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JETSAM

Issue 19 - June 2016

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



In this edition we celebrate our success at the National Landcare Conference and Awards in Melbourne last week, provide updates on the annual fox control program and habitat restoration works undertaken in conjunction with the Everyones Environment grant. Also featured are Coast Care's contribution to National Tree Day, a report on the wildflower walks hosted by Coast Care and our presence at the Sunshine Coast International Readers and Writers Festival. Good news from the nursery, a holiday with a difference and another successful marine debris clean up complete the edition.

From the President in cold old Melbourne town

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care has won the Coastcare category at the National Landcare Conference and Awards 2016. What an achievement. A huge thanks must go to Susie Chapman for nominating us for the Award. Edwin and I had the honour of accepting the Award on CaNSCC behalf.

We were in very good company with the other Coastcare finalists doing an impressive and diverse range of activities. They were the Sydney Rockclimbers Mountain Goat Bushcare Group, the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Partners, Tennyson Dunes Group from SA, Port Esperance Coastcare from Tasmania, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Victoria and West Coast Coastcare from WA. All winners!



I am so proud to be associated with such an extraordinary group of people! It is thanks to all the hard work and shared passion from our dedicated volunteers that our humble community group has been selected. The video that Diane and Birte put together, along with the poster that Susan developed, highlighted the depth and dedication of our team. (When we figure out the technology we will post them both on our website/facebook site for viewing). We will organize a social event to celebrate our success. In the meantime give yourselves a BIG pat on the back.

Edwin and I will both put together notes about the sessions we sat in on at the conference over the next few weeks.

Thanks must also go to Sunshine Coast Council for their financial support. It would be almost impossible to do what we do without it.

“National Tree Day” at Marcoola

Estelle Blair

Over the last few years, CaNSCC has partnered with SCC to run annual National Tree Planting Day activities north of the Maroochy River, including the highly successful event held at Marcoola in 2014, which combined with an Eco Discovery wildlife workshop, and in 2015 two were held simultaneously at Yaroomba and Marcoola.

For National Tree Day 2016, Council decided to organise only one tree planting site north of the Maroochy River and independently chose a Twin Waters site. CaNSCC decided to not host a site in competition with Council and thus no separate activity was held on the official Sunday event day.



However, in December 2015 one of our local schools had approached us, requesting us to include a group of international students in one of our working bee/tree planting mornings. Coincidentally the Thursday before National Tree Day was chosen by the school as their preferred activity day. Alan Hayes from the North Marcoola group recommended a site south of Felix Parry Park at Marcoola, in an area where it appeared sheoaks and other trees had died, leaving the dunes stabilised only by groundcover grass and vines. Sites at Yaroomba had been planted out previously, so the Yinneburra group agreed to join with Marcoola in hosting a talk and planting at the Marcoola site.



The site was also thick with Basket Asparagus, so site preparation was essential. Three days of site preparation works were paid for from the Everyone’s Environment grant (since it was within the grant area), and Council contributed another day’s labour to clean up the site ready for the students. All the work was done by hand so the area could be replanted immediately without risk from residual herbicide being present.

The 24 Japanese students and their teachers arrived about 10.30, having just climbed Mt Coolum. After a brief introduction to CaNSCC and a health and safety briefing, they picked out their gloves, and several Coast Carers each took a group and showed them how to dig holes (yes, some students need to be shown!), use water crystals, plant and water in the tubestock. Ashley our Council coordinator had managed to secure a water tanker, so for once our plants got a drink to help them on their way.

Within an hour the students and Coast Carers had planted over 220 tubestock. The students then returned to Coolum Beach to meet the lifesavers and have lunch. They were an eager and happy bunch who were hardworking and diligent, and the planting showed it as over 90% of the sheoaks and pandanus are still surviving.



Because the National Tree Day schools event is generally held on the Friday, we felt quite justified in stretching it a day and registering our Thursday “site”. The students were thrilled that their contribution to our national day was to be recognised. Hopefully they’ll be back again next year.

All Cleaned Up at First Bay

Susan Richards

CaNSCC members have undertaken marine debris surveys at First Bay beach south of Coolum on the 14th of every month for the last four years, as well as at three other sites in the Coolum, Peregrine and Marcus Beach areas. When we noticed that the August survey day was on a weekend, it seemed like a good opportunity to involve the community.

We applied for a Community Marine Debris Grant from Seaworld Research and Rescue Foundation Inc and Health Waterways, and received a grant of \$440. So, after publicising the event on facebook and our website, on Sunday 14th August 2016, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care (CaNSCC) held a marine turtle talk and beach cleanup at First Bay.

Approximately 30 adults and children turned up to hear about the lifecycle of the marine turtles that nest our beaches and the impact that marine debris can have on them. After the talk, gloves and buckets were handed out and the beach cleanup began.



At first glance, First Bay looks like a very clean beach. However, when the volunteers searched the beach, dunes and rocks they found discarded bottles, cans, fishing gear, straws, glowsticks, plastic lids, food wrappers and many small plastic pieces. Over 8.4kg of rubbish (more than 1,200 pieces) were collected as part of the cleanup. Collecting this rubbish, including small fragments, means that these pieces can no longer wash back into the ocean where they would continue to break up into pieces that could potentially be ingested by marine life.



The surveys conducted by CaNSCC members are different from the beach rubbish clean-ups referred to recently in the media, where Coolum and Mudjimba Beaches were named as the third and fourth worst respectively. The cleanups conducted by the work-for-the-dole scheme reported in the newspaper also collect rubbish in the dunes behind the beach, so it may not have been in the sea. Our surveys are targeting marine debris that has been washed up on the beach (ie between high and low tide marks) as this is an indication of what has been in the water and thus available to marine life to ingest.

Turtles tend to eat different types of rubbish at different stages of their lifecycle – for example the turtle hatchlings tend to ingest small, hard plastic pieces while bigger juvenile turtles tend to ingest rubber, plastic food wrappers and balloons. Our beach rubbish survey data has been included in studies completed by the University of Queensland which found that more than 30% of stranded turtles in our area had ingested plastic. The results from all collections are entered into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database administered by Tangaroa Blue, along with the results from the regular monthly cleanups.

We thank the many concerned locals who pick up rubbish as part of their daily walk, as well as those who helped

clean the beach on the day. By reducing the amount of litter on our beaches and the amount of rubbish ending up in the ocean, we can help reduce the effects of plastic pollution on marine life.



Camp hosting – a different vacation!

Leigh Warneminde

Earlier this year CaNS Coast Care volunteers were invited by QPWS to apply to be camp hosts. Alan and I decided to apply and have just returned from a 15-day stay on North West Island, the largest island in the Capricorn Bunker group of islands. North West Island is approximately 110ha coral cay, 75 kms north east of Gladstone and was declared a National Park in 1980. It is an important seabird and turtle nesting site.

Self-sufficiency is required. National Parks provided the camping equipment - tables, chairs, cutlery, tent, stove, gas fridge, gas, tarps and water. We organized our bedding, food for two weeks, esky, our kayak, snorkels etc. In return we had to call into the mainland by 2-way radio daily and maintain six composting toilets.

We loaded our provisions onto a barge and set off from Gladstone Harbour at 12midday arriving on the Island at 7.30 pm. The barge can only land an hour each side of high tide. The seas going over were rough. We shared the journey and the island with 29 others - mainly fishermen (with a lot of provisions) – who would be our neighbours for the next two weeks. The island can accommodate 150 people in peak holiday seasons.



On arrival everyone worked together to unload the barge before setting up in one of the three camping sites. Fortunately there was a tarp already set up in our camp site as the key to access our camping gear was inadvertently left on the mainland and didn't arrive until our third day on the island!

The island was stunning with white sandy beaches fringed by reef. Reef walking, kayaking and snorkelling activities were tide dependent and always enthralling with an abundance of sea life visible. There were numerous huge green turtles, rays, black tipped reef sharks, fish, clams and even a seal that came ashore to relax at high tide.

The *Pisonia* forest dominated the island vegetation (it is the largest in Australia) and was host to several bird species including the noddy terns displaying their courting rituals over the two week period we were there. It was a captivating spectacle to witness. Circumnavigation of the island took about an hour if you didn't get distracted by shells, birds and a bit of marine debris.

The toilets required cleaning and raking each day - and it was initially a bit challenging although after a few rounds we sorted out a system that was totally manageable. All in all it was an amazing experience and we would definitely do it again - perhaps for longer next time.



Coastal Fox Program Update

Darcy Murray, Sunshine Coast Council

At the end of August, the first part of the 2016 Coastal Fox Program was wrapped up. The objective of the program was to reduce the fox population and disrupt the breeding cycle of foxes associated with the coastal ecosystems. During the program, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Sunshine Coast Council removed a total of 29 foxes from bushland areas between Twin Waters, Bli Bli and Coolum.

Most of these results were achieved in May and early June with foxes appearing to become more difficult to trap in the later parts of winter. In summary, seven foxes were caught in the beach reserves, ten foxes were caught in bushland managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and a further 12 foxes were controlled in natural areas surrounding the Sunshine Coast airport.



Sunshine Coast Council greatly appreciated the support of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care and the coastal community throughout the delivery of the program. In particular, the care shown by pet owners to restrain their pets from entering areas associated with control activities helped to minimise the likelihood of domestic animals being harmed during the program.

During October, the last part of the 2016 program will see the deployment of a team of fox detection dogs who will be working with Sunshine Coast Council to help locate active fox dens. These dens will be fumigated and the location of active dens will be used to direct future control efforts.

It is hoped the 2016 Coastal Fox Program will provide some relief for wildlife species which are affected by fox predation.

‘Hidden Treasures’ on our Doorstep

Edwin Hammet and Mark Bizzell

As well as an Eco Discovery morning at Keith Royal Park Marcoola, focussing on wildflower photography, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care members hosted wildflower walks as part of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival, 21 August to 3 September. Both of our walks were held on the weekend 27-28 August, which were lovely clear fine days. The walk coordinators, Edwin and Mark, give us their impressions of the activities.

Marcoola – Edwin

In weather perfect conditions, after the usual ‘housekeeping’ introduction, Genevieve Jones gave a brief introduction on behalf of the traditional owners. Unfortunately Kerry Jones, a local traditional owner, could not join us as a family member was gravely ill.





Led by Silva, a very large and enthusiastic group of 53 participants got to experience the 'hidden' wonders of wildflowers at Marcoola. Silva's passion and enthusiasm captivated the group, with constant shouts of "Wow. Look at this beauty!" She would then name and describe the plant being examined and if sometimes she was uncertain, would delve into her constant companion, the "Noosa's Native Plants" wildflower book, written by Stephanie Haslam.

Apart from the colourful and varied display of flowers/plants/birds, to me a really pleasing aspect was the diversity of age of the group, from the very young to the somewhat older. One gentleman did the entire walk with the aid of a wheelie-walker, whilst a very young one, who was in a pusher, seemed to get obvious enjoyment from what she saw. Another participant was concerned that we would not finish in time for her to get to the airport by 4.30 pm!!

To me, a challenge for CaNSCC, is to make the general community aware of just what we have at our 'back door' and why it needs to be conserved.

Coolum West – Mark

We were in an isolated area of wallum wildflowers west of Coolum Beach in the southern extent of the Noosa National Park.



Around 40 wildflower enthusiasts walked for two hours on this particular Sunday morning among a display of spring colours in picture perfect weather. We were surrounded by dense native wallum heath that grew to a maximum height of one metre. The foliage may have been of an abrasive nature but stretched out before us the hardy heath was in its full flowering glory.

The sandy soil in this region is highly acidic and not to the liking of your average native or exotic plant. It is within this unique micro-climate soil type that the wildflowers thrive and come to life every springtime without fail. To a degree the flowering times of some wallum plant species can vary from week to week. This in itself is an interesting aspect because it allows the dedicated enthusiasts to return over a period of weeks to continually enjoy the changing mosaic of colours throughout the heath.



We were especially fortunate to see many of the blue flowering sun orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) and purple native iris (*Patersonia sericea*) which grew from the ground along the walking track.



Without going into too much detail the colours of some of the other wildflowers included yellow, red, white, pink, cream and blue. The vast concentration of the one species in areas made the colours even more magnified and intense.

Can't wait for next year's festival!

Inaugural Sunshine Coast International Readers and Writers Festival

Estelle Blair

From 9-11 September, Coolum Beach hosted its inaugural Sunshine Coast International Readers and Writers Festival at the Coolum Civic Centre and Jack Morgan Park. The opening ceremony on the Friday night was followed by two days packed with multiple choices of presentations, panels and workshops covering all facets of reading and writing, and even the creative arts like photography and book/cartoon illustration.



The organisers went out of their way to include a strong environmental and cultural focus and CaNSCC was invited to be involved from Day One, as were Aboriginal cultural heritage champions, including local Kabi Kabi representatives and Traditional Owners.

CaNSCC contributed by planting 200 ground cover plants on the dunes in front of Tickle Park, a presentation on our activities, participation in a lunchtime panel discussion, and reinforced our presence through a display and stall throughout the weekend. Those working on the stall were kindly permitted to sit in on the talks. The Aboriginal cultural

heritage presentations were particularly interesting. Those tailored to writing, for example the panel of local authors, a separate one run for journalists discussing the future of print in media and several “meet the author” talks promoting some outstanding books, were also fascinating and informative. And the comedian was unbelievably funny!

Thanks to the 15 members who participated at various times and events across the weekend – we couldn’t do it without you. Coast Care made \$84 in merchandise sales, \$40 in new/renewing membership and \$33.95 in donations. The poster for the soon-to-be released 2017 Calendar attracted passers-by, as did the Eco Discovery flyers, while several read the poster boards front and back.

It is a pity that the festival was not better attended. This was possibly due to it being “the first” and also inclement weather and clashes with other events, but hopefully it will be the first of many. Everyone, including Coast Care, took away lessons learnt which can only improve next year’s event.



The Art of Nature: Take a Closer Look!

Liz Diggles

The fourth very successful Eco Discovery workshop for children and families took place at the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre on Sunday, September 25. This is the second children’s workshop in which NPA has partnered with Coolum and North Shore Coast Care to encourage children in the 4-12 years age group to observe, enjoy and learn about caring for our natural environment.

The focus this time was on The Art of Nature and children participated in guided drawing of birds and animals with Cecily Fearnley, looking closely at patterns in nature and observing and thinking about animal skeletons and





movement. Lots of fun was had whilst producing some very creditable drawings and clay sculptures.

Outdoors the emphasis was on getting up close with tree bark and leaf shapes and patterns.

Thanks to the wonderful NPA members who volunteered to help on the morning alongside the Coast Care team. Children went away feeling very happy with their achievements and learnings.

New grow tunnel covers for the Nursery

Fuschia Collard and Jan Crossland

In the March edition of Jetsam, we reported on the Coolum Community Native Nursery's tenth anniversary celebrations. Most of the infrastructure used to house, propagate and grow the seedlings is also over ten years old, and the translucent grow-tunnel covers in particular were well past their use by date, with broken zippers and rusty poles.

CCNN Committee members Edwin and Jan applied for a federal government "Stronger Communities Program" grant through the Fairfax electorate office, to replace the covers. They weren't sure of their chances, as the renewal of the lease for the land on which the nursery is located is still not finalised.



Some months later, after the elections, we heard via our new local federal member, Ted O'Brien, that our application was successful. The grant funds provided for replacement of one of the grow-tunnel covers, while CCNN funds paid for the other. The works were completed in mid- September.

The new covers have top ventilation and the sides can also be rolled up a metre off the ground, so keeping the growing conditions at optimum levels for the seedlings is now possible. Thanks to all involved in the replacement task, especially Ben who spent hours grinding sharp edges off shelves.

Update on Everyone's Environment Grant

Estelle Blair

Since July, the contractor teams have undertaken eight days of weeding works: three in conjunction with the "National Tree Day" planting reported on above; a further three days at North Marcoola targeting mainly Basket Asparagus, and two days work north of Birrahl Park Yaroomba, targeting Asparagus, Mother-of-Millions and other invasive weeds. Six more days remain to be completed from this years' funding; three at Yaroomba Bushland Conservation Reserve (treating Madeira Vine), one at North Marcoola and one at Birrahl Park Yaroomba. Council has also contributed at least two days of works at Marcoola in conjunction with the project, for which we are very grateful.

Over 600 tubestock have been planted in the project area since July, in four different community tree planting activities. The Marcoola works have generated significant community interest, and in response two signs were made for display when works are undertaken, to show the partnership nature of the habitat restoration.

DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
2017 Calendar launch	1 October 2016	Mitre 10 William Street Coolum Beach	Display stall and fundraiser sausage sizzle from about 9am to 12midday. Official launch starts at 10am
Poster-making workshop for children aged 6 to 12 years	8 October 2016	Mudjimba Community Hall, 41 Cottonwood Street Mudjimba	Workshop to educate children about the dangers caused by plastic waste to sea creatures. Workshop from 10am to 12midday. Register via the Eco Discovery registration on CaNSCC website
North Shore Community Christmas Celebration	26 November 2016	North Shore Community Centre, 701 David Low Way Mudjimba	Tony and Gay have organised the Geckoes Wildlife Show on behalf of CaNSCC, as part of the celebration, and will have a stall there. All welcome. Celebration from 10am to 2pm
CaNSCC Christmas Party	TBA	TBA	Watch this space!



Weekly Dune 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



	<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

