



September 2014 Newsletter

A visit to the Council chamber late July saw President, Carolyn Brammer support officer recommendations for Consolidated Amendment Package 01/2014 to list Norfolk Beach on the local Heritage Register along with Morton's Steps and the Community Hall precinct.

In its submission, Coastcare cited continued omission of the island's heritage sites as unacceptable from a risk management perspective.

After last year's storm surge 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 at least three heritage sites are now covered.

After 215-years also, Mathew Flinders landing on Norfolk beach has finally been officially recognised.

Council endorses new response on coastal erosion

Redland City Council has endorsed the establishment of a senior level Coastal Adaptation Steering Committee to help respond to coastal erosion issues across the City, together with individual Reference Groups for specific coastal erosion sites, Amity Point and Coochiemudlo Island.

At this stage details are unclear but Coastcare is hoping the Coochiemudlo reference group will be resourced to access further technical studies as previously advised. In February, Council released bound copies of our draft plan for loan from the Coochie library. Coastcare has requested this Plan to be posted online just like Amity's -

www.redland.qld.gov.au/AboutRedlands/NorthStradbrokeIsland/Pages/Amity-erosion.aspx

In March, Coastcare also raised 16-queries with Council and the consultant, Malcolm Andrews from BMT WBM in relation to the draft SEMP. To date these questions remain unanswered.

Mayor Karen Williams said the Redlands had one of Queensland's highest coastal erosion risk areas at Amity Point on North Stradbroke Island and over 220 kilometres of shoreline. Councillor Williams said it was clear that local knowledge" had to be part of drafting local solutions."

“That is why we have agreed to establish individual Reference Groups to help develop Shoreline Erosion Management Plans for specific sites, starting with individual Reference Groups at Amity Point on North Stradbroke and Norfolk Beach on Coochiemudlo Island,” she said.

Divisional Councillor for Victoria Point and Coochiemudlo Island, Cr Lance Hewlett said policies of coastal retreat were often adopted as a realistic response to the erosive power of nature.

“It is equally important to identify reasonable measures to defend important coastal habitats and property, including collaboration with all stakeholders on coastal dune management and revegetation. The coastal foreshores and beaches throughout the Redlands are highly valued by the wider community for their aesthetic and environmental attributes. These coastal areas also attract thousands of tourists to our city every year which represents a significant investment in our local economy,” he said

We’ll keep you posted on developments!

Main Beach Foreshore Masterplan – *the devil is in the detail*

Coastcare’s submission on the draft Foreshore Masterplan was based on recommendations from the island’s 2004 Land Management Plan and the organisation’s objectives. The draft was discussed by the Executive and by members at August’s general meeting. While offering in-principle support for the concept, in particular the upgraded island entrance, Coastcare hopes several environmental issues will be addressed.

Detail on the rehabilitation of Curlew Creek is needed. Coastcare acknowledges the mangrove-lined waterway needs better management to improve its appearance and health because of litter, weeds and intermittent excavation.

We’re also seeking environmentally-friendly, minimal impact lighting both on the jetty and pathways.

The submission drew attention to the 2004 Land Management Plan which recommended the Main Beach foreshore zone be managed as a natural beach foreshore with minimal development/recreational structure while “dune protection and bush rehabilitation areas be expanded”

Concentrating three five by five metre covered barbeque sheds between the lifesavers and barge ramp challenges best practice management of this sensitive zone. Coastcare has requested further detail on siting, permeable hard surfacing and storm water run-off.

If you’d like a full copy of Coastcare’s submission please email the Secretary, Vivienne Roberts-Thomson gvrthomson@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting – 13 July 2014

More than 60-people attended Coastcare's inaugural Annual General Meeting and welcomed guest speaker, Professor Darryl Low Choy, Professor of Environmental and Landscape Planning, Head of Planning at Griffith University.

Representing the Mayor was the Deputy Mayor, Cr Alan Beard; Member for Redlands, Peter Dowling and Councillors Wendy Boglary and Lance Hewlett.

Professor Low Choy delivered a stimulating address "Resilient communities: self-empowered communities planning in a changing climate." He cited case studies of communities around Australia that had become proactive drivers of change not waiting for government or councils to take the lead. He spoke of change from within as the way of the future being promoted in the United Kingdom and even China.

Ian Rowland kindly filmed the event and there are DVDs of Professor Low Choy's presentation available for members to borrow. Please phone Graeme on 0413352511 to arrange to borrow a copy.

At the election President Carolyn Brammer was returned along with founding executive members, Graeme Roberts-Thomson Treasurer; Rae Wear, Margrit Lack and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Secretary. Ruby Sanders and David Kemp were also elected.

Environment grant sought for Melaleuca Wetland study

Last month saw yet another Coastcare submission, this time for Queensland Government funds to undertake studies, "Protecting threatened species and Ramsar values of the Melaleuca Wetland, Coochiemudlo Island"

We're grateful for support from partner organisations, Wetland Care Australia, SEQ Catchments and the Redland City Council for the support with this submission

The project will harness community participation in collaborative decision-making and hands-on management of our endangered ecosystems while experts will be engaged to determine fauna and flora health and action plans for recovery.

It early days yet and we won't know until December whether the submission will succeed. In the meantime, Coastcarers continue to tend the wetland shoreline



Island barge ramp under scrutiny



The island's barge ramp is now on the priority list for replacement and signage will soon warn recreational boaters of risks using the facility.

Apart from issues relating to sand build-up the ramp has fractures and holes in the concrete and several users have complained of near accidents and personal injury. An assessment of the worsening damage (first reported in June 2013 and again by Coastcare in March and August 2014) is promised as well as action to remediate.

Redland City Council's Senior Advisor, Marine Projects, Rod Powell said the Queensland Government (in the guise of DTMR) works with Council on a daily basis. "DTMR database records this site as Facility ID RB52; Facility Type Barge/ Boat ramp and this is how the facility is managed", Mr Powell said. "DTMR funds 25% of the structural maintenance in recognition that this RCC owned facility and that has a secondary use as a recreational boat ramp. In context, the facility is primarily a barge ramp not a boat ramp"

Mr Powell said the ramp was maintained like other RCC facilities according to an Asset Management Plan which was currently under review. The plan covers a cleaning regime of shifting sand on a "needs be" basis as notified by the barge operator. The cleaning procedure has been discussed with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and there is an informal agreement that the removed sand could be relocated to Norfolk Beach.

Coastcare members who own disability scooters raised concerns at last month's meeting over the lack of disability access to the barge because of sand build-up which made it impossible to drive on or off the vessel.

Dunecare program for Coochiemudlo

Coastcare is currently finalising annual Dunecare plans with Redland City Council to better manage the rehabilitated shoreline from the Outriggers beach to Melaleuca wetland north. Collaboration over management of almost a kilometre of sandy beaches ensures positive outcomes for islanders, Redland City Council and the thousands of recreational users who enjoy our foreshores.

Coastcare is committing to undertake regular maintenance including litter clean-ups, weeding, replacement plantings, camera monitoring, watering and general tending the dunes. In return, Council will resource the organisation to fulfil agreed commitments. Coastcare executive will work closely with Indigiscapes staff, in particular, to ensure smooth operation across multiple Council departments.

In what can only be a win-win situation for Coochiemudlo Island, Council has agreed to address a number of priority actions identified to help maintain and better protect our bush-lined beaches.



BEFORE - Norfolk Beach, January 2013



NOW - after rehabilitation work

Jetty and dredging update

Dredging work is expected to begin next month in preparation for construction of a new pontoon and improvements at Victoria Point jetty.

Construction work is expected to take approximately 20 weeks and subject to weather and potential delays, including demolition of the existing Coochie jetty, both sites are expected to be completed by March 2015.

Works will involve driving new steel and timber piles, off-site fabrication of structural steel elements, construction and placement of pre-cast concrete deck units, demolition and removal of the existing jetty at Coochiemudlo Island and provision of new steel pontoons and covered waiting areas.

Piles for the new Coochiemudlo Island ferry terminal will be driven from both land and floating plant with work scheduled to start later in the month