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JETSAM

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Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



Instead of a gentle wind-down to the Christmas break after the hectic schedule of Eco Discovery, the Bees and Butterflies seminar and other midyear activities, this year we seem to have continued non-stop to the end of the year. In this Newsletter, we report on several diverse activities, including Council's "Tour of Success" and a "postcard from Cairns". Our regular restoration groups have continued apace, and the turtle season is in full swing. Hopefully all members can take a break over Christmas to relax and enjoy family time.

From the President's desk

As the year draws to a close, I have been reflecting on the activities of the group. CaNSCC continues to diversify and grow every year with 2014 being yet another amazing and successful year!

The activities CaNSCC undertakes to protect and conserve the local environment continue to rapidly diversify and expand and continue to achieve great results. As a result, our group is greatly respected within the wider community and is testament to the practical on ground actions of likeminded individuals, even if it is in a somewhat organic, chaotic fashion. The new trading name and logo, while being a somewhat painful process, serves to better encompass the scope of our activities and has been a team effort. Thanks to all involved.

I would like to extend a **huge** thank you to CaNSCC volunteers, supporters and associates for your ongoing commitment to preserving the natural environment of Coolum and North Shore area in 2014. Thanks must also go to Ashley and Nadia for their help and support over the year.

I hope you all have a safe and joyous festive season, may the weeds wither and the turtles lay lots of eggs! While 2015 has the potential to be a year of challenges, as a group we can continue make a positive difference.

Members enjoying themselves at Coolum and North Shore Coast Care's Christmas party, 4 December 2014 (photos Diane Goodwillie)



Native Wildlife Show

Tony Gibson

As part of the festivities at the North Shore Christmas Market (Saturday 29 November), Coolum and North Shore Coast Care organised Geckos Wildlife to provide a show. A barn owl, tawny frogmouth, snakes, turtles, a croc, a glider and a bandicoot were some of the favourites for the children and adults who turned up for the show.

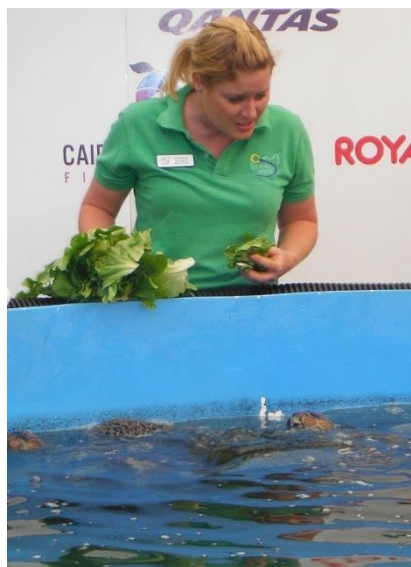
Sunshine Coast Council sponsored the event and provided lots of handouts for the Coast Care volunteers to have conversations on our rich native fauna and flora here on the Sunshine Coast.

The extensive knowledge of some of the young children who attended the show was quite remarkable. Everyone enjoyed getting up close to the wildlife.



Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Facility

Susan Richards



While I was on holiday in North Queensland in October, I had the opportunity to visit the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Facility. They have two premises. The one on the mainland in Cairns is essentially their turtle intensive care unit where the turtles are taken for vet treatment. When they have recovered a bit of condition they are taken to another facility on Fitzroy Island where they stay until they are released. The facility generally gets juvenile and sub adult green turtles, olive ridley turtles and hawksbill turtles. They have treated more than 400 turtles so far and the facilities are mainly staffed by volunteers.

At the Fitzroy Island centre they had a post hatchling hawksbill which had been there about a year, a large live olive ridley with a head injury which had also been there over 12 months and various juvenile green and hawksbill turtles which were growing new scales on their shells - very interesting. The post hatchling hawksbill had a carapace of about 30cm and looked just like the small hawkies we see on the Sunshine Coast, so it's possible we are getting one- or two-year-old hawksbills here.

The staff mentioned that hawksbills seem to cope less favourably with any sort of handling stress than the greens, and that they are careful to cover the eyes of any turtle they rescue and transport. They said in the rehab area that hawkies did not seem to rehab well and could easily go off their food for a week over a slight change such as a different volunteer approaching their tank, while the greens in general seemed more curious and better able to cope with stress. These observations could be useful for us in dealing with our live turtle strandings.

Another interesting thing is that, because they don't really see nesting turtles in the immediate Cairns area, the volunteers from Cairns Turtle Rehab Centre have never been to Mon Repos for training. They get hands-on training in rehab instead, as it is run by a qualified vet and marine biologist. The turtle talks given to resort guests on Fitzroy Island are all done by volunteers - they are 45 minute talks and they include a lot of information. I gave them one of our Coast Care business cards and had quite a long chat to the various volunteers there. They also mentioned that they have successfully treated fibropapilloma cases but I am unsure what the treatment plan involves – something to investigate further when time permits.



Fox Control Program in our Region

Edwin Hammet

After being planned for several months, on 13 November Darcy Murray, Sunshine Coast Council Feral Animal Officer and Les Donald of QPWS held a meeting at Mudjimba Community Centre to inform interested community members about the proposed Fox Control project for the Sunshine Coast. The aim of this program is to 'reduce', rather than 'remove', the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in the coastal area. This will improve the region's biodiversity, as foxes are a real threat to our local fauna, including ground-dwelling birds and turtle nests.

Les covered some of the background to the Control Project. It is worth noting that whilst both organisations were undertaking 'control' measures in the past, a 'Turtles in Trouble' grant obtained by Coolum and North Shore Coast Care in 2011 (turtle nests are vulnerable to fox predation) brought together the organisations in a coordinated effort. Since that time, a number of den locating surveys have been taken, the result of which has been the compilation of a set of detailed maps that 'locate' 300 known dens in the area from Sunrise Beach to the north of the Maroochy River.

Darcy talked about fox ecology. Some salient points were:

- they are solitary animals with a life span of 2-3 years
- they have stable defined territories
- pairs share cub raising
- old dens are cleared out and re-used
- vixens will relocate their cubs if a den is disturbed.

They are scavengers and opportunistic predators.

Taken in/near to Mt Coolum National Park. "This is what a den may look like" (Photo: Silva Maki-Neste)



The intent of this meeting was to involve the community so that an effective abatement program could be undertaken. The essentials of this involvement are den location and reporting, and 'adopting a den' (that is, monitoring den activity). At this point quite a few of our members have jumped on board. If you wish to participate, contact me (**Edwin**) on **5446 4757** and I will let you know the details.

An added bonus was that the group was treated to a brief talk by Nina Kaluza, who has been researching and monitoring the nocturnal Water Mouse (listed as vulnerable) on the Sunshine Coast. Of course foxes are one of the threats faced by this little mouse. Nina is soon to publish a new research paper.

Sunshine Coast Council's 'Tour of Success' Bus Trip

Diane Goodwillie



On 19 November, about 25 community volunteers from the Sunshine Coast visited three sites on Council's 'Tour of Success', an initiative to showcase some demonstrably successful restoration projects undertaken by volunteers.

First stop was at Point Arkwright where we learned from Edwin and Silva about dunal planting and restoration. While making a half hour walk on the dunes and trails, folks from Council's Community Conservation Program were able to see two quite contrasting vegetation zones; namely the rocky headland and the ocean dunal system. Both of these situations are quite harsh conditions for flora. The local wildlife (two water dragons on the cliff) put in an appearance and after smoko, we were off to Mary Cairncross Park for lunch and a quick look at their park.

The last stop on the trip was in Montville at the Russell Family Park where we discovered a hidden garden with thousands of plants established and starting to create a rainforest parallel to the main road just behind the shops and the Waterwheel. Who would know that there is a quiet set of ponds and a rainforest which is attracting new birds, frogs and wildlife.



Thanks to Sunshine Coast Council for this pleasant day out.

Yaroomba Celebration Day

Estelle Blair and Fiona Henshaw

Hundreds braved the 40 degree heat on Sunday 16 November to join in Yaroomba Celebration Day at Andrew Street Park Point Arkwright. Patrons included both locals and visitors to the area, with many taking the opportunity to cool off in the surf and admire the kites at nearby Yaroomba Beach.

The official start to the day began with "Welcome To Country" from well-respected descendant of the local Gubbi Gubbi / Kabi Kabi people (Traditional Custodians), Lyndon Davis.



A number of talks and stories from local and visiting speakers followed. To support the cultural theme, Gamilaroi man and cultural teacher Peter "*Muraay Djeripi*" Mulcahy and Gamilaroi Wiradjuri woman Sharron "*Mirii*" Lindh actively engaged attendees with Aboriginal creation stories.

Leigh Warneminde presented an insightful view into the history of Yaroomba and Sherida Holford presented her always-interesting talk on turtles. For the amateur astronomers, a rare opportunity was provided to view the sun (safely) and the moon through telescopes thanks to Mapleton Observatory. The morning finished with live music from local and popular band OKA, who took time out of their hectic schedule to celebrate with us.

Fifteen stalls provided attendees with environmental and community displays, opportunities to purchase CCNN plants and some unique creations, and a variety of food including pork rolls, bush foods prepared by *Ka'lang'wel'binja*, and CaNSCC's own sausage sandwiches.



Youngsters were drawn to the children's activity area coordinated by Diane Goodwillie and featured face-painting, nature-based games and a natural history display provided and staffed by Noosa Library.

Organisers were very thankful to all participants, who left the park in a spotless condition once the event finished. Altogether there were about 30 volunteers, including 25 from Coast Care who gave over 145 hours of their time. Thanks to the extremely generous support from local business, almost all requirements were donated, and CaNSCC took home a small but welcome contribution to funds for next year's community awareness program.

Thanks to Diane Goodwillie for the photos.

An Interesting Find

Betty Sykes and Rosa Sorenson



Recently we found this lovely little orchid, the Leafy Elbow Orchid or Hammer Orchid (*Arthrochilus irritabilis*), growing locally in a sandy wallum area. It can also be found in seasonally wet areas or in sandy soils under eucalypt forests. Yes, it is very small and if Betty hadn't been sitting on the ground, we would never have seen it!

The plants survive over winter as dormant underground tubers, then with the first soaking rains they initially develop a flower spike 5-35cm tall. The delicate flowers are usually greenish or yellow and each has an insect-like callus (the hairy black bit) on the labellum. The flower is pollinated by male wasps which are attracted to this callus by odours. The wasp grasps the callus on the labellum and attempts to fly off with it which causes the moveable labellum to pivot on its hinge, trapping the insect against the column below and so pollinating the flower. You can see the top two flowers still have the "hammer" or callus curved back over the flower, whereas the lower left flower has been "triggered" by a wasp landing on it. The plants can also reproduce 'vegetatively' by the tubers multiplying to form colonies.



As soon as, or just after, the flower spike has borne its fruit and shrivelled, the rosette of leaves begins to grow. These could easily be confused with some of the annual weeds that grow in our more 'casual' gardens. Although its status under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act* is "least concern", as more and more of our wallum areas are developed, it will become rarer, so keeping 'wallum' patches in damp sandy coastal gardens could soon be their last refuge outside of national parks.

Maroochy River Mangrove Nursery and Revegetation Project

Operated by Traditional Owners

(edited extract first published by Kristy Muir, Editor, for the *Maroochy Weekly*, 20 November 2014)

Kabi Kabi man Kerry Jones and his family have been working behind the scenes for about 10 years to rehabilitate the banks of the Maroochy River with fellow conservationists. He said the mangroves are the "most important tree" on the river because of their filtration properties and ability to stop erosion. Mangroves are also the habitat of many mammals including flying foxes and possums.

Most of the revegetation sites along the Maroochy Estuary are within the Queensland Government's (Fisheries) management areas, referred to as Fish Habitat A or B, especially managed and protected as valuable fish habitat areas. "If you didn't have the mangrove there would be no fish in the river either," Mr Jones said. "That is why we are planting mangroves along the banks."



Kerry and his family (photo, from left – Arnold and Laurie Jones and Sean Fresser) have been planting out a section riverbank near Dunethin Rock, as part of the rehabilitation works with Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation. Mr Jones said "We are starting to see more people (land owners) get involved in rehabilitation (works)". He said not only was this beneficial to the environment, but it also stopped their land from eroding too.

In the Maroochy River, recreational boaties not abiding by the signed speed limits were the main cause of mangrove destruction. "The 'boat wash' hits up against the bank and erodes it," Mr Jones said. "Speed limits are there for a reason. Everyone wants to use the river, so they need to look after it. You need to abide by the speed zones."

The mangrove seedlings planted along the river are grown at the Traditional Owner-run Maroochy River Mangrove Nursery, which started in 2009 in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council (SCC), to help do work under the Maroochy River Recovery Initiative by SCC. The nursery is based at the 'Old Place' (Lot 71) on the South Sea Islander Land between David Low Way Bridge Bli Bli and the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary.

Seeds of four mangrove species were collected and propagated: the Grey Mangrove in winter and the River, Orange and Yellow/Stilted Mangroves over summer. Mangroves did not always have a good success rate after planting, but recently they had been seeing only a 10% loss. Kerry has also found that many activities associated with the mangrove revegetation have uncovered artefact sites and stories from landholders close by.



There have been three lots of sponsorship over the last five years: the council, SEQ Catchments and Maroochy Landcare, and now the Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment grant (2013-2014) for the planting out and monitoring of about 1600 mangrove seedlings. "We are very appreciative of the support by the Queensland Government Everyone's Environment grant, Sunshine Coast Council, Maroochy Landcare, SEQ Catchments, Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, Bli Bli, Queensland Government and Fisheries (for our mangrove works/nursery permit), as well as the Descendants of Australian South Sea Islanders Group" said Mr Jones. "As members get known through the Mangrove Nursery Project, we hope to see new opportunities to work with groups like the Maroochy Wetlands".

Thanks to Genevieve Jones for supplying the original article.

Business Support

The level of business support for Coolum and North Shore Coast Care activities was highlighted recently with the amount of donations of time and goods for Yaroomba Celebration Day, including major items like Ray Barber Lawyers donation of first prize, Mitre 10's donation of a pressure cleaner as second prize, and hampers from Good Harvest and IGA and vouchers from the C@f for the raffle; Mt Coolum Meats and Mt Coolum Hot Bread for the ingredients for our sausage sizzle; Allcott Hire for the generator; PPS Productions for the PA system, and All Skips for waste management. To receive this level of support was quite humbling.

The Executive is extremely grateful for the support it receives from a wide range of local businesses, including donated goods and time, graphic design, printing and computing support. The calendar sales outlets, for no charge

to Coast Care but for considerably more work for themselves, have ensured that we have just about sold out of an increased print run. This effort is greatly appreciated.

Steve Lane and Cara de Ryk from R&W Coolum Beach have distributed vouchers with their Christmas cards this year, for recipients to obtain plants from Coolum Community Native Nursery. This has the benefit of publicising the nursery to the general community and encouraging more native plants in gardens. We hope it will be a successful initiative.

Coolum LiveLife Pharmacy through their "Live Life rewards" program has supplied replacement first aid items for our field kits, which are now fully stocked. If you do not want the points for your own use, members are encouraged to nominate CaNSCC as the recipient.

ISSUES

Two areas of current concern which were highlighted in the September newsletter 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. Unfortunately these are unlikely to 'go away' in the short term.

Because Sunshine Coast Council deferred its discussion on proposed amendments to the Town Plan until early 2015, it is likely in the New Year that 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.



Weekly Dunal Regeneration and Bush Care Groups		
Stumers Dunes Birte - 0403 752955	Lions Park Watercourse Lineise - (07) 5446 5116 lineise5@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

Please note that all dunal and bush care groups are now taking a well-earned break until early February 2015. The first combined Group activity will be on Thursday 5 February 2015. Check the website www.coolumcoastcare.org.au in late January for details of the time and place for the get-together.

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

