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JETSAM

Issue 22 - March 2017

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care

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Welcome!



Three months into 2017 and we have already conducted two events, with several more to come. In this edition we hear about the "Movie in the Park" in January, and the "Telling the Dreaming" International Womens Day event in March. We hear an update on Council's fox control program and a good news story about Kirra the hawksbill turtle. Reports on some of our other activities including hosting school groups and a new threat to native bees, round out the edition. We hope you enjoy it.

From the President - under the umbrella!



I am sure you will all agree it is refreshing to finally receive rain after a long hot dry summer. The dry hot weather has taken its toll on some of our native vegetation but our turtle nests have hatched in record time this season; "every cloud has a silver lining".

Summer has also seen OUR long-term member Linese, nominated and a finalist in Inspiring Women's Awards. Anyone who knows Linese, will not be surprised as Linese has always dedicated 110% of her energy into everything she does. Linese has a few passions and lucky for us Coast Care is one of them. Thanks for inspiring us Linese!

Speaking of inspiring, I am also very sad to report that our pocket rocket, Silva is moving South. We will miss her energy, her expertise and her passion very much.

We have been very fortunate to have Silva in our ranks. She has taught us a lot over many many years, wallum walks will not be the same without her. On behalf of the group I would like to wish her happiness and good health. I am sure our loss is the NSW coastline's gain.

I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has stepped up over the last few months as I have been preoccupied with family matters and not had as much time or energy to dedicate to CaNSCC. I very much appreciate the support and the efforts of you all.

Leigh Warneminde, President



Ocean Wonders: Movie in the Park

Susan Richards

On Sunday January 22nd we held the “Ocean Wonders” movie night in Tickle Park, Coolum Beach. Luckily the weather was kind to us this time around, and a crowd of around 150 people were able to enjoy the entire event without a drop of rain!



First up was the band ‘The Unknowns’, who got the kids in the crowd dancing to a variety of rock and roll songs. The pace toned down a little for Tracey Irwin and her friend Patricia Coles, who played beautifully as ‘The Verandah Girls’ duo as dusk fell and the big screen came to life with information about Coolum & North Shore Coast Care’s sea turtle monitoring program.

Once it got sufficiently dark, we were treated to stunning underwater photography of manta rays in the “Project Manta” documentary which was filmed in south east Queensland as well as in other international locations including Mexico, Micronesia and the Maldives. The documentary showed a nomadic side to manta rays, with scientific evidence of their migration from Stradbroke Island to Lady Elliot Island on the Barrier Reef. We also learned that manta rays are identified by a unique spot pattern on their underside, and that they can live for 50 years or more.



The final documentary for the evening was “One in One Thousand”, a documentary about what to do if you find a sick sea turtle on the beach and why sea turtle numbers have declined. The film followed the journey of a sea turtle rescued on a NSW beach and its rehabilitation and release.

Thank you to all to the Coolum & North Shore Coast Care volunteers who helped out on the night. We’d also like to thank our MC Colleen Gooden, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Starry Nights Outdoor Movies, The Unknowns, The Verandah Girls and Sunshine Coast Council. Funding for the night was generously provided by Coolum Beach Surf Club and a DEHP *Everyone’s Environment* grant.



Council Fox Control Program

Edwin Hammet

It was great to see a recent article in press that Sunshine Coast Council will again be conducting a fox control program in “bushland areas from the Maroochy River north to Peregrine and west to Coolum Creek”. Beach trapping

will commence from Twin Waters to Coolum on 9 May, while baiting on the Sunshine Coast Airport land and surrounding cane fields has already commenced. A BIG clap to the Feral animal folk at Council.



This is even more timely, given that our Turtle crew reported that a Green turtle nest at Marcoola had suffered from fox predation, even though there was protective mesh in place. What's more, it tried a second time on 25 March to access a different nest, but the hatchlings were already in the ocean, so its attempt was again thwarted.

It is thought that this behaviour is 'learned' from adults to juveniles, so it is important that the risk of further nest predation is reduced. But of course foxes are not fussy eaters. They will take crabs, frogs, reptiles, small mammals and ground dwelling birds, some of which are endangered.

I think a particularly 'exciting' part of the proposed program is the use of DNA technology. Team Leader Tony Cathcart said "DNA sampling can provide valuable insight into fox abundance prior to, and after control and will enable us to track population movements and will contribute to the design of future

control strategies". It is really pleasing to note that in that article, Cr McKay said it "was imperative that we continue to monitor fox activity".

In addition to reporting suspected dens to Council on 5475 7272, Council also asked that 'road kill' be reported, as they will be using the DNA collected to complement the samples collected from foxes that are trapped during the coastal fox program. Alternatively, members could contact me on 0439 387 264 and I'll pass the information on to Council.

Kirra – a Tale of Rescue and Release

Susan Richards

On 27 December 2016, while we were all enjoying the Christmas break, a sick juvenile hawksbill turtle washed in near Coolum Surf Club. One of the lifeguards on duty that day was Kirra Foxwell, and Kirra was on hand when Coolum and North Shore Coast Care volunteer Sheryl Wright came to collect the turtle and drive it to Sealife Mooloolaba for rehabilitation.

The turtle was named Kirra in honour of her lifeguard rescuer. Kirra the turtle showed signs of floating syndrome – her body was emaciated and she was very weak. Floating syndrome occurs when the turtle swallows something that causes a blockage in the turtle's intestinal system. Sea turtles cannot vomit – they have a "one way digestive system" so anything they eat has to pass out the other end.

Without an easy way to remove blockages, an intestinal blockage can be a serious problem for a turtle. It causes a build up of gas inside the animal and it is no longer able to dive for its food. Instead it floats on the surface of the ocean and slowly starves to death. Floating syndrome is often caused by swallowing plastics, particularly hard plastic pieces, rubber and balloons.



Luckily for Kirra the turtle, she washed ashore on Coolum Beach while she was still alive. This meant the lifeguards found her, put her in the shade out of the sun and contacted Coolum and North Shore Coast Care turtle volunteers.



Our volunteers use their own vehicles and fuel to transport sick turtles to Sealife Mooloolaba for rehabilitation, and Sheryl was Kirra's "turtle taxi" for the trip to Sealife. Kirra spent just over two months there recovering and putting on weight before being released back into the ocean off Mooloolaba Beach on 1 March 2017. Lifeguard Kirra was invited along to help with the release, and Coolum and North Shore Coast Care volunteer Doreen Davenport (as well as local media) were all there to watch Kirra make her way back to sea.

We'd like to thank Coolum Beach Surf Club lifeguards for their ongoing co-operation in reporting dead or sick sea turtles to us. We are also really appreciative of the efforts of

Sealife Mooloolaba staff in rehabilitating sick sea turtles that we transport to them.

If you find a dead or sick sea turtle on beaches between Mudjimba and Sunshine Beach, please call Coolum & North Shore Coast Care turtle volunteers on 0403 370 157 (Sherida) or 0409 807 110 (Susan).

... And a bit more on Turtles

Helen Dean

It was Australia Day night and a loggerhead turtle decided to nest at Noosa Main Beach. We got a call about 10pm to say the turtle was on the beach. It's quite a drive from Coolum, but Colin and Susan managed to get there just in time to tag her front flippers and measure her shell length as she returned to the sea after laying her eggs. As she had nested, they also put fox protection mesh over the eggs.



The man who called us and his son were so helpful - they waited on the beach for our volunteers to arrive and helped them in every way they could.

This was the eighth nesting turtle we have tagged on northern Sunshine Coast beaches over 10 years of monitoring. Tagging nesting sea turtles provides a way of tracking the turtle's movements and nesting habits if she is sighted again for years to come.

The Beauty of Knowledge

Kay Drabsch

In the shade of the cottontrees at Stumers Creek, the Chilly Davis family, born of Mooloolah's Dhugga Kabi Kabi people, shared their knowledge evolved in the Gubbi Gubbi or Kabi Kabi saltwater country that is Coolum and its surrounds. The sharing crisscrossed native plants, animals and the life of the sea through storytelling, teaching, dance and a demonstration smoking ceremony at the ***Telling the Dreaming*** workshop, 12 March 2017.

We learnt that dolphins were sung into the beautiful Coolum Bays, bringing the schools of fish before them (but never to take the lead fish groups as it scatters the school). That killer whales would come into shore to share their catch and sea eagles from their vantage points on the headland discerned the best time to fish, inspiring the people to fashion spears in the image of their beaks.



We learnt about the plants that were twins with the sea's bounty. The orange blooming Batswing coral tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*) signalling the crabbing season. And the leaves of trees found their likeness in the shape of the life of the sea such as stingrays.

Observing the flowering Cottonwood (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) provided knowledge of when to strip bark for rope or canoes, to ensure that the sap conditions provided both the tensile strength for nets, and the properties to make a canoe that could safely host a fire in its shell for night-time fishing. The nets, fringed with

pumice stone were used for both fishing and bird-life.

With mountains revered as cathedrals of the soul, people moved easily through the Coolum region, tasting the varieties of spring water from the abundant water table and leaving community canoes resting on the riverbanks to ferry people in safety.

The diversity of the land and sea gave flour to bake bread alongside the fish, fruit to complement the nuts and its share of stings and antidotes, with Pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*) a useful ointment for the Gimpi gimpi stinging tree (*Dendrocnide excelsa*).



In celebration of International Women's Day it was a time to listen to the lore that preserved our environs, sing into our hearts the spirit of the sky, and contemplate through painting the female rainbow serpent's weaving northward journey as she formed the landmarks and lagoons, leaving us at the coloured sands to her final resting place of Fraser Island.



All this came into being thanks to **YWCA Queensland** and the **Queensland Government's** support of the workshop as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

Locally, this generous support was complemented by Coolum and North Shore Coast Care and Coolum HeArts volunteers, Gubbi Gubbi or Kabi Kabi family members, who prepared paints and snacks of ginger and pumpkin scones, simple sandwiches and fruits and accompanied by Lemon Myrtle iced tea.

The value of wisdom shared can take us all forward with heart, humour and the power of observation to be the best possible custodians that we can be on land, in the great blue of the water and in the skies.

African Tulip Tree – lovely to look at but....

Edwin Hammet

My interest in this tree was 'pricked' when I attended a recent work shop on Native Bees organised by the Marcoola Community Group, when Bob (the Bee Man) mentioned the danger posed to native stingless bees by this tree. Here's some information from his website. Bob has agreed to allow its reproduction for CaNSCC newsletter.



The African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata) is listed as a Class 3 pest by the DPI, and can no longer be sold or distributed in Qld. However its past history of distribution as a street and landscaping tree has ensured plentiful escapes into natural and urban habitats displaying the behaviour that justifies its inclusion in the Global Invasive Species Database "Top 100 World's Worst Invaders".

Unfortunately if one takes the time to look closer, this beauty conceals a lethal threat to our stingless bees. Look at the sprays of flowers and you will see stingless bees attracted to the flowers for foraging. Look closer and you will see the bees gathering pollen, and seemingly imbibing other plant secretions as well as nectar. Unfortunately if you continue the examination

into the flowers, you will find the result of that foraging for pollen and nectar, a collection of dead and dying stingless bees and other insects.

While I cannot say just what the chemical mechanism of the toxicity is, it seems to be quick, I have watched a bee in its death throes within the flower itself. I have collected many such specimens.

On Bob's website he says that native bees in Brazil are similarly affected, and goes on to say it provides a "very powerful reason to persist in the effort to remove it from our landscape at every possible opportunity, perhaps even to step up that removal."

African tulip tree is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

What should we do? Well if you have one of these trees in your garden you could cut it down and replace it with something more native bee friendly. Or if you are concerned, perhaps contact Council to urge the removal of these trees from urban streets. The Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website suggests "Non-invasive native alternatives to the African tulip tree are black bean (*Castanospermum australe*), wheel of fire (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) and flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*)".

The "Bush" comes to the "Beach"

Estelle Blair

On 16 March, the Yinneburra/Yerranya Dunes weeding group hosted 20 Grade 11 students and their two teachers from Pittsworth State High School. This is the third such visit from the school's biology students, and we enjoy their company and enthusiasm for the coastal environment.

After Leigh and I gave a presentation on coastal biodiversity, the role national parks play in conserving it, and what CaNSCC does to protect and restore it, the students walked down the beach from Pt Arkwright, getting wet feet and catching crabs along the way! A grassed area devoid of trees, on the foredune just south of BA 87 (northern end of Yinneburra Street) had been selected for revegetation, as the few remaining mature Casuarinas and Pandanus

were dying and the grass, while stabilising the sand, was too thick to allow seedling recruitment to fill the gaps.



With the assistance of a couple of spades and 25 willing workers, 136 tubestock were planted in just over an hour. Because the Casuarinas were quite large, we were able to “deep plant” them, well into the moist sand. The following week we returned to stake and check their progress, plant another 32 seedlings, and start tackling the Singapore daisy, Asparagus and Corky Passion Vine infesting the area. The showery week had enabled them to thrive, and one seedling which needed to be relocated already had new roots up to 6cm long!

Coast Care members enjoy working with students and the students apparently equally enjoy the interaction. At the end of March, Tony from the Marcoola group is once again talking to St Andrews Anglican College Senior Geography students on “Managing the coastal environment”, while on the international scene, a group of “Rustic Pathways” international students will again be weeding with the Stumers Creek group. At the end of April, the GEMs students from Singapore will be hosted at Pt Arkwright for the third year running. Sherida and Susan have already “talked turtle and marine debris” at three schools and kindergartens since February. It’s good to see the interest and eagerness to learn and protect our environment, in these students and their schools.

A Blubbery Tale

Julie Maddock

Did you know you can eat blue blubbers?

Now I have your attention...

A survey is being undertaken under the guidance of Dr Kylie Pitt at Griffith University, counting numbers and varieties of jellyfish washed up on our Sunshine Coast beaches, measuring how populations change over a long time.

Because numbers vary so much, people in the community are volunteering to record numbers and variety on a regular basis, for example, during their daily walk on a stretch of beach. This will marry up with recording of wind, tides, sea temperatures, etc., to answer such questions as why the species differ, do numbers increase as waters warm.

Also, what eats jellyfish after they are washed up? This can be done with chemical labelling and recording what has ingested the label.

More volunteers are always welcome so if you go for a regular walk on the beach like I do, it's quite exciting to see hundreds of blue bottles or blue blubbers. We may be eating some of them one day.



Contact details Dr Kylie Pitt K.Pitt@griffith.edu.au

Julie Maddock j.mad3173@bigpond.com

Specks of Sand: Community, Science and Decision-making

Wendy Gordon

Early notice! Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, in partnership with University of Sunshine Coast and OSCAR, and supported through funds from the Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative, is organising a forum on the Maroochy River estuary, to enable the community to be better informed on coastal and river processes, and how these interact with urban and rural landscapes and modifications required by development. The free, all-day forum will be held at USC on 13 May. Keep an eye out for details in the next few weeks, as numbers will be limited.

Update on Everyone's Environment Grant

Estelle Blair

The final event for Year 2 of the grant, the Ocean Wonders movie night, was held on 22 January, and again focussed attention on turtles and their protection, as well as showing a fascinating movie on manta rays. After our annual break in January, the followup weeding program consolidated the contractors' good weed control work from late last year. The second Milestone Report is about to be submitted, which if approved, will trigger the payment of third-year funds, enabling us to re-employ Bushland Conservation Management, our contractors, for the final year's efforts. We're looking forward to another successful year in restoring our precious coastal habitats.

DATE CLAIMERS

Event	Date	Place	Details
Combined groups working bee	6 April 2017	Beach Access 99, Marcoola	Access through Orungal Park at the end of Orungal Court Marcoola. All welcome. Please meet at 8am.
Booin Gari festival	11 April 2017	Lions Park Noosaville	9.30-3.30pm. A celebration of indigenous culture on the Sunshine Coast. Entertainment, workshops.
Reef Check talk	11 April 2017	Scuba World Mooloolaba, 6.15pm	Marine mammal strandings - presentation by Dr Justin Meager, DEHP
Specks of Sand: forum	13 May 2017	University of the Sunshine Coast	Forum from 9am-3pm. Several expert speakers and panel sessions. Details soon. Bookings essential.



Weekly Dune Regeneration and Bush Care Groups		
Stumers Dunes Birte - 0403 752 955	Lions Park Watercourse Lineise - (07) 5446 5116 lineise5@bigpond.com	Marcoola Coast Care Tony - 0419 791 860 tony.gibson@spirit3h.com.au
Yaroomba Bushland Park Sherida - 0403 370 157	Yinneburra/Yerranya Dunes Edwin - 0439 387 264	Marcoola North Dune Care Alan - 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



	157 Warran Rd, Yaroomba Qld 4573 Ph 07 5473 9322 info@coolumnatives.com www.coolumnatives.com	Tues-Fri 7:30am – 3:30pm Sat 8:30am – 12:30pm Fuschia Collard & Ben Pearce
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This newsletter has been produced with the support of all Coolumn and North Shore Coast Care members and

