



News Update

17 April 2025

Damage toll from Tropical Cyclone Alfred mounts

Tropical Cyclone Alfred has left an indelible mark on Coochiemudlo Island, reminiscent of the storm surge from ex-TC Oswald in 2013.

As our community battened down the hatches amid power and telecommunication blackouts, Alfred's meanderings in early March took its toll on Coochie's fragile natural environment.

Gratitude to the majestic eucalypts and callitris of our Heritage-listed Emerald Fringe that gave their all to protect us from the cyclonic winds and driving rain. Same could be said for the mighty Casuarina equisetifolia that line our foreshores, sadly many are now teetering on the brink with roots totally exposed. While there's many a tale of individual drama, our beaches were battered by cyclonic seas, boats washed ashore and trees downed as storm-water flows eroded the shoreline and access paths

Flooding caused major washouts along Main Beach, Outriggers and the southern Wetlands Beach. Some have been cordoned off for public safety but the majority rely on a common sense approach by visitors and locals.

Consensus was we were lucky, having dodged a direct hit but it was the high tides and strong winds that followed, wreaking havoc along already denuded beaches.



Wetlands beach note the sand loss exposing the substrate.



Washout on Main Beach



Wetlands beach, note the exposed photo stand.



Norfolk Beach just north of geo bags.

On Thursday 21 March Mayor Jos Mitchell and Cr Lance Hewlett visited the island to meet islanders and discuss issues encountered during and after ex-TC Alfred. A lengthy beach walk followed from Main along Norfolk to Morwong Beach to inspect the extensive erosion and perilous state of undercut trees.

A number of inspections have been undertaken by Redland City Council officers who are triaging response across the city.

Coastcare has been advised that a recovery package is being prepared by Council to restore our damaged conservation foreshore and beaches in anticipation of funding soon to be released by the Australian government's National Emergency Management Authority, through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. At this stage proposed works will include storm-water overland flow rectifications at numerous locations, beach nourishment as recommended in the 2020 Shoreline Erosion Management Plan and re-instating sand around eroded trees in multiple locations. Timing of recovery action will be crucial to survival as experienced post Oswald.

Please share your thoughts and photos of Alfred's impact on Coochiemudlo Island with us. Drop by for a chat at Coastcare's stall at the Easter markets on Saturday or email coochiecoastcare@gmail.com

If you can assist in anyway with restoration of our impacted coastline we'd love to hear from you!





Top left Beach walk with Mayor Jos Mitchell and Cr Hewlett. **Top Right** RCC officers close beach access on Outriggers beach

Bottom Left Wetlands beach. Bottom right collapsed bank just north of geo bags on Norfolk beach

Damage control took priority at April's working bee as volunteers returned to the Norfolk and Melaleuca beaches to replace safety meshing, sandbag, reinstate dune vegetation and coir logs.

Weeding was restricted to the duneface due to tree safety concerns. Thanks to Conservation Volunteers Australia for joining us on the day and lending a helping hand.

The work zone for our next working bee on Saturday 3 May from 2-4 pm will be decided on a needs basis and detail circulated beforehand.



Coastcare members hard at work and enjoying the ambience on Norfolk Beach

Have you visited our Coastcare Facebook Page yet?

We encourage members and friends to **Like** and **Follow** Coastcare's Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/CoochiemudloIslandCoastcare> to keep up-to-date with news, photos and discussion

Dunecare Saturday 3 May 2-4pm

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

For more information come and talk to us at the Easter markets.

A further reminder - 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.



Save the Date

Saturday 19 April Easter Market

Saturday 3 May Dunecare



2025 memberships can be paid at the Easter market

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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