

2010 - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY



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The UN declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide.

The warnings from scientists are urgent and unequivocal – our civilization is unwittingly stepping in front of an ecological steamroller that is about to flatten us. We are using resources future generations will need, damaging environmental systems and compromising social stability by increasing the gap between rich and poor.

As Ian Lowe says in “A Big Fix”, “If civilization is to survive, this century will have to be a time of dramatic transformation, not just in technological capacity but also in our approach to the natural world – and each other. The road we are travelling now can only end in disaster”. In “A Big Fix”, this pre-eminent scientist and environmentalist tackles the problem head on and offers far reaching solutions to our environmental and social crisis. He advocates a fundamental change to our values and social institutions and offers a vision of a healthier society – one that is humane, takes an eco-centric approach, adopts long-term thinking, uses our natural resources responsibly and is informed about the fragility of our natural systems.

What is biodiversity? Biodiversity has been described as the ‘web of life’, ‘the variety of living things’ or ‘the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and ecosystems of which they are a part’. Biodiversity encompasses every living thing that exists on our planet and the environment in which they live. From the smallest one-cell microbe to the enormous majesty of the blue whale. From the depths of the Pacific Ocean to peaks of our tallest mountains, biodiversity forms part of an intricate and interdependent web of life in which we are all a part.

The Gold Coast is home to a number of animal and plants that fall into ‘threatened species’ categories. Council has been involved in a number of research projects aimed at finding out more about these species, such as how and where they live, how we impact on them and how we can help them to survive. http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t_standard.aspx?pid=7095

Gecko is involved in the Nicoll Scrub Bushcare group and the Tarrabora Bushcare group. For more information please visit: gecko.org.au

Further reading: “The Biodiversity of Tambourine Mountain” AV 508.9432 KUT; “Environmental weeds of the Gold Coast” REF 632.5809943 available now in Gecko library