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Issue 17 - December 2015

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



A full newsletter this quarter, reflecting how busy Coast Carers have been. In this issue you'll read about the annual Heron Island working bee, three volunteers' days with external participants, our participation in Council's Volunteers Day out, our long-awaited Movie Night, project updates and more. Just a snapshot of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care's involvement in our community, and a taste of what 2016 may bring. I hope you enjoy it.

From the President - eyeing off the deck chair

CaNSCC has continued full steam ahead throughout October, November and December. I will just highlight a few of our recent projects. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out.

The calendar sales are continuing and we have now covered the cost of production. Please promote sales to friends and relatives so we can make a small profit to go towards next year's calendar. A BIG thanks must go to Di Goodwillie and the calendar committee for their combined efforts in producing and selling a high quality calendar showcasing the natural beauty of where we live. You have done a magnificent job.

Movie in the Park - *Clean Waves and Clear Water 2* - finally went ahead after being washed out on the planned date. The movies were well received. Keep your ears out for a very talented young singer called Taylor Payne; we wish her every success with her upcoming music release and thank her very much for playing for us at such short notice. The same must also be said of the very talented Isabella Nichols, our home-grown surfer who was featured in *The Next Wave*. *The Lost Years* was informative and captivating, featuring Dr Col Limpus and highlighting the turtle research that our turtle volunteers contribute to. We presently have four nests so keep your eyes out for turtle tracks when you are on the beach. Thanks to Susan Richards for the work that she put in to make the night such a success and to all the volunteers who helped out as well.

Jan Crossland also headed up a *Pararistolochia praevenosa* planting at Bli Bli State School, continuing to link up habitat corridors for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. Our projects are as diverse as our volunteer base, but are all practical solutions to address identified needs and it works. This is because of the collective efforts of all our volunteers and members and for that I thank you all.

There is some unfinished business which will remain a priority for 2016: erosion of the northern bank of the Maroochy River at Nojoor Road (possibly linked to dredging), the firebreak around Mt Coolum which has been very poorly executed, lighting issues in relation to the turtles, and we will continue to lobby for a wallum corridor between Coolum and the Maroochy River.

As 2015 draws to a close, or rather continues to hurtle towards 2016, I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy festive season. May you have an opportunity to recharge your internal battery and reflect on the past year.

Heron Island Weedos 2015

Edwin Hammet

In early October, the 5th incarnation of the Heron Island 'Weedos' saw six eager folk (Birte, Robyn, Nina, Gay, Tony and me) head off to Heron Island, after Birte had provided us with our 'riding' instructions, namely what we had to provide food-wise. Unfortunately, this year the QPWS 'works depot' was not available for overnight camping, so our first stop north was at the motel at Miriam Vale, just a short hop to Gladstone.

Up and away early to Gladstone Harbour to be met by Damon, our QPWS contact, who ensured that all our gear was safely stowed away for transport to the island. Fortunately, the weather meant that the seas were relatively flat. Another bonus on arrival was that we had the Ranger's accommodation all to ourselves, where Damon gave us a brief explanation of what 'nasties' we were to 'attack'.

The usual routine was that after breakfast, we would spend the mornings in a 'search and destroy' mission for 'nasties', for this visit mainly Painted Spurge (*Euphorbia cyathophora*) and Cudweed (*Helichrysum luteoalbum*). The 'nasties' are not what we usually target here on the Sunny Coast, which meant frequent checking of the fact sheets that Damon provided, with the principle of 'if in doubt, don't pull it out'.

We were to pay particular attention to the mutton bird (Wedge-tailed Shearwater) nesting area, as it was the last opportunity in the year before the birds returned for nesting, as foot traffic would destroy nesting burrows. Painted Spurge was the villain here, sometimes in the very early stages of growth; ie, small, as Nina shows in her posy in the photograph.



Afternoons were our own. This gave us the opportunity to check out the reef at low tide, relax at the resort, snorkel (Tony) or just enjoy the island. In my case, this meant just roaming about trying to capture photos of island bird life.

One of the highlights for me was a practical demonstration of a small drone at the helipad, the presence of which did not seem to affect the Noddy Terns one iota. Another was that three turtles came ashore and nested on our second last night.

I found the experience rewarding on several fronts, namely the camaraderie of fellow 'weedos' but also the fact that we appear to be 'making a difference' on the island, as there appeared to be fewer weeds on the main parts of the island since my last visit.

'Wanderlust' Twin Waters Beach Clean-up

Estelle Blair

As part of the late October Wanderlust festival, Tangaroa Blue partnered with Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, local Traditional Owners and festival participants to conduct a beach clean-up. The activity aimed to not only raise awareness around the threat that marine debris poses to our coastal and marine ecosystems but to empower people to help contribute to collecting data on the types of debris found.

Tangaroa Blue is a not-for-profit organisation that facilitates the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, an initiative that aims to collect marine debris from our coastal areas, record information on what is being found, if possible track it to the source and finally work with stakeholders to come up with solutions to stop it entering the ocean in the first place.

After an initial planning visit to the site at the Twin Waters surf beach, Central Queensland-based Tangaroa Blue representative Shelly McArdle (who was attending the 'Wanderlust' weekend) quickly realised that this site was special to the locals when she had to search for any sign of rubbish. Consequently, after making enquiries on which groups might be active in the area, she contacted Coolum and North Shore Coast Care who agreed to be part of the activity and to give a talk on the marine debris survey conducted monthly along Coolum and Peregrine beaches.



On Sunday 18 October, several CaNSCC members met the Wanderlust crew at Twin Waters beach at 8am, for a talk on what Tangaroa Blue does, what Coast Care does, and then a wander along the beach until about 10am, picking up rubbish. Traditional Owner members of Coast Care made a big impression with the Wanderlust participants with their stories about the local area. Unfortunately most Wanderlust participants preferred the yoga sessions on the beach, but several who joined us were happy to help and eager to find out about marine debris issues and the local environment.

As Shelly had already discovered, the beach was quite clean, possibly due to offshore winds and ocean

currents keeping rubbish out to sea, according to Susan who gave the marine debris talk. But it was still obvious from the lack of rubbish that North Shore residents look after their beach!

As part of the Everyone's Environment grant, CaNSCC now provides data to the Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris Initiative, as well as to University of Queensland and CSIRO.

Duncan's Donation

Lou Gleeson

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care were recently the surprised and grateful recipients of an incredibly generous donation of \$1129 from Duncan and Phoebe Yorkston.

Duncan Yorkston worked at a Coolum pharmacy with Leigh several years ago. When he and Phoebe originally established an on-line travel accessories business, Sandy Cove Trading Company, in Coolum, they wanted to focus on an ethical product range and also 'give back' to the environment by donating 10% of the profits to a 'worthy cause'. The Yorkstons subsequently moved to Victoria, but did not forget the beautiful Coolum area and friendships made here.

During the presentation at Point Arkwright, Leigh said how pleased Coast Care was to receive such a generous gift, and that the money would be put towards our many projects, including community education, dune vegetation and restoration and turtle monitoring.



If anyone would like to check out the range of travel accessories, visit www.sandycovetradingcompany.org.au; there are some great products on display.

Exploring Caloundra Courtesy of Council

Diane Goodwillie

Hidden beauties and a relaxing boat trip were appreciated by many Coolool and North Shore Coast Care volunteers, courtesy of the Sunshine Coast Council-sponsored Volunteers Day Out on 20 November. Loretta and Sean Fleischfresser, Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Owners, joined us for the trip and during their Welcome to Country, outlined the sacredness of the area and the many uses of the Sunshine Coast by their ancestors over thousands of years.



First stop was George Watson Park, a tiny gem overlooked by beachfront flats. It extends further than we thought, all along the Shelly Beach area. Saved from developers in the late 1960s and 70s, its creation was guided by Kathleen McArthur, one of the Sunshine Coast's Environment Legends. She, with a small group of people (one who was the poet Judith Wright), founded the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in 1962. She was involved in many campaigns including pushing for preservation of what is now Coolool National Park and was a champion of the Pumicestone Passage, successfully lobbying for its inclusion in the Register of the National Estate.



Next we boarded a boat at Golden Beach to navigate the Pumicestone Passage, a first for many of our volunteers. The passage is a 45 kilometre long tidal waterway between the mainland and Bribie Island, surrounded by a 785 square kilometre catchment area. Council has started a three-year rehabilitation project along a seven kilometre stretch of the southern bank of Bells Creek which flows into the Passage. The project, funded by the ratepayer's environment levy, will restore 30 hectares of riparian habitat for threatened plants and animals and buffer future threats posed by population growth, development and agriculture. The beauty and peacefulness of the cruise was only marred by the thoughts of the future impact on this area by the massive Caloundra South developments.

After a hearty lunch at the Caloundra Power Boat Club, the last stop was Upper Coochin Creek Environmental Reserve near Beerwah. What a hidden oasis this was. Although Sean had never visited the area, he was drawn up the hillside by powerful ancestral ties. The sighting of a carpet snake reinforced the Aboriginal spiritual meaning for him. While the others examined the unusual tessellated rock formations, school boys scampered through and jumped into the pond for a quick swim before going home after school. The local bush care group then explained the priceless significance of the area linking waterways in the area and providing unusual rock formations as well as some endemic plants.



It was a full and enjoyable day and a tribute to the shared partnership between volunteers and Council.

Deloitte's 'Impact Day'

Edwin Hammet

On 20 November, the same day as the SCC Volunteers Day Out, the Yinneburra weeding group hosted 15 keen young gurus from Deloitte, for their annual 'Impact Day'. The mainly 20-35 year olds drove from Brisbane for a day's planting and weeding on the dunes just north of Birrahl Park, Yaroomba.



'Impact Day' is an annual celebration of Deloitte's commitment to local communities. Member firms around the world host 'Impact Day' activities where Deloitte professionals spend the day volunteering. Their motto 'Community is our Business' was displayed on their shirts, and a number of local residents who walked past commented favourably on their presence.

In spite of their vocational strengths lying elsewhere, the team seemed to enjoy getting their hands dirty and Edwin, Silva and Estelle were impressed at how hard the "desk jockeys" worked on a very hot day. They planted over 200 tubestock on the dunes, in areas where the mature Banksias and Sheoaks are nearing the end of their life. After lunch they cleaned up a particularly weedy area beside the creek, and filled 34 weed bags. They then enjoyed a well-earned swim in the surf.

Edwin and Geoffrey, the Deloitte director, discussed other avenues where potentially Deloitte staff could assist Coast Care, in ways more suited to their vocational talents. Their website advertises their preferred avenues for assistance, including skills-based volunteering, which enables Deloitte professionals to leverage their specialized skills and innovative thinking to help non-profits address their most pressing strategic, operational, and financial challenges. Edwin is following up on this angle.

December Weeding Workshop

Estelle Blair

About 30 keen volunteers attended the final Combined Groups working bee on 3 December. Nadia, one of our coordinators from Sunshine Coast Council, organised for Brendan (Natural Bushland Ecology) to provide a workshop on bush regeneration techniques and natural and chemical control methods.

Brendan began by explaining the difference between 'natural regeneration' (where we remove the weeds and the bush has the ability to regrow from seeds and other material already in the soil) and 'reconstruction/fabrication' (where the site is highly degraded and will not recover naturally, requiring weed removal and replanting). He provided a booklet to some attendees detailing the various methods and health and safety considerations. Of interest to the weeding coordinators was that our chemical weed control is undertaken under an 'off-label permit' because most chemical trials are done in an agricultural situation, not a natural bushland one and use is only authorised as allowed by the label. The permit is held by Council on behalf of the volunteer groups and Nadia later provided us with a copy.



We also obtained the Safety Data Sheets for the two herbicides we use – glyphosate (TM Weedmaster 450) and Vigilant – these contain information on the correct application of the chemicals, and health and safety aspects. Each weeding coordinator will have these for the new year. The conditions on the off-label permit also stipulate that weeding coordinators need to record when, where and how chemicals are used during our working bees and Nadia will also provide a recording sheet in time for next year’s activities

The three control methods are manual (eg pull it out or cut it down with a handsaw or machete), mechanical (chainsaw or brushcutter to remove what can’t be done by hand) and chemical (using weedicide in spraying, cut-and-paint, or scrape-and-paint treatments). Brendan explained that manual is best; herbicide has its place but is generally a last resort. He mentioned that for cut-and-paint or scrape-and-paint control, the herbicide must be applied within 5-10 seconds of the cut or scrape being made as otherwise the poison is not sucked into the wound. When spraying, he recommended that we use a low-pressure, large droplet size nozzle on a small spray bottle, to minimise spray drift onto susceptible native plants in the vicinity. Although this is important information for those who need to spray at home, our CNC guidelines state that no foliar spraying by volunteers is allowed on Council land.



Some weeders like to use a small spray bottle for cut-and-paint or scrape-and-paint but care needs to be taken not to drip onto the ground. Herbicides can impact on the soil, affecting nutrient uptake and soil bacteria, so minimising herbicide contact with the soil is important, particularly when our sands are low-nutrient to start with. The Vigilant herbicide supplied by Council has an applicator brush on the small container, minimising the risk of spillage.



We broke for morning tea just as a heavy shower of rain descended on us and enjoyed Birte’s ‘magic bean cake’ and Joan’s fritters and other delectable treats. When the rain finally eased, a dozen keen weeders followed Brendan into the bush for a practical demonstration. This stimulated a lot of questions and debate on the finer details of how to control challenging weeds like Gidee Gidee, Asparagus and woody shrubs like Ochna. The workshop finally wound up about 11am.

Thanks to Nadia for organising such an interesting and informative workshop.

Introducing Abdul

Hello Coastcarers!

I am Abdulsalam Tokh, 31 years old, and a refugee from Libya. I came to Australia in 2010. I live in Coolumb with my family. I speak two languages, Tabu (my mother language) and Arabic (in which I write). I am learning English at TAFE. I have a Diploma in Nursing from Libya and I hope to do further studies when my English has improved.

I enjoy working at Coast Care with Lineise and James and the others. I am also glad to have an opportunity to integrate into Australian society and to learn about Australian culture and language.

Australian people are very friendly and I hope to settle here and become a citizen.



Clean Waves Clear Water 2

Susan Richards

After rain caused Coolum and North Shore Coast Care to postpone the planned 14 November *Clean Waves Clear Water 2* movie night in Tickle Park, the weather gods kindly allowed us to hold it on Saturday 5 December. Over 250 people braved the cool windy conditions and brought their deck chairs and blankets to enjoy music by Taylor Payne and to watch two excellent documentary films produced by Gulliver Media and The Australian Sports Commission.

Partly funded by a Queensland Government *Everyone's Environment* grant and supported by Sunshine Coast Council, the movie night enabled us to present both documentary films on the big screen. The first film, *The Lost Years*, told the fascinating story of how Queensland's loggerhead turtle hatchlings travel the ocean currents to South America and back again over a period of several years, and then return to the beach of their birth nearly 30 years later to breed.



During the intermission, information was provided on who to contact and what to do if you see a turtle on the beach. We also showed a number of photos from the Traditional Owners of significant sites within the Coolum area, which complemented the Welcome to Country speech provided by Kerry Jones and Bridgette Davis earlier in the evening. After the intermission, *The Next Wave* featuring Coolum's Isabella Nicholls, was shown. Fantastic surfing photography and the behind-the-scenes story of the challenges faced by young surfers hoping to break into the international competition scene was enjoyed by all who watched the film.



The evening's purpose was to raise awareness for sea turtles and their habitat - our local beaches and oceans. From the number of people who came and collected details on who to contact if they see a turtle or hatchlings on the beach, it was clear local people are keen to help protect them. Both loggerhead and green turtles nest locally on our beaches between November and March. CaNSCC encourages the community to report turtle tracks each season if they see them, and any

stranded or injured marine turtles or mammals. Marine debris is a major factor in marine strandings and reducing the use of plastics is key to helping reduce the amount of sea life injured or killed by marine debris.

Thanks to the many CaNSCC volunteers who helped out with the planning and staging of the movie night. We were also fortunate to have Colleen Gooden (Coolum Boardriders) as our MC and the Starry Nights Outdoor Movies company did an excellent job of co-ordinating the screenings. We hope to continue the movie night as an annual event (funding permitting) with the focus on raising awareness of CaNSCC's work amongst community members who may not otherwise attend other CaNSCC activities.

If you see turtle tracks on your local beach, please call our CaNSCC Turtle Volunteers on 0409 807 110 (Susan) or 0403 370 157 (Sherida) or visit at www.coolumcoastcare.org.au for more information on the turtle care initiatives.

'Bring Back the Birdwing' Update

Jan Crossland



The 'Bring the Birdwing back to Coolum' project has made another leap forward, with the planting of 72 *Pararistolochia praevenosa* vines in the grounds of Bli Bli State School recently.

Two small groups of Year 3 students had a one-on-one planting experience with CaNSCC volunteers, digging, planting and learning about the Richmond Birdwing butterfly and its need for this one vine for its caterpillar stages. The stretch of school grounds, along the boundary on the Nambour-Bli Bli Road, had been cleared of weeds prior to the planting, leaving large Melaleucas and other trees just waiting for some vines to grow around them.

Groundsman Shane promised to make sure the vines are watered during the summer break, perhaps with the aid of the local Rural Fire Brigade, thus involving another section of the community in the project. The school's Garden Club will also tend the vines during the school year.

Thanks very much to all the Coast Care members who gave up a Monday to help out, and to our Nursery for supplying the vines.

Update on Everyone's Environment Grant

Estelle Blair

The first progress report was submitted to DEHP on 30 November, reporting on activities from late March (when the funds were received) to 31 October. By end November, we had expended all contractor funds, with eight days work by a team of five contractors at North Marcoola, and two more days each in Yaroomba BCR and on the dunes north of Birrahl Park. More than double the number of contractor days have been undertaken by volunteers in those areas, building on the contractors efforts.

The movie night, which was our turtle community awareness and education event has been held, and the very informative "Turtles, Foxes and Us" seminar organised by the Marcoola Community Group, also featured the turtle talk presented by our Turtle Team.

Lots of seedlings have been planted over the year by Coast Care and community volunteers, with the usual survival rates, and the marine debris data collection and entry continues monthly.

All is on track for our milestone report, hopefully to be delivered end February with a request for the next year's funds.



DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
Marcoola Markets	Fridays	Lorraine Avenue, near the shops	CaNSCC will have a stall once a month. The market runs from 4-8pm
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	17 January	Bunnings Maroochydore	CaNSCC will be supplying the 'charity' sausage sizzle between 4pm and 3pm. Volunteers please contact info@coolumcoastcare.org.au
2016 Group working bee	4 February	TBA	The first combined groups working bee will kick off the year, commencing 8am. See website and email late January for details of venue
2016 Management Committee meeting	4 February	CCNN, 157 Warran Road Yaroomba	Commencing 1.30pm



Weekly Dune 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

* **Note:** Dune regeneration and bush care groups are in recess until February 2016. Contact coordinators for details.

	<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 Fuschia Collard & 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

