



JETSAM

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Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



It has been a busy three months since our last newsletter. Our members have been out and about, actively enjoying our local coastline. This time we have stories about the Marcoola wildflower walk which incorporated wonderful stories from Traditional Owners, the Richmond birdwing butterfly project, the Heron Island weeding trip, moving mountains and bursting bubbles. The Family Eco Discovery Workshops on Sunday mornings were a resounding success (more details in the story below) and other activities have also been well attended by the broader community.

From the President's desk

Coolum District Coast Care Group Inc. has now adopted the trading name of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care. After much deliberation our new logo (pictured above) has been decided and represents Mt Emu, Mt Coolum and Mudjimba Island. Thanks must go to Steve Cook, Robyn Peters and Diane Goodwillie for the development of the logo as well as all the members that assisted in its choice.

The name change and subsequent logo redesign has come about to better encapsulate the geographical area in which we work. The intention is to be more inclusive of our membership particularly those working to the south of Yaroomba. It has come to my attention that we have inadvertently overlooked the members working on turtles, marine debris and marine mammal standings to the north of Stumers Creek. It has been suggested that we should have bitten the bullet and called ourselves Sunshine Coast Care, but at present, that is too onerous to contemplate! Apologies must go to our members to the north; we value your contribution no less. Our Incorporated name will continue to be Coolum District Coast Care Group Inc. CDCCG will be used in funding applications and for legal documentation and when required our original logo will still be used, in conjunction with our new one.

Our Objects of Incorporation remain:

- To protect and conserve the natural values of the coastal area between South Peregian and Maroochy River
- To encourage the preservation of this area's bio-diversity
- To encourage active participation of the community and governing bodies.

As you can see we have extended past our boundary. We also monitor turtles from Sunshine Beach to Mooloolaba but that is the nature of our group. We will have a logo launch at some stage, perhaps in conjunction with the 2015 calendar launch, perhaps in November. At present we have no funding for a new print run of shirts but it will happen in time.

Also imminent is the release of Coast Care's 2015 calendar, featuring another set of stunning photographs of our beloved coast. It is the culmination of months of hard work by the team coordinated by Diane Goodwillie. Distribution and sales of the calendar are being coordinated by Dorothy Hookway (Tel: 5446 3119). Please contact her if you can assist. Expect an announcement on availability and sales outlets shortly.

Growing Future Environmental Leaders

Diane Goodwillie

Over the past two months, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care organized four, free, family-oriented Eco Discovery workshops, each attracting on average 100 participants. Twenty-two member volunteers gave up their Sunday mornings to help set up and interact with the children and their families, thus establishing a well appreciated model for community responsibility.



Over 80 families attended at least one of the workshops and surprisingly some children came from as far away as Japan and South America as well as Caloundra, Buderim and Eumundi. The program was rated above average and even exceeding expectations.

Adults and children enjoyed the interactive nature of the program and the discovery of new aspects of our oceans, animals, plants, insects and birds. Excellent presenters, both from within Coast Care's ranks and external professional speakers, made the workshops both educational and fun for the participants who ranged in age from preschool to grandparents.

The Noosa Library's natural history boxes provided an opportunity for individuals to compare animal fur, bird beaks and feathers. It was rewarding to see the interest and excitement of children when looking for bugs or butterflies at Coolum's Lions Park and taking a closer look at what is in the rock pools of Point Arkwright. The Apex Camp, Mudjimba provided an excellent venue for discovering birds and even some kangaroos, while a highlight was learning about native animals and then planting habitat for them at North Marcoola.



Most of the families were not members of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care but from the requests about the next family events it seems like we are filling a community need to grow future environmental leaders.

Marcoola wildflower walk with Coolum and North Shore Coast Care and Traditional Owners

Genevieve Jones

As the array of wildflower walks for the Wildflower Festival were coming to an end for this year, a unique experience was had by those attending the *Splendour in the Wallum at Marcoola* excursion at the end of August.

Organised by Tony Gibson, with botanical assistance from Silva Maki-Neste, a group of 16 people took to the wallum accessible through the industrial estate via Cessna Court and the Maroochy Airport at Marcoola. Shortly into the walk,



Kerry Jones, Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner, offered a Welcome to Country. Wallum country has been managed by Traditional People for at least 8,000 to 10,000 years and is an important part of the local Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. The word "wallum" is a local Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi word for the distinctive Wallum banksia or Old man banksia (*Banksia aemula*). Some more Kabi Kabi words are provided in the following account.

Everyone in the group was able to provide interesting insights with the range of plants spotted and there were some great experiences shared about the local wildlife in the area, such as the Swamp wallaby ("woubarngar") and Ground parrot. Even the glory days of the emu got a mention when talking

about the biodiversity of past decades. Silva and others spotted a number of heath species flowering ("guana") or about to flower. They did a terrific job of describing the features of the plants including Native iris (*Patersonia sericea*), Twiggy geebung (*Persoonia virgata*), Rice flower (*Pimelea linifolia*), Chaffy swamp pea (*Pultenaea paleacea*), Bungwall fern (*Blechnum indicum*), Wallum grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea fulva* or "djaga"), Wallum banksia (*Banksia aemula*), Wild parsnip (*Trachymene incisa*) and the lovely reddish-green herb *Velleia spathulata*.

Kerry shared some detailed knowledge of the traditional uses of native plants such as the acacia (with its distinctive trunk and roots in the shape of a '7'). These were useful for making boomerangs ("bar'gan"). The bark of the melaleuca ("nambur") was handy for quickly making a temporary canoe ("gun'doo") to help with fishing ("un'dia" or "madjim"/fish), food harvesting or getting about. Fire was always on hand, and Traditional People used firestick ("gira-djoonga") farming or mosaic burning to extend native pastures ("birun" or "baan") for kangaroo ("mari") and emu ("ngurooin").

The significance of the Bungwall fern was described by Kerry. Food grinding implements or stone tools found in many artefact collections had been used to grind up tubers. The local coastal area ("bukkan") has many sites with kitchen middens or Aboriginal shell middens. These sites attest to past days of prolific shellfish ("ngu'rung"), oysters ("dhi'bir"), pippis, sand and mud crab ("nal'vor" or "madjim"), mudwelks, mangrove snails and the abundance ("mimburi") of marine and birdlife used, enjoyed and sustained by Aboriginal People for millennia. The Maroochy River floodplains may hold some of the most extensive complexes of shell middens in Queensland. So prolific were resources and food for Traditional People in the past there was no need for a 'nomadic' life and clans lived a very settled life along the Sunshine Coast.



The walk finished its circuit with an unavoidable wade through the water table ("djigumbee" for swamp), topped up by recent rain, and some of the wallum or acid frogs ("gungan" or "warba") made themselves heard. The combination of plant enthusiasts and Traditional Owners made for a very educational and enlightening afternoon. Thanks to Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, Tony Gibson, Silva Maki-Neste, Kerry Jones, Sean Fleischfresser, Loretta Algar, Laurie Jones, Bowdean Jones, and the organisers and staff of Sunshine Coast Council for helping to make such events available. We are all looking forward to next year's Wildflower Festival ("guana wandiny").

Richmond Birdwing Butterflies – coming to a forest near you!

Jan Crossland

Richmond birdwing butterflies were once a common sight around Coolum Beach until much of the coastal rainforest containing their food plants was cleared for urban development. Although there have been occasional, unconfirmed sightings of the butterfly, for example on the beach near Mudjimba (heading towards Mudjimba Island) and in the Fauna Terrace area of Coolum in remnant rainforest, it was recognised that action needed to be taken to increase their numbers to encourage their expansion back to their former range.



The best way to do this is to replant food plants used by both the butterfly and its caterpillars. The Richmond birdwing butterfly vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*), on which the butterfly lays her eggs and the only species of plant on which the caterpillars feed, has been propagated at Coolum Community Native Nursery for several years. There are also a number of large mature vines around Coolum that occur naturally or were planted several years ago with the support of the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN), an organisation dedicated to the recovery of this threatened species.

This year sales of the vine have been slow but steady as local residents learn about the plant and its value to the butterfly. The butterfly featured in the SCC-supported, family-oriented Eco-Discovery "Bugs, Bees and Butterflies" workshop on 10 August and also a "Bees and Butterflies" workshop held on 6 September, funded by LandCare Australia and aimed at adult gardeners. Numerous vines and other butterfly food plants were taken home for planting after these workshops.



In addition to these initiatives, an application in February to the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund for funding to publicise, purchase and plant butterfly vines was successful, allowing the expansion of this project. On Sunday 7 September, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care members joined with residents of Bli Bli to plant the vines on public and private land in Bli Bli. In the quest to extend their range from Buderim and Yandina through to Coolum, Bli Bli was considered a staging point for the Richmond birdwing butterflies. Organised by Jan Crossland, a member of RBCN and the Sunshine Coast coordinator for the recovery effort, 120 vines were planted at two sites at Bli Bli and more will be planted when conditions are suitable.

One day we'll again see these beautiful green butterflies regularly around Coolum.

Heron's Weedos

Estelle Blair

For a third successive year, members of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care travelled to Heron island for the week 16-22 August to take part in the "Friends of Heron Island" weeding program. Four volunteer groups per year participate in the program between May and September, to remove weeds from this beautiful island in the Capricornia Group off Gladstone. In return, they receive free passage on Heron Island Resort's ferry and accommodation in a QPWS house within the national park.



The Weedos worked for four hours per day, targeting painted spurge, crows foot grass, nightshades and several other common weeds that have found their way onto the island, often on supplies or building materials, but also on shoes! The weeds had grown well due to rainy weather well into winter, and we had chilly showery weather while we were there. However, by the time we left, the island was looking much more 'natural' and the equivalent of about three skip bins of weeds were ready to be taken back to the mainland.

But it was not all hard work. After we finished for the day, there was bird watching, reef walking, snorkelling, paddle-boarding and, through the Resort, fishing and diving. The Resort also had a very interesting activities program which included star gazing and presentations on coral, birdlife and sharks, and we were welcome to join in. This year was better than ever, with our very own Resort Chef, Lutz, joining our party and spoiling us with superb Hungarian Goulash and Blueberry Cheesecake, but Tony and Gay's, and Jon and Sue's lasagne and casseroles gave some competition. The QPWS house was perfect for our needs and Lutz again provided much of the nightly entertainment with a projector and computer downloads of popular and interesting documentaries.





When QPWS Rangers called in to review our progress, they told us that 20 years ago, Heron Island was a carpet of red from painted spurge. Since then, with the persistence of the weeding groups, the dreaded spurge has been gradually contained to small, discrete patches – in much the same areas as we found them last year. Volunteers can make such a difference because of their ability to do regular maintenance weeding over extended periods of time. Tony is exploring the possibility of establishing a similar program with local QPWS staff for Maroochy Conservation Park, hopefully drawing volunteers from all over Queensland. Who wouldn't want to come to the Sunny Coast for a week? Watch this space.

Thanks to the team for the photographs.

Moving a Mulch Mountain

Lineise Norrish

In August the Watercourse Warriors were the recipients of a mountain of mulch donated by Council's Paul Tarrant, whose team had been lopping trees in the caravan park. For two mornings a week since that time, the Warriors have been wheelbarrowing the mulch and spreading it on the western side of the watercourse, starting in the Lions Park and steadily working our way along the 500 metres toward Stumers Creek Road. On Thursday September 11 three of the team members began spreading the mulch at the rear of the park with the aim of mulching the botanical gardens section of the project.



It was anticipated that the mulching operation would be completed by September 18, when the Warriors return to attacking the asparagus fern and other feral invaders on the north side of Stumers Creek Road. The Warriors work Mondays and Thursdays from 8.30-11.00am and we welcome new recruits. Currently there are ten members, though participation is not always at full strength owing to the paid work commitments, and occasional ill health, of some of our dedicated team.

Bursting the helium balloon bubble

Susan Richards

Next time you take a walk at your local beach, have a look at what has been washed ashore along the high tide line. Quite often after storms or onshore winds, we find balloon pieces that have washed ashore.



The Sunshine Coast Council has prohibited the intentional release of helium balloons into the atmosphere, and for good reason. Released balloons have been known to land hundreds of kilometres from where they were released. When helium balloons are released into the environment, they can rise to a height of up to 8km before fracturing into long strands of tentacle like structures like those in the photos. The resulting debris looks a lot like squid or jellyfish and it is thought that sea turtles can mistake balloons for food, as they are mainly visual feeders.

Ingestion studies in green and hawksbill sea turtles have indicated that balloon ingestion appears to be more common in younger juvenile sea turtles (those with a shell length of under 35cm), although larger sea turtles are also affected. The very

young turtles are in the pelagic phase of their life - as they grow they live and feed mainly on the ocean's surface and they drift with the currents. Feeding at or near the ocean surface often means they are living alongside significant amounts of floating debris. This contrasts with slightly bigger juvenile sea turtles (shell length over 35cm) who have returned to coastal near shore environments to feed. In general their coastal feeding location seems to correlate with a slightly lower exposure to marine debris.

Interestingly, balloon debris makes up a very small proportion of the rubbish located during beach litter surveys. Balloon debris makes up about 0.7% of the rubbish collected (according to international marine debris studies over the last 25 years). However, ingestion studies have shown that the young pelagic turtles in particular are far more likely to ingest balloons, rubber or hard plastics over all other types of debris while the coastal feeding turtles are more likely to ingest soft plastics, although balloon ingestion also occurs on a less frequent basis. ***This seems to suggest that while balloons only make up a small fraction of the available marine debris, juvenile turtles are finding balloons in the marine environment and selecting them to eat.***

When a turtle ingests plastic or rubber, this can be fatal as the ingested objects cause a blockage in the intestinal tract which results in a build up of gas under the shell. Once this occurs, the turtle is unable to dive for food and will slowly starve to death on the ocean surface. This known as "floating syndrome" and rehabilitation success for turtles with this condition is variable. In seabirds such as flesh-footed shearwaters, ingested plastic (such as hard plastic balloon ties and bottle tops) is ingested by the parent birds at sea and then fed to their chicks. This means that the parent birds don't absorb sufficient nutrients to feed their chicks and the chicks either starve from insufficient food or they absorb contaminants (such as heavy metals) from the ingested items. This affects their growth rate and ability to survive to adulthood.

So the humble helium balloon unfortunately causes much suffering if it is released into the marine environment. If you see balloon fragments of any size on the beach, please pick them up and put them in the bin. If the balloon has a company logo or name which can clearly be identified, take a photo of the balloon and email the photo to the company. It's only by reporting clearly identifiable litter back to the source that change can be effected. I have a letter template kindly provided to me by Tangaroa Blue Foundation for the very purpose of reporting identifiable balloon litter to a company, so please ask if you would like this template. And above all, ask your family, friends, work colleagues and acquaintances to never release helium balloons!



Welcoming our newest business supporter

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care greatly appreciates the support it receives from a wide range of local businesses, including graphic design, printing and computing support, providing sales outlets for our calendar, catering and generous donations.

A new initiative proposed by Steve Lane and Cara de Ryk from R&W Coolum Beach has potential to enable a fun art event for children to design beach signs for dune protection. As well as other proposals, they have also offered to include CaNSCC and Coolum Community Native Nursery information, including a gift voucher, in their New Owners welcome packs. Look for updates in future newsletters.

Also worth noting is that Coolum LiveLife Pharmacy has a "Live Life rewards" program that will credit points to CaNSCC if you specify the organisation as the recipient of the points. Currently most of the replacement first aid items for our kits is being paid for by these points. If you do not want the points for your own use, members are encouraged to nominate CaNSCC as the recipient.

DATE CLAIMERS

| Event | Date | Place | Details |
|---|-------------|--|--|
| "Circle of Solidarity" Yaroomba | 25 October | Birrahl Park Yaroomba | Details to follow. Tentatively 3.30pm. |
| Surfrider Foundation Ecochallenge | 9 November | Kawana SLSC | 7am to 7pm. Diane Goodwillie is speaking. Details to follow |
| "Celebrate Yaroomba" morning | 16 November | Birrahl Park Yaroomba | Fun cultural morning event. Coast Care will have a stall. |
| North Shore Community Centre Christmas Market | 29 November | North Shore Community Centre | Market and Geckos Wildlife show. Tony Gibson will have a Coast Care stall. |
| CaNS CC Christmas Party | 4 December | Leigh's home, 19 Yerranya Row Yaroomba | Commencing after the final monthly meeting (from about 16.00 to about 21.00) |

EMERGING ISSUES

As our President has stated on the front page, our Objects of Incorporation include to protect and conserve the natural values of our coastal area between South Peregian and the Maroochy River, and the CDCCG Strategic Plan 2014-2016 (see <http://coolumcoastcare.org.au/about/policies/> - KRA6) includes advocacy to assist meeting this goal. Two areas of current concern are the proposed high rise development adjacent to the dunes on Yaroomba Beach which, if it proceeds, will significantly impact on wildlife and turtle nesting, and the proposed expansion of Sunshine Coast Airport, across coastal wallum and threatened species habitat.

There will be ongoing activities proposed to highlight concerns with over development at Yaroomba. Members are encouraged to participate peacefully and respectfully in these activities.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed airport expansion is on public exhibition from 29 September to 13 November. Members are encouraged to view the documents at www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/SCAexpansion and consider what impacts the development may have on the surrounding environment. There is an online submission facility on the website.



| 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/Yerranya Dunes Silva - (07) 5446 5549 | Marcoola North Dune Care Alan Hayes - 0419 526 347 |
| Mudjimba Dune Care and Bush Care Helen - (07) 5448 9604 | Town of Seaside/Boardwalk Luke - 0428 853 188 | Twin Waters Dune Protection Group Sue - 0402 113 375 twinwatersduneprotectiongroup@hotmail.com |

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|  | 157 Warran Rd, Yaroomba Qld 4573 Ph 07 5473 9322 info@coolumnatives.com www.coolumnatives.com | Tues-Fri 7:30am – 3:30pm Sat 8:30am – 12:30pm Rory White & Ben Pearce |
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This newsletter has been produced with the support of all Coolum District Coast Care Group members and

