



News Update

27 February 2025



World Wetlands Day volunteers removing vines strangling trees

February has seen an action-packed start to Coastcare's year with working bees in the wetlands, the Curlew Count, approval of plans for our long-awaited Environmental Hub, and a workshop on Queensland's tourism future.

It was also a pleasure to welcome Grade 12 geography students from Ormiston College undertaking a study of the Melaleuca Wetlands and comparing results against a previous investigation in 2020.

Students were keen to see how landcover transformations, due to increases in the urban footprint, tourism and marine traffic impact the RAMSAR-listed wetland. With insights from Jennah Williams, Esri Australia and guidance from staff they utilised industry standard geospatial technologies to survey the foreshore and record erosion detail, habitat change, and weed threats to this protected area, so crucial for wildlife and coastal protection.

It was an inspiring day of learning on Coochiemudlo and augurs well for the future of the soon-to-be operational Moreton Bay Environmental Centre campus.

After the Queensland government's recent \$1 million investment upgrading this facility, we look forward to a progress report from the Member for Redlands, Rebecca Young who has been liaising with the Education Minister's office on resourcing detail.



DUNECARE - Saturday 1 March working bee 2 - 4pm

Join us for a back-to-basics afternoon on Norfolk Beach this weekend where we'll be tending the dunes, tackling weeds and collecting litter.

As Cyclone Alfred bears down on the Queensland coast it's a reminder of the havoc wrought to our foreshore by Cyclone Oswald in 2013 and how restoration efforts continue today.

If the weather looks like we're in for a downpour within a few days we might consider some plantings.

Now's the chance to join fellow Coastcarers help care for the island. If you've never been to one of our working bees, give it a go!

Dress code - long pants, covered shoes, preferable long-sleeved shirt and hat. Sunscreen, repellent and gloves will be provided

Any queries please phone Graeme on 0413352511



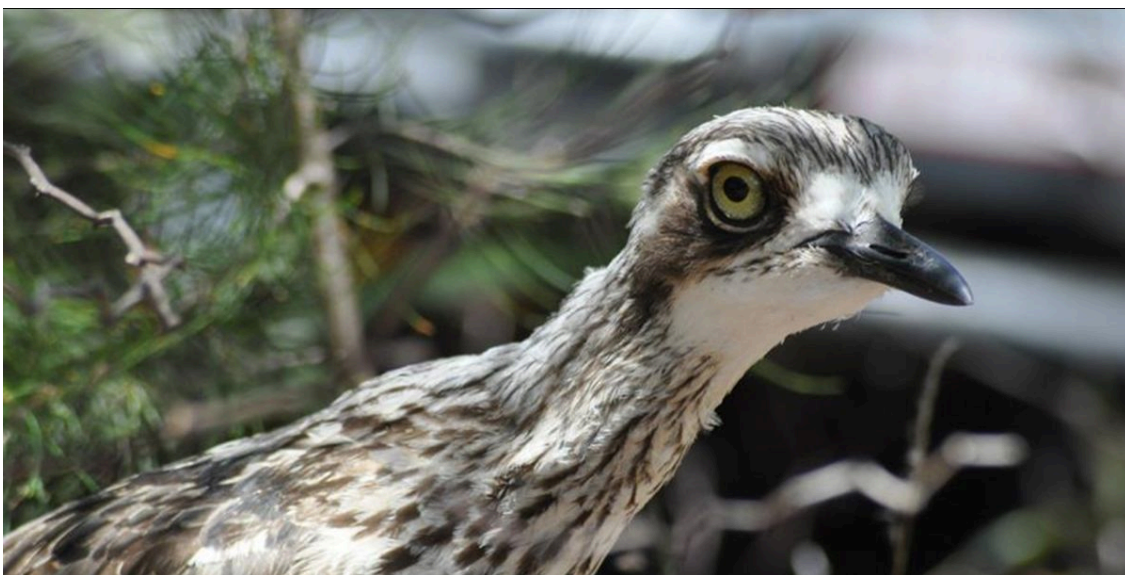
Coochie Curlew Count sets a 25 year record

The Bush stone curlews were waiting to be counted on island on Saturday 8 February and the result was a record. 264 birds, including chicks and adults.

The highest previous count was 232 in 2020.

Redland City Council wildlife officer, Lisa Bailey organised the event supported by volunteers from Coochiemudlo assisted by a good number of residents from Victoria Point and Cleveland.

The count started at 4.30pm and it was finished by 6.00pm with time for a barbecue and catching the 6.45 ferry.



Vale Des Binstead

Coastcare member Des Binstead was an inaugural member and will be greatly missed by those fortunate enough to know him. A real gentleman who will be long remembered.

Des' wife Di who passed away more than a decade ago was a driving force in the establishment of Coastcare.

Our condolences and deepest sympathies to Des' family.

Beware of *Cenchrus echinatus*

Recent years has seen the appearance of Mossman River grass *Cenchrus echinatus* on Coochiemudlo Island, a weed that loves sandy soils.

It is a nasty one with spikey burrs which can penetrate the hides of livestock and is therefore a problem in recreation areas.

Please keep an eye out for this weed. If found, pull out the whole plant and dispose appropriately and then monitor the area where you found it as its sure to have already set seed in the vicinity.



Corporate volunteers lend a helping hand on island

Thanks to Conservation Volunteers Australia and corporates, Domain and IAG for encouraging employees to spend a day working the Melaleuca Wetlands with us last week.

It was a perfect day and BBQ enjoyed by all with many of bags of weeds taken to the waste transfer station.

Look forward to a repeat visit!



Save the Date
Saturday 1 March 2025 Dunecare
Saturday 5 April Dunecare



2025 memberships are 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.

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

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare - Caring for your Island

www.coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au

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