



Maroochy Waterwatch Inc

ANNUAL

REPORT

July 2011 to June 2012



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President's Overview

When I stopped to think about the AGM and to overview the year I was reminded of two events with significant meaning. The first was an afternoon at the Sunshine Coast University as a judge for a school students research competition which is part of the Primary Industry Centre for Secondary Education or PICSE program. The second was the Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative and the international award it received this year. The differences between these events are many and serve to emphasize the contrasts and tensions of the environment in which we operate.

This is the second year I have acted as a judge for the student projects and I have enjoyed and valued the experience. The enthusiasm of the students and the breadth of their understanding is most refreshing. This gives me reasons to be optimistic about the future.

The Rivers Initiative prize is important as it recognises the significant efforts of local organisations and people. However, the machinations surrounding decision making on how to best utilise the \$200,000 prize displays for all to see the difficulties we presently face in the community sector.

The worst of these is indecision, coupled with a reluctance to develop a structured way to choose what is the most productive way to invest the money in the interest of the environment. I have participated in the discussions but avoided frustration by reminding myself to let time play its part, as the money is still safe in the hands of the awarding body and the process has ground to a halt.

The message for the year for me has been that we need to break away from the financial and other tensions which surround our operations and remember the vision, enthusiasm and drive we had when we started. Like the school students we need to find innovative and inexpensive ways of improving our understanding of the environment and how it can be nurtured.

Having decided that we need to strive to be self sufficient on a 2 year rolling basis and recognising the continuing withdrawal of public funding for community groups and their projects we set out on an efficiency audit. The results of this audit are being implemented. The benefits of the internet for financial management are already evident and we have been able to trim administrative costs.

A project has been commenced to survey the perceptions of our name and operations by the community and we are looking at future directions including the possibility of a new organisation structure and name. This is only one of the many aspects which need to be examined to secure a future for the organisation.

To put it bluntly, if community groups in the environment and conservation field do not change many will not survive. Waterwatch is no more immune to this problem than any other.

Where we differ from the others is that we have recognised the situation and started to address the issues for survival and continued service to the environment and the community. We are developing a board with the skills and experience needed to set the right path and we have the support of staff and our volunteers who share our vision.

Our organisation has already started down the path of change and breaking free from the entrenched ways. We can be enthusiastic about the future as we will design it for ourselves instead of letting others impose it upon us. My goal is to get it right and show others that the future is not all doom and gloom but what you make of it.

John Dillon
President

Operational Overview

What a year it has been for the organisation in 2012. If there is one thing that is constant in the world, it is change. The change in state government and their austerity measures has impacted on our organisation significantly. The axing of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program will leave a gaping hole in environmental service delivery yet to be fully realised. For over 10 years this program has supported our river restoration projects and during this time I have worked closely with the Dept of Employment to fine tune delivery so that it delivered world class training. The loss of the program also means the rich cultural diversity that we have experienced in the office administration will be reduced. In addition, the 8 year history of the Qld Environmental Sustainable Schools Initiative is in jeopardy with no more state funding to support the program after December this year.

However, despite these sad program losses into the future, we have achieved some marvellous outcomes for the environment and wider community throughout the year. The core work of our organisation undertaken by volunteers continues to remain strong and they are supported by skilled and committed staff

as we strive to achieve our vision, mission and key priorities.

I have come to look at our current challenges as opportunities and as I write this report new doors are being opened. Our ability to be nimble and to think outside the box will be our way forward in the changing landscape.

Vision: we strive for river catchments that are managed by an active and knowledgeable community

Mission: to provide support and learning tools the community needs to build lifelong commitment to sustainable living and participation in natural resource management.

Key Priorities:

- Excellence in business, governance and administration
- Supporting a learning community that leads to change
- Developing a centre of excellence in environmental management
- Transforming our catchment and regional community.

Cerran Fawns
Chief Executive Officer

Excellence in Business, Governance and Administration

Maroochy Catchment Services

Maroochy Catchment Services is a revegetation and environmental consulting unit owned entirely by Maroochy Waterwatch and has been in operation since 2007. The revegetation industry could now be considered as moving into a

mature phase with so much competition that work is unprofitable in many circumstances. The decision to have a business model that is opportunistic in obtaining work rather than spending enormous funds on advertising has worked in our favour and this year we realised a profit of almost \$32 000.

It is envisaged that we will keep this opportunistic business model until the economy improves and there is more work in the marketplace.

We remain on the panel of providers for Sunshine Coast Council, and DERM's Koala Habitat plant supply.



Coolum Community Native Nursery

The Coolum District Coast Care Group – Maroochy Waterwatch partnership that is the Coolum Community Native Nursery, has firmly established itself as a reliable supplier of wholesale and retail local native plant stock to the South East Queensland horticultural market. On a wholesale level tubestock is supplied to a wide range of projects, either directly to contractors and councils/government departments, or indirectly via complete plant suppliers. On the retail level popularity with locals is ever-increasing, with a wide range of well-priced, healthy natives available in tubes and larger

containers, as well as an expanding range of garden products and a small bookshop.

Volunteer numbers have been halted as of May this year due to overwhelming popularity of nursery volunteering activities. Tuesday volunteering was trialed but resulted in too many tubestock and not enough bench space for holding. The numbers are steady at approximately 40 regular weekly volunteers, and a waiting list has been established.

NIASA Ecohort accreditation has been achieved from the Nursery Garden Industry Qld. Membership of NGIQ has also been established to allow holding a stall at the Qld Home Garden Expo. This Expo is fantastic exposure in the retail market and also generates from peer nurseries on the Sunshine Coast and beyond.

A label printer was purchased to mass-produce colour, double-sided labels for retailing purposes. A new computer was also purchased, both from a Sunshine Coast Council grant. A 1.68kW solar power system has also been installed through a Qld Govt. Community Solar Power grant. This is currently saving the nursery roughly \$100 per quarter.

Work has commenced on a new shopping cart facility within an upgraded website. This will allow purchase of books (and potentially associated products) via a paypal system. Packaging and postage systems have recently been standardised Australia-wide by Australia Post which will allow a better deal for online shoppers.

A partnership with Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE has resulted in training days being conducted with certificate IV students in seed collection and propagation, another income stream for the nursery.

Joint authorship of a native seed collection and propagation book is imminent (between several Landcare nurseries across the Sunshine Coast) and will result in a handy tool for professionals and amateurs in this field.

Improved seed collection, storage, propagation, plant hygiene and the compilation of a comprehensive operational database customised for this nursery facility should see a further increase in profits over the next 12 months.



Education Services

The Education Service is providing a fee for service to schools, delivering ecology workshops based on school needs. There is also an additional component for delivering school environmental management plans as a fee for service.

We have had a steady influx of enquiry throughout the year from schools and we have also expanded the service to school holiday programs, the Kids in Action event and to other community groups.



Governance

The Waterwatch Board have spent considerable time in ensuring our activities match with the strategic direction of the organisation and that we are compliant in all our endeavours.

Considerable attention has been given to the notion of a possible name change with the University of the Sunshine Coast undertaking a survey of membership and the general community to gauge people's perceptions and opinions. At the time of writing this report the data was being analysed.

In addition, the roll out of not for profit reform into the federal government realm has begun and the board and CEO are keeping abreast of information and developments as they occur.

Community consultation and information gathering exercises consisted of attending meetings and workshops on the not for profit reform, cloud technology, Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative.

Administration

Early in 2012, the Board issued the policy that they would like 2 years of operational funding in reserve to buffer any unexpected shortfalls in income. As a result an efficiency audit on our administration functions was undertaken and the recommendations implemented.

This has seen many changes behind the scenes with our administrative processes and the changes have not been smooth sailing. However, the end result will be assurance to government that administrative funds have been spent

efficiently and to provide us with a competitive edge in the commercial world.

Supporting a learning community that leads to change

Training

This year was one of the busiest years for training with the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program through the Dept of Employment. For a month we had over 27 people simultaneously going from the office to revegetation sites. This created some logistical nightmares but the buzz around the office was amazing with so many people learning and interacting with one another. Throughout the year we trained over 64 trainees and even accommodated a Cert 1 in Conservation and Land Management for the last intake due to the new industrial laws.

In supporting a learning community that leads to change, we were able to employ a school based trainee, had four recent immigrants with English as a second language in business administration traineeships with Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre and also had a National Green Corps programs with Conservation Volunteers Australia.

In addition we have supported formal learning placements school based industry placements, university industry placements, and also through the Primary Industry Centre for Secondary Education. We also strive to support volunteer learning and professional development with several people obtaining a Cert III in Water testing.

We were also asked to present to the Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs and delegates on our operations, community development and governance which was largely attributed to the University of the Sunshine Coast winning a large AusAid project. We regularly present to each cohort coming through on various topics depending on the focus.

Professional development for staff and volunteers consisted of GPS workshops, grant writing workshops and Speech Craft courses. People are encouraged to study to improve qualifications and several staff are completing undergraduate and post graduate qualifications in environmental management or business.



Community Outreach

We continue to have an excellent rapport with the local media. Media releases on anything topical are generally used by print, radio and television. Topics varied from toads and frogs, Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, developer fines, employment initiatives, water quality, flooding, landslip and the old favourite of litter.

Workshops for the general public included guided botanical tours, water quality and macroinvertebrates. We were also the instigator of a workshop for Coolumb residents on the wetland trial at the

Coolum Sewage Treatment Plant with UnityWater. Presentations and networking on our activities were delivered to the USC AusAid programs, Chinese delegates attending the International River Symposium, the Business Educators of Queensland Group, several Garden Clubs, Healthy Waterways Monitoring and Evaluation Forum and the Primary Industry Centre for Secondary Education. We were also interviewed by researchers from UQ looking at the social impacts with environmental volunteering.

Meetings and workshops attended to gain information, networking and/or community consultation included STP upgrades, Sunshine Plaza waste recycling, Biodiversity Fund, Sunshine Coast Litter Collective, Beach Erosion and sand pumping, Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative and UnityWater Community Reference Group.



Qld Environmental Sustainable Schools Initiative

Highlights

The sixteen state primary schools we've been working with this year have now developed School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP), are

implementing actions determined through this planning process and are thereby reducing the ecological footprint of their schools along with influencing households associated with the schools to do the same. This is reflected in the post Earth Smart program Indicators for a Sustainable School where all schools we've been working with this year have advanced across a number of the indicators.

Feedback from participants attending our 3 full day Earth Smart Program PD sessions – ***“A wealth of useful information – how to get started and where to now – Awesome!”***

Working with a number of the schools and staff who showed initiative and a great willingness to participate fully in the Earth Smart Program. Schools have been seeking our assistance in how to link local environmental education issues with the Australian Curriculum and the associated Sustainability cross curriculum priority

Earth Smart Schools Newsletters have been developed each school term. Our Term 4 newsletter has been sent to all the schools we've been working with over the last eight years as well as to our broader and growing partnership network

The Qld Sustainable Schools website now provides a great SEMP building tool and a large range of sustainability education resources. Observing their excitement and willingness to embrace resources offered.

Included and supported High schools – Nambour High, Maleny, Caloundra High where possible. Initial connection with Mathew Flinders, Immanuel Lutheran College, and inclusion in the Earth Smart Schools network.

Stewards of the Future Project we are delivering for Council - involves developing a data base of environmental education providers and resource information; doing a needs analysis for the region on how to improve environmental education outcomes and providing a

website plan for resource information and engagement of kids and young people.

QESSI encouragement of, brokering for and engagement in a unique Educating for Sustainability project in Mapleton State School developing a school community approach to biodiversity improvements in school grounds with **Creek to Sky** - School grounds outdoor environmental learning project. We are presenting this as a case study of the Sunshine Coast environment network capabilities to support environmental education.

Meetings with Education Qld North Region curriculum and Indigenous Education Unit Officers in relation to Sustainability Cross Curriculum priorities for Literacy, English and Science. Invitation to participate in HOC term events at Uni and participate in curriculum planning opportunity at school level at Talara State College.

Partnerships with: Sunshine Coast Regional Council - STARS Waste to Resources Council Waste program; Living Smart Program Schools Competition; Kids Teaching Kids / Brush Turkey, Leonie Shanahan – Edible School Gardens; NICA What Local Native Plant is That; Backyard Explorer – Qld Museum; WaterWise program - DERM; Noosa Parks Association; Do the Right Thing Project – DERM; Solar Schools; SCEC – Froggy Awards; University of Sunshine Coast; Conservation Volunteers Australia; Buyequip (school's e-Waste); Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Network; Elevated Food Gardens; Beacon Foundation; Green Lane Diaries

Significant Events

- Judging the Schools Category of the SCEC Froggy Awards and attended the award presentations
- Glossy Awards
- Sunshine Coasts Kids in Action Conference in August
- Participation with council & teachers in **Up the Creek & Down the Drain** Workshop - Pullenvale

Environmental Education Centre and Healthy Waterways “developing Environmental education through a story thread approach.

Coming Up

- Living Smart Biodiversity Module and School Project proposal for early 2013
- Eco Biz program delivery EOI
- Energex Sustainability Partnership application for our QESSI Hub work with Biodiversity in school grounds aspect of the School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- Energy Efficiency Information Grant application
- 2013 Stewards of the Future implementation
- Our services are available for 2013 schools to engage in Whole School approach to Environmental Sustainability with QESSI on a fee paying basis
- Developing connection with Outdoor Ed Camps – PD and system development support for EfS and reducing environmental footprint via facilities operations – Water, Waste, Energy Efficiency and Biodiversity improvements in grounds.



Developing a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Management

Water Monitoring

1. Overview - Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

The SEQ Water Monitoring Projects primary objective was to work with the community in assisting in compiling information on environmental water quality conditions. Considering this goal, the project has met its main objective as Maroochy Waterwatch has engaged over 60 families in monthly water testing, has worked in close association with state agencies, local government, other non-for profit organisations and a number of volunteers in regard to water quality and ecosystem health.

As mentioned above, the monthly volunteer water testing currently involves over 60 families, on average testing 115 sites per month. The number of sites tested monthly can largely vary due to volunteer movements. Water is tested using Horiba U10 water testing kits. These units are beginning to show their age and we have continually had various issues with them. We have been applying for funding to upgrade these units. We were recently awarded a grant from the Sunshine Coast Council to purchase one new Horiba U-52 unit. Over the next twelve months we hope to upgrade the remaining four U-10 units.

2. Communication Activities

Maroochy Waterwatch aims to promote the water quality monitoring program within the community through a number of avenues. Our quarterly newsletter includes information on the program and will soon include a profile of a different

water quality volunteer each issue. Our Facebook page and website are also utilized to promote the water quality program.

Throughout the year we ran 26 Ecology Workshops with local schools and community groups. These workshops are a perfect opportunity to discuss the benefits of the water quality program. Often these workshops include a complete run down on the use of a Horiba unit, this is done by incorporating water quality and catchment health into the presentation, normally done by engaging the participants with an activity known as the "Catchment Story" – a localized and interactive story that takes the children on a journey as a drop of water through their local waterways – seeing how everyday activities can pollute and damage the waterway and its inhabitants.

The program is also a focus during teacher professional development sessions as part of the Earth Smart Science program delivered through our Queensland Environmental Sustainable Schools Initiative.

We are also trialing the WQ traffic light mapping system with Currimundi Catchment Care Group to gauge if it is suitable for a smaller organisation.

The organisation has regular enquires for volunteering opportunities and we try to accommodate where possible. We also involve university and school based industry placement students in calibration days.

We have also promoted the program to the Minister and Secretary General of Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs as part of an AusAid project to develop community engagement and leadership potential in villages.

MWW aims to maintain a high level of quality control in regards to water quality data. That is made available to BOM through the UniDap database.

MWW represented SEQ in Healthy Waterways Monitoring and Evaluation Forum. The presentation centred around developing the Feelings Economy and community engagement with community based water quality monitoring.

Volunteers were offered the opportunity to attend a Water Quality Training Program held by SEQ Catchments in November 2011. As most of MWW volunteers are long standing volunteers, the majority of them had already attended this training.

MWW aims to have the volunteers come together annually for additional training and refresher training. As MWW are currently in the process of upgrading their water quality equipment, it is expected the next training session will be held to familiarize volunteers with the new Horiba units.

3. New Initiatives

We have introduced a traffic light mapping system to display our water quality data. We have expanded this mapping program to include Healthy Waterways data and has been approved by the Scientific Expert Panel. In addition we have also established the same system for the Currumbundi Catchment Care Group as they see the benefits of displaying their water quality data in a graphical format. Our Project Officer attended their volunteers bi-annual meeting to present the benefits of this method to the group as a whole.

We are still very keen to introduce macro-invertebrate testing at a number of sites in the catchment and are just waiting for the right funding opportunity to come up that will allow us to organise such a program.

4. Good news story about the benefit of the program and social inclusion

This year we took on a water quality volunteer who has chronic epilepsy. She has multiple major seizures a day and it has impacted her ability to find work. She is a young girl, aged 30 and she has

partially completed an Environmental Science Degree. She is supervised whilst doing her water tests by her mother to ensure her safety. She is monitoring a man made dam in a park at Buderim. When signing her up, I knew the site she wanted to monitor was not of any environmental significance and that it was not going to contribute to the scientific values of the water quality program. However, taking on this volunteer was of a different benefit – particularly for her. She is so passionate and excited to be able to feel like she is being part of something. To be doing her bit for the environment. I believe one of the main aims of this program is to engage the community in becoming stewards for our natural environment and this girl is truly a reflection of what we aim to achieve.



Salvinia Project

The Salvinia project is a biological control project run by Maroochy Waterwatch with support from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. This project allows Maroochy Waterwatch staff to work with local land owners to combat Salvinia infestations on their property. This is achieved by using the Salvinia weevil; the Salvinia weevil is a well researched, well documented biological control agent known for its impacts on Salvinia molesta in tropical and sub-tropical Australia. This project gives Maroochy Waterwatch the authority to distribute Salvinia weevils to the participating land owners. Once distributed the weevils' progress is

monitored weekly by the participating landowner and monthly by Maroochy Waterwatch. Monitoring includes taking progressive photographs of the site, looking for notable changes in colour and also counting the number of damaged buds.

The *Salvinia* project began in January 2010 with a media release sent out mid January to attract attention and gain participants for the program. In 2010/2011, 17 sites were identified. In the 2011/2012 season 30 sites were treated. All sites were initially checked to ensure they did in fact have a *Salvinia* infestation. Following this initial check, *Salvinia* weed was collected from the infested site and transported to the Sunshine Coast Council facility at Gympie for trading. At the facility 'clean' *Salvinia* was traded for 'infested' *Salvinia*, which was then transported back to the Sunshine Coast. Each site received approximately 400-600 weevils (2 x 40L bags), those sites with larger infestations received additional weevils to increase the likelihood of success. Weekly monitoring was performed by the land owners themselves whereas; monthly monitoring was performed by Maroochy Waterwatch. Please refer to attached report for more information on methodology and results.
http://www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au/catchment/?page_id=34



Newsletter and Communications

Newsletters went out in June and Nov in 2011 and May in 2012. In addition the Annual Report was released after the AGM in November. These are all available on the website http://www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au/catchment/?page_id=1206. The website is also updated regularly with other tidbits of news and media releases in between newsletter editions. In addition our Facebook and Twitter feeds are regularly updated with more chit chatty information
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maroochy-Waterwatch-Inc/113734315315458>.

Litter Education

This year we focussed on cigarette butts and ran a campaign called the Great Butt Muster with an aim to collect 1 million butts from the environment. It was well received by the media. In two months a volunteer and her helpers collected 80 000 butts. We are currently building a perspex box to house them for display purposes. Our CEO is still chair of the Qld Litter Prevention Alliance which bring together councils, DEHA, PSF, KABQ and BFA together to share information and learn from each other. Information received was disseminated to the SC Litter Collective and other interested people. Of note is the possibility of the introduction of CDL and the waste reform initiatives. She has also been appointed to the steering committee for organising a national litter conference in Aug 2013 coordinated by Keep Aust Beautiful Queensland.

The new dob in a litterer law was widely promoted in December through our network.

Property Planning and Extension

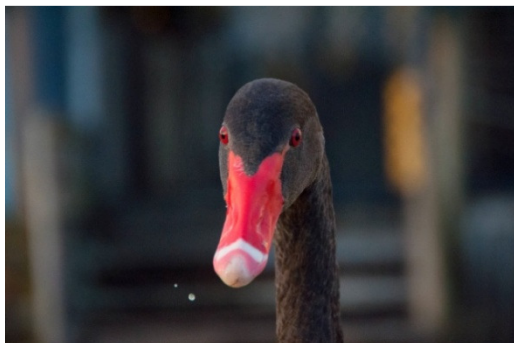
Project officers supported over 30 landowners with grant applications for revegetation works both through the council grants system and other sources of funding. The office has also been a port of call for all manner of questions from the community in relation to NRM. The council grants program was promoted through the newsletter and the website to generate interest. We were able to lever the council support to gain over \$1.4 million in revegetation grant funding throughout the year.

Transforming the Catchment

Community Riverbank Revegetation Projects

These continue to occur on an individual basis depending on landowners needs and abilities and we are currently supporting around 40 landowners. Funding has been sourced for a variety of sources including:

Dept of Employment - Skilling
Queenslanders for Work \$827 000
Sunshine Coast Farm Flow - \$233 000
Aust Government- Community Action
Grants \$44 000
Seq Catchments - Back on Track \$28 000
SEQ Catchments - E trees \$10 000
Buderim Foundation - Richmond Birdwing
Project \$3500



River Patrol

During the six months (Jan-June 2012) covered by this report, a protracted and unusually consistent rain period, combined with several ongoing mechanical problems, constituted fewer days on the water for Maroochy Waterwatch River Patrol (MWRP) crews than usual. Fortunately extended working hours by the crews on the water helped alleviate the shortfall with the volume of foreign matter collected in the river systems due to run off, etc, enabled MWRP to maintain a suitable comparison to previous years. It is worth noting a general increase of larger items during this period picked up by the crews (TV sets, furniture, electrical goods, gas bottles, car parts, bedding, household goods).

Several additional members have been recruited this year enabling most crews to now have a compliment of three, ensuring the craft can still be used if a crew member is away (two being the minimum allowable). This expanded arrangement has also contributed to assist maintain a greater flexibility of active days on the water. Membership now stands at twenty including reserves.

The Waterfront Resort is continuing to offer MWRP tenancy to their secure enclosure area at no charge, including free access to boat launching, mail box, and washing facilities. Sunshine Coast Regional Council have continued to donate a large industrial skip for our usage, cleared twice weekly to eliminate any odour problems associated with collections.

Funding to maintain the service is obtained through a Sunshine Coast Regional Council grant programme, external grant applications, and BBQ fund raising.

MWRP services have been regularly used by Council and other groups for mangrove

regeneration work, site inspections, and several other special interest groups. The boat/crew is always made available to any organisations interested in environmental improvement of the river systems. River Patrol constitutes the only regular presence on the Maroochy River and its tributaries ensuring constant monitoring and reporting of potential problems. The public persona of MWRP is also greatly appreciated by the general public and boating fraternity.

The MWRP has recently commenced mangrove monitoring duties in the Mooloolah/ Mountain Creek area with completion expected within the next two weeks. The crews will also commence collecting in these areas in conjunction with the local authorities as it was noted during the monitoring a substantial accumulation of rubbish throughout the upper reaches.



Crews are obliged to complete a “log of events” after each outing, highlighting volume collected, crews present, areas worked, unusual occurrences or collections, and any boat/ crew WH&S issues. A safety audit of the craft and equipment is conducted and recorded monthly with any anomalies noted and rectified as soon as possible.

During the six months covered in this report MWRP has

- Averaged three/four mornings a week on the water
- Collected and removed 14525 litres of rubbish (a decrease of 12% on the same period last year) Total weight 4531 kg.
- Not included above but collected were 53 damaged crab pots, 4 chemical drums, 3 rubbish bins, 4 refrigerators, 6 push bikes, vehicle parts, household furniture, shopping trolleys, navigational hazards, building materials, several rafts, 4 derelict boats, 4 camp sites, etc, etc.
- Accumulated 685.5 volunteer hours (a increase of 10% on last year
- Accrued 155 outboard motor hours (a increase of 13% on last year)
- Recycled 3275 litres of rubbish (a new initiative)
- Public contacts numbered over 23
- Assisted with mangrove seedling transportation, monitoring of established sites, debris removal from site enclosures
- Provided transport for indigenous groups to Coolum Creek revegetation sites
- Located several stolen/adrift boats and returned to owners where possible
- Reported several illegal activities on the river
- Assisted Swan Boat Hire in disabled craft retrieval

Currently MWRP is able to maintain a dedicated, consistent, and reliable group of volunteers keen to improve the Maroochy River for the betterment of the Sunshine Coast. Future plans include the replacement of the boat trailer, and an ongoing refurbishment protocol of equipment through grants.

Our group continues to work in harmony with the Maroochy Catchment Centre, CEO Cerran Fawns, and has two representatives on the Board.



Transforming the People

This is the hard item to quantify. You can count numbers of trees, water tests and rubbish collected, but it is the interaction between the science and the social science which is difficult. Are we actually changing the way people think and act towards the environment?

If one looks at the continual growth of the organisation, we must be getting our message out there. We need to be contemporary in our approach to reach the masses, in particular very tech savvy with the website and social media as tools of engagement. However we also still need to talk and interact with the general community as this is where trust is built and our values are communicated.

It is also important to note that although our efforts are largely focussed on changing people's thinking and behaviours in regard to the environment, we also change lives in other positive ways. For example, unemployed people have the chance to develop real life skills through our training programs and new immigrants to Australia get to understand the Aussie culture and interact with people. Our volunteering opportunities provide for social inclusion which helps to create a healthy community.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial for the operation of the organisation for various projects and activities. Below is a list of partners that help fund or support our activities:

Operational Partners

- Sunshine Coast Council
- Dept of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts
- Energex

Project Partners

Government

- Bureau of Meteorology
- Dept of Education
- Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
- Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Environment and Resource Management
- Dept of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts
- Gympie Regional Council
- SEQ Water
- Sunshine Coast Council

Community and Not For Profit Organisations

- Barung Landcare
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Coolum and District Coast Care Group
- Leading Edge Toastmasters
- Maroochy Landcare
- Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre
- Mooloolah Waterwatch
- Nambour Toastmasters
- Noosa Landcare
- SEQ Catchments Ltd
- Volunteering Sunshine Coast

Employment and Training Organisations

- Cadet Employment Services
- Campbell Page Employment Services
- MEGT
- Mission Australia Employment Services
- Primary Industry Centre for Secondary Education
- Qld Youth Industry Links
- Salvation Army Employment Services
- Skill Centred

Corporates, Industry and Business

- Heritage Bank
- Lend Lease Developments (Coolool Beachside)
- Swan Boat Hire
- UniDap Solutions
- University of the Sunshine Coast

Affiliations and Memberships

- Healthy Waterways Ltd
- Qld Litter Prevention Alliance
- Qld Water and Landcarers
- SEQ Catchments Members Assoc
- SEQ Event Monitoring Forum
- Sunshine Coast Environment Council
- Sunshine Coast Litter Collective
- Volunteering Sunshine Coast
- Various state and local government planning committees
- Unity Water

Regional Planning Processes

In order to transform our catchment and regional community, we need to ensure that we have involvement in the planning processes.

Throughout the year we attended numerous government planning, consultation and networking meetings including:

- Sunshine Coast Council
- Healthy Waterways
- LinkWater
- SEQ Catchments
- SEQ Water
- Unity Water
- Other miscellaneous planning and consultation meetings

Board, Staff and Volunteers

Our board consists of community members with a skill set in environmental policy, planning and management, financial administration, risk management, legal, business development and corporate governance, extension and networking.

John Dillon - Chairman
Vernon Flood - Treasurer (outgoing)
Les Massey - Treasurer (incoming)
Glenn Bartley
John Clemones
Nicola Crutchley
Margie Hutchence
Brad Davenport Mills

Our passionate and knowledgeable staff and volunteers provide support in administering and managing the projects and activities. Without their expertise, many of these programs would cease to exist.

Management and Administration Staff:
Cerran Fawns - CEO
Sandy McBride - QESSI Coordinator
Clare Cox - QESSI Facilitator
Jake Hazzard - CCNN Manager
Ben Pearce - CCNN Assistant
Shayley Allen - Env Projects Officer
Jacqui Smythe - Env Projects Officer
Vaughn Nash - Biodiversity Officer
Angelique Lahey - Natural Resource Manager
Colleen Long - Natural Resource Manager
Shalin Day - Office Administrator & Secretary
Mike Hannon - Business Administrator & Secretary

Josie Williamson - Office Admin Trainee
Akiko Iwata - Office Admin Trainee
Chandrika De Alwis - Office Admin Trainee
Dana Maraqa - Office Admin Trainee
Christina Saulo - Office Admin Trainee
Vernon Flood - Administration support
Gay Luxmoore - Administration Support
Di Ericson - Administration support
Lesya Roden - Newsletter editor
Gisella Carlson - Grants writer
Claire Roberts - Grants writer
Glenn Bartley - River Patrol Coordinator

Revegetation Field Supervisors:

Geoffrey Carra
Hetti Malone
Michael Miller
Alan Mullins
Margrit Rechsteiner
Sky Thorby

Field Officers:

57 people

Water Monitors

60 volunteers with families

River Patrol Skippers and Crews

30 volunteers

Coolum Community Native Nursery

40 volunteers

Salvinia Biocontrol Properties

35 properties

Revegetation Properties

40 current properties

Project Support

130 volunteers

Need more information?

Contact:

Cerran Fawns

Chief Executive Officer

Maroochy Waterwatch Inc

Phone: 54764777 / 0416 031 823

Email: cerran@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au

