

December

2013

WARRAN
COAST
CARE
CALENDAR
2014



**Can you
spot a track and
save a sea turtle?**

(SEE PAGE 3
FOR DETAILS)

CONTENTS

- TURTLE TRACKS
- TURTLE MONITORING
- WEEDING GROUP ACTIVITIES
- MUTTON BIRDS
- IMPACT OF WEEDS ON DUNES

NEXT GROUP WEED...

YINNEBURRA GROUP
**THURS 6 FEBRUARY,
2014, MEETING 8.00AM
JUBILEE ESP.,
THIRD BAY CARPARK,
PT ARKWRIGHT**

NEXT CDCCG

GENERAL Meeting
Thurs 6th February 2014
1.30pm at
157 Warran Rd,
Yaroomba Qld 4573



Welcome to the December Newsletter offering some of the many, many great examples of how our members work with the community to enhance our local environment.



COOLUM WANTS CLIMATE ACTION!

The Hot Stuff Coolum Climate Catchup saw 120 people turn up at the Lion's Park at Coolum Beach on Sunday 17th November. Everyone pulled together to put together a sign, with 2 versions, the word Wants was replaced by the word Chooses..... (Anne Schofield)

As a part of a 60,000 nation-wide rally, 120 people met at Lions Park, Coolum Beach for the Climate Change Action day held on 17th November.

"Whether it's bushfires in the Blue Mountains in October or super typhoons hitting the Philippines or, dare I say, tennis ball-size hail hitting Buderim, everywhere you look there are more frequent and severe extreme events".



More details are given in the article in the [Coolum News](#).

For more news of Action taken across the country - click [here](#).

Crambione cookii Jellyfish: Real Life 'Cookii Monster' Found Off the Coast of Mooloolaba

An aquarist has stumbled upon a live *Crambione cookii* jellyfish in waters at Mooloolaba, apparently the likes of which had not been sighted for more than a century. For more ABC web news click [here](#) and for further news from the IBT click [here](#).

Spot a track, save a sea turtle!

by Sherida Holford and Susan Richards

Our local beaches receive some unique evening and early morning visitors every year between November and March.

Female loggerhead and green sea turtles, each at least 30 years old, choose our local beaches to come ashore and lay their eggs. Each turtle must pick her nesting site on the beach carefully – as high up the beach as possible. The sand will incubate her eggs and she will not return to check on them. The eggs need to be incubated in the sand away from water and away from excess sources of light, as too much light affects the hatchlings' ability to navigate back down the beach to the ocean when they emerge.

The only indication we have that a sea turtle has nested on a beach is by the tracks left behind by the turtle as she makes her way to and from the dunes to the ocean. The tracks look like large track tyre marks in the sand and will go from the water's edge up to the dune and back again.

All seven species of the world's sea turtles are now endangered. Each female turtle nesting on our beaches has survived a long journey from her birth on a Queensland beach at least 30 years ago. In that time she has crossed the ocean to South America and back, encountering not only her natural predators on the way but also plastic pollution, commercial fishing nets, large-scale longline fisheries and increased shipping traffic. If a female sea turtle survives to adulthood and returns to the same area in which she was born to start to breed, her eggs also face predation from foxes and light pollution from artificial light sources. The survival rate for sea turtles from birth to age 30 is approximately 1 in 1,000 hatchlings.

The good news is that members of the public can help protect sea turtle nests on our beaches simply by reporting any turtle tracks that you spot, to trained local volunteers with Coolum District Coast Care Group.

Reporting the location of turtle nests will assist in preventing the loss of the nest due to fox predation, extreme weather events or other activities such as council works where the nest can be protected from damage if its location is known. The volunteers will monitor the nest and place a specially designed fox protection mesh over the eggs until the eggs hatch. All turtle nests reported to the volunteers are left where they were laid if at all possible, with the only exceptions to this being if the nest will be lost as a result of extreme events such as high tides, erosion or water inundation. After the nest has hatched, the volunteers collect data about the incubation success of the nest for the Queensland Turtle Research Project managed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Members of the public are actively encouraged to help with the ongoing monitoring of any nest reported.

If you see turtle tracks on your local beach, please call the Coolum District Coast Care Group Turtle Volunteers on 0403 370 157 (Sherida).

You can also visit the Coolum District Coast Care Group website at www.coolumcoastcare.org.au , and the Facebook page.

TURTLES AND TRACKS...



(Above) Tracks from the
Loggerhead Turtle



(Above) Tracks from
the Green Sea Turtle



THINKING
ABOUT
WHOOPING
COUGH AND
VACCINATIONS...

PLEASE REFER
[here](#) TO THE
QUEENSLAND HEALTH
WEBSITE FOR
INFORMATION ON
PREVENTION AND
VACCINATIONS.



CROQUET AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Members of Coolum District Coast Care got together for a *Christmas Bash* at Coolum Croquet Club. Plenty of fun was had by all on the picturesque greens by Stumers Creek. Leigh Warneminde President of Coolum District Coast Care thanked members for their endeavours in 2013.

(Thank you to Diane Goodwillie for the photos and capturing some great moments).



WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATERS



Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (mutton birds) nest in burrows on Mudjimba Island, which is the southern most end of their nesting area, which used to extend to Pincushion Island at the mouth of Maroochy River.

(Photographs courtesy of Les Donald, QPWS, Maroochydore).

A QUICK LOOK AT OUR MUDJIMBA ISLAND VISITORS – THE WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATERS

The following excerpts are taken from the QPWS Maroochy River Conservation Park Management Plan...

‘Mudjimba Island protects a significant breeding colony of **wedge-tailed shearwaters or mutton birds** (*Puffinus pacificus*). Deep loamy soil on the higher, treeless part of the island provides an ideal spot for muttonbirds to build their burrows. About 4000 birds use the island during breeding season, and have built about 2000 burrows where the females lay their eggs’.

‘**The species is listed** under the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), in which the governments of both countries **agreed to protect migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction**. The wedge-tailed shearwater breeds on a limited number of islands along the eastern and western coasts of Australia. While a breeding colony exists on Mudjimba Island, all others in Queensland are located on Great Barrier Reef islands. Mudjimba Island, which is the southernmost breeding site in Queensland is also the closest to the mainland. The colony is also significant as it is 20 metres above sea level. In contrast, northern Queensland reef islands which support these birds are only 5-6 metres above sealevel and vulnerable to cyclonic damage (Dyer, 1997)’.

‘The wedge-tailed shearwater colony on Mudjimba Island is particularly susceptible to **disturbance if (human) visitors are able to roam freely around the underground burrows**. Little is known about other fauna occurring on the island. Ground covering weeds such as prickly pear and lantana are limiting the amount of open ground available for shearwaters to construct their burrows.’

(Source: QPWS, Maroochy River Conservation Park Management Plan, 1999, accessed August 2013, <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/managing/plans-strategies/pdf/maroochy-river-conservation-park-2000.pdf>, pages 5 and 8).

Ecology and Geology on the move.....



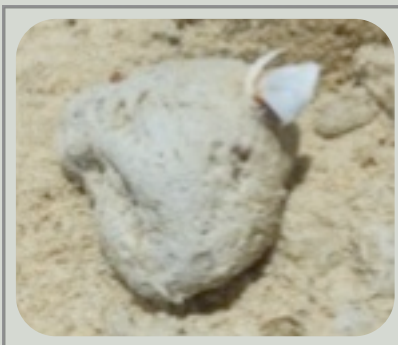
A huge underwater volcanic eruption has been the source of a huge pumice raft (with hitchhikers, some pictured above), reported



earlier in the year. The pumice has been drifting from New Zealand to the Australian East Coast and washing up on shores from NSW to Cairns.



"Pumice rafts are the only process in evolutionary history that can transport species fairly rapidly - up to 30 kilometres per day - across deep oceans that would normally act as geographic barriers," Dr Bryan said to the Courier Mail recently.



For more information on the Courier Mail article please click [here](#) . Further information is available by clicking [here](#) .

Coolum Community Native Plant Nursery

A big welcome to Rory White, the new Nursery Manager, who started on Monday, 16th December. Rory is replacing Jake Hazzard, who continues with the nursery until Christmas Eve (24 December, 2013).

Thank you to Jake for 5 years of service to the community and the nursery volunteers.

IN THE WILD



SHORT TAILED SHEARWATERS (ABOVE)

What does the call of this bird sound like? [CLICK HERE](#) to find out.

PESTY MYNA BIRD CONTROL...COOK ISLAND WAY...

Coast Care Member, Diane Goodwillie, observes the Cook Island way of dealing with the pesty Indian Mynas

Tales from the Cook Islands

In a recent visit to the Cook Islands I discovered some interesting environmental success stories. Fellow environmentalists in the Cook Islands are facing the challenge of eliminating Myna birds. A team lead by Gerald McCormack of the Natural Heritage Trust has been labouring for the past three years to rid the island of Atiu of the rats of the sky, the introduced Myna bird. The story revolves around two islands in the Cooks: Rarotonga, the main island, an outer island, Atiu and Rimatara, an offshore island in French Polynesia (where Tahiti is located)



Atiu is a small, unique, friendly, high limestone island, with its own coffee, a rare swiftlet found in limestone caves, fabulous quilt makers and a fibre-arts studio. In 2009 Atiu had a population of about 500 people and 6,000 myna

birds. The birds invaded backyards, roosted in houses, frolicked in pigpens and picnic sites. The island was striving to develop its ecotourism but the Myna, introduced in 1916 and fairly successfully controlling the coconut stick insect, was threatening many of its native birds.

In the early 1990s a rat survey revealed the island had the Polynesian rat but NOT the tree climbing Rattus rattus, a threat to native nesting birds. Therefore in 2001, the endangered Rarotonga Flycatcher, a bird once down to a population of 27 birds and vulnerable to rats, human populations and cyclones in Rarotonga was introduced to Atiu which now has a flourishing back-up or reserve population.

The Rimatara Lorikeet, a brilliant red and green bird once thrived in Atiu but by 1820 had disappeared, probably because of overuse by humans...their feathers were used in ornate headdresses and for



personal adornment. In 1993, Gerald McCormack proposed a project to re-introduce the birds to the Cook Islands. It took many years to convince ornithologists that establishing a reserve population was a good thing. Then after six years of complicated cultural exchanges and government negotiations between the locals of Atiu and Rimatara, French Polynesia permission granted. With funding from Birdlife International, 27 lorikeets were captured, checked for disease and finally in 2007 re-located to Atiu. Immediately they began to thrive but the first nest discovered in August 2008 was seriously harassed by a pair of Mynas. Something had to be done and thus in May 2009 the Myna eradication project was started.

The Atiu Council agreed to the program, which included use of poison baits (an avicide called Starlicide) for large Myna gatherings, shooting by professional shooters and trapping. Students were enticed by \$20.00 rewards for retrieval of Myna nests. Professional shooters teamed up with not so accurate locals to traipse up and down valleys to shoot them from the skies. Atiu local, George Mateariki along with Gerald McCormack perfected unique methods and localised traps which are placed above ground so that the abundant chickens don't wander into the trap. A trapped live "call" bird is placed close by as its song attracts unsuspecting Mynas. Traps are checked at night so as not to attract suspicion by any nearby Mynas.

Gerald now estimates the Myna population to be under 300 and hopes to rid the island entirely by the end of next year.

The consequence is a bird island full of beautiful native birds. The flycatcher population is up to 100 and the Rimatara lorikeet is over 500. As well, native doves, pigeons and kingfishers are thriving. Well done Cook Islands!



INVASION OF WEEDS AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES IN OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS...

The results of a recent study have helped to measure or give a greater appreciation for the *added impacts* of exotic plants on our coastlines and biodiversity.

The findings by a comprehensive and recent research project on the impact of coastal weeds include:

- the shapes of our dunes are changed by weeds
- sometimes the width of beaches are affected
- \$12 to \$30 million is spent on weed control a year
- local community groups make significant contributions to coastal weed control
- local eradication for asset protection may be hindered by long-distance seed dispersal (assisted by ocean currents and animals)
- continued investment in programs and research is recommended

The study highlights the

importance of the Australian F o r coastline in that the narrow, information coastal fringe of around about the added impact of 60,000km: weeds or the full news article and details about the research project and the research team, please [CLICK HERE](#) .

- holds significant social and economic importance
- offers major ecological importance
- provides nesting sites for millions of seabirds as well as being a habitat for animal and plant species found nowhere else on the planet

Thank you to member, Edwin Hammet, for spotting this most relevant and interesting article in *The Age* newspaper.



INTRODUCED PLANTS HAVE ADDED IMPACTS TO OUR COASTAL ECOLOGY



CDCCG had an entry in the *Feral Photos Competition 2013*, with this photo capturing a cat in the local bushland with a wren in its mouth.

To see more photos of feral animals caught on camera, [CLICK HERE](#) or to see an amazing image of a Wedge-tailed Eagle undertaking its own fox control [CLICK HERE](#).

Talking Turtles

IS IT TIME FOR
A **TURTLE**
INTERPRETIVE
CENTRE HERE?



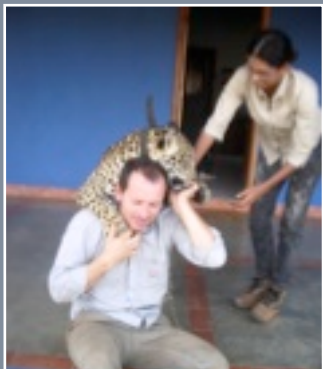
Turtle display in the North West Cape near Exmouth, WA

In the middle of this year, CDCCG member, Diane Goodwillie worked with Zohl de Ishtar. with for 5 weeks in Western Australia. Zohl is working with the Kapululagu Women's Association in Balgo Western Australia. Zohl has a blog and also has a Facebook page, <http://zohldeishtar>.

(Photographs by Diane Goodwillie)



BIODIVERSITY & TRAVEL



Travel Log

(Edwin Hammet)

I thought I would share some of my recent trip to South America where I volunteered in two, two week projects. If you want to know more about these, just ask me.

Blazing the Biodiversity Trail in Brazil

This was at the Jaguar Conservation Fund (JCF) in the Amazon cerrado (savannah) in Goiás state, Brazil. JCF is a not-for-profit organisation with strong links to the Earthwatch organisation. I was joined on this project by like minded folks from: Japan (2), Russia (1) and USA (3). The 'best' Earthwatch team EVER, at JCF.

JCF research is conducted in and around the Emas National Park by: Dr Leandro, Dr Anah, Dr Natalia, with assistance from Ananda and Yago. A précised aim of the project can be described by a quote from Dr Leandro :

Local community members and farmers have begun to understand that coexistence with wildlife on their land is possible when the desire for coexistence is there. Better still, they have started to put this understanding into practice, and some of them are among our strongest partners for regional biodiversity conservation. This project is about more than just learning the ecology or conserving wildlife: we are working to conserve the biological uniqueness of central Brazil.

Whilst the Jaguar (*Onça-pintada*) is the focus of the research effort, JCF is involved in much, much more. The Araguaia River corridor connects the highly fragmented and threatened central Brazilian savannah (Cerrado) to the vast wilderness of the Amazonian rainforest. At Emas National Park, jaguars, pumas, maned wolves, tapirs, crab eating foxes, armadillos, pampas deer, rheas, macaws, peccaries, skunks, ocelots, and giant anteaters roam. The project aims to find how these, and other species, are using the land around the park. This is especially important due to the rapid expansion of the area being planted with corn and sugarcane (for bio-fuel production), which may act as a barrier to these animals as they move through the corridor.

Our main activity was setting and the collecting cards from camera traps in the park and surrounding cane lands. We then inspected each of the 'cards' to identify and record what set the camera 'off'. It was so absorbing, that frequently the volunteers had to be 'dragged' away for our meals.

This experience will stay with me forever.

I was particularly impressed with the passion and dedication of the researchers, who like Coast Carers, have an intense desire to protect their

environment. The saying "once it's gone, it's gone forever" comes to mind.

More information can be seen at:

<http://au.earthwatch.org/expeditions/blazing-the-biodiversity-trail-in-brazil>

Photos on left and page 11

This is what it is all for (captured on camera near cane fields)

Leandro and Ananda with Jaguar

Taricaya Ecological Reserve in Peru through Projects Abroad

Leandro and I taking a 'Cat' for a walk (page 11 below)

The 476 hectare reserve, which is owned and run by Projects Abroad, is based deep in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest, downstream via Madre de Dios River from Puerto Maldonado.

The Project has aims of:

- to help the local area recover from previous disturbances, and have a positive impact on the ecosystems at the *Taricaya* reserve.

- to help local people avoid potential damage to the environment by helping with the various conservation projects and in return, helping them with their farming. There is a model farm which is used to pass on ideas and techniques in new and sustainable farming practices .

- operating a Rescue Centre, receiving injured or captive animals (such as exotic pets) and encouraging release back into the environment. A recent newsletter indicates the successful reintroduction of a group of five spider monkeys back into the rain forest.

Some of the volunteer activities that I participated in included: captive animal/bird feeding, enclosure cleaning and maintenance, mist netting of micro-bats and river water birds, conducting a river turtle census, tracking of released 'captive' monkeys and insect collecting.

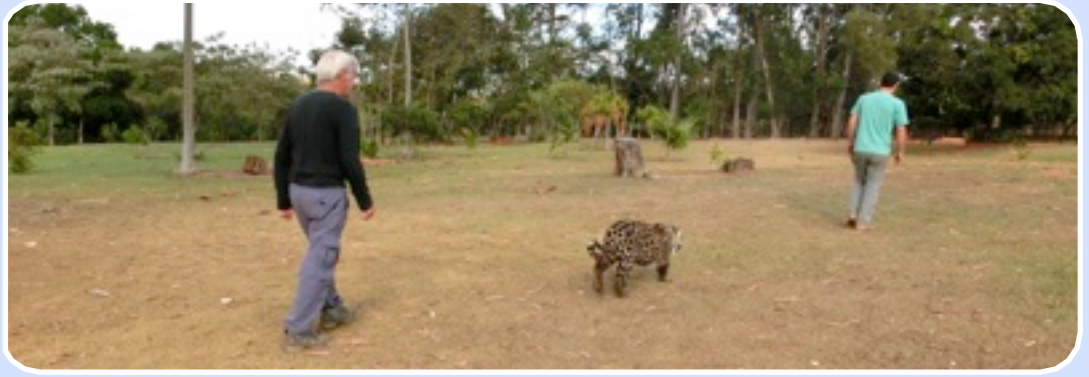
I consider that the Project is aimed more at 'younger' persons who want to experience the Amazon or compliment educational studies. I was the oldest volunteer by a long shot.

More information can be seen at:

<http://www.projects-abroad.com.au/projects/conservation-and-environment/peru/>

**Continued
from page
10...**

**Biodiversity
Travel Story
by Edwin
Hammet**



Effect artificial lighting has on Marine Turtles

(Ben Pearce)

Our Coolum Coast Care Turtle group attended a talk on turtles the past month with Dr Col Limpus from Dept Of Environment. The Coolum Coast Care turtle group have seen the effects lighting has on the hatchlings first hand.



During the talk we learnt that yes turtle friendly lights do work up to around 5 bulbs in total, more then 5 lights and the hatchlings will head toward the combined light.

There was a study done last season at Mon Repos, you may be able to get those results if you contacted EHP . The effect lighting has is dependent on height above ground of light source, distance between each light.

Dr Limpus has asked us to measure the angle the hatchlings are emerging from the nest as they make their way to the waters edge. This collected data will determine the impact nearby lighting is having on hatchlings and could be used to create stricter lighting regulations. The United States are way ahead of us with turtle friendly lighting, the link below has some information.



<http://seaturtlelighting.net>

Its important to understand its not just the hatchlings affected by lighting but the nesting females also. As we learnt from the talk, a female is looking at potential nesting sites from out in the water 200 -

500m who knows how far out, so any light shining out into the water from high rise construction, residential housing, and outdoor lighting will deter her from nesting at those locations.

Another issue and the glow clouds, an Col Limpus Woolworths having car lighting shining

onto white shade cloths creating a glow that is seen km's away at Mon Repos beach. Flood lights with shades to direct lights to where the light is needed, black shade cloths, and the light source not so high would help to minimise the glow.

A combination of Shades toward the ocean side of and above lighting to direct light only where it is needed, tree screening, plus turtle friendly bulbs at a low height, minimises the negative effect artificial lighting has on marine turtles.

For more details from the Department of Environment and Heritage [CLICK HERE](#) .

Beachside Shielding



Shielding Techniques and Ideas
Having Turtle Safe Lighting is more than having the right fixtures and light bulbs. Safe lighting requires the appropriate techniques of Beachside Shielding - [Read More](#) -



is the glow, onto low level example Dr gave us is the at Bargara, park flood

onto white

MARCOOLA COAST CARE

10,000 new plants in the dunes

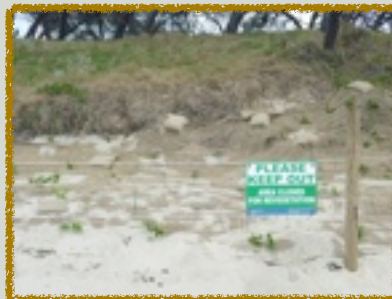
Members from CDCCG and Marcoola Coast Care (below) worked together with other community groups to help Sunshine Coast Council to plant 1000's of spinifex plants and other native species, over November and December. This will aid dune stabilisation along the beaches at Maroochydore and Alexander Headlands.



News from
Marcoola Coast
Care



(Above) - Marcoola Coast Care with educational display at the well-attended Marcoola Street Fair in November.



Tony Gibson, Coordinator, Marcoola Coast Care (above right) and Fiona with a crocodile from Geckoes Wildlife Displays.

End of Year Message from Tony Gibson...

Thank you once again to the Sunshine Coast Council for sponsoring the Geckoes Wildlife Show for the North Shore Community Centre Christmas Celebrations.

I was able to get a big cheer for Council and Fiona from Geckoes amongst the rain drops. It really helped with our Coast Care community education program.

Thank you to the Council's Community Conservation Team for all their wonderful efforts in 2013.

Have a great Christmas and see you in 2014.



Marcoola Coast Care
 Contact Tony Gibson
 Mob. 0419 791 860
tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au



157 Warran Road,
 Yaroomba Qld 4573
 Ph. (07) 5473 9322
info@coolumnatives.com

Tues to Friday
 7.30am - 3.30pm
 Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Jake Hazzard &
 Ben Pearce

A great Christmas
 idea,
 made locally

Out Now...

the 2014 CALENDAR

Celebrating Our
 Coastal Environment

WEEKLY WEEDING GROUPS

Kick off 2014 with a massive effort
 and rock up to Third Bay Car Park,
 Jubilee Esp., Pt Arkwright, 8am
 Thursday, 6th February

Stumers Dunes Birte - 0403 752 955 Peter - (07) 5446 5819	Lions Park Watercourse Lineise - (07) 5446 5116 lineise5@bigpond.com	
Yinneburra Silva - (07) 5446 5549 0418 788 885	Yaroomba Bushland Park Sherida - 0403 370 157	Marcoola Coast Care Tony Gibson 0419 791 860 tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au
Mudjimba Bushcare Helen - (07) 5448 9604	Marcoola North Dune Care Alan Hayes - 0419 526 347	



Marcoola
 Coast Care
 December
 2013



This newsletter has been produced with the support of all
 Coolum District Coast Care Group members &
 /Sunshine Coast Council.