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March 2019

Volunteers at work on Norfolk Beach



Members worked hard earlier in the month reprofiling dunes and securing casuarinas that had toppled during strong winds and high tides from ex TC Oma.

While Council's emergency response has concentrated on Main Beach to date, we look forward to operational works to restore safe beach access and trees on two vital sections of the eastern foreshore. Thanks to those who have registered their concerns with Redland City Council. We agree, historic Norfolk Beach and the Melaleuca wetlands north needs similar attention until the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan comes up with longer term erosion mitigation strategies.

Please take care on eroded beach access paths, especially the main track north of the wetlands which collapsed at the weekend after heavy rain.

Planting continues behind the dunes



Date Claimers

Can you help this Saturday, 23 March 8-9.30am?

We'll be planting 150 trees, shrubs and grasses in our workzones from 8-9.30am. This will fulfill requirements under the Queensland Community Sustainability grant for 1500 plants. Please meet at the James Street entrance to the Melaleuca Wetlands.

Bush regenerators, Tali and Jono will be here next Thursday and Friday 28-29 March working west of the wetlands track. If you'd like to help for a short while please phone Graeme on 0413352511

COOCHIE CURLEW COUNT

Thank you Curlew Counters of 2019.

*You have earned your rest
... until next year!*

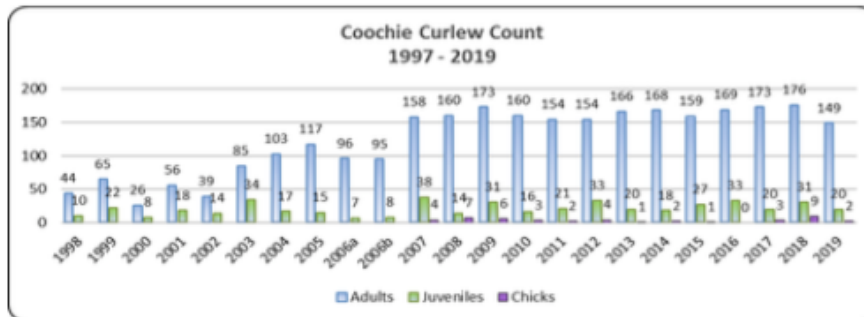


Thank you to all our Curlew counters who made the trip to Coochiemudlo Island this year. A total of **171** birds were recorded (**149** adults, **20** juveniles and **2** chicks).

This has been the lowest number recorded since 2007 (by 6 curlews). However, this may be attributed to the extreme heat and lack of rain we have had. It is believed that this has had an impact on the food resources available to the birds.

Interestingly, 2018 saw our highest count since 2007 - but we also had rain, and many, many counters exclaiming "they all came out after the rain!"

We never do claim that we count all the curlews on the island so it will be interesting to see what next year's weather pattern brings us!



A big **THANK YOU** to Simon Baltais who presented a fascinating power point about curlews both overseas and here, where in New South Wales Bush-stone curlews are listed as endangered. His talk also included an overview of the Coochie Curlew Count surveys and the importance of the data collected to ensure our curlews don't go the same way!

Did you know that the Coochie Curlew Count is one of the longest running citizen science projects in the Redlands?

Thank you also to Toni Cannard who spoke in remembrance of our friend and advocate, David Milton. His enthusiasm and knowledge of birds will be greatly missed.

*Thank you for your continued support
and we'll see you next year!*

Caring for the Redlands wildlife

Environmental Education in the Redlands



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DUNECARE Saturday 6 April 2:30 - 4:30 pm Outriggers

Next month at Dunecare, we'll be weeding, planting and tending the dunes at Outriggers beach - Victoria Parade East from 2.30 - 4.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Meet where the Coastcare flags fly (near the picnic tables).

Volunteers are reminded to wear hat, covered shoes, comfortable clothes, sunscreen, insect repellent and BYO water.

New members are always welcome. All youth are welcome to join the Junior Rangers during Dunecare. (N.B. A parent is required to attend if children are participating).

Any queries please phone Chris Leonard on MOB 0478176540

Spotlight on Native Plants

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Midgem or Midyim Berry

Botanical Name: *Austromyrtus dulcis* (*Austromyrtus* - from the Latin, *australis* meaning southern and *myrtus* from the Greek name for myrtle; *dulcis* - Latin for sweet)

Distribution: Northern NSW to Fraser Island, Qld

Description: The leaves are glossy dark green with a pale underside. The young growing shoots are coppery coloured. Small white flowers are followed by the berries which are white and covered in small blue black spots, giving the fruit a mauve appearance. The fruit are edible and have a sweet taste.

Propagation: Fresh cleaned seed germinates in 3-4 weeks. Cuttings also strike well.

Habitat: Grows well in exposed coastal areas. Found in woodlands, heath, forests or rainforest fringes. In full sun it forms a dense spreading shrub up to 40 cm high by 1.4 m in diameter. Can be pruned into an attractive hedge. Likes good drainage and adequate water, relatively free from pests and diseases.

Uses: The berries are a popular traditional bush food. The fruit can be eaten fresh, seeds and all, but can be added to fruit salads, pies or made into jam with a blueberry like flavour with a hint of eucalyptus.

Source: <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp12/austromyrtus-dulcis.html>

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Annual memberships are due for 2019 - \$2 for singles and \$5 for families. Life Memberships of \$50 for singles and \$100 for families are also available. Membership includes insurance cover for volunteers.

Renewals can be made in person at any Coastcare event or by direct deposit to:-
BSB: 064-149 Account: 10096929

Coastcare Calendar 2019

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Coochiemudlo
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2019 Calendar

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Dunecare – 1st Saturday of the month

Xmas Party – 30/11/2019



Annual General Meeting – 15/06/2019 - Community Hall, 3:00 pm



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