

# COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND COASTCARE UPDATE



## A happy New Year to members and friends!

With the support of our wonderful volunteers, Coastcare Management Committee looks forward to another productive year, "Caring for our Island".2016 ended in a flurry of activity with the completion of two grant projects, the launch of our website <a href="https://www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au">www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au</a>, topped off by a great Christmas party!



There's no doubt Australia's Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews left a lasting impression with locals after opening the 25th Anniversary Landcare signage project in the Melaleuca Wetlands in late November.



Commissioner Andrews spoke about the rate of wildlife extinction and why the federal government has allocated \$80.8 million in funding for threatened species, including the

eradication of feral cats from five Australian islands by 2020. He confirmed feral cats as one of the greatest threats to Australian mammals, contributing to at least 28 of the 30 mammal extinctions our nation has endured since European colonisation, one of the worst records in the world. According to the <u>latest information</u> from the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, feral cats are at much higher densities on islands than on the Tasmanian or Australian mainland. Significant for Coochie, where they occurred on islands, they were at higher densities on smaller than larger islands..

We highly recommend a read of the <u>results of a year-long wildlife survey of the Wetlands</u>by zoologist, Dr Ronda Green. The study was funded by a Conservation grant from Redland City Council and provides disturbing data on the lack of small mammals. See results link at the bottom of this web page <a href="http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/projects/wetlands/">http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/projects/wetlands/</a>.

In an effort to secure the survival of native wildlife, Coastcare has been working with Council contractors to trap feral cats on the island alongside Council's animal management officers. To assist understanding and informed community discussion we'll continue to provide updates on the latest scientific findings and government actions. We look forward to the second year of our <u>Junior Rangers program</u> and encourage newcomers to become involved in our monthly <u>Dunecare</u> working bees or organisational role. There's jobs for everyone! **With your support in 2017 Coastcare will -**

- Continue to improve the resilience of a kilometre of rehabilitated foreshore with regular Dunecare maintenance.
- Advance the long-awaited Shoreline Erosion Management Plan as per Council resolution of 20 August 2014 & encourage operational response as needed.
- Explore future funding opportunity to preserve wildlife & endangered species.
- Develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan with Council & others that minimises the use of herbicides, protecting human health and Moreton Bay & promoting Coochiemudlo as a "clean, green" environment.
- Continue monthly meetings with Cr Lance Hewlett to address the care of environmental assets, focussing on maintenance and compliance to resolve issues of growing population & increased visitation. (eg vegetation removal, illegal camping and beach fires).
- Provide feedback on long-awaited draft rehabilitation plans for Curlew Creek.
   Best wishes & catch you on the beach! Your CommitteeVivienne Roberts-Thomson
   (President) M 0411 226 363 Heather Smith (Secretary) M 0433 667 315 Phil Toop (Treasurer)
   M 0408 980 640Lois Toop (Membership Secretary) M 0408 180 630Chris Leonard, David Kemp, Juliet Wiseman & Graeme Roberts-Thomson



### Memberships are now due.

- Single annual membership \$2
- Family \$5
- · Life Membership Single \$50

Life Membership Family \$100

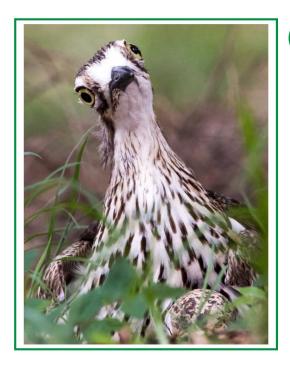
If your details have changed please fill out a <u>membership form</u> and return to Membership Secretary, Lois Toop. Please choose your membership level and Direct Deposit to Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc – Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-149 Account 10096929.

#### You can:

- · Return your form with payment/payment receipt to a committee member;\_ or
- Return your form with payment/payment receipt o Lois Toop, Membership Secretary, 41 Phillips Street, Coochiemudlo Island; or

# 2017 Curlew Count

# coochie Curlew Course



Come one, come all.

Join us for the 21st Coochie Curlew Count

as we search
every nook & cranny
to count these
beautiful birds on
Coochiemudlo Island.

Stay on with us after the count for a free BBQ where you get to sit back, relax and be entertained by a special guest speaker!

When: Saturday 11th February 2017 - 4.30pm

Where: Pioneer Park (on the island - opposite ferry jetty)

BYO: Drinks, torch, chair, & insect repellent

Wear: Comfy shoes, a hat & sunscreen

Faring for the Redlands wildl

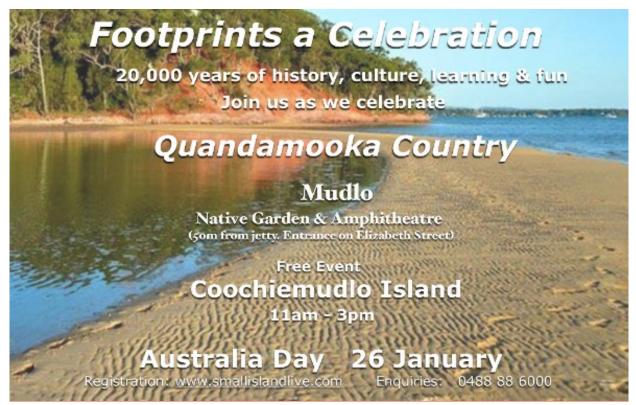
Please RSVP by calling IndigiScapes on 3824 861

[for BBQ requirements]



Environmental Education in the Redlands





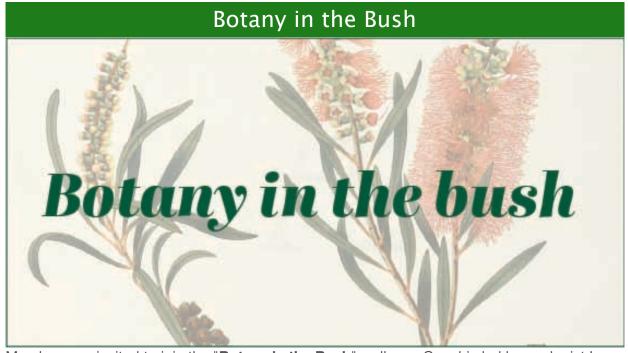
Free Event...

Footprints a Celebration honours the First People who have lived, fought and died on this bay for over 20,000 years.

Watch traditional dancing, see weaponry and tools, learn about traditional canoe building, go on a heritage walk, participate in the Circle of all People.

Join in as we celebrate Quandamooka Country at Mudlo between **11am - 3pm** on **Thursday 26th January** 2017.

Registration: via www.smallislandlive.com or Facebook



Members are invited to join the "Botany in the Bush" walks on Coochie led by ecologist Lynn Roberts on 16th and 17th February.

Lynn runs these walks for U3A (University of the Third Age) and is happy for interested locals to join

in (you don't need to belong to U3A). The mainlanders are coming over on the 7.30 ferry so locals should gather at the jetty in time to meet them.

The following list is Lynn's advice on what to bring -

- · Any name badge you have that can be clearly read
- Pencil or pen (clipboards are handy to keep your handouts together)
- · Water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy shoes
- Snack and morning tea if staying afterwards
- Binoculars.



AUSTRALIA DAY MARKETS Thursday 26 January 8:00am - 1:00pm

Look for the Coastcare trailer & display at the Australia Day markets on **Thursday 26 January**. Pull up a chair for a chat.

## FOOTPRINTS-A-CELEBRATION Thursday 26 January 11:00am - 3:00pm

Celebrate Quandamooka Country at Mudlo between 11am - 3pm on Thursday 26th January.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY Thursday 2 February 9:30 - 10:30am

Celebrate **World Wetlands Day** on Coochiemudlo – **9.30 am Thursday 2 February** at the southern (James Street) entrance of the Melaleuca Wetlands.

Join a guided walk along the track and new interpretive signage returning via the beach to enjoy a luscious morning tea. It's a great opportunity to share experiences and learn more about our island.

Please RSVP Vivienne Roberts-Thomson via email coochiecoastcare@gmail.com or phone 32077153.

### **DUNECARE** Saturday 4 February 2.30 – 4.30 pm

**Dunecare** 2017 launches on **Saturday 4 February** with a working bee in the Melaleuca Wetlands. Sign-on is where the Coastcare flags fly at the James Street entrance to the Wetlands. Volunteers are reminded to wear hat, covered shoes, comfortable clothes, sunscreen, insect repellent and BYO water. New members are always welcome. Annual membership (including insurance) is \$2 for singles and \$5 for families. Life Memberships of \$50 for singles and \$100 for families are also available. For further details please phone Membership Secretary, Lois Toop on 0408 180 630 or Secretary Heather Smith on 0433 667 315

### CURLEW COUNT Saturday 11 February 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Coochie's 21st Annual Curlew Count takes place on Saturday 11 February.

# BOTANY IN THE BUSH Thursday 16 & Friday 17 February 7:30am

Botany in the bush walks with Lynn Roberts - all members invited. Meet the mainlanders at the jetty -they'll be catching the 7:30am ferry.