



# News Update

28 July 2023



**A call-out to revegetate a new dune along the Wetlands beach was answered at short-notice by more than 32 Coastcarers over two days last month.**

The works followed Council replenishment of 430 cubic metres of imported sand along the eroded wetlands shoreline north of the creek to the main beach access.

In what seemed a daunting task volunteers planted 2,300 tubestock over more than 100-metres of foreshore, taking the end-of-financial-year deadline in their stride.

Healthy Land and Water supported Coastcare's restoration project with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

The roll-out of recommendations of the [Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan](#) (SEMP) which were unanimously endorsed by Redland City Council in February 2021 and the Queensland Government has finally begun.

Councillor Lance Hewlett said while the full recommendations of the SEMP couldn't be delivered at this time due to budget constraints, the work would focus on the area at greatest risk where salt-water intrusion into the wetlands could occur, as well as loss of significant vegetation along the heritage-listed Emerald Fringe.

In the SEMP, "Immediate beach nourishment of 3m<sup>3</sup>/m (2400m<sup>3</sup> total) is recommended to repair remnant existing erosion on Norfolk Beach and return the beaches to functional units. Beach reprofiling or beach nourishment is then recommended following each erosion event to accelerate natural processes, restore beach amenity and, in the case of beach nourishment, provide an additional buffer against future erosion events."



**Barge delivered sand directly to the beach**

**however piles left seaward of the dune fence**

This high-risk dunal zone along our valued freshwater Ramsar wetlands had been prioritised by Council for works "to preserve vegetation, habitat and cultural heritage values", as well as preventing foreshore erosion "to protect development and infrastructure."

Unfortunately, due to machinery and time constraints the southern section missed out on the bulk of sand, now sitting seaward of the dune fence in the north.

## Annual General Meeting 2023

Coastcare's recent Annual General meeting attracted a good turnout at the Community Hall on Sunday 25 June.

Thanks to all those who renewed subscriptions and newcomers who joined on the day. Following the presentation of Annual Reports, Cr Lance Hewlett officiated over the election of office-bearers.

The new Committee includes President, Vivienne Roberts-Thomson; Vice-President, Bryan Dyball; Secretary, Jane Caldwell; Treasurer, Betty-Ann Bellette and Nici Buirski, John Fletcher Denise Johnston and Bruce Stevens.

[AGM Minutes](#)

[President's Report](#)

Members who would like a copy of the Auditor's Report please email Secretary, Jane at [coochiecoastcare@gmail.com](mailto:coochiecoastcare@gmail.com)

After formalities, we welcomed guest speaker, the Honourable Patrick Comben, former Queensland Environment and Heritage Minister who spoke about the early days of planning the Moreton Bay Marine Park. As Minister, he recommended the inclusion of Moreton Bay and Bowling Green Bay under the Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance.





L-R, Cr Lance Hewlett, Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Kim Richards MP and the Hon Patrick Comben

Pat reminisced over 33 years ago to December 1989 when Labor won government in Queensland and "yesterday was a different country."

" Only two percent of lands were national parks, there was no Heritage legislation, no coastal protection legislation and we relied for much protection in Queensland, especially birds, on the Native Birds Protection Act of 1932 to protect birds, while the National Parks Act 1974 wasn't fit for purpose," he said.

Here's a link to [Pat Comben](#) discussing Ramsar and the future at Coastcare's AGM.

In February, 1992 Minister Comben announced Cabinet's decision to include Moreton and Bowling Green Bays as Queensland's first nominated "Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

Just months earlier, the Coochiemudlo community had rallied against a draft Moreton Bay Strategic Plan which had earmarked the Melaleuca Wetlands as "island residential."

The environmental organisation of the day, Friends of Coochiemudlo Island (FOCI), organised a public meeting attended by 100 residents and prepared a submission to State Government challenging the mapping.

FOCI invited Minister Comben to the island to undertake an inspection and subsequently the Melaleuca Wetlands designation was amended in the final Plan to "Preservation" along with the western mangroves.

In 1993 our Wetlands were included in the Moreton Bay site, recognised as "Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention.



# Make a difference

## WORKING BEE

### Saturday 5 August

### at the Outriggers Beach

### refreshments follow

**Please join us from 2-4pm at the tables where the flags fly on the Norfolk track, near the bollards. Newcomers warmly welcomed!**  
**We'll be tending the dunes and weeding the Emerald Fringe along this beautiful beach.**  
**Please remember to BYO water, wear covered shoes and preferably long pants and hat.**

**All equipment provided.**

**Any queries please call Bryan on 0487054127 or Graeme on 0413352511**

## Photo monitoring points established

Three photo monitoring points or CoastSnap Stations, as recommended under the SEMP have been installed. These stations are low-cost community beach monitoring technology that utilise phones as coastal monitoring devices.

The phone cradles sit on a totem, bollard or hand-rail that is installed overlooking a beach. Using instructional signs a beach visitor is encouraged to place their phone into the cradle, take a photo, and share it to a centralised database via the free CoastSnap App or social media using a QR code and hashtag unique to each station.

This collection of community-led images will provide a record of the coastline as it evolves.

<https://www.coastsnap.com/explore/how-it-works>

Two points were installed at Norfolk Beach; one near the northern access, with another near the southern access and a Main Beach station installed on the jetty.

Don't be afraid to have a go and log both your photos and comments on the Coastsnap site.





One of the first to log a snap on Thursday 29 June was Cr Hewlett.

## A reminder is your annual membership due?

### Membership fees

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

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](mailto:coochiecoastcare@gmail.com)
- (If paying electronically, please include your full name as the reference.)

**Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare - Caring for your Island**

[www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au](http://www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au)

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