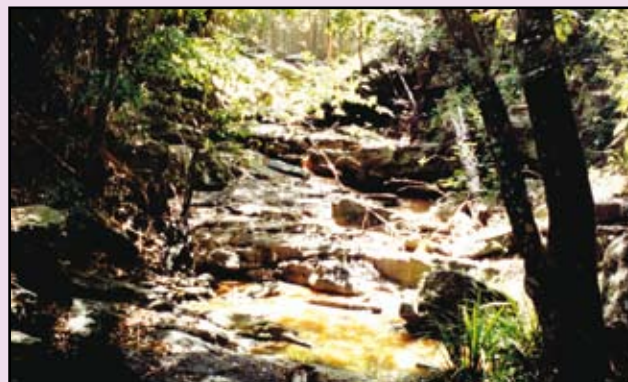
[www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au)

© Moreton Bay Regional Council 2008

Two species of freshwater turtle are commonly seen sunning themselves on rocks and logs around the lagoon – the Eastern Long-necked Turtle and the Brisbane Short-necked Turtle. Eastern Water Dragons are common lizards near the rocky gully. Bearded Dragons are commonly seen and Lace Monitors occasionally. There are a variety of skinks, some on the ground and others on trees and rocks. Snakes that have been observed include the Carpet Python, Common Keelback (which eats cane toads) and Common Tree Snake. These are all non-venomous. Less often seen, and virtually harmless, are the Marsh Snake and two species of Crowned Snake.



Short-necked Turtle laying eggs



Deep rock gully at Kumbartcho

Kumbartcho Centre was previously known as Bunya Sanctuary Community Environmental Centre. It is owned by Moreton Bay Regional Council and operated by trained and enthusiastic volunteers and staff. It occupies a six-hectare site on the South Pine River, at **Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill**.

## The Name

**Kumbartcho:** is the local Aboriginal word for **Hoop Pine** (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), the majestic tree that is the focus of the **district's name (Pine Rivers)**. The abundance of Hoop Pines attracted early European settlers, first as a source of **masts** for sailing ships and, soon after, of excellent softwood **timber**.



Hoop Pine.

## History

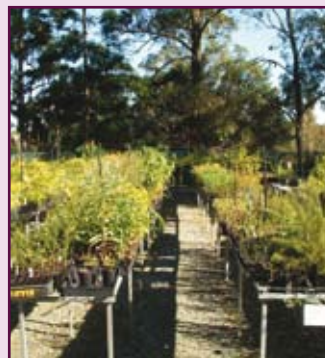
For several decades in the twentieth century, **Bunya Park Wildlife Sanctuary** was a privately-owned tourist attraction, a wildlife park and zoo, before it ceased operations in the early nineties. In 1996-97, part of the Bunya Park land was subdivided for **residential development**. However, the most environmentally-sensitive land was acquired by council for its wildlife habitat and corridor values. The major buildings of Bunya Park are located on this land, and now house the Kumbartcho Centre developed by the local community and council.

## Facilities on site include:

- **Kumbartcho Community Hall**  
– available for limited use by local community groups.
- **Kumbartcho Sanctuary**  
– the 6 hectares of natural habitat surrounding the community facilities are a peaceful sanctuary for visitors to enjoy the abundant wildlife.
- **Kumbartcho Barn**  
– a large covered area, also available for limited use by local community groups.
- **Kumbartcho BBQ Area**  
– available free of charge, but it may be necessary to book to ensure a place.
- **Community Nursery**  
– used for plant propagation and storage of a wide range of local native species as well as native plants from elsewhere that have proved not to be invasive of bushland. Plants may be obtained from the Community Nursery by purchase. For more information refer to the Community Nursery of Pine Rivers brochure.
- **Kumbartcho Playground**  
– playground equipment is provided free of charge.

## Opening Times:

Access to Kumbartcho Sanctuary is from **7am to 7pm**. Arrangements can be made with Kumbartcho Centre personnel for **after hours use of particular facilities [Ph (07) 3264 3953]**.



Nursery plants ready for sale at the Community Nursery.



Kumbartcho Community Centre and Community Hall

## Activities available at Kumbartcho Sanctuary include:

- bird watching;
- ecological studies - freshwater lagoons and streams, rainforests and open forests;
- botanical studies;
- studies of bush tucker and bush medicine;
- Aboriginal and pioneer uses of plants and animals;
- butterflies and other invertebrate studies;
- bush regeneration;
- frogging (during suitable weather)
- other pre-arranged activities

The natural vegetation varies from **open eucalypt forest** on the higher ground, to remnant riparian **rainforest** along the river. From the large lagoon a rocky gully leads to the South Pine River. The dominant trees in the open forest include Grey Gum, Queensland Blue Gum, Flooded Gum, White Mahogany, Pink Bloodwood and Moreton Bay Ash. Smaller trees include Hickory Wattle and, near the banks of the lagoon, Swamp Paperbark. Some trees with rainforest associations include Black Bean, Silky Oak, Foambark and Macadamia. The rare wattle Marblewood (*Acacia bakeri*), occurs near the rocky gully.



Pair of Australian Wood Ducks



Night Heron

Regeneration and rehabilitation of original understorey plants is ongoing, with plants such as native clumping grasses, Mat Rushes (Lomandras), Flax Lilies (Dianellas), Ground Berry, Beard-Heaths, Broom Heaths, Scrambling Lily, Wombat Berry and Dogwood (Jacksonia) being re-established in the open forest. These plants are necessary to encourage the return of many small native animals, such as fairy wrens, scrub wrens, finches and quail.

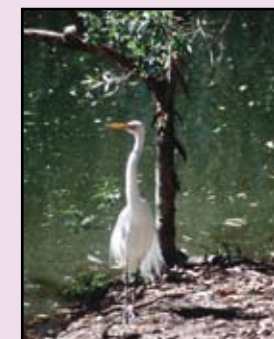
**Many animals may be observed here** because of the variety of plant communities, the permanent water of the lagoon, and the nearby South Pine River, which serves as an important wildlife corridor.

**Birds** to be seen and heard here include those of rainforests, such as the Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Pitta, monarchs and scrubwrens.

Birds typical of the open forest include the White-throated Honeyeater and Brown Honeyeater, shrike-thrushes, pardalotes, fantails and flycatchers.

Edge and open-space birds, such as the Australian Magpie, butcherbirds, Noisy Miner and Willie Wagtail, are always present. Evidence of visits of the rare Powerful Owl have been observed.

In and around the lagoon we often observe the Pacific Black Duck, Wood Duck, Purple Swamp Hen, ibis, spoonbills and Night Heron.



Great Egret



White-faced Heron



Grey-crowned Babbler