

**27 March 2024**

## Corporate volunteers contribute a day of environmental care to Coochiemudlo Island's Melaleuca Wetlands



Thanks to 27 volunteers led by Tim Oakes from Inside Japan Tours for a stunning day's environmental work in Melaleuca Wetlands last week. The travel company donated a day in the office for workers to care for our Ramsar-listed wetlands.

After recent rains and resurgent vegetation growth the team had no difficulty filling 46 bags of weeds which were dropped off to the island's Waste Transfer Station the next day.

Despite showers and the occasional deluge, the youthful workers were ably supervised along the shoreline and in the wetlands by our partners from Conservation Volunteers Australia, Audrey, Fanny and Alec.

What more can we say than we'd welcome you and your team back anytime Tim!

And for anyone contemplating an overseas trip <https://www.insidejapantours.com/au/>



**Above: From the Pristine reed edge of the wetlands to the Heritage-listed Emerald Fringe, below**



**Coastcarers participate in oyster reef restoration with OzFish at Port of Brisbane – next step, Moreton Bay south**



### **70 Robs were made by Coochiemudlo Island Coastcarers**

It was physically challenging but so satisfying to be involved in OzFish's Oyster Reef rehabilitation at Port of Brisbane on Friday 15 March.

After a presentation to Coastcarers last October and Robbie Porter's invitation to visit "Oysterworld" we enjoyed a hands-on experience and greater understanding of the immensity of the OzFish goal to rebuild shellfish reefs in Moreton Bay.

Over the past 150 years more than 96% of the Bay's shellfish reefs have been lost - harvested for lime content for use in the building industry and human consumption.

The fact that an oyster filters over 120 litres of water per day provides an insight into what has been lost and what benefits will occur with reef restoration, not to mention new fish habitat and breeding areas for many other marine animals.

"Oyster World" is run by volunteers who collect shells from around Australia, dry them for a minimum of four months to ensure the product is totally free of any pathogens then package shells in robust oyster baskets, known as ROB's. The ROB's are manufactured onsite, triangular shaped, made of mild steel, which rusts away in approximately two years and contain 16-20kg of product.

Coastcarers were involved in manufacturing and filling over 70 ROB's in a morning of frenzied activity.

The biggest challenge facing OzFish and expansion of the Oyster reef project is Marine Park legislation which highlights conservation whilst overlooking restoration work. This has greatly restricted where reefs can be restored in Moreton Bay. It is hoped that legislative change will, in the near future, allow the restoration of shellfish reefs in areas such as the north-east corner of Coochiemudlo Island.

OzFish runs its reef building operations out of a special facility at the Port of Brisbane

<https://ozfish.org.au/projects/moreton-bay-shellfish-reef-restoration/>



Great for Coastcarers to catch-up with Di Aylward, Principal of the new Moreton Bay Environmental Centre on Coochiemudlo Island.



Above: Bruce, Di and Natell hard at work



Above : Inspecting the shellfish stockpile, Port of Brisbane

### Coastcare Calendar - April

**Dunecare** Saturday 6 April from 2-4pm at the Outriggers Beach.

**General Meeting** following Dunecare from 4.15pm at the Outriggers Beach picnic area (near the bollards). If weather is inclement, the meeting will be held at 94 Victoria Parade East, Norfolk Beach. We look forward to your company. Please call Jane on 0479139527 or Vivienne on 0411226363 with any query.



## Celebrating International Women's Day on Coochiemudlo Island

We celebrated International Women's Day with Quandamooka's Elisha Kissick and Coastcare's partner Conservation Volunteers Australia during the month.

Participants were treated to a guided wander through the Melaleuca Wetlands and introduction to culture followed by a barbeque lunch.

Elisha's visit was enjoyed by many, her informative introduction to the medicinal and beneficial qualities of bush foods left a few of the local ladies keen on learning a new skill, cooking bushfood!

### Annual membership 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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Bruce Stevens, John Fletcher and Denise Johnston.

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