



# News Update

This edition includes reports from the Annual General Meeting, this weekend's Dunecare, progress reports on the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan, new barge ramp, plus information on Coastcare activities.

## Dunecare



## **DUNECARE    Saturday 2 June 8:00am - 10:00am**

Join us in the Melaleuca Wetlands Beach, replanting the dunes & weeding alongside the track from 8:00am to 10:00am. Afterwoods, enjoy getting to know folk over a cuppa and chat.

You'll find sign-on where the Coastcare flags fly at the southern (James Street) entrance to the wetlands.

Please BYO water, wear covered shoes, comfortable clothes, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Youth are welcome to join the Junior Rangers (N.B. A parent is required to attend if children are participating).

New members are always welcome <http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/membership/>.

Please phone Lois Toop, Secretary on 0408 180 630 with any query.

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## **Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for Coochie about to start**

**The announcement of a consultancy to undertake a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan or SEMP for Coochiemudlo Island is expected in the next two weeks.**

A Community Reference Group chaired by Deputy Mayor, Cr Lance Hewlett was formed last November and island representatives have participated in four meetings to date with Council officers and a QYAC representative to progress the SEMP. State government representatives will also be involved.

We encourage members to participate in the forthcoming consultation process with provision of information and historical photographs. <https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/Coochiemudlo-Island-Shoreline-Erosion-Management-Plan>

In the aftermath of damage from the storm surge of ex TC-Oswald in 2013, Coastcare advocated strongly for a SEMP to develop a long-term erosion management strategy for the island

Early collaboration between SEQ Catchments, Council and Coastcare supported by

federal funds saw the beach reopened, trees stood upright and restorative duneworks while the community rallied with mass plantings. Efforts to strengthen the resilience of our foreshore continue today with regular Dunecare working bees.

Since 2013 Coastcare has planted more than 8,500 trees, shrubs, grasses and ground covers.

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## Coochiemudlo Island beachworks - Fact vs Facebook fiction

Coastcare recently came under fire on the island's Facebook page for supporting operational beachworks by Council. In view of emotive comment, the Management Committee re-affirmed an earlier decision to resist Facebook engagement and communicate directly with members.

On Monday 23 April 2018 several truckloads of sand was moved from the barge ramp to Main Beach East by Council contractors while four hours was spent on a minor beach scrape or dune reprofile along parts of the Melaleuca Wetlands and Norfolk beaches.

Claims that the beach was scraped the entire length are wrong as **less than 35%** of the eastern shoreline from Control Points Four to Two saw sand placed on dunes to protect casuarinas and mature eucalypts.  
(<https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/10540/documents/30554> – see map, page 34 for Control Point locations). The rest of the beach was untouched, **see map below** - areas touched are marked in red). These works were approved under state government permit.

We're concerned that Coastcare photographs of the beach works were re-posted on Facebook without acknowledgement, making it appear the writer was there in person which wasn't the case.

Exaggerated assertions of soldier crab mortality are also disputed as contractors avoided crab colonies at low-tide and there was no evidence of loss.

Claims the work occurred on 28 April are also incorrect, as it happened five days earlier on 23 April.

The scraping was so light that 24 hours and two tides later there was no evidence of any disturbance.

Relocation of built-up sand from the ramp is a regular occurrence and is needed to keep the barge operating. Previously, this sand has been shared on a needs basis between Morwong beach east, Main Beach East, Norfolk beach or just north of the wetlands at Control Point Four.

In April 2017, **four years had passed** since contractors accessed the wider island beaches – this time to clean-up flood debris from ex-TC Debbie. From Main Beach west and the mouth of Curlew Creek in the west to north of the Melaleuca Wetlands the beach was cleared of rotting vegetation, dead fish, animals and flotsam while debris and sand was deposited at Control Point Four.

In the last 12 months two minor beach scrapes were undertaken with neither attracting any adverse comment. We've been advised this type of work is approved at 82 sites across Redland City.

Coastcare recognises that managing the natural environment is a delicate balancing act and there will always be differences of opinion, both in the general and scientific community.

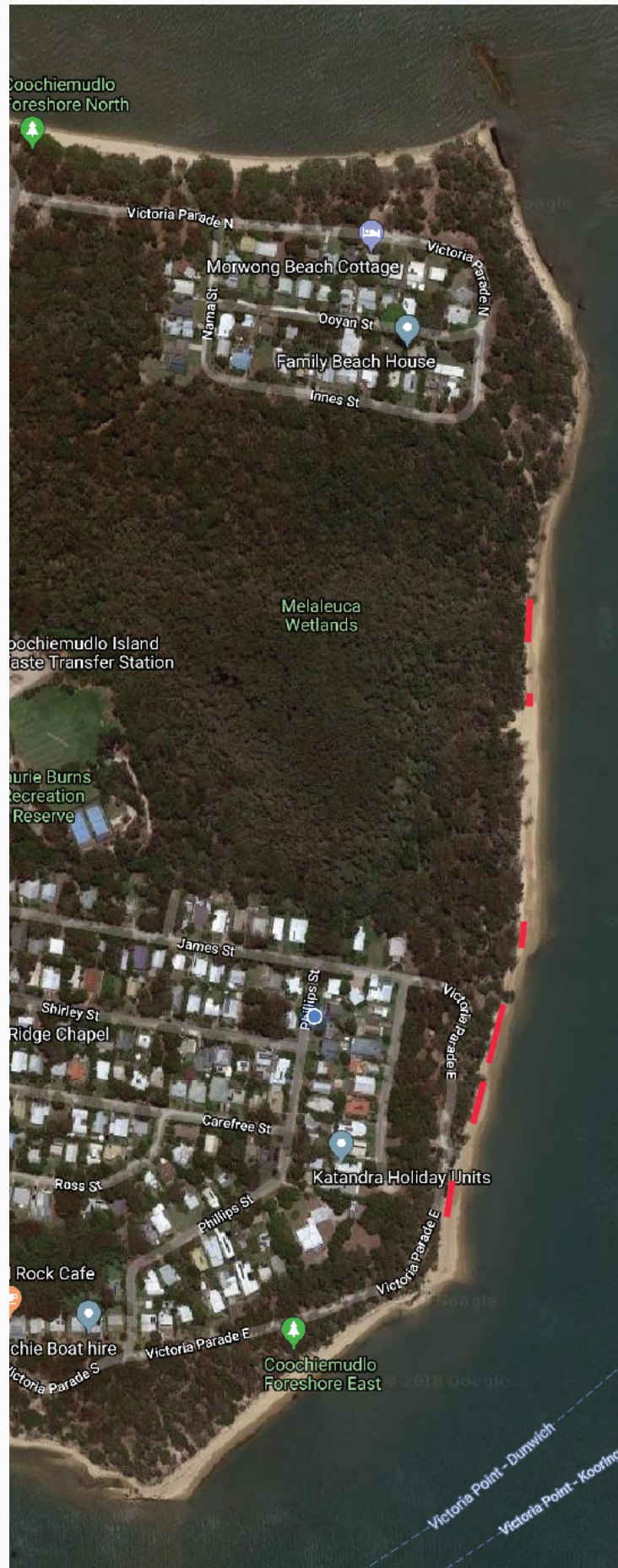
Our hope is that SEMP consultants will expertly weigh the issues and develop a robust guiding document to preserve the unique values of our foreshores, Ramsar wetlands and Marine Park surrounds for future generations. For those interested in further reading -

<http://www.coastalconference.com/2015/papers2015/Angus%20Gordon%20Full%20Paper.pdf>

<http://coastalconference.com/2010/papers2010/James%20Carley%20full%20paper.pdf>

<http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/projects/shoreline-erosion/>

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Media-centre/Media-Releases/Digging-up-the-truth-about-beach-scraping>





## New barge ramp takes shape

Pylons for Coochie's new barge ramp will be sunk this week as the redevelopment takes shape on Main Beach.

Despite an earlier hiccup that delayed the start of operations, a temporary ramp, made of hi-density polyethylene, secured with spikes into sand and clay has now been laid. It has a 42- tonne weight-bearing capacity.

Weather permitting and if all goes well, the new six-metre wide ramp could be open by the end of next month.

After piling, the old concrete ramp will be removed and replaced in part with new "eco-friendly" pre-fabricated cast concrete slabs.

According to Council the ramp will be finished with the new-look .75 metre sloped rock shoulder set in concrete. Examples of this new look can be found at the William Street boat ramp at Raby Bay.



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## Minutes of the AGM for Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc held on Saturday 12 May 2018 at the Community Hall

**Attendance:** Deputy Mayor, Cr Lance Hewlett, David & Susan Kemp, Carol Mays, Heather Smith, Liz Engeman, Graeme & Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Peter & Gaye Richardson, Heather Patrick, Jacqui Creswell, Stephen & Marie Reed, Olive Walters, Catherine Bishop, David Mansford, Keith Stebbins, Philip & Lois Toop, Diane Gilham, Nicki Cornwall, Christine & Chris Leonard, Peter Emerton, Andrew & Maddie Ross, Doug Lever, Jan McIntyre, Anne Riley, David Paxton.

**Apologies:** Bryan & Jane Dyball, Carolyn Brammer, Elizabeth Sparks, Pam Reed, Margrit

& Dennis Lack, Peter & Ronnie James, Kerry Scobbie, Doug Cope, Noel & Jackie Christensen, Ann & Ivan Holm, Ethne Barber.

**Meeting opened at 3.05pm**

**Welcome by President**

**Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

Moved Gay Richardson, seconded Heather Smith that the minutes of the 2017 AGM be received as a true and correct record.

**Business arising from the minutes.** - There was no business arising from the minutes

**President's report:** Vivienne Roberts-Thomson's report [LINK](#)

The Treasurer advised that owing to the passing of our former Auditor, Paul Edwards that the appointment of a new Auditor for the 2017 year, Business Accountancy be approved and noted that such an arrangement had been addressed by the management committee. Moved Phil Toop, seconded Chris Leonard

Treasurer moved that Business Accountancy be appointed auditors for the 2018 Financial year. Seconded David Mansford – Carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Phil Toop's report [LINK](#)

Treasurer moved that his report be received, seconded Keith Stebbins. Carried.

A question concerning fundraising expenses was addressed. It referred to a Care 4 Country grant of \$1500 from Redland City Council where Coastcare received and then passed the funds directly to the Yulu Burri Ba dancers.

**Election of Office Bearers**

President vacated the Chair and Cr Hewlett presided over the Election of Officers. Nominations for all positions had been received by the Secretary in accordance with requirements.

President - Vivienne Roberts-Thomson

Vice President - Chris Leonard

Secretary - Lois Toop

Treasurer - Phil Toop

Committee members - David Kemp, Graeme Roberts-Thomson, Heather Smith, Bryan Dyball

Cr Hewlett declared those nominated duly elected as the Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc Management Committee.

Cr Hewlett spoke after the election and was supportive in his comments about the work of Coastcare Coochiemudlo Island Inc. and mentioned the ongoing battle to reduce herbicide usage on the island as well as continuing to find a shed site for Coastcare.

The President thanked Cr Hewlett for his support and reminded those in attendance of our mid-week Dunecare sessions.

**Meeting closed at 3.28pm**



## Memberships

We encourage membership and donations from anyone in the community who wish to support Coastcare, whether it be through financial, physical or moral support. <http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/membership/>

Historically, many members have not paid their annual renewal fees until later in the year. We're trying to change this in 2018 so please help us if you can.

Since the AGM we have conducted a clean-up of the membership database to remove those who we have been unable to contact via post or personal delivery. Following this review, as of 28 May 2018, Coastcare has a membership base of 307. This number includes those who were financial members in previous years but have yet to pay renewal fees for 2018.

### **Current financial members**

Life members - 87

Year-to-year members 2018 paid - 78

**Total current financial members - 165**

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## QYAC Rangers return to assist with saturated steam weeding

Next Thursday 7 June QYAC rangers will join Coastcarers around the foreshore to saturate steam weed and tend the dunes

If you'd like to join us please give Graeme a call on 0413352511

The great news is we're witnessing a dramatic reduction to the carpets of Mothers of Millions that previously impacted both Bushcare and Coastcare work zones along the foreshore

The project is supported by the Queensland Government's *Community Sustainability Action* grant program.