

President's Report to 2015 AGM of Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc

I welcome you all to the second annual general meeting of Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare. On behalf of our members I'd like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, of elders past and present

A special welcome to our guest speaker, Doctor Ronda Green, the Chair of Wildlife Tourism Australia, Redland City Councillor, Lance Hewlett & Sheena; Council Manager City Spaces, Lex Smith, Manager Environment & Regulation Gary Photinos and Service Manager Environment & Education, Ben McMullen.

I'd like to acknowledge apologies from Ivan and Ann Holm, Juliet Wiseman, Ian Shapcott, Gary and Maxene Morgansen, Cliff and Patrice Draper, Elizabeth Sparkes, Ellen Paxton, Catherine Bishop, Dennis Lack, Peter Wear, Susan Kemp, the Mayor Redland City, Cr Karen Williams and Deputy Mayor Alan Beard, Crs Wendy Boglary and Craig Ogilvie and Bushcare Boyd Essex.

I'd like to pay tribute to founding President, Carolyn Brammer not just for inviting us to hold the meeting here today but for her tireless effort and commitment to Coochiemudlo Island and Coastcare in particular. There's no doubt Narelle Renn's "Vision through Mangroves" exhibition, part of the Quandamooka Festival will have a lasting legacy. Thank-you Narelle. What a catalyst this exhibition has been for a focus on our magnificent mangroves. And what great interest was generated by the fine line-up of authoritative speakers and informative guided walks.

It's times like this that our volunteer community of Coastcarers truly values the connections, friendships and support from network partners SEQ Catchments, Healthy Waterways and WetlandCare Australia, the Wildlife Preservation Society, Mangrove and Seagrass Watches. Special thanks to Debra Henry for her assistance.

As mentioned in the President's Report last year our members provide the management committee with moral strength and our constitution, the guidance.

It was a hectic year.

Unfortunately, Carolyn resigned as President two months after last year's AGM & following talks with the Office of Fair Trading, the executive voted me into the Presidency. There was a reshuffle of roles as David Mansford became Secretary and Ruby Sanders Treasurer. The changes, regarded as a casual

vacancies under the Model Rules were endorsed by members attending our November general meeting. Anyone involved with a non-profit organisation knows time and energy is a constant source of conflict so we understood when Margrit Lack stood down to concentrate on Bushcare which she's been convening for 10 years as well as heading the Native Nursery and then more recently Ruby. Our gratitude goes to Carolyn, Margrit & Ruby for their untiring support. We were delighted to welcome Heather Smith and Juliet Wiseman to the team to fill casual vacancies along with David.

So much has happened over the past 12 months I've decided to recap events in chronological order.

Soon after last year's AGM President, Carolyn addressed Council supporting officer recommendations to list three sites on the Local heritage Register. In an earlier submission Coastcare had cited continued omission of heritage sites as unacceptable from a risk management perspective. We'd discovered after the storm surge from ex Tropical cyclone Oswald Coochiemudlo Island was ineligible for funding from the Australian Government for rehabilitation of heritage sites after a natural disaster – as none were officially recorded. It's reassuring to know Moreton Steps, the Community Hall precinct & Norfolk Beach, the landing site of Mathew Flinders are now covered.

A month later in August we welcomed the decision by Redland City Council to endorse the establishment of a senior level Coastal Adaption Steering Committee to help respond to coastal erosion across the city, together with individual reference groups for Amity Point and Coochiemudlo Island. The draft Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for Norfolk Beach was also to be finalised as a report. Unfortunately, almost a year later there's no progress to report. We recently wrote to the Mayor seeking an update. Meanwhile escalating erosion has uncovered vital cables west of Red Rock with ownership still under dispute. We face continuing erosion on the island's north east at identified Control Points five, four and three. Coastcare continues to bring erosion issues to the attention of local and state representatives as well as Council officers. There have been three different deputations in the last quarter checking recent and long-term damage from Morwong Beach East, the graveyard of trees in the north east, wetlands, Norfolk, Red Rock and the Golf Course.

There were submissions to Council on the Main Beach Foreshore Masterplan and Curlew Creek rehabilitation as well as applications for grants to both the Queensland and Australian governments. In October, Coastcare was invited to

represent community organisations of south-east Queensland and speak at the Healthy Waterways Report card presentation.

Undoubtedly, the highlight at year's end was the 25th Anniversary Landcare grant - the best Christmas present we could have received. We're grateful to Cheryl Bolzenius of WetlandCare Australia for encouraging us with this interpretive signage project "Melaleuca Wetlands- promoting Ramsar Environmental and Cultural Values"

We appreciate the collaboration with WetlandCare Australia and SEQ Catchments as well as support from Redland City Council which has seen the \$18,600 project augmented with two notice boards at the wetland entrances through Cr Hewlett's Community Infrastructure funding.

Unique signage at Capembah Springs (Myora) on North Stradbroke Island showcases that sites ecological significance and importance to the Traditional Owners, The Quandamooka people. Coastcare believes the development of similar signage for our Ramsar wetlands will inform the community, enabling greater understanding of our fragile environment and its cultural heritage importance. A cultural heritage survey will be undertaken to locate key sites such as middens and scar trees in the 19.5 hectare wetland and we'll see Quandamooka elders "on country: sharing knowledge about the history and significance of the island. We value the developing relationship with Quandamooka and thank QYAC CEO Cameron Costello and Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator, Michael Costelloe for their assistance in particular.

It's pleasing to reflect that in between all the serious business, we've managed to have some fun. The highlight of our social calendar- the Christmas party here at "Mudlo" and the incredible catering by Ruby & Co.

For over a year Coastcare has been working with Council to finalise Dune-care work plans to manage the rehabilitated shoreline from Main Beach east to the northern end of the Melaleuca Wetlands. We've committed to undertake regular maintenance including litter clean-ups, infill plantings, monitoring, watering and generally tending the dunes. The flip-side being Council agreeing to address a number of priority actions identified to help maintain and better protect our bush-lined beaches.

Along the way we've disagreed over the direction of herbicide spraying and due credit to Lex Smith for helping us retain foreshore work zones and extend that care through the wetlands east of the track. We look forward to ongoing

discussion on integrated weed management for the island. Coastcare recognises the important role Indigiscapes has played, paving the way for better outcomes. Thanks goes to the former head of Indigiscapes, Craig Doolan and Boyd Essex and we look forward to working with you Ben - Caring for our island

Our monthly working bees continue to attract a solid core of regulars and mid-week sessions have proven popular. Work has been made so much easier thanks to a Councillor's grant of \$2765 from Lance Hewlett for a galvanised trailer which stores all equipment. Thank-you Lance. Our "workshop on wheels" is ready for unveiling and we welcome you all to take a closer look afterwards. While the trailer and metal sheeting was purchased at Shed 27 we are indebted to Cliff Smith who built the superstructure. Many thanks Cliff for your superb workmanship. I'd also like to acknowledge the \$500 grant from SEQ Catchments which contributed towards tools and completing the trailer.

During the year Coastcare continued to seek information and provide feedback regarding dredging and the jetty construction. I understand we'll soon see placement of seagrass friendly mooring buoys by SEQ Catchments as part of the environmental offset for damage to sea grass beds. In May, we welcomed the deployment of another 17 reef balls to augment the existing 174 on the East Coochie Reef. Coastcare 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 the Department of Transport and Main Roads for working with community, elected representatives Matt & Lance in particular as well as the Mayor, Karen Williams. I should also acknowledge Council officers & Marine Parks.

Coastcare continued to raise concerns over the state of the barge ramp with repairs being undertaken to refill gaps between the concrete slabs, the source of numerous complaints from recreational boaties. We've been advised plans are underway to replace the ramp in the 2017 financial year with consultation to begin next year.

The Management Committee advises members that the Association has current public liability insurance of \$20 million. This coverage is provided through our membership of Queensland Water and Landcarers with funds provided by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. It covers members on all official Coastcare duties on the dunes, the wetlands, market days, meetings and the Native Nursery. Margrit Lack holds a current

licence from the Queensland Government to source materials here on the island to propagate and sell native plants. Once a week a group of Coastcarers get together to propagate, repot and share knowledge. These volunteers work in a not-for-profit, chemical-free nursery and are passionate about supplying native plants for island gardens, bushland and the coastal fringe. The quality is excellent!

For the record there were nine executive meetings and three general meetings. As well as tending the dunes on a monthly basis at weekends, we've found mid-week sessions also popular as well as island market days. The membership base has grown to more than 243 adults and 33 children including 45 life members.

So wrapping up the year that was, I'd like to pay tribute to members of the management committee seeking re-election today, our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much to the environment, our supportive Councillor, Lance Hewlett, Redland City Council and our network partners.

Thank-you.

Vivienne Roberts-Thomson