



# News Update

**25 January 2024**

Happy New Year to members and friends! In the blink of an eye January draws to a close and we launch into 2024 proper.

With the holiday season almost behind us, the Australia Day long weekend provides a final respite from the rigours of work and school.

This time of the year is always a reminder of the heightened risk to our island home from cyclones and adverse weather. We share concern for our fellow Queenslanders who tonight are battening down the hatches in the north.

Tomorrow, Coastcare plans to have a stall at the Australia Day markets. It's always a good opportunity to drop by, say hi, pull up a chair, have a chat, purchase some merchandise, or simply renew membership.

Please don't under estimate the importance of your membership to our organisation. Even if you don't participate in working bees, your membership and moral support is valued.

Your ongoing support of Coastcare helps make a difference to the environmental care of Coochiemudlo Island.



## **Celebrate World Wetlands Day on island next Saturday 3 February**

Join volunteers for our first official working bee of the year where the Coastcare flags fly at the Norfolk Beach barbeques at 2.30pm on Saturday 3 February

After a safety briefing we'll head into the Melaleuca Wetlands to tackle weeds from the beach to the track.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards at around 4.30pm

Please BYO water, insect repellent and sunscreen. Ensure you wear covered shoes, long-sleeved shirt and long pants.

Don't hesitate to ring Graeme on 0413352511 or Bryan on 0487054127 with any query.

Newcomers, especially families are most welcome.



### Enter the Revive our Wetland Photography Competition



#### **Fishing in Style' by Christine Chester**

Just another reminder that Conservation Volunteers Australia's Wetland Photography Competition is still open.

This is an opportunity to showcase your passion for photography, raise awareness of the importance of our Australian wetlands and their diversity and abundance of wildlife and



plants. It's also a chance to win some great prizes.

**What you need to do:** Simply take a photograph of your local wetland and wildlife to highlight its beauty and significance. You could capture it at a certain time of day or capture birdlife and wildlife that call this place home – it's up to you to get creative to win.

[Submit your wetland photo entry here.](#) The competition closes **Friday 1 March 2024 at 5pm.**

The categories are:

- Youth (5 – 15 years old)
- Adult – smartphone/amateur
- Adult – SLR camera/experienced

Whether you're an amateur or professional, young or older, by entering this photo competition, you have the chance to **win some great voucher prizes**, including:

- **For the Youth category – \$250 voucher**
- **For the Adult amateur category – \$500 voucher**
- **For the Adult professional category – \$500 voucher**

By entering this competition, you are **contributing to conservation efforts** by raising awareness of the importance of our Australian wetlands and the diversity and abundance of wildlife and plants that are present within these environments.

## Coastcare Date claimers

**Saturday 3 February 2-30-4.30pm** World Wetlands Day celebration and weeding along the beachfront and track of the Melaleuca Wetlands, as per article with refreshments follow.

**Saturday 17 February 2.30-4.30pm** Join our partners, Conservation Volunteers Australia as they continue to support rehabilitation effort in the Wetlands. Worksite to be advised. Please contact Graeme on 0413352511 with any query.

**Saturday 2 March 2.30-4.30pm** Working bee & dune rehabilitation Melaleuca Wetlands.

**Friday 15 March at 10am Working Visit to Oysterworld**, Port of Brisbane facilitated by Robbie Porter from OzFish Australia. Understand the background to shellfish reef restoration in Moreton Bay and help make a reef! Car-pooling available. Please register interest with Jane [coochiecoatcare@gmail.com](mailto:coochiecoatcare@gmail.com)

**Saturday 6 April 2-4pm** Working bee based at the Norfolk Beach barbeques with Coastcare general meeting to follow at 4.30pm.

**April, date to be decided** Film night with Sandwars and guest speakers

**Saturday 4 May 2-4pm**, Working bee 2-4pm, venue to be advised.

**Saturday 1 June 2-4pm**, Working bee 2-4pm, venue to be decided

**Friday 21 June 6pm**, Annual General Meeting at the Community Hall

## Where the water flows on Coochiemudlo Island

a layman's view based on 35-years of observation



There have been rumours that the creek on Norfolk beach didn't flow immediately after heavy rains, (unlike the waterfall further south on the beach) because of the sand dump to the north last year.

My observations are that over the past two years with prevailing south-easterly winds there has been a build-up of sand along the eastern beach. This is consistent with the sand and vegetation build-up south of James Street to the south-east point which is looking the best since 2015. This sand build-up also occurred in front of the Wetlands creek as storm-water run-off hadn't made it into the wetlands proper..

The problem we currently face, I believe, is one that can be rectified by Council.

There are three blocked drains. Two drains are in Phillips Street and another in James Street where storm-water runoff from Carefree, Shirley, Phillips and the top of James Street should enter the main Melaleuca Wetlands.

These blockages, however, have redirected run-off down James Street and into the southern entrance of the wetlands adjacent to the track. This flow does not enter the wetlands proper and instead proceeds under the first bridge. In intense rain the storm-water exits via a waterfall (see above) onto the beach just north of the collapsed bank. Meanwhile, the main wetlands is deprived of vital storm-water run-off.

The main wetland empties via the second pedestrian bridge. For the past week the creek has been flowing steadily as the wetlands has been refreshed with the flow mainly through seepage from its normal catchment.

Hopefully Council will clear the drains soon allowing normality to return, the Wetlands will receive the runoff from its southern catchment and the creek will continue to flush and flow during heavy rain.



**Annual memberships now due**

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

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