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JETSAM

Issue 14 - March 2015

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



Well, it's already the end of March and Easter is upon us. Where has the year gone? And as always, CoastCarers have been busy! In this Newsletter, we focus on Marcoola and Twin Waters activities as well as some interesting history and intriguing plants. Our regular restoration groups have recommenced activities, and there seems an endless line of requests for speakers, either for schools or for adult seminars. Coolum and North Shore Coast Care continues to deliver the goods, as can be seen in the following stories.

From the President's couch

The New Year is well and truly under way for CaNS CC volunteers with a range of activities already in full swing.

- Turtle nesting is in full swing with 25 marine turtle nests being monitored. The hatchlings have started to emerge. Several of the nests were relocated to safer locations which has proved very timely with the beaches suffering considerable erosion as I type this article.
- Weeding and Revegetation groups are back in full swing despite the heat and absence of rain. Please remember to weed in the shade on hotter days and stay hydrated. I have first aid supplies and sharps kits if anyone needs to replenish their kits.
- The 2015 Calendar has been a sell-out success with planning underway for the 2016 version so there is no time to put away the camera. The theme will be patterns and textures in nature - can't wait to see what the collective effort will bring
- Eco Discovery workshop planning is underway.
- Coolum Community Native Nursery is brimming with healthy plants
- Marine debris surveys continue monthly
- Several members are undertaking a jellyfish survey, as part of research by Associate Professor Kylie Pitt from Australian Rivers Institute - Coast & Estuaries at Griffith University. Kylie will be coming to talk to us in May about the research project she is undertaking
- Nesting boxes have now been installed- information of where they are will be forthcoming
- There have been several speaking commitments undertaken by various members.

The snap shot of just some of astounding work under the banner of CaNS CC is testament to the volunteer passion and dedication of our merry band of volunteers and is cause for celebration. At the end of our financial year (April to March) we have over 150 members. This will change as membership fees are due but we can bask in the glory for now.

National Tree Day 2014 at Marcoola Beach – Six months on

Alan Hayes

In March 2013 a combination of king tides, rough seas and rain left stretches along the Sunshine Coast with severe erosion. Some of the worst affected pockets were from just north of the Marcoola Surf Club to Mudjimba, with areas such as immediately to the south of the Marcoola Surf Club suffering up to six metres of foredune loss and significant coffee rock exposure. While lesser affected and less trafficked areas quickly accreted sand and progressively restored strandline ground cover growth following the event, the worst affected and more heavily trafficked areas were considerably slower to recover.

Such was the concern regarding depletion of the stretch just south of the Surf Club, and the potential for further damage resulting from the upcoming summer holiday season, that the Marcoola Progress Association, in conjunction with a discretionary grant from Councillor Jason O'Pray, funded and installed some 600 metres of temporary fencing to protect the slowly recovering foredunes from any current and future human traffic. Once installed, Council's Conservation team led by Mike Gilles then agreed to the organisation and funding of a National Tree Day event to plant out dunal ground cover plants in an effort to accelerate the strandline repair process.



Hence, for CaNS CC members and the general public, the 2014 National Tree Day was held at Marcoola Beach and conducted in conjunction with an Eco Discovery Adventure day for children and their parents.

Nearly 180 Coast Care volunteers and members of the public registered for the planting day, with an unknown number joining in off the beach. A further 60 or more children registered for the Eco Discovery day and, together with their parents and friends, helped swell the overall number to around the 300 mark. In 2 ½ hours in beautiful sunshine this small army planted out over 4400 native dunal plants (predominantly Beach Spinifex, Goats Foot Convolvulus and Pig Face) with the most pleasing aspect being that at least half of those participating were children.

Six months on, and despite a shortage of rainfall in the period up until the New Year, the combination of protective fencing and strategic planting has resulted in a remarkable improvement in both fore dune integrity and ground cover on the strandline zone. Immediately south, however, in the same eroded stretch not protected by either fencing or planting out, the fore dune continues to struggle to both hold accreted sand and generate significant ground cover.



Recently, the Marcoola Progress Association (now the Marcoola Community Group), resolved to extend the fencing along this stretch of beach via a further dollar-for-dollar discretionary grant from Cr O'Pray. The targeted stretch is illustrated in the right hand side photograph.

'Cleaning up' our beaches

Estelle Blair

In spite of a stormy threatening day, 25 people participated in CaNS CC's 'Healthy Banks Healthy Waters' event for Connect to your Creek Week, on 22 March, coincidentally World Water Day. This year we decided to 'go south' for the creek event, to the 'Black Bank' area of the Maroochy River at the Nojoor Road boat ramp, to paddle and walk through the mangroves and salt flats, enjoying the scenery and picking up any rubbish along the way. It was a pleasure to be accompanied by our members from the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners. [See the next story for some history and traditional uses of this interesting area.] Several members of the public also joined in. Surprisingly, it stayed fine for the morning, while the overcast sky kept the temperature cool and sunburn at bay.



Although superficially the one kilometre stretch of shoreline looked reasonably clean, the group collected over 14 bags of rubbish, mainly plastics, but also larger debris such as the remains of a plastic chair, a plywood benchtop, and the side curtain from a speedboat canopy! Along the way we also saw some interesting birds including a White-bellied Sea-eagle, Cormorants, Pied Oystercatchers and Whimbrels. The productivity of the area was very well illustrated by the number of small fish and mud crabs (and one very large one - see story below) we saw in the shallows and amongst the mangrove roots.

Coolum and Mudjimba beaches, and the 'Clean-up Australia' event on 1 March centred on Marcoola. Susan Richards' marine debris survey group continues their 'beach clean-up' once a month at four beaches from Marcus Beach to First Bay Coolum. Susan and the team sort and analyse the results and forward the data to Dr Kathy Townsend, for Kathy's University of Queensland research project. Data analysis for this project will soon also be sent to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, coordinated by Tangaroa Blue, as part of CaNS CC's successful 'Everyone's Environment' grant.

As reported in Newsletter No. 12 (September) last year, CaNS CC also advocates against the use of balloons as a marketing tool and has written several letters in the last few months to those distributors whose contact details have been 'thoughtfully' printed on the fragments of balloons that have been found on the beach. If you find any of these with recognisable promotional branding, please email Susan on susanrich10@gmail.com (or Estelle on info@coolumcoastcare.org.au) with a photograph clearly showing the branding and details of where and when it was found, and we will follow it up.



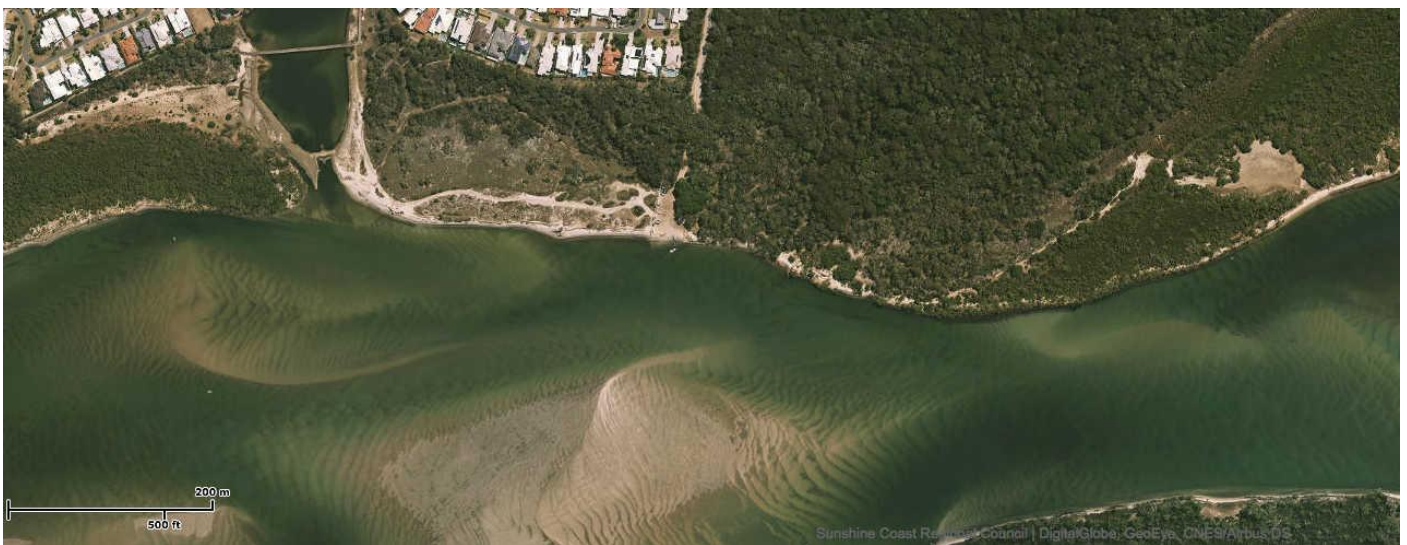
[Thanks to Diane Goodwillie and Leigh Warneminde for the photos]

Black Bank, Twin Waters

An 'Old Aboriginal Settlement' on the Maroochy Estuary

Arnold Jones, Helen Jones, Kerry Jones, Bridgette Davis, Sean Fleischfresser, Anne Miller, Torrie Corrie & Genevieve Jones

One of the most adverse times dealt with by humanity on this island continent has been described in the most recent book by long-time historian, Geoffrey Blainey, *The story of Australia's People – the rise and fall of ancient Australia*. Around 17,000 BP the world experienced rising sea levels and hundreds of Aboriginal settlements would have been inundated and displaced. The observation of such events would have led to the creation of many legends about submerging landscapes, including that of the Maroochy River, Mount Coolum and Ninderry and Mudjimba Island, and others like the Glasshouse Mountains. The following offers a brief insight into one such local traditional community.



Recently an Aboriginal site was recorded with the Queensland Government's Cultural Heritage Unit for the area known as Black Bank, an area including the boat ramp found at the end of Nojoor Road at Twin Waters. This locality is historically noted for numerous sites and artefact finds. The road name, Nojoor, could be derived from the word Djur, referring to an earthen circle or ceremonial grounds known to have been traditionally constructed and used in the area. Such sites are usually marked by a special scar-tree that which also have been noted for this locality. Local Traditional Owner, Bridgette Davis, when a child would visit and camp in the area with her grandmother (as did the family members of Arnold Jones and Kerry Jones). Bridgette believes that the shops at Twin Waters have been built over a very significant ceremonial site. This also occurred with the River Market Shops at Bli Bli on the Maroochy.

Back in 1961 the *Nambour Chronicle* interviewed an elderly resident of Maroochydoore who mentioned she often heard the noise of Aboriginal corroborees on the other side of the river opposite her home. Mr Parson, also interviewed in 1961 by the same newspaper stated there was a ceremonial ground or bora ring a little further up from his namesake, 'Parson's Bank', referring to a section in the north bank of the Maroochy River, roughly opposite Picnic Point, across the river. This area may have been later known as Reserve 301. Mr Arthur Beck is reported, some decades ago, as having seen the bora ring ten years before it was destroyed by a grader.

The construction of the canals and the urbanisation of Twin Waters saw the destruction of a very rich Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. Archaeologist Ian McNiven investigated five Aboriginal shell middens or kitchen middens in the area in the late 1980's. The records of the abovementioned ceremonial ground, together with the shell middens, indicate the area was permanently settled, supported by an abundance of estuarine resources. McNiven's work saw over a thousand stone artefacts retrieved from two of the sites, including 40 bevelled pounders. Early accounts for this region saw substantial harvesting of the Bungwall fern (*Blechnum indicum*) that was pounded into a pulp before being baked. The pounders and the remaining stone artefacts were manufactured from arkose, silcrete, quartzite,

andesitic tuff, andesite, sandstone and mudstone. Robin Wells has found at Sunshine Beach in recent times, a food-grinding bowl made from pumice stone.

In McNiven's study of the shell middens, he found by shell weight that the eugarie or common pippi (*Donax deltoids*) were an extremely low weight (ie 0.3%) despite the close proximity to the coast, while the majority of estuarine species included oysters (*Crassostrea commercialis*), cockles (*Anadara trapezia*) and mud whelks (*Velacumantus australia* aka *Batillaria australis*), accounting for 95% of species. The Leaden or Sordid sand snail (*Polinices sordidus*) made up the remainder.

The following is an extract about Aboriginal shell middens and their construction, taken from the Queensland Museum's Network Blog:



For thousands of years, Aboriginal people caught and ate large numbers of shellfish species in and around the mangrove mud flats and coastal areas along the Queensland coast. Often they would cook the meat and use the shells for a number of different purposes, or dispose of the shells in large dumpsites. These dump sites would normally be near where they were camped and eventually form what is called shell middens.

The Aboriginal people would have known when the oysters were at their fattest, the crabs were at their heaviest, the mussels in abundance from reading the seasonal signs around them. A local example is the Hop bush or Oyster bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*), an indicator species known by Aboriginal people, as when the fruits changed to an orange-red colour, the nearby oysters were ready for harvest. These practices are still used today.

Most of the food sources were collected during low tide, as that was the time they were exposed in the mud or sand or attached to rocks and branches of the mangrove trees. Once they were collected they would have been immediately eaten and then discarded in a nearby heap eventually forming into a midden. Every year at the same time the shell midden would grow in size. The Aboriginal people also found uses for the shells and used them for cutting and slicing or decoration.

Shell middens have provided important information and clues for researchers about the Aboriginal people and the environment they lived in. They tell the story of the Aboriginal peoples' diet, food sources for that particular area, what species were available, the impact of biodiversity, environmental changes and marine ecosystems.

(Source: Qld Museum Network Blog; <http://blog.qm.qld.gov.au/2012/10/08/indigenous-science-shell-middens-and-fish-traps/> accessed 17/3/2015).

Always expect the unexpected!

Bowdean Jones shows the muddie that father Kerry caught, using the traditional technique (ie a crab hook or stick) during our recent "Connect to your Creek" outing on the Maroochy River. This technique for catching crabs has been witnessed and described historically by Tom Petrie who worked with local Aboriginal People in the late 1800's. (The Jones family, as Traditional Owners, have the required permits from Qld Fisheries).



[Thanks to Edwin Hammet for the photo]

Hat pins in Keith Royal Park

Betty Sykes and Rosa Sorensen

Recently while we were weeding in the heathy area of Keith Royal Park, we were astonished to see a yellow carpet in an area usually mowed by Council. Because it was so dry over the Christmas period, Council staff had not mowed in Keith Royal Park for several weeks. By the time they arrived in January to check and maintain the grassed areas, there was a large patch of Hat Pins (*Xyris complanata*) in full bloom. Very kindly, they left that section unmown. The yellow carpet of tiny flowers was truly remarkable and we enjoyed the show!

Hat Pins is a tiny tufted sedge-like plant with linear flattened leaves up to 30cm long (though rarely that) and with flower spikes up to 60cm tall (most at Keith Royal Park were 20-40cm). Although each spike consists of several flowers, the flowers develop so that at any one time there is only one brilliant yellow flower open on the spike. The brown scaly seed capsules develop progressively below. The tiny golden brown seeds are like fine sand – a challenge for our nursery propagators, but it would be a lovely addition massed in a 'native garden'. It likes damp conditions – there were several seedling Paperbarked Tea trees growing in the same patch, ready to lose their heads under the mower. In a more protected section of the park there were several grass trigger plants (*Stylidium gramineum*) also flowering. The persistence of nature never ceases to amaze.



A brain teaser...

Continuing on the plant theme...

While admiring his *Allocasuarina emuina* a couple of weeks ago, Edwin Hammet found this curious case of destruction amongst the branches – what do you think caused the ring barking? Was it 'natural' or a bit of 'view-scaping' in operation?

Turn to page 8 for our thoughts....



Thirty-eight Hollow Log Homes installed

Leigh Warneminde

In 2000, the then CDCCG received funding to install 42 nest boxes for a range of animals and birds (micro bats, possums, gliders, kookaburras, parrots etc) in the Coolum area. This was in response to the loss of trees containing hollows due to land clearing. The aim was to provide alternative accommodation to hollow dependent fauna. Alan and Stacy Franks from *Hollow Log Homes* built, installed, audited and reported on the nesting boxes installed at the Coolum State Primary School, Coolum-Yandina Road, Springfield Avenue reserve, Yaroomba BCR, Yinneburra BCR and at Pt Arkwright Road Reserve, which is covered by the CRRAG Deed Of Agreement.



Regular audits of the boxes over the last 15 years have shown that the Springfield Avenue riparian corridor regenerated by Deb Voss and Bev Quinn and their partners is a fauna hot spot with the nest boxes hosting an enviable variety of wild life. Squirrel Gliders and Owlet Night Jars have been observed with the occupancy in the Springfield boxes consistently between 70-90% over the last 10 years. It is habitat restoration success story.

In 2014, CaNS CC received a Community Gambling Benefit Fund Grant, which has enabled repair of existing boxes as well as 38 replacement boxes. Installation sites were chosen after considering data collected from previous monitoring programs as well as suitable habitat between Coolum and Maroochy River.

The design of the boxes targets animals such as small parrots, Feather Tail Gliders, Owlet Night Jar, Possums, Sugar/Squirrel Gliders, Dollar Birds, Wood Ducks, Boobook Owls and Kookaburras. The majority of the new nest boxes have been located in Cassia Wild Life Corridor and Maroochy River Conservation Park. Here is hoping that the new boxes make hollow-dwelling fauna very happy! We will continue to audit the boxes to see who uses them as the years roll on.

Eco Discovery is off and running!

Diane Goodwillie

We're planning another year of Eco Discoveries for children, their families and volunteers. This year we'll take on different subjects and link up with other conservation groups in the area. We're not yet set up for registrations but keep these dates in mind and watch our website. It's a great day out for the whole family and a good way for grandparents to introduce their kids to our area.

June 14: Rock Detectives - bring an interesting rock and learn about volcanoes, crystals and our coast

July/August (date to be decided): Mudcrabs and Mangroves - What grows in wetlands, why mangroves are important

August 23: Plant Heroes - Aboriginal stories of special local plants and a chance to do some potting at our native nursery, plus take home a free plant

September 13: High Fliers- Birds and Bats - Examine the flying fox colony at the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre on Wallace Road and look for birds

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Liz Diggle, Bob Tooth (geologist) and Diane planning for June

Edwin's Brainteaser continued...

After a couple of hours on 'Google' we came up with an answer – bark and wood damaging insects. These can be longicorn beetles, weevils or jewel or bark beetles. These insects 'girdle' or ring bark small twigs or saplings. Sometimes the damage is done by larvae feeding under the bark, at other times adult insects may girdle the twigs to provide suitable food and habitat for developing the larvae. Eggs are laid in the bark. This type of insect damage has been reported in both native species (eucalypts and *Callitris* among others) and also in orchards – the photo is of a longicorn beetle on a pecan twig.



That's only our best guess – we'd love to hear from members who have more information or another theory!

ISSUES

As predicted, the two issues mentioned in the last two newsletters (the proposed high rise development at Yaroomba and the proposed new runway for Sunshine Coast Airport) have not 'gone away'. Although there is little to report on the Airport proposal, Sekisui House's community consultation results are being circulated in the media, presumably as a forerunner to a release of a possibly modified proposal, for which Council had set a deadline of 31 March. Council is expected to debate the proposal and the request to amend the Town Plan, on 27 April. We encourage members to write to the Councillors if you are concerned with such a significant and controversial change to the Town Plan.

DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
Deadline for calendar photos	16 May		Please send files larger than 1Mb to info@coolumcoastcare.org.au in the first instance.
Eco Discovery	14 June	Andrew Street Park, Point Arkwright	This will be a morning to discover and learn about rocks. Registration details to follow

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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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 and North Shore Coast Care members and



