

In the community



Jeff is a member of the Pine Rivers Underground Brewing Society, a group of home brewers and beer lovers who will be raising a glass to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the club this year.

The key to making a good home brewed beer... a good yeast and brewed at the right temperature. Even kits improve out of sight with that small step but continuous improvement requires substitution of malt for sugar, and when you do that you need to rebalance the hops, and so on.

Most home brew disasters can be avoided by... making sure the equipment is properly cleaned and sterilised.

The best beer I have ever tasted... Lambic beer, a sour beer brewed in Belgium from spontaneous fermentation. The Cantillon Gueuze is possibly the most famous and the fruit Lambics (Kriek, Framboise) are magnificent as well.

Which country makes the best beer... Belgium. The Belgians seem to get away with doing things to beer that nobody else would dream of (or succeed at). Apart from Belgian ales and lambics, it's hard to beat our very own James Squire IPA.

Beer is best enjoyed... whenever there is time to relax but especially in company with others who also appreciate beer.

Apart from brewing beer, in my spare time... I'm raising a family so there is not much of it, unfortunately! Hardly find the time to brew but I read a bit, mostly on the train.

If I could invite any three famous people to dinner... Chuck Hahn – I want to motivate him to produce another edition of his James Squire Hop Thief. Also the person who started the new trend in Blonde beers, and Tomás de Torquemada, Inquisitor General, to deal appropriately with my second guest.

When I was young the job I wanted to do when I grew up... the usual – bus driver, sailor, then at various times an astronomer, physicist, mathematician. I ended up as a poor but honest forester!

Something some people might not know about me... I actually don't mind an occasional XXXX bitter. One of my beers actually won a prize, once!

In ten years time I hope to... be able to retire, and keep on brewing.

For more about the Pine Rivers Underground Brewing Society phone visit www.pubs.org.au



Vanda Grabowski from Koala Action Pine Rivers says a State Government initiative to create koala refuges around Mt Samson and Dayboro is flawed.

By Lee Oliver

A koala protection advocate has labelled a State Government initiative to preserve koala habitat around the Moreton Bay region as “ludicrous and farcical”.

Vanda Grabowski from Koala Action Pine Rivers says a plan to create 32 hectares of new koala habitat around South East Queensland is flawed.

State Environment Minister Kate Jones recently announced that under the Nature Refuge Program, properties on private land will be voluntary gazetted as nature refuges, with landholders sharing in more than \$174,000 in funding to rehabilitate koala habitat.

Included in the scheme are 2.3 hectares of land at Mt Samson, 2.2 hectares north of Dayboro, and a further two hectares at Kallangur.

The other planned koala refuges are at Manly West, Maleny and west Ipswich.

Ms Jones said the initiative would be a major boost to koala protection efforts, bringing the total amount of land protected as koala nature refuges in South East Queensland to 100 hectares.

“The refuges are the result of agreements between members of our community and the government to protect important areas

of koala habitat,” Ms Jones said.

“The creation of more koala nature refuges not only boosts our ability to protect and manage the population in South East Queensland, but also helps the ongoing survival of koalas in the future.

“We are investing \$55 million on a whole of government Koala Response Strategy, to secure more habitat and also protect koalas in existing areas.”

However, Ms Grabowski said while there is merit in saving remaining bushland for koalas and other native wildlife, the State Government initiative was problematic.

“To suggest that 100 hectares is a sufficient amount of land to protect the koala population in South East Queensland is both ludicrous and farcical,” Ms Grabowski said.

“To date, there has been absolutely no research quantifying the amount of land required to support the dwindling koala population.”

She added that saving land around Dayboro and Mt Samson as koala habitat was “questionable”.

“Koalas have only been found there on rare occasions and in minimal numbers,” Ms Grabowski said.

“Most of the koala population in the Moreton Bay Region is located close to the coast.

“It is at places like Whiteside, Petrie, Kallangur, Kurwongbah, Bray Park and Lawnton that the koala density is highest.

“The two hectares at Kallangur is a valuable and essential addition for koalas in that area.”

Naomi Mumford from Wildlife Australia said while any action to assist wildlife “is a positive move”, she also has concerns about the size of the land parcels designated as koala refuges.

“A land area the size of five acres, without any significant wildlife corridors connecting it to other land, will struggle to provide suitable habitat for a koala population,” she said.

“If the blocks were ten times this size, with the correct vegetation, we might begin to make a difference. One hundred hectares of suitable eucalypt forest as a whole would be a great start at securing the koala's future – but just a start.”

Ms Mumford said people could also do more to help the survival of the threatened species.

“If everyone in the district would contain their dogs and cats, install wildlife friendly fences, be aware when driving, and report any injured wildlife, then we might leave something for our kids to appreciate,” she said.

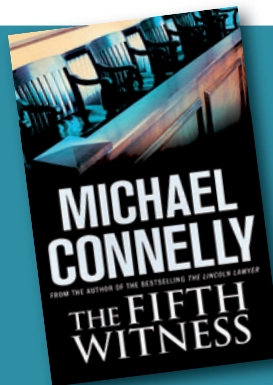
Competitions

MOVIE TICKETS COMPETITION

Courtesy of Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinema Strathpine, The Westerner is giving away three two-for-one passes to see one of the latest movie releases. To go into the draw to win tell us for which movie did *Water For Elephants* star Reese Witherspoon win an Oscar – was it *Walk the Line*, *Freeway*, or *Election*?

Send your answer and all your contact details to: The Westerner movie competition, PO Box 5189, Brendale BC, 4500 or email lee@thewestern.com.au, Attn: Movie competition. Entries close 27 May.

WINNERS – movie tickets: Jim Rossner (Samford); Jaculin Jones (Cashmere), and Nadine Rich (Eatons Hill); Jonah's Road CDs: Anne Bull (Eatons Hill), Thomas Adams (Strathpine); Denise Shipp (Joyner), and Robert Ryerson (Samford); Borne Naked handbag liners: Wendy Tadokoro (Eatons Hill); family portrait photo sitting: Lochlan Dougherty (Joyner).



BOOK COMPETITION

In tough times, crime is one of the few things that still pays, but if defense attorney Mickey Haller was expecting an uptick in business during the economic downturn, the reality is a different story. The Lincoln Lawyer is back in *The Fifth Witness*, a blistering courtroom drama from the master of crime fiction, Michael Connelly.

Thanks to Allen & Unwin Book Publishers, The Westerner has one copy of *The Fifth Witness* (RRP \$32.99) to give away. To go into the draw to win send your contact details to: The Westerner book competition, PO Box 5189, Brendale BC, 4500 or email lee@thewestern.com.au, Attn: Book competition. Entries close 27 May.

WINNERS – 1222 book: Bronwen Winn (Strathpine); *What I Wish I Knew About Motherhood* book: P.B. McCrohon (Delaneys Creek); *Love, Wisdom, Motherhood* book: Joanne Mitchell (Highvale); Onkaparinga bath towel sets: Toni McKillop (Samford Valley) and Debbie Lacy (Delaneys Creek).