



**Media Release - Duckponds Vandalism  
15 November 2009**

Capricorn Conservation Council is fed up with vandalism and other illegal activity at the Duckponds Environmental Reserve. This 21 hectare reserve is on the southern outskirts of Rockhampton beside the Bruce Highway where it crosses Scrubby Ck, near the Burnett Highway turnoff.

A small band of volunteers from Capricorn Conservation Council and the Wildlife Preservation Society have put in thousands of hours building fences, cleaning up rubbish, planting trees and controlling weeds over the last ten years. They are getting sick of acts of vandalism and destruction which are undoing all this work and threatening the environmental values of the reserve.

“There have been continual problems ever since the reserve was established. However it has got even worse in the last few months.” said CCC vice-president, Mr Ian Herbert. “Vehicles have damaged fences and gates. Fences have been cut to let livestock in. Stock have destroyed trees that were planted by volunteers last year. Water has been pumped from the lagoon illegally. Rubbish, including dead animals, has been dumped. A fire was lit during the total fire ban period two weeks ago, but was saved from burning more than a few hectares by the action of the Rural Fire Brigade.”

“Duckponds is the only remaining waterbody in the area that is set aside as a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, free from the pressure of grazing stock and water extraction. We are at our wit’s end how to stop this vandalism. It is time those indulging in this activity had a good look at themselves and started to take some pride in the area.”

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