



## Coastcare News

### January 2016

After a hectic 2015, we launch into the New Year with two exciting projects and renewed energy, thankful for the support of Coastcare family and friends.

In November, Coastcare was awarded a \$10,000 Conservation grant by Redland City Council to undertake four seasonal wildlife surveys. The project, ***“What lives in the Melaleuca Wetlands”*** led by zoologist, Dr Ronda Green starts this week and will target species including birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles and ground insects. This work will complement our current 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare grant project, ***“Promoting Ramsar environmental and cultural heritage values of the Melaleuca Wetlands”*** for development of interpretive signage in collaboration with Quandamooka elders and WetlandCare Australia, supported by SEQ Catchments and Council.

Those who’ve 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. Similar signage for our Ramsar-listed wetlands will help fill an information void and enable greater understanding of our fragile island environment.

We’re grateful to Redland City Council in particular, Councillor Lance Hewlett for his ongoing support as well as network partners, Mangrove Watch, Healthy Waterways, SEQ Catchments, Wetlandcare Australia & Wildlife Preservation Queensland.

Coastcare management committee look forward to another rewarding year of caring for our Island and continued advocacy of the foreshores. Tending the dunes with a great crew makes it all worthwhile!

**Vivienne Roberts-Thomson** President

**Date claimers - Tuesday 26 January AUSTRALIA DAY MARKETS** – Come & say hi at the Coastcare gazebo, pull up a chair & have a chat. Catch up on the latest news, find out more about the wildlife project (Dr Ronda Green will be around after 10.30am) & share your thoughts on the year ahead.

**Saturday 30 January from 11.30 am- Wetlands Wildlife debrief** - Findings of first survey & Gold Coin bbq at the EcoLodge Mooroondu Street. RSVP [daddavid47@bigpond.com](mailto:daddavid47@bigpond.com)

**Saturday 6 February 2.30-4.30 – DUNECARE** Sign on at the southern entrance of the Melaleuca Wetlands where the Coastcare flags fly. Cuppa to follow.

**Saturday 13 February 4.30 – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Curlew Count** – further detail hereunder

**Saturday 5 March 2.30 – 4.30pm DUNECARE** Sign on at the southern end of the Melaleuca Wetlands

**Saturday, 2 April 2.30-4.30pm DUNECARE** Outriggers Beach followed by general meeting & BBQ at Norfolk Beach

**Saturday, 7 May 9-11am DUNECARE** Sign-on Norfolk Beach

**Saturday 4 June 9-11am DUNECARE** Sign-on at the southern entrance to the Melaleuca Wetlands followed by AGM later that day - details to be confirmed

## Join the annual Coochie Curlew Count



Photo courtesy of Peter Wear

Celebrate the **20th 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 13 February at 4.30pm**

Where: **Pioneer Park, Main Beach**

**BYO: Drinks, torch, chair and insect repellent    Wear enclosed shoes, hat & sunscreen**

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

## **Memberships now due - your support makes the difference**

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

Single annual membership \$2; Family \$5    Life Memberships \$50 Single and \$100 Family.

If your details have changed please fill out the attached membership form and return to Membership 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,

**Membership Secretary: David Mansford, 21 Tageruba Street, Phone 0487392388**

**Treasurer: Graeme Roberts-Thomson, 94 Victoria Parade East, Phone 0419 723 613**

Coastcare appreciates the ongoing support of the State Government enabling Queensland Water and Land Carers to sign the contract for insurance coverage for 2016. 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>

## Local news round-up

- Will the upcoming Council election on March 19 also decide the fate of Coochie's long-promised Shoreline Erosion Management Plan? On 20 August 2014 Councillors voted unanimously to establish reference committees at both Amity and Coochiemudlo to address erosion issues. Amity's Committee was formed in early 2015 and has met several times but there's nothing for Coochie. In August 2015 the draft SEMP for Norfolk Beach (demoted to report status) was finalised and released on Council's website. <http://yoursayredland.engagementhq.com/coastal-erosion-and-management-redland-city> Coochie is acknowledged as having seven of the City's 41 designated erosion hot spots. While remedial work is budgeted elsewhere in the City our heavily patronised beaches languish for attention. Despite emails, photographs and inspections of ongoing erosion at the golf course beach exposing vital infrastructure, undercutting of Red Rock, crumbling foreshore and mangrove loss on the north east (Control Points 4 and 5), there's silence from officialdom.
- Junior Coastcare Rangers kickstarts again on Saturday 6 February, 2015 between 2:30- 4:30pm at the southern entrance to the Melaleuca Wetlands (look for the Coastcare flags). We would like to encourage Island and mainland families to bring their children or grandchildren along to participate in our monthly Dunecare activities, where they'll learn about our special Island environment and how to take care of it. The focus for February is on "*treading lightly*" in locations like the Wetlands and the importance of disturbing the natural environment as little as possible. If you would like to find out more about the Junior Coastcare Rangers program, please contact Heather Smith 0433 667 315 or Lois Toop 0408 180 630, [lois@bbgroup.com.au](mailto:lois@bbgroup.com.au)
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Coastcare and Redland City Council is being developed to enhance collaborative work practice. With acknowledgement of shared values, the agreement will also support work plans for Coastcare's ongoing maintenance of the foreshore from the eastern tip of Main beach to the northern edge of the Melaleuca Wetlands. Plans cover volunteers undertaking photo-monitoring, re-vegetation, dune profiling, hand-weeding, litter collection and general maintenance with RCC support.
- Work on the Main Beach Foreshore Plan is due to start on February 1<sup>st</sup> however consultation over rehabilitation of Curlew Creek west of Elizabeth Street won't take place until after the local government election on 19 March.
- In a positive step forward last year Council agreed to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan for the island minimising the use of herbicides. Following the lead of Councils around Australia and concerns raised over herbicide spraying, the Acting Manager of City Spaces, Dave Katavic organised a product demonstration of saturated steam weeding just prior to Christmas. We look forward to progressing this initiative.
- A beach fire on the island's south-east that was spreading through dune vegetation was brought under control by Coastcarers who called the auxiliary fire brigade last week after a tip-off from an early morning walker. It seems irresponsible fishermen had left the fire smouldering overnight and it had spread through the root system.



Wrecked dune fencing was replaced by Coastcarers while 20 bottles and assorted debris was collected in the clean-up. It's tragic to see wanton damage to fragile vegetation which was slowly recovering in one of our most vulnerable parts of the island



### Did you know?

Under Local Law 4 (Local Government and Controlled roads), Lighting or maintaining a fire in all parks and reserves is a restricted Activity. The penalty for doing so is \$589

Council is currently reviewing signage around the city and we've been advised there will be no extra signs in place until this review is completed. So until then it looks as though holiday makers and locals alike will have to check the notice board or Council website for information!

Party fires are a common occurrence around the island foreshore over the holidays and in the absence of compliance officers it falls on locals and our trusty firies to handle the situation.

If in doubt never hesitate to ring 000.



- Other Highlights of 2015 Maintaining almost a kilometre of foreshore work zones; official recognition of the endangered Phaius orchid by the Queensland Herbarium; augmentation of the East Coochie Reef with 17 reef balls; a public forum to prepare for CityPlan 2015 and completion of submission (copy by email request) as well as supporting best practice outcomes for Curlew Creek rehabilitation.



## Membership Form

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Phone.....

email .....

Signature.....

**Single \$2   Family \$5   Life Single \$50   Life Family \$100**

Please choose your membership level & forward dues to

**Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc**

**Direct Deposit - CBA BSB 064-149 Account 10096929**

**94 Victoria Parade East or 11 Tageruba Street, Coochiemudlo Island**

Further details please contact Membership Secretary: David Mansford phone 0487 392388 or Treasurer, Graeme Roberts-Thomson 0413352511

Thanks to the generous support of the state government, Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc has secured insurance coverage for 2015 through Queensland Water and Land Carers. Personal Accident, Volunteer Accident & Association Liability are with Aon Insurance & can be downloaded from <http://qwalc.org.au/index.php/qwalc-insurance/current-policies>

Any queries please contact members of the Coastcare executive

Vivienne Roberts-Thomson (President) email: [gvrthomson@gmail.com](mailto:gvrthomson@gmail.com) Phone 0411226363

Heather Smith (Secretary) email: [heather.smith@clubdynamite.com.au](mailto:heather.smith@clubdynamite.com.au) Phone 0433667315

David Mansford (Membership Secretary) [daddavid47@bigpond.com](mailto:daddavid47@bigpond.com) Phone 0487 392388

Executive members: Juliet Wiseman, David Kemp, Lois Toop 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