

MAROOCHY RIVER CATCHMENT

FEB /MARCH 2013

EDITION 36

And it has only just begun!

Maroochy Waterwatch received \$100,000 via a State Government Everyone's Environment grant to support its work keeping the Maroochy River catchment and tributaries clean and protected from pollution.

Andrew Powell, Environment and Heritage Protection Minister said "Maroochy Waterwatch and its band of dedicated volunteers do outstanding community work by carrying out daily litter patrols in the Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers. These activities are critical to improving and maintaining water quality and biodiversity in the catchment which is so important to the coast's economy and social framework." (Admiral Glen and his merry men).

"Volunteers also clean up invasive salvinia weed throughout Sunshine Coast waterways and carry out tests to monitor pollutants in our waterways." (Jacqui, Hetti and their band of volunteers)

We have also received a Community Gaming Benefit Grant of \$23,000 in order to upgrade our water monitoring equipment to a higher level of accuracy and efficiency.

MWW continues along the environmental sustainability path with confidence and high expectations. Staff renew their knowledge and experience by joining local partners in a combined effort to enhance and maintain public and corporate awareness of the need for environmental responsibility by attending seminars and workshops. Cerran, Jacqui, Hetti, Clare and Sandy not only keep updated at these workshops they also spread their knowledge with presentations, lectures and personal appearances at community events. There have been and continue to be many opportunities to continue this work.

Resilience through change

On Saturday 7 September 2013 Sunshine Coast Council, supported by SEQ Catchments, will host the third Sunshine Coast Conservation Forum. The theme 'aims to capture the range of conservation projects and research that have contributed to enhancing the ability of a species and/or ecosystem to recover from the impacts of change, for example:

- **establishment of corridor projects to reduce the impacts of fragmentation**
- **protection and restoration of habitats to ensure natural systems have the levels of resilience required to withstand threats and pressures**
- **managing pest species**
- **conservation of individual species of communities, and/or**
- **integration of indigenous land management practices**

Polies Information Bus Trip



Directors of SEQ Catchments and Natural Resource Management Groups took part in a whirlwind info-tour for local and state government politicians to instil the importance and value of the various significant projects that are carried out in the region to promote and sustain a healthy environment.

Cerran informing the participants of the great collaborative work carried out along Petrie Creek Nambour.

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
– David Bly

Contact 07 5476 4777
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Follow us on



Sustainability news

Carbon Farming Initiative Last year SEQ CATCHMENTS and participating partners...in conjunction with several farmers... launched a new project of sustainable agriculture using composting as a means to reduce nitrous oxide emissions. Funded by the Federal Government's Clean Energy Future the success of this three year project will be measured by the reduction in nitrous oxide emissions whilst still producing a viable crop. It is important to demonstrate that it will be worthwhile for both farmers and council to introduce and sustain this method of composting. The farmers using compost hope it will produce less nitrous oxide and stable cropping in the long term.

Maroochy Waterwatch will be contracted to undertake the nitrous oxide sampling on one farm and will definitely be a learning curve for the crew. Luckily we have vast experience in event sampling so are aware of the logistics required in dropping everything to undertake a sample!

DHL Supply Chain (Australia) Pty Limited a well established Logistics Service Provider in the Australian market place and part of the global Deutsche Post DHL Group of companies, has recently partnered with Sunshine Coast Regional Council to establish a number of e-waste collection events, or Drop Zones, under the *National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme*. For more information visit www.dropzone.org.au.

Drop Zone e-waste events on the Sunshine Coast; Residents and small businesses on the Sunshine Coast can now drop off their unwanted e-waste recycling for free during the following upcoming events:

Residents can drop off free-of-charge household and small business items as listed below. A limit of 15 items per drop off applies. Under no circumstances will products be returned once disposed of.

Event	Date	Site	Address	Opening hours
6	9 - 13 March	Buderim Resource Recovery Centre	Syd Lingard Drive, Buderim	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
7	16 – 20 March	Nambour Resource Recovery Centre	Cooney Road, Nambour	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
8	16 - 17 March	Yandina Transfer Station	Browns Creek Road, Yandina	9.00 am to 2.00 pm Saturday and Sunday
9	16 – 17 March	Mapleton Transfer Station	Delicia Road, Mapleton	8.00 am to 1.00 pm Saturday and Sunday

What can be dropped off?

All televisions, such as CRTs, Plasma, LCD and Projection televisions

Personal computers Laptops, notebooks, palmtops and tablets Computer monitors

Parts for personal computers - for example internal hard drives, motherboards, cards, internal power supplies, CPUs, DVD and CD drives Computer peripherals - for example mice (mouses?) keyboards, joysticks, game pads, scanners & web cameras Printers - for example ink-jet, dot matrix, laser printers and multi-functional devices.

If you have a product for recycling that is not accepted under this Scheme there may be other options. Please consider searching for appropriate services via Planet Ark's website:

Recycling Near You for householders: <http://recyclingnearyou.com.au/> Business Recycling for small business: <http://businessrecycling.com.au/>

Healthy Waterways Awards

The 2013 Healthy Waterways Awards were launched last week to honour the efforts of individuals, schools, groups and organisations who are actively helping to protect and improve South East Queensland's waterways. There are many projects and initiatives being undertaken throughout the region that are making a positive difference to the waterways and aquatic wildlife. The Awards aim to raise the profile of current waterway health



issues, recognise those making a difference and inspire others to take action. There are many Award categories that will be relevant to your networks such as the Volunteer of the Year Award, Young Adult Encouragement Award, Water Warrior Awards (Primary and Secondary) and the Clean Up Award to name a few. There are fourteen Awards in

total this year, including the new 'People's Choice' Award which encourages the community to vote for their favourite finalist across all of the Award Categories. www.healthyywaterwaysawards.org

This newsletter is proudly brought to you by:

Maroochy Waterwatch Inc. Donaldson Rd, (Behind Uniting Church) PO Box 311 Nambour Qld 4560

Queensland Environmental Sustainable Schools Initiative

Maroochy Catchment Services

ECollaboration

Coolum Community Native Nursery 157 Warran Rd, Yaroomba Q 4573

Printing of the newsletter is supported by: **Sunshine Coast Council**

Cadagi *Corymbia torelliana*

Impacts

Regarded as an environmental weed in south-eastern Queensland and a potential environmental weed in NSW. It is becoming a serious weed in Queensland, where native bees collect its resin-coated seeds and spread it into eucalypt forests all over south-eastern Queensland.

This species has a very dense canopy of large leaves that is well suited to the rainforests of northern Queensland. When growing in open woodlands, outside its native range, it creates a heavy shade over the native understorey plants and prevents them from growing. It therefore has a significant potential to modify the diversity and structure of the native forests in subtropical Australia. (From Qld site)

The Cadagi seedpods develop and begin to open in early January and continue to mature until the end of February. This is a serious period of time for the bees!! The native bees visit the opened seedpods to collect the resin that exudes from the seeds. The resin is mixed with native bee wax to be used as nest building and sealing material. The native bee is obsessed with this collection of resin. As the resin is attached to the seed, thousands of seeds are carried home by the bees.

The bees collect the resin from the seed capsules of the cadagi because it supplies chemicals that they need for nest hygiene and defence. In return for supplying this, the tree gets the dispersal of its seeds over a much greater distance than would normally be the case. There are only a few known examples of this. Another that I know of is in Brazil. .

Bob Luttrell (*Bob the Bee Man*)

Major problems include:

There are literally thousands of seeds carried home. The inside of the box is lined with multiple layers of seeds. At the entrance of the nest, there are so many seeds, that the entrance may become completely clogged.



A clogged up entrance may prevent air movement and cause overheating, and possible death of the nest. Obviously the bees cannot get in or out either.

Overheating and Collapse: The seeds line the inside of the box in multiple layers. The resin is still exuding from the seed. The resin is in such large quantities that the fumes on a hot day may kill the colony.

Obsession with Seeds From observation, the bees will continue to collect excessive seeds and resin during this traumatic period.

Unfortunately they forget to clean up or guard the hive. It is at this critical period that the hive is most vulnerable to attack by the native fly. You may see the native fly laying eggs all over the joints of the box. The eggs hatch into maggots, and move their way into the hive, where the maggots grow on pollen and honey. Eventually the nest will become infected with 100's of maggots which quickly destroy the nest.

Thanks Bob for your help and photos—Lesya

<http://www.rovingphotos.com.au/BeeMan.htm>

Photos: Sheldon Navie

Also check out <http://www.zabel.com.au/>

submitted by Hetti Malone



Hive at Whalley Creek clogging with Cadagi resin and seed.



Coolum Community Native Nursery

Continuing its environmental sustainability goals [Coolum Community Native Nursery](http://www.coolumnatives.com) has installed a **Battery World** battery bin permanently on site and residents are invited to make use of the bin free of charge. Dead batteries of any kind, including mobile phone batteries, laptop computer batteries and old rechargeable batteries can go in the bin.

Adding to the convenience, dead **car batteries** will be stored on wooden pallets for collection and recycling by Battery World. Batteries are one of the most dangerous common waste items discarded by Australian households and have the potential to pollute soil and water, harming wildlife and humans.

Over 90% of the materials in mobile phones, batteries and chargers can be recycled. But, if they're not handled well at the end of their life, they can be a threat to the environment. Any mobile phones, their batteries or accessories collected by Battery World are passed onto Mobile Muster for recycling.

You can drop used batteries into the

Coolum Community Native Nursery

157 Warran Road, Yaroomba

Ph: 07 5473 9322 Mob: 0427 022 038

www.coolumnatives.com



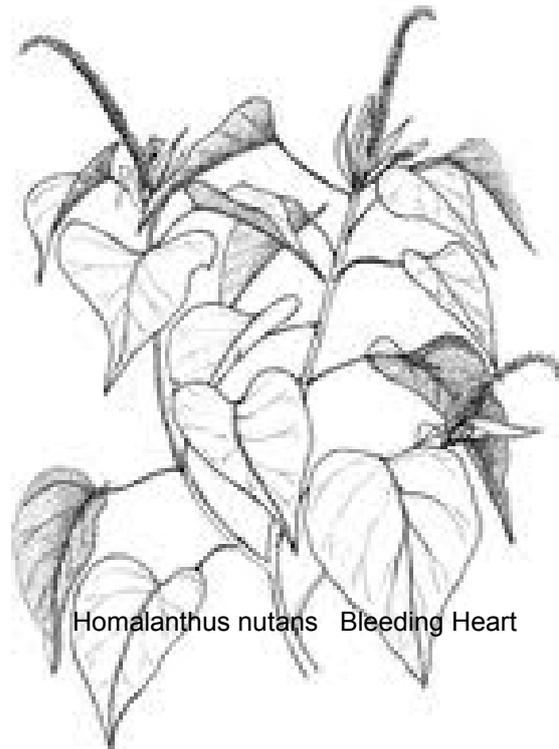
Tuesday to Friday between 7:30am

and 3:30pm, or 8:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday.

Storm Damage!??

Our hearts go out to those who have had a bad time with Mother Nature over the past period. When you are ready to repair the damage to your garden why not visit Coolum Native Nursery and include some of our wonderful, healthy plants. Including some of the current featured stock. If you need further help

Jake Hazzard-Manager and his merry band of volunteers will assist with choice and best ways to keep your new additions healthy.



Homalanthus nutans Bleeding Heart

FEBRUARY SPECIES FEATURE STOCK	
Acacia myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle
Acacia sophorae	Coastal Wattle
Allocasuarina torulosa	Mountain She Oak
Alpinia caerulea	Native Ginger
Alyxia ruscifolia	Chainberry
Casuarina equisetifolia	Horsetail She-oak
Commersonia bartramia	Brown Kurrajong
Hakea florulenta	Wallum Hakea
Homalanthus nutans	Bleeding Heart
Leucopogon parviflorus	Coast Beard Heath
Pararistolochia praevenosa	Birdwing Butterfly Vine
Pittosporum revolutum	Forest Pittosporum
Tabernaemontana pandacaqui	Banana Bush

A report from the Environmental Officer's Desk—Jacqui Smythe

Frogs

The last few weeks have seen the completion of the frog monitoring program with some exciting finds! The photo below is of a baby Giant Barred Frog that had only just emerged from the stream – if you look closely you can see his tail is still attached. The little fellow was found at Lucille Marriott's property in Dulong. We



have seen the Giant Barreds at Lucille's property for a number of seasons now but we have never seen such a young one, in addition we have never seen or heard as many of the species as we have this year with 7 of them being seen in one night during one recent survey. The other change we have noticed this year is the massive increase of snake numbers. During last year's survey we didn't see any snakes at any of the 5 sites, however this year we had one survey where we spotted 5 snakes (2 pythons, 2 tree snakes and a brown snake). The little guy in the photo below followed us the entire length of our transect and was very happy to participate in a photo shoot with his frog companions.

Water Testing

We are now fully equipped with five new Horiba U52 units. This is such great news for our volunteer water testers. Once they are used to working with the new equipment they will find them far more accurate with a lot less glitch and less problematic than the old U10 units.



We are so appreciative of the organisations and government departments that have provided us with the funding to purchase these units -

Heritage Building Society – Palmwoods Branch, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Qld State Government.

Maroochy Waterwatch is currently seeking additional Water Quality monitoring volunteers.

Once a month volunteers receive a water quality kit to monitor their local waterway. The volunteer collects and records the data, lodges it with Maroochy Waterwatch who forward relevant details to the Bureau of Meteorology.

Maroochy Waterwatch is proud to be the instigators of one of the longest standing community water quality programmes in Queensland.

Interested volunteers please contact Jacqui on

07 5476 4777. email: info@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au



Maroochy Waterwatch River Patrol Competition

ENTER NOW

unbelievable prize one only!

MYSTERY RIVER CRUISE

TO EXOTIC LOCATIONS

ON THE GOOD SHIP “MW GARBO”

Have you read the December issue of the Waterwatch Newsletter??

CAN YOU SPOT THE MISTAKE IN THE RIVER PATROL ARTICLE?

(There is definitely one there!)

This is a genuine **once only once in a lifetime** offer
a morning with our River Patrol Crew

Your cruise will include:

On board and on shore entertainment- bucket and pick up stick provided

Regular “mystery” shore excursions

Tour of the bridge and the chance to sit in the Admirals chair

Free abandon ship drill with perhaps the opportunity to utilise those new skills

Free morning tea included (advise the catering staff if chocolate biscuit intolerant)

Tour highlights by our experienced guides with sea shanty melodies included

Complimentary insect repellent (unlimited)

Digital enhancement of your once in a lifetime experience

A chance to “swab the decks” and bond with the crew at the end of your adventure

No graft or coercion will be entered into unless approved by the Admiral

spot the faux-pas in the December issue

phone Admiral Glenn on 5476-3079



First in First claimed



"It takes a whole village to raise a child"

Igbo and Yoruba Nigerian proverb

With ED QLD's Earth Smart program for state primary schools finishing in 2012, the QESSI hub welcomes every Sunshine Coast School to the start of the 2013 school year and remains encouraging of schools to continue developing a whole school approach to environmental sustainability reducing the ecological footprint for every person, for every day – forever: water, waste, energy and biodiversity.

One of the QESSI Hub's recent investigations



Bunya

concludes that schools have the opportunity to educate children and young people for around 25% of the time available. This leaves a chunky ¾ left for self discovery, parents and extended families, neighbours and communities to help build a knowledge bank and experience real time hands on learning.

If you are keen to spend quality time with your children or grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends' children on their latest devices; meeting kids where they are at in the digital world is a great trigger for open learning. Sandy and Clare welcome your emails with suggestions of environment apps, games and links that you may discover along the way. Apps on our current hot list are:

[Project Noah](#), [World Wildlife Fund](#), [WWF Together](#), [My Environment](#), [Life SCIENCE Language Central](#) ; [Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – Threatened species and ecological communities – Publications Green Lane Diary](#)

[The Education Centre](#) on the Qld Sustainable Schools website is publically accessible and we encourage primary and high school teachers to continue familiarizing themselves with its curriculum resource contents in all four themes (water, water, energy and biodiversity) and follow links to assist with merging ACARA cross-curriculum priority of Sustainability into unit plans. The **'Schools'** tab in our Maroochy Water Watch website opens to well organized pages of themed links and **local program providers** . We also encourage students and families to register and connect with information in the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Council's sustainable living website **Living Smart Qld** and encourage them to explore and

engage in local knowledge from local experts. The **Sunshine Coast Council's Living Smart** program has a wealth of local biodiversity resources in the Biodiversity module section of their website. Encourage your family's schools to register for the Free Envirocom/Sunshine Coast Council **Waste 2 Resource** program and continue to evolve a household litter free lunch culture.



Native Bee Hive

2013 KIDS IN ACTION - Environment conference 5th and 6th of September

registrations are now open to schools and students .

DID YOU KNOW?

How rainforests contribute to climate -
"It has been discovered that bacteria released into the air in huge quantities above broadleaf rainforests (aerobacter) actually 'seed' clouds, providing the minute nucleus required for a raindrop to form. Water vapour transpiring from the leaves of rainforest trees creates a cloud canopy which acts like an umbrella, cooling and shading the earth and reflecting some of the sun's heat back into space. Together with the ocean and air currents rainforests function as a global air-conditioning system. Rainforests also trap moisture and preserve soil by slowing rain run-off; they soak up carbon dioxide and pump out oxygen". (Discovery for schools program, North Coast, Why is rainforest important, NSW DECCW)



Piccabean Palms

Contact: Sandy and Clare – Sunshine Coast QESSI Hub supporting sustainable schools

sandy@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au

and we all had a real good time



Cerran's magic shot of her very own Richmond Birdwing



DISCLAIMER:

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