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News Update

28 January 2021

A Happy New Year to members and friends.

We look forward to another rewarding year as the COVID-19 cloud continues to lift and life returns to a new norm. There's no doubt, caring for the environment and each other has provided positive outcomes for our community during challenging times.

Coastcare was fortunate to continue weeding and rehabilitation works last year to maintain the momentum of our four-year Landcare grant project, administered by Healthy Land and Water in the Melaleuca Wetlands.

On the eighth anniversary of the devastating storm surge from ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald (28 January 2013) we're reminded of the value of Moreton Bay's RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance. This International Convention includes our own freshwater Melaleuca Wetlands with World Wetlands Day celebrated annually on 2 February.

Our RAMSAR connection has enabled access to considerable federal funding over time to undertake environmental rehabilitation on Coochiemudlo Island. The first major project was restoring the eastern beaches after the storm surge that wiped out over a kilometre of shoreline, exposing the Melaleuca Wetlands, uprooting trees, destroying infrastructure and threatening the island economy.

The story is told through an original composition and children's voices:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=19&v=VPp7GpETvLc&feature=emb_title

With your ongoing support our work to preserve the environmental values that make this island such a unique place, will continue.



2020 project launch Coastcarers working with Healthy Land and Water, supported by Redland City Council, to reduce threats and restore habitat in and around the Melaleuca Wetlands.

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

Celebrate World Wetlands Day on Coochiemudlo Island - Saturday 6 February

Our first working bee for 2021 will be held in the Melaleuca Wetlands on **Saturday 6 February** from **8 - 10am** with chem-free bush regenerators, Bushtekniq, joining us for a belated celebration of World Wetlands Day.

It's also a chance to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the signing of the RAMSAR Convention for Wetlands of International importance.

If you're keen to hone your bush regeneration skills please join us for some informative one-on-one with Bushtekniq.

We meet for registration and safety briefing where the Coastcare flags fly at the southern (James Street) entrance to the Wetlands. There's some extra documentation to ensure Covid-safe work practices and social distancing is adhered to.

Boiling water, mugs, tea/coffee supplied and BYO snacks are encouraged.

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

New members are always welcome. Annual membership, which includes insurance is \$2 for singles and \$5 for families.

Please call Graeme on 0413352511 with any query.



DATE CLAIMERS

Saturday 6 February 8-10am Working the Melaleuca Wetlands with a cuppa to follow. Meet at the James Street (southern access). It's a great way to make new friends while caring for the environment. Our regular working bees are the first Saturday of the month and following requests, this year we're trialling a morning start. There are multiple opportunities for members keen for additional planting and weeding so please add your name to the list for impromptu activity.

Saturday 13 February from 4pm Curlew Count, Pioneer Park, Main Beach "Currently, we are able to have up to 100 people gather in public outdoor spaces but you are encouraged to use or bring a face mask as it can be difficult to maintain social distancing once we are all together (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/easing-greater-brisbane-restrictions>).

It will be different this year as we are unable to provide the BBQ at the end of the survey under Covid-19 regulations. So this year, we will do the survey, have a chat and everyone can make their way home. I'm sorry, I know you all come for the BBQ! I will be sending information to those who have already replied. Please make sure that everyone knows that you need to register your name to take part in the survey under Covid-19 and RCC protocols. You can call the number on the flyer or email me." Lisa Bailey, Extension officer, Wildlife RCC. Lisa.Bailey@redland.qld.gov.au

Saturday 6 March 8-10 am Working the NE corner, intersection of Victoria Parade North & East.

Friday 12 March 5-7pm New members' welcome at Gindabara. An opportunity for members to catch-up in a social setting. Further details follow next month.

IndigiScapes



Coochie Curlew Count 2021

Join us for the 24th Coochie Curlew Count as we search for these beautiful birds on Coochiemudlo Island.

Saturday 13 February, 4pm
Pioneer Park Coochiemudlo Island

BYO:

Drinks, torch, insect repellent, face mask.

Wear:

Comfy shoes, hat, sunscreen and your curlew spotting eyes!



To take part in the survey, you are required to register your name due Covid-19 and RCC protocols.

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Coastcare's Christmas Party on December 5 was a low-key, relaxed event with small groups spread over the grounds around the community hall. Congratulations to Darlene Young of Coochiemudlo Island who won the raffle with green ticket F68. Darlene collected her wheelbarrow full of Christmas goodies after the draw. Sincere thanks to all who bought tickets as well as Bunnings, Woolworths, Coles, the native nursery and

individual donors.

Almost \$900 was raised.



Left: Darlene with committee members, Helen Pickford and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson

Shellfish identification for Coochiemudlo Island and immediate surrounding waters

Be warned – what you think is a pipi on Coochie is a no-take species, **Paphies striata**, a small, creamy white, clam/pipi shape, only 1-3 cms wide, the size of a 5-10 cent coin. Most have a green edge along one side.

These aren't baby pipis but a local species of mollusc. Did you know that several people have been fined in the past year by Fisheries for collecting no-take species around the island? Don't get caught. Know the difference.



Typical pipies, bag limit 30 - found on ocean beaches not in the bay. Typically bigger, 8 cms across.



Paphies Striata

Download the Queensland Fisheries App [Recreational fishing | Department of Agriculture](#)

[and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](https://daf.qld.gov.au) to keep up to date with current regulations.



Membership fees:-

- Single annual membership \$2
- Family annual membership \$5
- Life Membership Single \$50
- Life Membership Family \$100

If your details have changed please fill out a [membership form](#).

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 to 94 Victoria Parade, Coochiemudlo Island; or
- Email your form and a copy of your payment receipt

to coochiecoastcare@gmail.com.

(If paying electronically, please include your full name as the reference.)

Management Committee

President: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson Mob 0411226363

Secretary: Graeme Roberts-Thomson 0413352511

Membership Secretary: Dave O'Hagan

Treasurer: Betty-Ann Bellette Mob 0448802545

Committee: Bryan Dyball Mob 0487054127, Gaye Richardson Mob 0420881764, Helen Pickford, Peter Richardson Mob 0403089508



Don't forget to add the Coastcare email to your contacts - coochiecoastcare@gmail.com



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