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JETSAM

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Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



In the run-up to the festive season, we take a look back over the year for some programs and update members on some of our latest happenings, both major and minor. The Eco Discovery program reports on another successful year, while members share with us their invaluable environmental work through Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation projects in collaboration with QPWS. Reports on some of our other activities and event attendance round out the edition. We hope you enjoy it.

From the President - back on the deck

As the year rushes to an end I would like to sincerely thank our award winning Coast Care volunteers and also our many supporters. It has been a great year for CaNSCC with the efforts of all our volunteer activities being acknowledged at a National level as the winners of the Coast Care category in the Landcare awards and on a state level as finalists at the Premiers Sustainability Award.

This was all due to the collective effort of like-minded people who value the natural values of where we live. It is proof that together we can achieve amazing things.

May the festive season make the weeds grow slow, the native plants flourish, the turtles come in thick and fast while we recharge our batteries. I hope that Christmas is joyous and full of good health and good cheer.

The year 2017 is shaping up to be challenging. Let's hope it is a great one nonetheless.



Members enjoy themselves at the CaNSCC Christmas party, held this year at Coolum Croquet Club

World Fisheries Day at Twin Waters West, Maroochy Estuary

Kerry Jones, Sean Fleischfresser, Rodney Jones, Loretta Algar, Helen Jones & Genevieve Jones

World Fisheries Day (21/11/2016), held at Twin Waters West on the Maroochy Estuary just east of the Sunshine Motorway Bridge, saw 20 or more people attend a workshop sharing the local values of saltwater natural heritage and cultural heritage. Local Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner Kerry Jones and family, walked with people through Eastern grey kangaroo habitat, towards the Maroochy Estuary, while sharing the significance of threatened saltwater wetlands, including salt-marsh and mangroves. Twin Waters West joins the Maroochy River Conservation Park and 'declared fish habitat area', being much loved by the local and wider community.



Aboriginal people have been permanently settled on the Maroochy River for the last 10,000 years. Aboriginal marine economies and governance practices have set the ultimate benchmark or baseline for sustainable fisheries and shellfish (oystereries) management. Kerry shared insights into the extensive traditional knowledge held by Kabi Kabi people. For example, the riverbed and shellfish reefs of the Maroochy Estuary and the mangrove wetlands (previously much more extensive than now) were prolific producers of giant-sized oysters. Aboriginal shell(fish) middens covered many acres of riverbank and floodplains, purposely built as iconic landscape markers for traditional river navigation.

The fast pace of modern life makes it easy to forget how bountiful and productive our local fisheries were in past decades and centuries (marine scientists refer to this phenomenon as 'shifting baseline syndrome'). The beauty of having Traditional Owners out amongst the community is that they continue to retain historical information, and through the lens of traditional practices and knowledge, can pinpoint changes in the health and productivity of the Maroochy River over long stretches of time; something which is often overlooked in environmental assessments and state of health report cards.



The vulnerable and nocturnal Water mouse and its magnificent nest building and tunnelling capabilities within the tidal zones, were described in detail by local researcher Janine Kaluza. This species could be viewed as a key indicator for the condition of saltwater wetlands, and like the biodiversity of fish and crabs, is much dependent on healthy saltmarsh and mangrove nurseries habitat. Past and current threats to local saltwater fisheries and mangrove communities include urban development, modifications to the floodplains, changes to freshwater runoff, habitat

fragmentation through poor land-use planning, invasive weeds, foxes, climate change and rising sea levels.

Everyday needs to be World Fisheries Day; follow up activities to this event includes more community education tours, rubbish cleanups, mangrove and saltmarsh revegetation, wildlife monitoring and cultural heritage recording.

Family Fun and Eco Discovery

Diane Goodwillie

This year's Eco-Discovery program included five workshops and a new junior leaders program named Eco-Detectives. Congratulations to (from left) Ella Beaufort, Liam Previti, May O'Connor and Safron Holford, the initial junior leaders team. The results of the litter and dunes poster workshop are on display at the Coolum Library during December and they're available for other venues or schools if identified.

The 2016 workshops were valued with above average ratings - 79% felt they exceeded expectations. All up, 105 families participated with an overall attendance of 275 adults and children plus 300 volunteer hours (not including the organizing efforts of Liz Diggles, Peter Bland, Renee Fletcher, Esther Reith, Margaret Mourik and myself). Effortless on-line registration, thanks to Stephen Garrett posed a dilemma, as almost one third of registrations were no-shows (not including those who cancelled). We hope to develop an SMS reminder system just prior to the workshop to get more accurate records of intended participation.



The majority of children ranged between four and eight years old, with 47% from the Coolum, Marcoola, Peregrine Springs area but participants coming from Cooroy, Sippy Downs, Maleny, Peachester and Brisbane, a sign of the scarcity and need for additional family environment events. Grandparents valued the events especially. Social media and recommendations from schools and kindies played an increasing role in publicity, replacing newspaper which scored higher in 2015.

Thank you one and all, especially the volunteers for participation in this program. We hope to improve the

Eco-Detectives, introduce adventure walks, working bees and continue with some workshops in the winter months in 2017. If anyone wants to help with the planning for 2017 please contact Diane at diane.goodwillie@gmail.com.

We have a new shed floor!

Edwin Hammet

Thanks to a grant received from Coolum Beach SLS Supporters Club Community Benefit Fund, we now have a concrete floor in our storage shed, after a number of false starts. And the money flowed back to a couple of local businesses (Soil & Stone Factory and Hy-Tec Concrete).

Special thanks to Stuart and Jim who did the hard labour, and to the Hy-Tec driver who was super tolerant with us, to get concrete poured into the boxed up framework. Replacing the floor was also a good excuse to clean out the shed and rearrange the equipment. Now we can find things again!



Traditional Owner fox monitoring partnership project along Maroochy Estuary and Mt Coolum National Park (2015-16)

Kerry Jones, Sean Fleischfresser, Arnold Jones, Rodney Jones, Laurie Jones, Loretta Algar, Torrie Currie, Helen Jones & Genevieve Jones

Early 2015 saw local Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners and historically connected Aboriginal People begin work with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Sunshine Coast Council in a wide scale project monitoring and mapping fox dens. This project is sponsored by the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund to help conduct a short term Ranger program with Aboriginal People. Sites of interest for these activities include the Maroola section of the Mount Coolum National Park, Maroochy River Conservation Park at Mudjimba and Twin Waters, Muller Park and Cook's Road at Bli Bli along the Maroochy Estuary.

Activities last year included training in fauna tracking and sand pad monitoring to assist with species identification around known fox den areas, setting up of wildlife monitoring cameras and the meticulous



preparation of baits and humane trapping equipment. The fox is an introduced predator; a nocturnal specialist devastating local native species. Other work saw the collection of scats or animal poo; undertaken with careful hygiene practices. Such faeces or scats, consisting of prey species, is manually separated into hair and bones, for the careful analysis by ecologists expert in identifying fauna prey species by such remains. These projects allow opportunities for government workers or researchers to learn from and exchange technical information with the traditional ecological technology of Aboriginal People, having comprehensive 'local area knowledge', spanning back to the days prior to colonisation. Traditional Owner, Kerry Jones and family (and prior generations), have long depended on their 'local harvest supermarket', that is, the Maroochy River. It is a longtime survival strategy and a continuous practice to have their eyes tuned in to the presence, changes and behaviour of local wildlife and habitats.

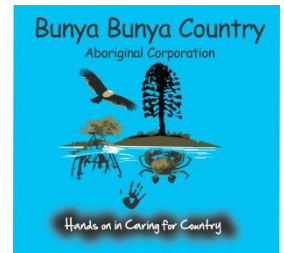


The coastal floodplains of the Sunshine Coast are not immune to biodiversity loss and local extinctions, and has a considerable number of vulnerable species, including the nocturnal Water mouse and the Black-breasted button quail (each having a national recovery plan). Also vulnerable are the Ground parrot, Jabiru, Sooty oystercatcher, Beach stone curlew, Cotton pygmy goose, Lewin's rail, Painted snipe, including species of wallum frogs and bats. Other specialised species within the wallum (heathland areas) include the swamp crayfish, native fish, and unique species of skinks and native mice. All these native species of course are on the menu for the population of foxes and roaming cats (feral or domestic). The eggs and the nesting sites, along our local dunes, of the vulnerable Green and endangered

Loggerhead marine turtles are also subject to fox predation.

The Aboriginal Ranger program around fox monitoring and control finished earlier this year and plans are underway to continue the partnerships with Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, QPWS, Sunshine Coast Council and the wider community by seeking further resources through upcoming funding opportunities.

Support by other sponsors include Unity Water, SEQ Catchments (Healthy Waterways), Saltmarsh for Life, Landcare Australia, MangroveWatch, University of the Sunshine Coast, Norman Wettenhall Foundation, Marcoola Coast Care, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Petrie Creek Catchment Care Group, Maroochy Waterwatch, Peregrine Community Group, Noosa Council, Queensland Government's Indigenous Land & Sea Grants and Everyones Environment program, having all helped with Water mouse monitoring, community awareness projects, mangrove revegetation, water quality testing, rubbish clean ups, and recording of cultural heritage sites.



More on Foxes - Meet Sophie and Rocky

Edwin Hammet

Peter, Karen, Sherida, Judy, Alan, Tony, Luke and I, together with Darcy Murray from Sunshine Coast Council, spent a couple of absorbing hours learning about Sophie and Rocky (Springer Spaniels), with their handlers Tom Garrett and Dr Dave Berman, from Queensland Murray-Darling Committee. We saw the dogs in action on a known den in Yaroomba BCR.



SCC has employed Tom and Dr Dave to locate fox dens between the Maroochy River and Stumers Creek. They take the dogs far and wide, including the turtle nesting site at Mon Repos and Currawinya National Park, where bilbies were at risk from feral cats. It was pleasing to hear that they will be going to Noosa after completing their work here.

The dogs can be trained to detect a range of 'targets', for example rabbits, feral cats and even weeds. In the case of foxes, the benefits of using dogs improved search effectiveness, as some dens are well hidden, and a positive response from the dogs at a den, meant that non-intended animals were not targeted.

As early as 2007, the turtle monitoring group had considered that turtle nest predation by foxes was a real and emerging threat. In 2011, as part of the CaNSCC 'Turtles on Trouble' project, a contractor was engaged to locate fox dens from Sunshine Beach to the Maroochy River on Council-managed land, and with further work by SCC and QPWS, known den locations have been mapped. Using this information, the dogs were used to locate these and other dens. By observing the dogs' behaviour at a den, the handlers can tell whether it is 'occupied' or not. They use a carbon monoxide *fumigant* cartridge if the den is occupied. This method ensures a humane death. The dogs can only be used for short bursts in mornings and afternoons, as they are hyper-active.

And Sophie's and Rocky's 'reward' for finding a den? They get to retrieve a tennis ball!

CaNSCC is very thankful for the efforts of SCC/Darcy and Les Donald QPWS for their endeavours to reduce the risks that foxes pose to coastal wildlife. Leigh, Steph and I had the pleasure of meeting up with Dr Dave and Tom to hear more about their work and how they use technology to record information. I reckon these guys are 'legends'. On their second last day on the Coast, they rescued a baby lorikeet that was taken to Jackie's Safe House for Wildlife at Mudjimba, thanks to Rosa. For those who wish to see Sophie and Rocky in action go to:

<http://www.news-mail.com.au/news/work-goes-to-the-dogs/2733169/>.

CaNSCC at North Shore Christmas Celebration and Eco Challenge

Estelle Blair

Displays at two recent events rounded out a busy year of promoting CaNSCC to the broader community.



For the fifth year in a row, Tony and Gay organised the Coast Care display and information marquee at the North Shore Community Christmas Celebration, held at the North Shore Community Centre on the last Saturday of November each year.

Thanks to the goodwill of SCC, Tony was again able to arrange for Geckos Wildlife Show to attend, to the delight of especially the younger patrons. An added bonus was a turtle talk provided by Sherida and Leigh, to publicise the start of the turtle nesting season and encourage local residents to watch out for tracks on the beach. We also had 2017

calendars, trial packs of merchandise and raffle tickets to sell. Fortunately the rain held off until after Santa had arrived and distributed presents to the children. Another successful few hours promoting Coast Care to the southern end of 'our patch'.

Only a week later the "better late than never" Surfrider Foundation Eco Challenge day-long event was held at Mudjimba. This event was only communicated to us (and other participants) at very short notice, but we thought it was worth spending the day 'showing the flag' and supporting that organisation. Again we trotted out the merchandise, calendars and membership forms and had a pleasant (though hot!) and successful day set up next to our friends from SCEC.

Now we're looking forward to a relaxing Christmas break before it starts again next year! Thanks to all those who assisted with the displays throughout the year – and there have been several – we can't do it without you. And it's a good opportunity for newer members who volunteer with the regulars to find out more about what we do.

Engaging Youth in the Environment

Lineise Norrish

In late November when I was watering plants on Stumers Creek Road one morning, I met teacher John from Peregian Springs State School, enjoying a walk with his family along the grassed path through Norrie Job Park. John had heard about the proposed concrete path along the route he had just walked, and expressed his concern with the idea. When he told his students, they decided to display their feelings in the form of designing their own posters which also drew attention to an upcoming meeting in the Coolum Civic Centre.

I was sent photos of the posters, which were viewed by attendees at our management committee meeting on December 1, and all present were impressed with the students' work.



Soon after on Saturday December 3, ten Grade 4 students with their teacher and parents, came for a walk and talk at the Lions Park/Stumers Creek Watercourse Project. The students brought with them the posters they had

designed to bring attention to the prospect of a 500 metre concrete path being built over the grassed area between the watercourse and the trees and plants bordering the eastern side of the grass. Some of the posters were attached to trees along the watercourse walk, and on a pole at the Stumers Creek Road entrance.

Teacher John and three of his students also attended the Community Consultation meeting held at the Civic Centre on December 7, and the young people were not shy of asking questions, and questioning the reason for a concrete path. Their presence may have surprised Cr Robinson, the two Community Consultation specialists, and the Project Manager. The small room allocated for the meeting was standing room only, despite the select invitees being informed that space was limited to 20 people.

Though it seemed to come as a revelation to the organisers, it was clear that the draft plan as it stood was not well received by those in attendance. However, the session was conducted in a civil manner (unlike what we see in our Federal Parliament) and viable alternatives were presented, as opposed to straight out opposition.

Following the meeting, the participants felt that their voice had been heard and the draft plan would be....re-drafted!

December Combined Groups Working Bee

Lineise Norrish



Our final group weed for 2016 was held on Thursday December 1 at the Coolum Beach Lions Park. We removed Morning Glory vine plus assorted weeds from the area adjacent to the path leading from the Lions Park. A generous morning tea was provided by Council's Conservation Officers, Ashley Goodman and Megan Jericho, who have worked throughout this year with all our groups from Coolum Beach south to Twin Waters.

President Leigh Warneminde thanked us for our dedication to dunal maintenance and removing invasive weeds throughout this year. Our working bees will resume on Thursday 2 February 2017.

Revisiting the place name meaning of Yaroomba

Genevieve Jones

Local Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner Kerry Jones and family recently undertook an interpretive research project for the place name meaning of Yaroomba, derived from local Aboriginal words. Kerry's family have been living in the area since prior to colonisation. Kabi Kabi people have been settled as a society on the Sunshine Coast for around the last 10,000 years. Yaroomba it seems, is taken from the Jinibara word/s 'yur'ru' or 'yu'roo' referring to the old growth vine or 'thick vine scrub' resource areas, having provided everyday useful things in local traditional life.

Yaroomba may refer to a group of traditional utilities, and could well include the thick vine ropes used for climbing to access canopy food resources, or to the nearby freshwater springs (drinking water), and plant materials, needed for the construction of huts and spears for fishing.

Local Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners are advocating for a formal Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the Queensland Government's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, for the areas of Yaroomba Beach and Mount Coolum National Park. For more information about how Yaroomba got its place name, please go to the in-depth story now on the CaNSCC website at <http://coolumcoastcare.org.au/local-information/> and scroll down the page to Local History.

Update on Everyone's Environment Grant

Estelle Blair

The contractor budget is now fully expended for the year, and what a difference the BCR team has made. Our followup work in combined group working bees and the groups' own weeding days is consolidating the contracted work. All the required turtle talks, and lots of extras, have been conducted, and there will be another opportunity at the movie night to draw attention to the turtle nesting season and recommended ways to behave around nesting turtles and new hatchlings on the beach. The monthly marine debris surveys have all been conducted and data analysis and entry is the main focus at the moment. A few equipment purchases early in the New Year will account for the remaining 2016 funding. All on track!

DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
Movie in Tickle Park	22 January 2017	Tickle Park Coolum Beach	Entertainment from about 5.30pm, movie commences after dark! Information and display stalls. Details will be circulated mid January.
Combined groups working bee	2 February 2017	Yaroomba BCR	Details of meeting point to be confirmed closer to the day. Please meet at 8am.



Weekly Dune Regeneration and Bush Care Groups – note groups are in recess until February		
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



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This newsletter has been produced with the support of all Coolum and North Shore Coast Care members and

