



Coastcare News June 2015

National Reconciliation Week was celebrated across Australia last week and marked in the Redlands with the unveiling of sculptured metal panels recognising the city's traditional identity, culture and connections.

The Quandamooka Statement of Recognition artwork outside Council chambers represents a proud milestone in the relationship between Council and the Traditional Owners of the region and is a permanent acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the lands, winds and waters of Quandamooka Country.

Almost four years ago on 4 July 2011 the Native Title of Quandamooka people was legally recognised. In a small, but significant way we continue this acknowledgement on Coochiemudlo Island.



Australian Government

**National
Landcare
Programme**



25th Anniversary Landcare Grants project for Coochiemudlo Island

The Australian Government's National Landcare Programme is providing funding towards development of interpretive signage for the Melaleuca Wetlands, with works to commence at the wetland entrances later this month.

The project, "**Melaleuca Wetlands - Promoting Ramsar Environmental and Cultural Values**" is being administered by Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc, and will see Quandamooka elders "on country" sharing their knowledge about the history and significance of the island. A cultural heritage survey will also be undertaken to locate key sites, such as middens and scar trees, in the 19.5 hectare wetlands.

Coastcare appreciates the collaboration with WetlandCare Australia and SEQ Catchments, as well as the support of Redland City Council which will see the \$18,600 project augmented with two noticeboards at the northern and southern entrances through Councillor Lance

Hewlett's Community Infrastructure Funding. Posted material will be temporary as the project is completed over the next year.

Unique signage at Myora Springs on North Stradbroke Island showcases that site's ecological significance and importance to the Traditional Owners, the Quandamooka people. Coastcare believes the development of similar signage for these Ramsar-listed wetlands will inform the community, enabling greater understanding of our fragile environment and its importance to the Quandamooka.

It's hoped heightened awareness of the environmental and cultural values of this special site will foster improved stewardship of the area.



This project is supported by Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Incorporated and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, WetlandCare Australia, SEQ Catchments and Redland City Council.

Ecotourism focus at AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc will be held on Saturday 18 July in the grounds of "Mudlo" on the last weekend of the exhibition, "Vision through Mangroves" by local artist, Narelle Renn.

Our guest speaker will be Doctor Ronda Green, Chair of Wildlife Tourism of Australia <http://www.wildlifetourism.org.au/>

Dr Green is an adjunct research fellow at Environmental Futures, Griffith University. She has been involved in wildlife tourism for several decades, and runs the multi-award winning 'Araucaria Eco tours' specialising in wildlife tours from Brisbane. She has authored and co-authored several research reports for Sustainable Tourism CRC Griffith University and recently published a handbook on wildlife tourism for guides, students and business start-ups.

We look forward to welcoming members to the AGM which starts at 2pm with an open invitation to the community to join us for Ronda's presentation starting at 2.30pm followed by afternoon tea in the grounds.

Further details contact Heather Smith on 0433667315 heather.smith@clubdynamite.com.au

Local news round-up

- Contractors deployed another 17-reef balls to augment the existing 174 on the East Coochie Artificial Reef last month. The reef attracts a wide diversity of marine life, providing protection from predators, shelter from currents, breeding opportunities and rich food sources. Coastcare had lobbied hard to retain the remnant parts of the old jetty on the reef. Despite the loss of jetty material to the Harry Atkinson reef further north, we're grateful to Transport & Main Roads for working with community, elected representatives and Coastcare friends to make this happen.
- Confusion seems to reign over the ownership of an eroded cable on the Golf course beach just west of Red Rock with neither Telstra nor Energex claiming ownership. We thought the issue had been resolved recently when Energex arrived with heavy machinery, excavated a trench into the bay and buried the cable then stood upright the collapsed warning signs. Escalating erosion has made the site potentially dangerous as cables are supposed to have a minimum 600cms covering of sand. Coastcare has been told the island's three cables access here. Hopefully, authorities will soon physically confirm beyond reasonable doubt the identity and site of each of these cables - Coochie's communications and energy lifeline. We have been advised by Council that "additional maintenance/operational work will also be identified to assist in further covering of this infrastructure."
- Erosion inspections continue around the island with both state member, Matt McEachan and Cr Lance Hewlett visiting for an update while three Council officers also spent time checking recent and long-term damage from Morwong Beach east, the graveyard of trees, wetlands, Norfolk, Outriggers, past Main Beach to Red Rock and the golf course. Lack of progress on the establishment of an island reference group and further studies is frustrating considering Council's decision to instigate action last August. One positive though is Council awareness "of the erosion occurring at Red Rock and further investigations will need to be undertaken."
- While the Main Beach foreshore redevelopment is due to start next month Council has announced that detailed rehabilitation plans for Curlew Creek will take longer to develop. A further survey of the creek invert is required to confirm the location of any required re-profiling prior to rehabilitation. Reassuring to know this will be undertaken to enable Council to confirm what effect the works would have on mangroves. Coastcare is particularly interested in the fate of mangroves recently marked with blue ribbons denoting potential removal west of Tageruba Street. We await official updates with keen interest.
- Coastcare understands the long-suffering section of Curlew Creek running beside the shop will be re-instated as a natural looking watercourse with rock and vegetation. The bed will be re-profiled and raised to the height of the drain under Elizabeth Street. It's so important engineers and water design

specialists come up with the correct diagnosis and treatment not only here, but for the sake of Curlew Creek and our catchment as a whole.

- Plans are underway to replace Coochie's barge ramp in the 2017 financial year. Repair works will be carried out this week to again re-fill gaps between concrete slabs, the source of numerous complaints from recreational boaties. Coastcare has instigated a number of CRs with Council over the last two years and looks forward to progress. Consultation over the ramp will begin next year and it's understood pylons are on the drawing board.
- Work plans are still to be signed off with 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.
- **It was pleasing to hear just prior to Easter that Council undertook hand-weeding near the barge ramp. An environmental officer advised a resident who requested action that herbicide sprays were not allowed in heavily used foreshores. Coastcare looks forward to further discussion on integrated weed management for the island that minimises the need for herbicide use.**

Volunteer Insurance policies 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 Phone 0411226363; David Mansford (Secretary) email: daddavid47@bigpond.com. For AGM concerns please contact Heather Smith on 0433667315 or email heather.smith@clubdynamite.com.au

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

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Facebook helps to keep members up-to-date. Please consider joining. Comment is restricted to members and affiliated organisations.