

# Out of town ducks fly in

BY DANI VOLKE

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Some unexpected visitors recently dropped into the Redlands.

A pair of Radjah Shelducks (*Tadorna Radjah*), were found in Willard - Weber Reserve in Thorneside Park early last week.

The ducks are normally located in northern Queensland and Western Australia, although there have been occasional reported sightings of them along the east coast as far as NSW.

Vice President of the Pelican and Seabird Rescue Natalie Forrest said she was unsure how long the ducks would stay in the Redlands, and why they were even here.

"They may be here for a number of reasons including to set up a breeding territory they feel will have enough food to last throughout the season. They may also be here due to recent extreme weather conditions and loss of habitat - brackish waters, mud banks and the mangrove-fringed mouths and lower reaches of tropical rivers," Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest said the ducks normally feed on various molluscs and large insects, algae and sedges.

"They swing their bill from side to side in the mud, sieving for food or stamp the mud with alternate feet, forcing worms to come to the surface," she said.

"They will find their way home if it hasn't been developed or dried up. It's more than likely they mate for life and both male and female rear the young."

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