

Bits and pieces

There are many ways to be involved

Outdoors help

- ◆ Weed eradication,
- ◆ Re-planting creek bank areas,
- ◆ Rubbish clearing in our lovely rivers,
- ◆ Native seed collection,
- ◆ Working at the community nurseries that supply native species for re-veging work.
- ◆ Water testing in the local creeks
- ◆ Involvement with diverse projects such as frog surveys.

Indoors – there is always help needed with:

- ◆ General office work,
- ◆ Computer data input,
- ◆ Project data recording
- ◆ General duties such as helping to keep the office area organised and tidy.

River uses.

Question: A Matthew Flinders" student enquiry the affect of water skiing on the Maroochy River shows that our education programme is making the community at large more aware of the importance of being aware of all consequences of water sports on our rivers.

Answer:

This is a very complex topic. Maroochy Waterwatch takes the stance that all users and uses of the river are valid. However, with the ever increasing pressure on the system from population increases and other pressures it is becoming more imperative to have the estuarine areas of the river declared to develop appropriate activities for various areas.

Water skiing is one activity and if undertaken properly in the middle of the designated areas has minimal impact because the wake has little power. The major problem is wake boarding with waves with high impact often narrow areas of the river. This combined with easily eroded banks and lack of vegetation to provide stability and resilience makes for a complex story. it is not one single activity that is at fault and many stakeholder are involved. The river generates significant contributions to the local economy and this must also be taken into account.

So unfortunately there is no easy answer to your question and this is the 'beauty' of working with catchment management

Cheers, *Cerran*

Butt Jail available for use at community events/education centres



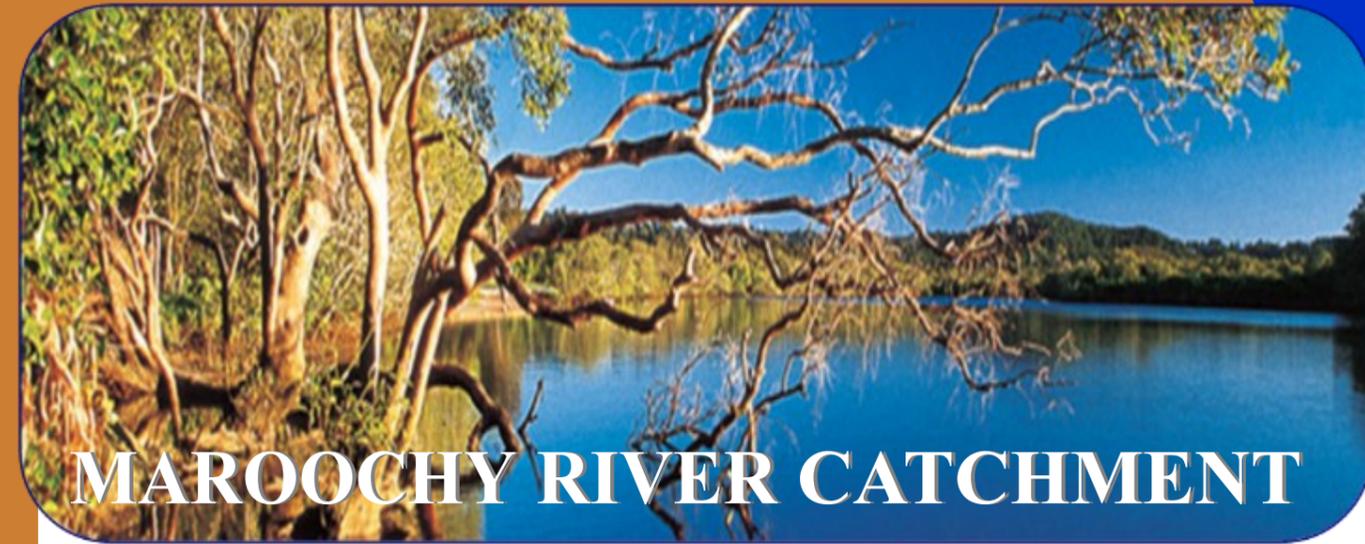
The Maroochy Catchment Centre has opened its 'butt jail' to the community to use for display at community events or at Education Centres. The 80 000 cigarette butts inside the jails have been collected from across the Sunshine Coast. Cigarette butts contain hazardous chemicals such as cadmium, arsenic and lead so when the butt is discarded, these chemicals leach into the environment contaminating our waterways and land.

There are two 'butt jails' available which are 1m tall, 50cm wide and 15cm in depth so they fit nicely into car boots for transportation and are easily a one person lift. There is also generic signage available to explain the display and the effects of butts on our environment.

To book the 'butt jail' for your next event- contact Maroochy Waterwatch.

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MAROOCHY RIVER CATCHMENT

WINTER 2013

EDITION 38

DIRECTION

If there is anything that is constant in the not-for-profit sector and working with the environment, it is change.

At the moment there is uncertainty surrounding just about every aspect of the organisation from the legal structure and compliance with a new Australian government regulator the ACNC, through to changes in general funding.

We have decided to call this uncertainty the **Pickle Conglomeration** for a lack of anything else to call it.

However, out of uncertainty comes opportunity and below is a brief snapshot of what is going on.

Works to improve the Maroochy River involving the community wherever possible will always be a core activity and following the response from the name change survey, we will be keeping the name of Maroochy Waterwatch for action and education on the river.

However it is becoming increasingly difficult to survive and we need to broaden programs and projects and partnering opportunities.

As such, another trading name has been established called ECOllaboration with the first project being **Mystery Eco Safaris** as part of Green June.

The tours have generated quite a bit of interest as you don't know what to expect and what knowledge will be departed.

We have also been madly writing all sort of funding applications for various projects with Hetti and Jacqui keeping busy processing the continual enquiries for volunteering. It is a fine balancing act supporting all the requests and having the funding for enough projects to support people.

EDUCATION

On the education front, we have strong enquiry from students from numerous universities wanting to do industry placement with us and also school based placements.

For me, I believe it is this learning environment which keeps the organisation strong and we have just engaged a school based trainee, Reece, who will undertake a Cert III in Business Administration over the next couple of years.

Our school based ecology workshops have been humming along nicely with Jacqui and I have been educating the older generations on the U3A speaking circuit.

ENVIRONMENT

On ground action with rubbish collection keeps the River Patrol crew busy and our water monitoring volunteers are now receiving monthly updates on their results with our traffic light mapping technology.

The revegetation crew are having some great impacts throughout the catchment and look forward to over 13 000 plants going in the ground over the next couple of months. I do miss not having the Green Army support as this program really tied all our endeavours together by providing employment, training and great environmental outcomes.

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

All this action doesn't happen without the great support from people in the office volunteering in all sort of roles from writing funding applications and this newsletter, managing the accounts and payroll, helping with project management and even doing the cleaning. We have however lost out long term barista Les, who decided to retire and travel Australia.

So I would like to say thankyou to everyone who contributes to making this organisation work. We are, and will continue to make a difference to people and the environment. and to

Cerran



Follow us on



Contact 07 5476 4777
info@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au
www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au

Out and about



Congratulations Cerran!

Speaker of the House, Hon. Fiona Simpson MP. interviewing Cerran as part of International Women's Day.

Cerran represented Nicklin as nominee for the Queensland Inaugural Inspiring Women Award.

A certificate and beautiful handmade Queensland (Cooktown) Orchid brooch were presented to each nominee at Parliament House.



SUNSHINE COAST CONSERVATION FORUM



On Saturday 7 September 2013 Sunshine Coast Council, supported by SEQ Catchments, will host the third Sunshine Coast Conservation Forum at Lake Kawana Community Centre. The theme 'resilience through change' 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:

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

By using an exchange of ideas and the knowledge of how ecosystems and species function, as well as understanding the status of current and potential threats, individuals and groups involved in conservation partnerships projects across the region can be more adaptive in their response to change.

Don't forget to check out all the different initiatives by the Council and other Environment Groups celebrating Green June

In nature there is no such thing as waste everything is linked and contributes to the cycle. As a plant reaches the end of its life cycle it is not discarded by nature, instead it provides habitat for animals and food for micro-organisms as it lies on the ground, the waste from the micro-organisms, bacteria and fungi feeding on it replace nutrients and organic material to the soil for new plants to grow.....(source Living Smart Programme)

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
Cooloom Community Native Nursery 157 Warran Rd, Yaroomba Q 4573
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Maroochy Waterwatch River Patrol

(cont'd)

With great delight I accepted the offer from the River Patrol boat crew of 'skipper' Bruce and 'deckhand' Gerry to join them on their every second fortnight river patrol. Normally I am desk bound looking after the administration for Maroochy Waterwatch, so this would give me the opportunity to see our Maroochy River rubbish collecting activities up close and personal.

The first order of business was to nickname me 'cabin boy mike' as we had established the pecking order it was time to launch the tinny and begin the life of a river patrol garbo.

A short time later we were on the banks of the Lions Park on Fisherman's Road looking for rubbish. The task of seeking rubbish is made very easy by the quantity available. After 30 minutes we had collected 2 large garbage bags of rubbish from the foreshore area and headed up river. Bruce happily informed me that today was a relatively small collection. I would hate to see a normal rubbish collection from that area!

As we headed upstream Gerry noticed a float and on closer inspection it was a discarded crab pot firmly embedded in the mud. All crab pots by law have to have a name and contact number on a tag this pot had no markings at all. After finally getting the pot on board it contained a very angry female mud crab who must have been imprisoned for some time. As the cabin boy my task was to release her which was accomplished with some trepidation.

Our next port of call was the little wharf area just near Bli Bli. This is a favourite fishing spot and it was easy to see that humans used it regularly as it had all manner of rubbish on the foreshore. We gained a haul of mostly plastic and bottles that was added to other garbage bags and the crab pot at the back of the boat.

For the next hour we ventured further upstream and then into Cooloom Creek. All the time we ventured in and out of the mangroves and foreshore area picking up mostly plastic bottles and plastic bags.



Stopping for thermos coffee and Gerry's homemade sandwiches I could not help but be impressed by the River Patrol volunteers.

For 5 days a week and in all weather, 2 volunteers each shift collect all manner of rubbish from the river ranging from plastic bottles through to old analogue TV sets thrown off the bridges instead of the refuse areas .

We returned to the launch area after 4 hours of rubbish collecting, washed down and prepared the boat for the next crew and put the rubbish in the big skip bin. Altogether we collected 3 discarded crab pots, 6 bags of rubbish and 2 plastic buckets.

I could now see why we had a pecking order.

The 'skipper' looked pristine in his freshly ironed River Patrol shirt.

The 'deck hand' looked neat and tidy

while the 'cabin boy' was covered in mud and silt (caused by enthusiastically jumping in to collect most of the rubbish)

Thank you to Bruce and Gerry and the River patrol crews.

Without you the Maroochy river would not be the delightful place it is.

STORY By Mike Hannon (Staff writer) (???)Ed.)



Qessi news- Sustainability Education in Schools



We've had the great fortune to welcome Renee Fletcher to our Sunshine Coast QESSI Hub. Renee has been the QESSI Coordinator for the Queensland Murray Darling Committee in Toowoomba for many years. She has moved to the Sunshine Coast with her family and generously offered to volunteer her time and skills to our education team.

Teachers are encouraged to register now for the popular Queensland 2013 online [Greenlane diary](#). There are excellent resource associated with the diary which utilize environmental awareness and knowledge to engage learners in Thinking, Acting and Changing actions. Teachers are encouraged to register now for the popular Queensland 2013 online Greenlane diary.

Teachers, parents and students, also keep your eye out in Term 3 for the new [Living Smart QLD](#) local biodiversity curriculum support resource –

ALL AROUND YOU which our QESSI Hub has been contracted by council to developed. This curriculum resource package links teachers and students to biodiversity knowledge in and close to school grounds, nature reserves and backyards in our Sunshine Coast Region. It provides a local alternative to ACARA's Year 2 Science unit (Good to Grow) and includes links and contacts of our local Indigenous educators, community native nurseries etc.

With the switch off of analogue television Tuesday 28th May, it's important to be aware of the [e-waste recycling initiative](#) occurring right across Australia. On the Sunshine Coast, under the **National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme**, drop off zones have been organized using a series of free events during June-<http://www.livingsmartqld.com.au/upcoming-events/free-e-waste-collection-june2013>

Maroochy Waterwatch River Patrol

?????Why Do We Do It?????

Perhaps the Position Vacant advertisement for River Patrol crew would read.

Essential Requisites

- Ability to work in heat, rain, cold, windy conditions
- Essential early starts
- Own transport necessary
- A passion to be covered in sand, mud, sand flies, mosquitoes, ants, or anything
- Preferably a loss of the sense of smell or the ability to filter out obnoxious odors
- Agile footwork to avoid tripping on obstructions while lifting weights
- A level of physical dexterity verging on contortionist skills
- Some removalist and lifting of household items experience preferred
- Ability to work around dangerous machinery while multi tasking
- Skippers boat license preferred or the desire to be a Cabin Boy

- The foresight to recognize the personal potential of discarded articles
- Bush bashing expertise and proven inbuilt homing skills
- A desire to have shoes full of sand and crinkly feet at the end of your shift
- Some snake handling experience would be advantageous
- Morning tea preparation a necessary prerequisite
- A desire to be scratched, prodded, beaten, and physically embarrassed by foliage
- Pleasure in reliving the daily experiences while removing the offending evidence
- To genuinely enjoy tasks such as mud removal, bag washing, salt removal
- Preferably free from the constraints of youth and from a more senior age group
- Ideally self disciplined to free certain entrapped marine creatures rather than consuming same
- Self control when observing water craft of a hoon nature

Benefits

- The knowledge that you are in your own small way helping the environment
- Making the local waterways a pleasure for visitors and locals to enjoy
- Observing the wonderful bird life on the waterways
- To receive the occasional accolade for your efforts
- To be associated with a small group of team players willing to cooperate entirely
- To be part of a crew of genuine gentlemen (or ladies if we can get them)
- To be part of a well managed, dedicated, and focused environmental organisation
- Long term employment guaranteed
- A special hand crafted uniform shirt
- State of the art cleaning facilities
- To be able to tell people you are "doing your bit"

Remuneration

You have to be joking!

But the good days are **REALLY GOOD**



ECOllaboration

Mystery Eco Safari

Take an intimate drive and walk through the many stunning natural assets of the Sunshine Coast. From the hinterland to the coast on this Mystery Eco Safari you will see our beautiful place in a way you have never seen it before.

In the company of an Environmental Scientist you will learn about the natural importance of each identifying plants and animals that are hiding in our own backyard and how we can all make an impact on our natural environment. Visit mountain heathlands and sub-tropical rainforests. As an added bonus, on selected tours, a professional photographer will join us on our safari experience so any budding photographers can gain a few tips on landscape, macro and portrait photography.

Lunch, transport and morning tea are all included.
 Cost: \$50pp
 Time: 8.00am – 4.30pm departing from Nambour Transit Centre
 Limited numbers on each tour. **RSVP essential on 07 5313 4059** or info@ECOllaboration.org.au

Dates:
 Saturday 15 June 2013
 Thursday 20 June 2013
 Saturday 29 June 2013



AUSTRALIAS BIGGEST MORNING TEA @ MAROOCHY WATERWATCH.



This year, we are getting involved in raising funds for cancer research and support
 Our resident chef and Environment Project Officer (Jacqui), who has just returned from a workshop with patisserie extraordinaire - Adriano Zumbo - will cook up a storm!

WHEN: Tuesday the 11th of June 2013 @ 10.30am
WHERE: Maroochy Waterwatch—Donaldson Road Nambour.

Gluten free goodies will be available.
 Come and enjoy a delicious morning tea for just a \$5 donation
RSVP: 07 5476 4777 info@maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au
 If you can't make it – get online and make a donation at the following link:
<http://qld.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/maroochywaterwatch>

Ouch - that was a Gympie Gympie tree !?

Call and ambulance? No! no! a beautician!

There are four species of *Dendrocnide* or Stingers/ Stinging Trees in the family Urticaceae in Australia. All of them have large hollow silica-tipped hairs on the leaves and twigs. These hairs contain a virulent poison which can cause extreme pain. All four species have a similar stinging mechanism but *D. moroides* (the Gympie Gympie) is generally considered to have the worst sting. It has been reported that some coastal aborigines used the leaves to cure rheumatism, by stinging the affected parts.

A fairly common rainforest plant, seeds germinate in full sunlight after soil disturbance and will most likely be encountered where there has been disturbance to the forest and frequently seen along the edges of roadways and tracks. Because of this liking for rainforest tracks and clearings there is a good chance of unwary visitors walking into them and being severely stung. Juvenile plants are just as virulent as adults, however being small, these plants are not immediately visible - causing most people to get stung on the ankles and lower legs - (hence their well-earned name of "ankle-biters").



The plants continuously shed their stinging hairs. Stay close to the stinging trees for more than an hour, and you can get an allergic reaction - intensely painful and continuous bouts of sneezing. You can even get nose bleeds from these silicon hairs floating in the air!

most current effective remedy is if stung, don't rub the area. Instead use a hair-removal wax strip or firmly apply tape to the area of the sting and then pull it off to remove some of the hairs thus pulling out the hollow poison-containing hairs and preventing long-term pain. The short-term pain caused by poison entering on first contact is probably best handled with common analgesics like 'Panadol'.

But you can suffer even if you don't touch the plant!

For safety's sake - watch out for this plant and keep well clear when bushwalking!!

Now there are two weird things about these stingers.

The sting is known to be potent enough to kill humans, dogs and horses however does not stop several small marsupial species, including pademelons, insects and birds from eating the leaves.

The second thing is even weirder.

The pain is real and intense, but your body does not suffer any damage. Fire and snake bites cause pain as well as damage you . It seems that the pain from this tree could be the only pain recorded that is not related to any damage .

Surprisingly, just like nettles, stinging trees make a **good palatable emergency vegetable** once cooked.

It's just the harvesting that poses the problem!

Ps: Did you know that "Gympie" is believed to derive from the aboriginal name for the tree called "Gympie -Gympie"?

All parts of the plant are covered in fine stinging hairs. Neither age nor heat destroys the poison. Even a mere brush with the plant can cause extreme pain which starts as a tingling sensation and develops into stabbing or radiating pain with it being "referred" to other parts of the body, often opposite the affected area. The painful stinging sensation can last for days or even months and the injured area becomes covered with small, red spots joining together to form a red, swollen mass. Even after it goes, the affected area may become painful after exposure to cold air, cold water or when rubbed, up to two months more after the original sting.

Folk remedies suggest that the juice from the Cunjevoi plant (*Alocasia brisbanensis*) is useful in first aid treatment to relieve the sting, but experienced sufferers have said this is not so!

In Kidagu India locals rubbed human hair to the affected area, others have applied the gel inside the Aloe Vera Cactus for soothing the pain however the

Handy hints in an around the environment. **BAKING SODA**

Splinter removal: Add a tablespoon of baking soda to a small glass of water, then soak the affected area twice a day. Many splinters will come out on their own after a couple of days using this treatment

Insect bites: Apply a paste made of baking soda and water to insect bites to help relieve itching. You can also try rubbing the dry powder onto your skin. This is also effective for itchy rashes and poison ivy.

A report from the Environmental Officer's Desk

Water Quality

We have been on the lookout recently for some new water quality monitoring volunteers to fill in the gaps that have been generated over the last few months in the roster. I was approached by ABC Coast FM to talk about a topic on the Breakfast Program. We chose to discuss the Water Quality Program and in a 10 minute slot it presented a great opportunity to raise awareness in the community about what Maroochy Waterwatch does. In the following week Jacqui visited over half a dozen potential volunteers, all who signed up to monitor their waterway. We are always keen for new volunteers so if any of our readers have friends or family who are willing to spare 10-15 minutes a month, please get them to contact us.

Education

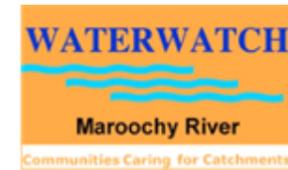
May is always a busy time for our Environmental Education Program. It seems to be the time of the year where schools are keen to engage outside educators on excursions or incursions. In a 2 week period, I was involved in 8 school workshops, ranging from a one hour visit with a group of Year 3 students, to a full day catchment tour with a group of Year 12 students. This is one of the best parts of my job, interacting with kids who are all passionate about learning more about their local environment. I see immense hope for the future with these young people all being wonderful ambassadors for our natural ecosystems.

Volunteers

I have been so lucky to work with some wonderful volunteers over the last few months. We have seen a number of university students spend time with us, as well as a lot of volunteers who just want to spend some quality time, doing valuable work with an environmental organisation. I always try to make things as interesting as possible for our volunteers. There are days where things aren't so interesting but most of the time they will be in the field wearing a pair of waders catching aquatic insects, diagnosing our catch under a microscope or sometimes assisting me with large groups of kids on an environmental excursion.

The work Maroochy Waterwatch undertakes is varied and interesting and extremely valuable to the community, but even more importantly the community is valuable to us.

If anyone wants to volunteer with Maroochy Waterwatch we are always happy to chat to you, so feel free to give Cerran or I a call on **07 5476 4777**.



Jacqui

GREEN JUNE—E-WASTE

Drop Zone e-waste events on the Sunshine Coast

DHL Supply Chain 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*.

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

For more information visit www.dropzone.org.au

Date	Site	Address	Opening hours
8 – 12 June	Caloundra Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre	171 Pierce Avenue, Caloundra	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
8 – 9 June	Beerwah Resource Recovery Centre	121 Roberts Road, Beerwah	8.00 am to 5.00 pm
15 - 16 June	Witta Resource Recovery Centre	Corner of Cooke and Witta roads, Witta.	8.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday and Sunday
15 – 16 June	Kenilworth Transfer Station	Brooloo Rd Kenilworth	8.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday and Sunday
15 – 19 June	Buderim Resource Recovery Centre	Syd Lingard Drive, Buderim	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
22 – 26 June	Nambour Resource Recovery Centre	Cooney Road, Nambour	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
22 – 23 June	Yandina Transfer Station	Browns Creek Road, Yandina	9.00 am to 2.00 pm Saturday and Sunday
22 – 23 June	Mapleton Transfer Station	Delicia Road, Mapleton	8.00 am to 1.00 pm Saturday and Sunday