



**Happy New Year and Best Wishes!**

**28 January 2015**

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare looks forward to a rewarding year ahead as members work together to preserve the environmental values of our island home.

Thanks to a great team effort we finished 2014 on a high with news of a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare grant from the Australian government.

The project, *“Promoting Ramsar environmental and cultural heritage values of the Melaleuca Wetlands”* will see development of interpretive signage for the Melaleuca Wetlands in collaboration with Quandamooka elders and WetlandCare Australia, supported by SEQ Catchments and Redland City Council.

Those who have visited Capembah Creek (Myora Springs) on North Stradbroke Island appreciate the unique signage explaining the site’s ecological significance and importance to Traditional Owners, the Quandamooka people.

Development of sensitive signage for our Ramsar-listed wetlands will fill an information void on Coochie and enable greater understanding of our fragile environment. The project is in line with recommendations from the 2004 Coochiemudlo Island Land Management Plan

Special thanks to Redland City Council, senior officers and in particular, Councillor Lance Hewlett for supporting the project.

### **Dunecare dates for 2015**

**Saturday, 7 February 8 -10.30 am** - Kick-start the Dunecare year with a mini Weed Workshop with Boyd Essex from Indigiscapes where we’ll learn more about identifying the most common invaders and best removal methods. Thanks to recent rain there’s a good range of weeds to practice new skills. Please meet at the southern entrance of the Melaleuca Wetlands where the Coastcare flags fly. Cuppa to follow. BYO chair.

**Sunday, March 1 from 8-11am - Clean-Up Australia Day** –Dunecare will focus on cleaning-up Curlew Creek and the beach west of the barge ramp. Join us where the gazebo and flags fly near the ramp

**Saturday, 11 April 3-5pm** Dunecare, Melaleuca Wetlands north followed by general meeting & BBQ at the Morwong Beach Rotunda

**Saturday, 2 May 3-5pm** Dunecare, Melaleuca Wetlands south & BBQ at Norfolk Beach

**Saturday, 6 June 3-5pm** Dunecare Outriggers Beach & BBQ venue TBA

Dates for the second half of the year & Annual General Meeting to be confirmed

## Join the annual Coochie Curlew Count



Photo courtesy of Peter Wear

Please join the **19<sup>th</sup> annual Coochie Curlew Count** when we search every nook and cranny on the island to count these beautiful birds.

Stay on afterwards for a free BBQ and special presentation, courtesy of Redland City Council's Environmental Education unit, Indigiscapes

When: **Saturday 7 February 2015 at 4.30pm**

Where: **Pioneer Park, Main Beach**

**BYO: Drinks, torch, chair and insect repellent**

**RSVP for catering purposes: call Indigiscapes on 38248611**

### **Renew memberships now**

Coastcarers who pay annual dues by Saturday 7 February will have their names entered into an Early-bird draw for a dinner for two at Red Rock. Life Members will be included in the draw

Membership ensures you are covered by volunteer insurance for any Coastcare activity

Single annual membership is \$2; Family \$5 with Life Memberships of \$50 for Singles and \$100 for Families.

If your details have changed please fill out the attached membership form and return to Secretary, David Mansford [daddavid47@bigpond.com](mailto:daddavid47@bigpond.com)

Please choose your membership level and Direct Deposit to Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc – **Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-149 Account 10096929** or drop an envelope to the closest address -

Treasurer: Ruby Sanders, 12 Kingfisher Street - Phone 0419 723 613

Secretary: David Mansford, 11 Tageruba Street - Phone 0487 392388

President: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, 94 Victoria Parade East - Phone 0411 22 6363

## Local news round-up

- Work plans are almost finalised with Redland City Council for Coastcare's ongoing maintenance of almost a kilometre of foreshore from the eastern tip of Main beach to the northern edge of the Melaleuca Wetlands. The draft agreement covers volunteers undertaking photo-monitoring, re-vegetation, dune profiling, hand-weeding, litter collection and general maintenance with RCC support.
- Following concerns raised by Coastcare late last year over the herbicide spraying of foreshores and sensitive wetlands Council called for a scientific report from Griffith University on the safety of chemicals proposed. Coastcare looks forward to further discussion on integrated weed management for the island that minimises the need for herbicide use.
- Warnings signs alerting recreational users to the presence of Lyngbya (Lyngbya majuscula) on Main Beach remain in force. According to Council Conservation officer, Adam Pearce the outbreak which started in November is still evident in patches and swimmers should be vigilant as personal reaction is variable. Further information is available from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.  
<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/coastal/ecology/lyngbya-updates/>
- Work on the Main Beach Foreshore Plan is due to start in March 2015 according to Councillor Hewlett with rehabilitation of Curlew Creek west of Elizabeth Street planned for the 2015-16 financial year.
- The new jetty is well on track with roofing currently being attached. Coastcare understands a series of Questions & Answers will soon be released by Council and the Department of Transport addressing concern over the design life and ability of the new structure to withstand storm tides. Wonder about projected Sea Level Rise?
- Despite very low tides this month, quarterly monitoring of seagrass across two transects adjacent to the Coochie jetty was impossible due to the turbidity of water. Thanks to volunteers who got up at 4.30am last week! We're investigating the status of water quality monitoring and will keep you posted.
- Next month we'll provide an update on the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan, turtle monitoring and progress on continued complaints over the damaged barge ramp.

**Volunteer Insurance policies renewed** Coastcare appreciates the ongoing support of the State Government enabling Queensland Water and Land Carers to sign the contract for insurance coverage for 2015. The policies, Personal Accident, Volunteer Accident and Association Liability, have once again been taken out with Aon Insurance. The relevant policy can be downloaded from <http://qwalc.org.au/index.php/qwalc-insurance/current-policies>

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare is grateful as insurance coverage facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines ensures volunteers continue to care for the environment.

For further detail please contact members of the Coastcare executive - **Vivienne Roberts-Thomson (President)** email: [gvrthomson@gmail.com](mailto:gvrthomson@gmail.com) Ph: 0411226363; **David Mansford (Secretary)** email: [daddavid47@bigpond.com](mailto:daddavid47@bigpond.com) Ph 0487 392388 or **Ruby Sanders (Treasurer)** Ph: 0419 723 613

**Executive members: David Kemp, Rae Wear and Graeme Roberts-Thomson**

**Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Facebook helps to keep members up-to-date, especially with our network partners. Please consider joining now. Comment is restricted to members and affiliated organisations**