



# JETSAM

Issue 15 - June 2015

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



*In this issue we report on the upcoming National Tree Day and wildflower festival, Eco Discovery's first workshop and other events arranged by Coast Care. Our regular restoration groups are working hard with the arrival of cooler weather, and works being paid for by our "Everyone's Environment" grant have commenced. We hope you enjoy the read!*

## *From the President's dining room table - I've moved from the couch!*

Winter is upon us and while the weather has warmed up after a few chilly Autumn days, the rain is very welcome.

It is with sadness that I report our founding member and Treasurer/Book keeper has resigned. Janette Wallis was the original creator of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care. Janette instigated both the "Our Locals Are Beauties" brochure and the Rocky Foreshore survey and brochure through funding in 1999. At the time Coolum District Coast Care Group was unincorporated. Coolum Residents Association and Pt Arkwright Environment and Residents Association graciously sponsored our organization and held the funds for each project on our behalf at the time.

The OLAB brochure continues to be such a useful tool educational tool. It has now been edited and reprinted six times. It prompted the production of a hinterland version and a North Stradbroke Island version which are now also in circulation. The Rocky Foreshore brochure has also been reprinted courtesy of Sunshine Coast Council and is widely used along the rocky headlands of the Sunshine Coast.

Both publications are as relevant today as they were 15 years ago, which is testament to Janette's foresight, ability and wisdom. Janette's presence will be sorely missed. I would like to personally thank her for her work and dedication to both the organization and the betterment of the environment in our patch and beyond. Let's hope we can continue to carry forward the legacy that Janette has left us.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Stephanie Phillips, our previous administrator, as our book keeper. Aren't we lucky that she did a book keeping course. Colin Ingram has kindly accepted the role as our Treasurer until the next AGM. As you can imagine there has been a flurry of emails, it is lucky it isn't turtle season!

While we are breathing a sigh of relief in regard to the SCC vote not to amend the Town Plan, we need to remain vigilant in regard to the environmental concerns due to increasing development pressures on the North Shore. The proposed expansion of the airport continues to be of concern, with the environmental consequences as yet unknown. Meanwhile our activities, thanks to our members, continue to stay true to our mission - to protect and conserve the natural values of the beautiful place we call home for future generations to enjoy.

## Turtles and Light

With regard to amending the Town Plan to enable the proposed Sekisui House high rise development at Yaroomba, alluded to above in the President's letter, one of the main issues concerning Coolum and North Shore Coast Care was the potential impacts of light spill from the proposed high rise towers. To ensure we were using factual material in our campaign, Jan Crossland delved into the science and prepared a technical paper explaining this issue in more detail.



According to Dr Col Limpus of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, all turtle species nesting in Australia are negatively impacted by artificial light. The impact on the turtles is not the lights themselves, but the perceived 'light horizon'.

Turtles are not attracted to bright lights, but are disrupted from locating the horizon when bright lights are present, because the glow of the horizon is less intense than that of the closer and brighter lights. Hatchlings locate their oceanic destination by the glow of the distant horizon, heading towards horizons of lowest angle of elevation, and away from elevated dark horizons. But they are blinded by bright lights and head towards the stronger glow from lights on streets and buildings. The glow from lights up to three kilometres away can disrupt ocean-finding behaviour. Heavy cloud cover and salt spray exacerbate the light glow. South-East Queensland has the brightest coastal illumination in the state and it is rapidly increasing.

Historically, turtles bred all along the Queensland coast, and they still feed in southern areas, but development has led to major reduction of the breeding range. This is true in most parts of the world. Monitoring of turtle breeding on the Sunshine Coast since 2005 has records of Loggerhead and Green turtles nesting from Caloundra to Noosa, mostly on dark stretches of beach. Recently, volunteers have observed lower nesting numbers on the southern Sunshine Coast at Shelly Beach near Caloundra, coinciding with more lighting from dwellings there. So if we want to experience turtle nesting and hatching well into the future, we need to keep our beaches 'dark'.



Read the complete article on Coast Care's website at <http://coolumcoastcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Artificial-Light-has-Deleterious-Effects-on-Marine-Turtles.pdf>

## TAFE come weeding with the Yinneburra team

Amy Nelson (TAFE student)

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, the Certificate 3 Horticulture students from Nambour TAFE joined forces with Coolum and North Shore Coast Care to maintain the Yinneburra section of Yaroomba Beach. This dune strip is the last remaining natural passage for wildlife to access the Maroochy River. We began the morning with a quick risk assessment, the main ones being site terrain, venomous snakes and animals/bites and stings, and

sharps hidden in the sand. We were then instructed which weeds to remove, which ones were to be bagged and which ones could be left as a natural mulch. The weeds included molasses grass, painted spurge, paspalum, Singapore daisy, corky passion vine, siratro, barleria, and yukka's.

Despite our best intentions, our presence caused some soil compaction. To prevent this as much as possible we stuck to the tracks and tried not to move too much around the area we were weeding. Coolum and North Shore Coast Care will now leave that area for another couple of months to let it settle.

By removing all the invasive weeds we were able to expose the natives which included dianella, pigface, and sedge. It was a great to hear that the hours we put in would not only help the environment, but allowed Coolum and North Shore Coast Care to apply for more funding. It was an educational day and a good hands on experience with a great bunch of people!



## Jellyfish: the good the bad the beautiful

Estelle Blair

Who would have thought those "Blue Blubbers" that swarm off the Sunshine Coast and in Moreton Bay some years, are actually edible and were once investigated for an export fishery? This was one of the many fascinating insights into jellyfish presented by Dr Kylie Pitt to about 65 people who packed into the Coolum Community Centre on 13 June.



Kylie, an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the School of Environment at Griffith University, has been studying jellyfish in Australia and around the world for nearly 20 years. She had photographs of beautiful jellyfish from Palau, pest species from Japan, box jellyfish from north Queensland as well as several 'locals' seen regularly in Sunshine Coast waters. She also showed us tiny fish that live in the jellyfish 'bell' protected by the stinging tentacles, giant leatherback turtles eating jellyfish and talked about the changing population sizes and distribution.

Kylie has 'citizen scientists' already at several SEQ beaches collecting data and monitoring jellyfish species and numbers. She showed graphs of data collected already be one of our Coast Carers, Sheryl Wright, and explained the significance of Sheryl's findings. Kylie is keen to meet other regular beach walkers who would like to join the program. You can contact her at [k.pitt@griffith.edu.au](mailto:k.pitt@griffith.edu.au), or on 0402 047 971.

## Eco Discovery rocks!

Diane Goodwillie

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care's Eco Discovery Program was launched Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Over 70 adults and children ages four to eleven attended with an additional 16 volunteers helping set up and resource activities on the soggy day.

Initially fine weather enabled us to do a game to demonstrate the layers of the earth's core. Kids brought their favourite rock and specialist Bob Tooth answered questions and helped kids look more closely at how rocks get formed as well as explained the formation of Mount Coolum. Highlights of the day included a





model volcano, discussions about pumice found on our beaches, how Mount Coolum was formed, inclusive hands-on activities and a friendly community event.

Because a downpour interrupted the program, we ended early but despite that, of the 14 written evaluations all indicated content value and learning as higher than average and exceeding expectations.

CaNS CC was thrilled to receive a donation of \$600.00 from the Coolum Surf Life Savers Supporters Club to help cover expenses. If you wish to register to future programs, visit [www.coolumcoastcare.org.au](http://www.coolumcoastcare.org.au) and register online.

## National Tree Day - Sunday 26 July 2015

Tony Gibson

National Tree Day is a great opportunity to get the community to share what we are about: that is, being part of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care. We work to preserve the natural environment. We can grow so much as a community with events like National Tree Day sharing our passions.

On National Tree Day Sunday 26 July, we need a good turnout of Coast Care volunteers with their family, friends and the wider community supporters to plant a tree or other vegetation to look after coastal dunes at Mudjimba and Yaroomba. Groups like the Maroochy North Shore Lions have already agreed to help out with a sausage sizzle and the planting and we hope to get a range of community groups attending.

Activities will commence at 8:30 and finish at 11:00 am.

### **To register for the Maroola Site:**

<http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10007911>

Mudjimba Site Address: Beach Access 117, Mudjimba Esplanade, Mudjimba with nearest cross street: David Low Way being the northern end of Mudjimba Esplanade (Skate Park/Brissos Corner). Parking is limited so a short walk may be required, cycle path and bus stop nearby.

### **To register for Yaroomba:**

<http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10007910>

Yaroomba Site Address: Birrahl Park, Warragah Parade, Yaroomba with the nearest cross street: Goongilla Street being the park at the end of Warragah Parade.

Please wear Coast Care shirts and other appropriate clothing (hat, covered shoes, long sleeved shirt and long pants recommended). The following will be provided: Gloves, tools and equipment for planting, watering cans / buckets, drinking water, refreshments and BBQ.

Ashley Goodman from Council will be the Coordinator with Leigh Warneminde at Yaroomba and Tony Gibson at Mudjimba for Coast Care.

Look forward to seeing you.



National Tree Day Sunday 26 July  
Schools Tree Day Friday 24 July  
1300 88 5000 #nationaltreeday

## West Coolum Wildflower walk – advance notice!

Mark Bizzell

It is that time of year again when the wildflower displays are coming into bloom. As part of this year's spring Wildflower Festival I will be conducting a walk through the wallum corridor of Coolum Beach on Saturday August 22, beginning at 8.30am.

Bringing the spring wallum vegetation to life at this time of the year, the spectacular wildflower displays are located in the southern extent of the Noosa National Park.

We will begin our walk at the School Road car park and follow the fire break beside upper reaches of Stumers Creek. After 20 minutes walking we will leave the banks of the creek and following a well-worn single track venturing north west in the wallum zone. It is here that the swamp Iris (*Patersonia fragilis*), wallum heath (*Epacris pulchella*) and milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*), to name a few, will be waiting for us.



Each year and depending on the previous month's weather patterns, we can experience quite a different array of wallum wildflower species. Throughout west Coolum area and on either side of the track, the vegetation mosaic can reveal the smallest of surprises right beside our feet, among them is the mauve flowering sun orchid (*Thelymitra ixiodes*). The majority of wallum vegetation in this region grows to about one metre in height. An incredible diversity of plant species flourish in these nutrient poor soils. The different shades of yellows, purples, pinks and whites all combine to create a stunning attraction.

Attending this year's walk will be one of the most knowledgeable wildflower experts Barbara Henderson. Barbara will conduct talks about the rarity and beauty of our coastal wildflowers before and after the walk. Please join us on a leisurely walk among the wallum heath of west Coolum Beach.

### Bookings & Information

Phone Mark on 0431 123 419

**Meet at** School Road, Coolum Beach (northern public carpark), Sunshine Coast UBD map 20 – C9

**Editor's Note:** Tony Gibson will also be hosting a walk at Marcoola on Saturday August 22 at 2pm, meeting at the end of Cessna Avenue, Marcoola; Sunshine Coast UBD map 59 – E9

### Bookings & Information

[info@coolumcoastcare.org.au](mailto:info@coolumcoastcare.org.au).



## Pepper removal at Marcoola – first works for Everyone’s Environment grant!



### DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
Garden Expo	10-12 July	Nambour Showgrounds	<a href="http://www.qldgardenexpo.com.au/visitor-info/date-time-costs">http://www.qldgardenexpo.com.au/visitor-info/date-time-costs</a>
National Tree Day	26 July	Marcoola and Yaroomba	See Planet Ark site <a href="http://treeday.planetark.org/">http://treeday.planetark.org/</a> or article above
Eco Discovery	9 August	Bli Bli Wetland Sanctuary	Learn about what grows in wetlands and take a walk through the mangrove forest. Register via <a href="http://www.coolumcoastcare.org.au">www.coolumcoastcare.org.au</a>
Wildflower Festival	22 August	Coolum and Marcoola	Coolum at 8.30 am; Marcoola at 2.00 pm. See above article or festival site when available.
Eco Discovery	23 August	CCNN Yaroomba	A chance to do some potting and learn about Traditional cultural uses of local native species.
Eco Discovery	13 September	Noosa Parks Assoc Environment Centre Noosaville	Examine a flying fox colony and learn about local birds. All sessions 9.50-11.30 (approx.)



### Weekly Dunal Regeneration and Bush Care Groups

<b>Stumers Dunes</b> Birte - 0403 752955	<b>Lions Park Watercourse</b> Linee - (07) 5446 5116 <a href="mailto:linee5@bigpond.com">linee5@bigpond.com</a>	<b>Marcoola Coast Care</b> Tony Gibson - 0419 791 860 <a href="mailto:tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au">tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au</a>
<b>Yaroomba Bushland Park</b> Sherida - 0403 370 157	<b>Yinneburra/Yerranya Dunes</b> Silva - (07) 5446 5549	<b>Marcoola North Dune Care</b> Alan Hayes - 0419 526 347
<b>Mudjimba Dune Care and Bush Care</b> Helen – (07) 5448 9604	<b>Town of Seaside/Boardwalk</b> Luke – 0428 853 188	<b>Twin Waters Dune Protection Group</b> Sue – 0402 113 375 <a href="mailto:twinwatersduneprotectiongroup@hotmail.com">twinwatersduneprotectiongroup@hotmail.com</a>



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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*

