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JETSAM

Issue 11 - June 2014

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



As expected, our members have been out and about, actively enjoying our local coastline. This month we have stories about a fantastic beach cleanup at Double Island Point, members training in the reporting needs for whale strandings and that dastardly weed, the Gloriosa lily, on many of our dunes, is under attack by a number of keen members. The Family Eco Discovery Workshops for Sunday mornings are here again starting on Sunday 6 July. Don't forget to book (more details in the story below).



Double Island Clean Up a Big Success (Craig Macintyre)

The recent Double Island Beach Clean up on Saturday May 3 was a huge success. Organised by the Surfrider Foundation's Sunshine Coast branch, Cleanwater Constructions and facilitated by Qld Parks & Wildlife Service. Over 100 people volunteered their time and energy, including coast care groups, 4x4 clubs and families alike, to remove over 2 tonnes of rubbish off the beach! The National Parks Minister, Steve Dickson has thanked the volunteers who turned up in a press release from QPWS.

More than 80% of the rubbish picked up was leftover from campers after the two consecutive long weekends. A notable difference than the usual average 50/50 split, of marine debris and beach goers rubbish usually found in Surfrider's beach clean ups. This information is now being used for education and awareness of this particular area and the entire region, spreading the message and adding to the global database on Tangaroa Blue's Marine Debris initiative.



(Photographs by Tony Gibson)



In return for volunteering, people were rewarded for a fee exempt camping overnight and 4x4 access permits. In addition to this, Every bag returned gained a raffle ticket to the \$3500 worth of prizes from theme parks, music festivals and restaurants which were won mostly by kids and families, all while a free thank you BBQ took place!

Gloriosa Lily. A Case study

As part of Noosa Parks Association's caretaker commitment to QPWS, three 'wacky weeders' from CDCCG recently enjoyed a week's 'working holiday' at the light house keepers cottages at Double Island Point, in the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park.

In addition to undertaking weed eradication in our assigned area, the ever vigilant weeders noticed a flourishing growth of Gloriosa Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) amongst trees quite near the cottages. Also referred to as Glory Lily, and still grown as an ornamental plant, it is now a serious weed on sandy coastal soils in south eastern Queensland and along the north coast of NSW. How it spread into natural areas is unclear, but it is presumed initially from garden escapes and rubbish dumping in the bush. However, as it has been found in areas not near habitation, it may also be spread by birds.

A rather curious feature was that whilst these plants had substantial upper growth, we did not find seeds or old seed capsules. It was thought that this may have been a result of this year's lack of summer rain. Could it be that the plant was protecting itself for another day?

The showery weather meant that using chemical control was out of the question on any of our weeding areas. Not being deterred by the much needed rain, the trio decided to attack this patch of Gloriosa, as we could beat a hasty retreat to the cottage should the rain become too heavy. So with great determination, we set about a TOTAL removal exercise. We put on protective gloves, as the sap of the vines/tubers has been reported to be a skin irritant, as well as being quite toxic. Our method was to 'hand dig' the tubers. The trio started from the edges (refer the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration) to restrict the extent of the infestation.

Hand digging required that every stem was 'tracked' to a tuber, a painstaking process but one that was considered worthwhile, as then we could be sure that ALL offending tubers were removed and safely bagged. This required great care, as anyone knows who has done this with Gloriosa, the stem and tubers are quite fragile and break off easily. Smaller tubers were sometimes found to be attached by a quite fragile, but obviously older, 'leathery' section.

This process was not without a surprise or two. Not only was the length/thickness of some tubers substantial, but also that in some areas they were multilayered, at about 5cm and then deeper, up to 15-20cms below the surface, suggesting a multiyear infestation. One of the most 'disturbing' aspects was the extent of the conjoined tuber 'spread' underground. This can be seen from the photographs, one of the 'weeders' in action and the other of a re-assembled plant (note the scale, provided by match sticks). These photographs represent some 2-3 hours careful removal.

We thought that since the area was previously grassed, it is possible that this discrete infestation was originally introduced by birds, when the tree species planted beside the track became large enough to provide habitat. The seeds can remain dormant for 6-9 months before shooting, so although we dug out the tubers, there still may be a seed source lying dormant for next season.

We will be suggesting to Noosa Parks Association that essential follow-up work be undertaken, but consider that this rather small infestation should be able to be eliminated. Even if the tubers are not removed, seed heads should be removed after flowering, to prevent further infestations in this very special place.

The SEE sub-group (Silva, Estelle, Edwin).



Silva started from top Right
This tuber was mostly above ground but joined to the rest by a teased out tuber running under tree roots.



Edwin started from Left.
Stems are highlighted in bright green, most were discarded during the tracking process.



ONE plant, this is not the full extent of it. After bagging these pieces we continued to follow tubers 'up and down' of image shown by another 40cm leading to more stems. Scale → a standard match is 43mm

The next monthly general meeting will be held on Thursday July 3rd, 2014 at Coolum Community Native Nursery, 157 Warran Road, Yaroomba. All welcome.

MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING WORKSHOP

On 15th April a few volunteers from the Turtle Group attended a Marine Mammal Stranding Workshop at the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection Office in Maroochydore to learn the basics of marine strandings. As is often the case we are the first response to the strandings and the rangers being a bit thin on the ground were grateful for our interest to lend them a hand when it comes to strandings.

Justin Meager the Senior Marine Scientist with the Threatened Species Unit issued us with Identification Sheets and explained in detail on identifying the species and their sex. Taking good photos is an essential part to confirm species and assess body condition. Species can also be identified by either teeth or baleen counts.



A Pilot Whale stranding earlier this year had volunteers recording data. This activity was followed by a workshop offering further training in marine wildlife strandings and monitoring.

Justin requested those present to notify him if rarer species wash up such as Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins and Blainsville Beaked Whales as the department would be keen to attend.

Measurement of cetaceans is taken from tip of maxilla to notch in flukes parallel to long axis of body not over the curvature of the body, with the animal ventral side down.

We were warned of health risks associated with marine mammal carcasses and advised to wear the appropriate P.P.E. to prevent risk of disease. This was especially important should we take any skin samples for genetic sampling. Justin delighted in showing us some footage of whales that exploded when necropsies were to be performed. Natalie from Moreton Bay Marine Parks gave us an important tip which was duly noted for future strandings. "If you hear any hissing when you put the knife in - **RUN!** as she's about to blow." So if ever on the beach near a marine stranding and you notice the 'Aqua Marine Clad Crew' suddenly running away from a whale carcass it would be highly advisable to follow suit or you may find yourself wearing it. If a large dead whale is floating offshore it is important to notify fisheries to ensure whale is taken far out to sea as it is an expensive and awkward exercise to dispose of carcass once it reaches shore.

In the case of live cetacean strandings EHP & Rehabilitation Centre Staff (ie Sea World or Australia Zoo) need to be notified as soon as possible as it is a high priority to attend these situations. As volunteers we are first response and need to keep animals as comfortable as possible until help arrives. This can be done by covering an animal with light coloured wet sheets/towels, and buckets of water being sure to keep about 30cm from the blowhole. Shade such as a portable gazebo could be erected over the head area to assist in sheltering it from direct sunlight and keeping it cool. Keep crowds and dogs well clear to minimize stress to the animals and for the general public's safety as whales sometimes thrash about, presenting danger from pectoral fins and flukes. Also some may be harbouring a disease and often carry lice, and word has it they are big and bite (the lice that is).

If the animals are in the shallows be mindful of it rolling onto you and also beware of predators (ie sharks) patrolling the waters. NEVER lift or pull cetaceans by their flippers, flukes or dorsal fins. Rocking the animal gently side to side in the water helps circulation and eases stiff muscles. If it is upset and thrashing and vocalising try to position it facing towards its pod. All volunteers and other organizations will be directed by the EHP Rangers.

Important information when reporting strandings is to advise:-

- Size, Species, Alive or Dead, and Condition.

- Number of Animals Stranded and Number of People on Site.
- Beach Access to Site and Street Name
- Where are the Cetaceans in Regards to Tide Level?
- Weather Conditions, Swell Size.

CONTACT: Coolum District Coast Care or 1300 ANIMAL who can then contact relevant authorities to swing into action.

Adrienne Savage

Aqua Marine Clad Crew Member

A call for help from new volunteers by the Twin Waters Dune Protection Group for their working bees on the third Monday morning of each month. All are welcome. For more information please contact Sue by email twinwatersduneprotectiongroup@hotmail.com or MS 0402113375. A big congratulation to this group having had their first weeding held on Monday 16th June.

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary invites you to ‘Come Cruise with Us’ on **Saturday 23rd August 2014** (9.30am to 3.00pm). Join the “MV Blue Laguna” and sail up the beautiful Maroochy River to the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary. Be greeted at the pontoon by a wetlands volunteer for a 1km guided walk along the boardwalk through this amazing array of vegetation and wildlife. The cost for adults is \$42, Children (5-13 years) \$29 and Senior or Pensioner Concession \$39. For more details and to book please go to maroochywetlandssupport.org.au or telephone Ailsa on (07) 5448 4848.

DATE CLAIMERS

Sunshine Coast Environment Council - AGM	26th June	Nambour	For more information email info@scec.org.au .
Family Eco Discovery Workshops	Starting Sunday 6 th July	Pt Arkwright and other locations	See below for more workshop details.
Working Bee with combined Groups	Thursday 3 rd July, meeting at 8.30am	Yaroomba Bushland via Neurum Road	See below for more details,
Planting natives for National Tree Day	Sunday 27 th July	North Marcoola (various sites)	(more details available soon)

Learning About our Landscapes - Geology 101

(Diane Goodwillie)



the rocks and landscapes of the Sunshine Coast.

Starting at Point Arkwright we learned that the coast was originally 100 km inland. When Australia was part of Gondwanaland our east coast faced south!

The Sunshine Coast Council sponsored a three hour geology workshop held on 22 June, 2014 that saw 27 participants attend. Retired geologist Warwick Willmott simplified the history and nature of





360 million years ago a wild volcanic coast appeared, similar to today's South American Andes. Different landscapes emerged with erosion, stretching and venting of rock, and various upheavals. Professor Willmott (left) explained the evolution of the landscape and how these ancient events influence our present use of the land. For ongoing understanding, participants received a copy of his excellent 66 page book titled Rocks and Landscapes of the Sunshine Coast (available for loan at the Nursery).

After familiarizing us with the general evolution of the coast, Professor Willmott led us around the wave-eroded cliffs and pointed out outcrops of Myrtle Creek Sandstone and fine grained diorite intrusions.

We clambered over rocks looking at the evidence of volcanic rocks, sandstones and basalt intrusions. We learned that some molten rock picked up lumps of mud forming a sort of conglomerate rock. It's difficult to tell what sort of rocks you are looking at without chiselling or breaking off a piece to see what is under the weathering. For example granite looks a lot like sandstones but you have to look at the grain size.



Conglomerate rock (left photograph)

Differing patterns of erosion in a river of molten rock established honeycomb weathering patterns (photograph above right) in the sandstone.



Often we see rusty coloured water which has picked up tannic acid from the soils and is dripping through fractures in the rocks (see photograph on left).

Some interesting facts: Pumice, those light airy grey rocks lining our beaches have arrived from recent and on-going volcanic eruptions in

Vanuatu or Tonga. (Photograph of pumice on right by Peter Oudyn).





A layer of dark grey shale outcrops in the cliff between the sandstones (above photograph)

Mt. Coolum and Emu (Peregrine) Mountain were established by underground intrusions of hot volcanic rock (distilled magma called rhyolite), which solidified, and then the overlying rock eroded leaving the unusual shape. Mt. Ninderry was formed by a different volcanic activity 220 million years ago that affected the North Arm area. The uniquely shaped parabolic dune preserved on the Palmer Resort property was formed with rising seas at the end of the Ice Age where sand was blown collided with the headlands of Point Arkwright. Coffee rock found around Stumers Creek is black or dark brown sand cemented by organic material hardened into this soft sandstone. Rivers of molten volcanic rock intruding on other existing rock formations have formed the rocky headlands around Coolum. A most fascinating workshop and well worth repeating so more can learn about our coasts. (Photographs by Diane Goodwillie)

A combined working bee for our groups and members active in dunal regeneration and bush care will be held on Thursday 3rd July at Yaroomba Bushland, meeting 8.30am at the Neurum Road access. Training, tools and a lively time are provided. As a part of **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea-morning tea is available nearby at Sherida's place (having help from Robyn) with an offer of healthy homemade goodies and refreshments. All are welcome.**

Coolum Community Native Nursery



Volunteers (from left to right - Christine, Scott, Sue and Barb) at the Coolum Community Native Nursery process seed after a morning of seed collecting at North Shore.

Middle right – seed from the Chain fruit (*Alyxia ruscifolia*) and below – seed from the Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) – the blue form.

There is a call for more volunteers needed on Saturdays, if you would like to help please contact Rory or Ben.



Volunteers from the Nursery will be helping out at the 2014 Garden Expo held over July 11th to 13th in Nambour.

The nursery is also being kept very busy with many customers and plant sales.



Weekly Dunal Regeneration and Bush Care Groups

Stumers Dunes Birte - 0403 752955	Lions Park Watercourse Linee - (07) 5446 5116 linee5@bigpond.com	Marcoola Coast Care Tony Gibson - 0419 791 860 tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au
Yaroomba Bushland Park Sherida - 0403 370 157	Yinneburra Silva - (07) 5446 5549	Marcoola North Dune Care Alan Hayes - 0419 526 347
Mudjimba Dune Care and Bush Care Helen – (07) 5448 9604	Yerranya Dunes Leigh - (07) 5446 1600	Twin Waters Dune Protection Group Sue – 0402 113 375 twinwatersduneprotectiongroup@hotmail.com



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Tues-Fri 7:30am – 3:30pm
 Sat 8:30am – 12:30pm
 Rory White & Ben Pearce

This newsletter has been produced with the support of all Coolum District Coast Care Group members and

