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# News Update

**19 May 2020**

As the COVID-19 cloud lifts we find ourselves able to plan a **Dunecare working bee for next Saturday 23 May from 2pm** at our newest zone that runs beachside from Victoria Parade North, south to the Melaleuca Wetlands Innes Street entrance.

There will be a few changes volunteers must adhere to as we're guided by the **Queensland Government's Roadmap to Easing Restrictions**.

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions>

In future, our working groups will be limited to 10 volunteers, there's new documentation to be signed with social distancing and sanitising guidelines to be followed. Anyone with a sniffle, headache, sore throat or feeling generally unwell will need to stay at home. Coastcare will still provide gloves to those who need them, but we'd encourage you to bring your own, including your favourite tool, although these too, can be provided.

We know how much you've missed the camaraderie and cuppa with a chat afterwards. For now it will be BYO refreshments only. Just a reminder this rugged north-eastern site is some distance from toilets. Please register by phoning **Graeme on 0413352511** or email: [coochiecoastcare@gmail.com](mailto:coochiecoastcare@gmail.com)



**Heather Smith, trained operator, saturated steam weeding recently in the north-east zone**

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## AGM postponed

While the COVID-19 situation remains uncertain, the Management Committee has decided to postpone the Annual General Meeting scheduled for June. Based on the best information available it has now been tentatively planned for Saturday 12 September.

The decision was made following discussions with Queensland Water and Landcarers and the Queensland Office of Fair Trading. A blanket six-month extension has been granted to incorporated organisations in the state, given continued uncertainty surrounding COVID 19 with travel and mass gatherings.

While we could have attempted a ZOOM meeting, the committee decided this undesirable after such a big year as it would have disadvantaged those not so IT-savvy.

If you have any queries please contact Vivienne on 0411226363.

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## Wetlands weeding project continues

Contractors, Bushtekniq, returned to the island last week to wrap up the first of four year's work with Coastcare as part of the **Healthy Land and Water Moreton Bay Ramsar project**. Primary target this visit was the heavy infestation of Singapore Daisy along the south-east of the Melaleuca Wetlands.

As well, six waterways from Victoria Parade North, Elizabeth and James Streets were manually cleared of weed trees while Coastcare operators used the saturated steamer to remove weed grasses and ground covers.

In support, Council contractors also spent a couple of days reducing a number of mature weed trees including Cocos palms, umbrellas and ochna around the southern perimeter of the wetlands.

The project is supported by **Healthy Land and Water**through funding from the **Australian Government's National Landcare Program**.

<https://hlw.org.au/newsroom/chemical-free-weeding-to-restore-coochiemudlo-islands-melaleuca-wetlands/>

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## Turtle Rescue by Chris Leonard



On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, a local Coochie boatie found a juvenile green turtle, floating off Outriggers Beach. The turtle could not dive and was covered in algal growth. After speaking with Andrew Ross, it was agreed to bring the turtle ashore to assess it. Considering it was a “floater”, the turtle was in reasonably good condition. Liaising with our local Moreton Bay ranger, Wayne Matthews, it was agreed it should be taken to Australia Zoo who have all the facilities to treat and rehabilitate turtles.

Keeping our charge overnight in a quiet and secure place, the next morning saw Andrew and I on the barge to meet up with Wayne. This process was made that much easier by utilizing our purpose built “turtle sling”. This was kindly funded by Cr. Lance Hewlett and for that we are grateful.

Since being transported to Aust Zoo, I have been doing weekly follow ups. It appears our friend has a severe gut infection which generates gas that gets trapped within the shell. As of today, it is still alive but its situation has neither improved nor declined. We hope for a good outcome for our little friend.

We are fortunate to have what seems to be a significant population of turtles in Moreton Bay, but it breaks our heart to be called out to so many washups that are caused by boat and jet ski strikes, unnecessary deaths.

Live rescues are so precious and make us feel our efforts are worthwhile.

**If you find a dead or injured turtle please contact our trained monitors, Andrew Ross on 0400774606, Chris Leonard on 0478176540 or Annie Jamieson on 0403702451**

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**VOLUNTEER**  
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**thank you**

**QWaLC Member Group**

**Your volunteering is helping to change communities and change lives!**

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Geoff Elliot  
Board Chair  
Queensland Water and Land Carers

*Mara Basanovic*  
Mara Basanovic  
Chief Executive Officer  
Volunteering Queensland

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Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Management Committee with any suggestion or concern.

Best wishes & stay safe.

Vivienne Roberts-Thomson (President) 0411226363

Gaye Richardson (Secretary) 0403089508

Betty-Ann Bellette (Treasurer) 0448802545

Bryan Dyball 0487054127

David O'Hagan (Membership Secretary) 0438875257

Andrew Ross 0400774606

Helen Pickford 0432529088

Graeme Roberts-Thomson 0413352511



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