



# Baycare News

The voice for an environmental network of SE Qld Community Organisations

## Entanglement !!!! IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

Enclosed in some copies of the last issue of the *Baycare News* was a brochure produced by Pelican and Seabird Rescue entitled "*Litter makes a mess of our wildlife*". This brochure was produced using an environmental grant from the Brisbane City Council. It illustrates the practical response necessary in relation to the Information Sheet put out a while back by the Federal Government which reads as follows:

*"Entanglement in marine debris can cause restricted mobility, starvation, infection, amputation, drowning and smothering.*

*Turtles, whales and seabirds may be severely injured and even die after entanglement with fishing lines, hooks, fragment of trawl netting or plastic packing straps. Seabirds caught up in marine debris may lose their ability to move quickly through the water, reducing their ability to catch prey and avoid predators; or may suffer constricted circulation, leading to asphyxiation and death. Fishing line debris, nets and ropes cut into the skin of whales or turtles, leading to infection or the slow and painful amputation of flippers, tails or flukes."*

Source: *Harmful Marine Debris – Key Threatening Processes* - Information Sheet - Department of Environment and Heritage  
[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

## Shore Birds still in trouble

Recent editions of the *Baycare News* have highlighted the trouble many of our shore birds are in. Once again the news from the Queensland Wader Study Group is of continued major losses of habitat along the Asian flyways due to the reclamation of intertidal areas.

There is a need, therefore, to make every effort to protect these birds in our local areas. Migratory birds, especially, need to be protected from disturbance in their feeding places. However, all shorebirds need protection from disturbance and nest destruction in beach and dune areas where activities, such as four wheel driving, can have devastating results.

Pollution can also have impacts especially in dump areas such as that in the Logan City Council area recently mentioned in this newsletter. We are pleased, in this respect, to hear from the Pelican and Seabird Rescue group that efforts by local council officers have improved the situation with injured pelicans at the Berrinba Wetlands and the Eagleby Dump.