

Coastcare NSW update

Friday 16, September 2005

Welcome to the Coastcare NSW Update. If you would like to continue to receive this fortnightly email newsletter please click the link to subscribe to the group.

coastcare_nsw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send your stories to

mbradbury@interact.com.au

Coastcare Regional Updates

Update from Chris Tola - Hunter / Central Rivers CMA

The Bitou Bandits project wound up at the end of August and we're getting a report on the whole process completed - if any participating groups have data they'd like to send through, that would be hugely appreciated. The project really showcased the fantastic work groups are doing to rid this invasive weed from along the Coast - well done to all!

Congratulations to Coastcare TEN, who won 1st prize in the Wyong Garden Competition - Section 11 Native Revegetation - Community Group for the Dune Garden, between Hargraves Street and Karagi Park Beach access at North Entrance. The photo shows how great the Spinifex looks. The group's been doing some great things in the area and a well deserved recognition of this work through this competition is fantastic.



Speaking of Awards (I can't help myself!), Keep Australia Beautiful's Clean Beach Challenge Judging takes place at the end of the month, but I'm sure that, if you have a special beach you'd like to be included, the Crew at KAB would accept (very) late entries! If you'd like more information, give me a call, or telephone KAB on 02 9633 3380.

Also, The Commonwealth Bank and Conservation Volunteers Australia want to recognise, reward and support 20 young Australians actively assisting our environment. If you are aged between 16 and 20 years of age and are actively participating in local Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare or other community group undertaking practical conservation activities; or actively promoting or demonstrating

environmental responsibility in a school or campus; or actively contributing to environmental initiatives within various clubs outside of school or campus, this is a great opportunity!

For more information have a look at our friends at CVA's website

(www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/greenambassadors/) or Freecall 1800 032 501 for more information.

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority's 2005 Annual Community Forum will be held on Saturday 24 September from 9.15 am to 4.00 pm in Maitland. Participants will have the opportunity to workshop ideas and actions for improving community engagement in natural resource management for the future, while learning more about CMA projects and activities. The CMA will also report back on its progress over the past year, including outcomes from a recent community survey. To book your place at the forum, contact the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA on (02) 4930 1030 or email: hcr@cma.nsw.gov.au.

It's been excellent being able to get out into the Community and attend meetings with Community Groups, the CMA, Councils and the business sector, there are many opportunities out there to protect and enhance our environment, and to distribute information across the Coast. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or advice on 4978 4027 (coastcare@huntercouncils.com.au). I hope everything's going well with you and stay in touch - Chris.

Update from Charlie Hewitt - Hawkesbury/Nepean and Sydney Metro CMAs

Charlie has been involved in supporting the strategic planning of both CMA's, with the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA recently holding its first Estuary Coast and Marine Theme Team meeting, and the Sydney Metro CMA developing its investment strategy projects and looking to form a consultative group to assist this project development and inform the process of developing targets and actions.

Charlie has also been looking into some projects of his own, including Community Water Grants applications with Surf Clubs, and recreational fishing fish identification and measuring stations for key sites on all waterways between the Hawkesbury and Port Hacking.

On October 29 Charlie will run a tour of some of the major Northern Beaches coastal bushcare sites in order for regeneration groups to learn from each other, and a similar tour will be held next year on the south side. Plans are afoot for a salty sandy open day at the Coastal Environment Centre on November 6. Charlie will host community seagrass monitoring workshops on both sides of the harbour (thanks to Rebecca Small at the Central Coast Community Environment Network), and will look into expanding this into monitoring of other habitats also.

Update from Michael Fiedler - Southern Rivers CMA

Recently there has been a resurgence of interested volunteers wanting to get involved in coastal and marine issues in the Illawarra region. Michael Fiedler has been busy servicing the needs of these individuals and groups throughout the region. Of particular note is the development of a southern branch of Australian Seabird Rescue. This organisation has been very active on the north coast since 1992 saving injured seabirds that have become entangled and hooked in fishing gear. The southern branch will target Lake Illawarra, their aims and objectives will include liaising with the Lake Authority, concerned residents, interest groups such as sailing clubs etc and facilitate major clean-ups of Lake Illawarra, with ongoing pro-active public relations. Coastcare will be providing preliminary financial support for the group and look forward to them becoming establishment in the region.



Photo: Werri Beach / Gerringong Dunecare group

Michael Fiedler has also been working with the south coast Noxious Weeds Authorities on developing a Sea spurge poster and brochure following on from the ID sheet developed a few months prior. This will further help the region combat the imminent threat posed by sea spurge - refer to the website for more information. <http://www.southernCouncils.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?page=70>

Update from Jacqui Smith - Southern Rivers CMA

Nominations called for outstanding environmental citizens in the Shoalhaven

It's no secret that the beautiful coastlines and landscapes of the Shoalhaven are what attract so many people to live and work here. What is kept secret is the incredible work that goes on 'behind the scenes' to help restore, conserve and protect the magnificent natural areas that grace our region.

The "green army" responsible for this is made up of volunteers: everyday people who dedicate their time towards enhancing the natural environment in their 'patch', whether by weeding, planting natives, or participating in a whole host of activities. In the Shoalhaven, over 100 Bushcare, Landcare, Dunecare and Coastcare groups are operating on a regular basis, and some truly wonderful achievements are being made.

The Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, together with the Shoalhaven City Council's Bushcare program and Coastcare, are organising an Awards Night to provide recognition for the outstanding contributions being made by local people to our environment that is truly making a difference.

A nomination process has begun, which provides an opportunity for people to nominate exceptional individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and/or industries that are deserving of recognition for their efforts in environmental work in the Shoalhaven. The application process is simple and shouldn't take much time, and can be accessed at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare or by contacting Jacqui Smith on 4429 8950 or email coastcare@shoal.net.au. Please help recognise those in our community that are contributing to make the Shoalhaven environment so special and unique.

Marine Invertebrate Study a success

The Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre hosted yet another successful community event on Saturday the 27th of August, with 37 energetic volunteers braving the cold waters of Wallagoot Lake to conduct a Marine Invertebrate Study.

Update from Jo Lane - Southern Rivers CMA

The grey nurse shark is considered to be Australia's most threatened marine species. To raise awareness of these amazing creatures and to celebrate biodiversity month, Coastcare is presenting an information night on grey nurse sharks and the marine environment next Tuesday night 20th September at Batemans Bay Community Centre, from 6.00 - 8.00pm. Following the presentation there will be a screening of the recently released DVD "Beneath Southern Seas" with some incredible footage of the diverse marine life found right here in our own backyard. Coastcare Facilitator, Jo Lane says 'this is a great opportunity for people to learn more about our precious marine environment. The far south coast is home to a remarkable diversity of marine life, including the critically endangered grey nurse shark'.

The Southern Rivers CMA is busy conducting community consultations for their Catchment Action Plan throughout the region. The far south coast has already had a number of meetings in Eden, Merimbula, Bega, Cobargo, Bermagui, Narooma, Moruya and Batemans Bay with some good attendance and excellent discussions on Natural Resource Management - especially in the coastal and marine theme. It is very reassuring to see the communities continued interest and passion in 'caring for our coast'.

Updates

Minister's Award for Coastal Custodians

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell invites nominations from organisations or individuals for the \$5000 Minister's Award for Coastal Custodians. Entries open today and close on Friday, 11 November 2005. The national winner will be announced during Coastcare Week in early December 2005. This is the fourth year that the award has been presented. Last year's award was presented to a group of volunteers from Victoria's Gippsland coast, who identified and then eradicated an infestation of introduced marine pest, the northern pacific seastar, from the waters around the town of Inverloch.

The objectives of the award are to encourage a culture of custodianship among Australians for their coastal and marine environments and to foster partnerships and cooperation to this end between individuals, organisations, schools, business and industry. In this way, Australians can work together to preserve the health, integrity and diversity of their coasts and oceans.

Eligibility Criteria

The award is open to Australian individuals and organisations who work to improve the coastal and/or marine environment. Nominations will be judged in consideration of the following criteria:

- the development of a practical solution to an identified marine or coastal environmental problem
- an example of innovation in marine or coastal environmental remediation
- an example of community or school-based awareness-raising about a marine or coastal environmental issue
- a pro-active approach to cultural or behavioural change relating to the improvement of the marine or coastal environment
- an example of marine or coastal environment monitoring leading to remediation action
- an example of cooperation between individuals, organisations, institutions, industries or businesses to improve the marine or coastal environment

To nominate for the Minister's Award for Coastal Custodians, apply in writing with a one-page summary profile (supporting materials may be included) by Friday 11 November 2005 to:

Minister's Award for Coastal Custodians 2005
c/- Marine Division Public Affairs
National Oceans Office Branch
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 2139
Hobart Tas 7001

Manning Coastcare wins State recognition

source: Manning River Times, Wednesday, 24 August 2005

Around 30 volunteers - all aged 50-plus - had their efforts recognised as Manning Coastcare was announced winner of the Australian Government Coastcare Community Award for 2005. The award was announced and presented at the annual NSW Landcare Awards in Wagga Wagga.

The gold plaque was accepted by conference delegates Daintry Gerrand, co-ordinator of Manning Coastcare, and Warwick Dyson, supervisor of the volunteer on-ground workers. Supporting them was the third Manning delegate to the weekend's NSW Landcare and Catchment Management Forum, Jai Cooper, Greater Taree City Council's Landcare co-ordinator.

While the much prized award recognises the work of the energetic local volunteers, the real winner is the continued and improving 'health' of the 40km stretch of coastline from Black Head through to Crowdy Head, where the volunteers work in three project teams on a range of projects, supported by a fourth team who work in the city council's community nursery.

For the rest of the article see link [Coastcare wins State recognition](#)

Review of NSW Recreational Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing Rules

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has released two discussion papers for public comment on proposals and options for changes to fish size limits and recreational fishing rules in NSW waters. The proposals and options for changes to the size limits for saltwater fishes are relevant to both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

The discussion paper entitled *Review of NSW Recreational Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing Rules* presents proposals and options for changes to fish size limits, bag limits and fishing methods for recreational fishing in saltwater and freshwater. The *Review of Saltwater Fish Size Limits* discussion paper reproduces the proposals and options for changes to the size limits for saltwater fishes in a stand-alone document. <http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/general/fishing-review>

Written submissions will be received until Friday 30 September 2005, and can be sent via email: fish.review@fisheries.nsw.gov.au, or post: Fishing Review, NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 21, Cronulla, NSW 2230. For further information, call the fisheries information-advisory phone line on 1300 550 474.

Call for comment on Conservation Plan for Migratory Birds

A public comment period has opened on a Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. The Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), in consultation with interested stakeholders, is developing the Plan. The draft Plan is open for public comment for three months, and at the end of this period the plan will be revised, taking into consideration any comments received. The draft Plan is available on the DEH website at www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory/waterbirds/shorebird-plan or can be obtained by emailing ciu@deh.gov.au, or calling 1800 803 772. Comments must be received by close of business 17 November 2005 and sent to: Migratory and Marine Species Section, Department of the Environment and Heritage, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601. For more information, contact Vicki Cronan vicki.cronan@deh.gov.au

Tide to Table

The Sydney Metro CMA has just launched "Tide to Table" a unique aquatic habitat project funded by the National Landcare Program. The project is being administered by Ocean Watch, a non-government organisation sponsored by the commercial seafood industry to represent the environmental interests of industry with respect to protecting and restoring fish habitats, improving water quality and promoting sustainable fisheries. Tide to Table is a devolved grants project whereby community groups and Councils in the Sydney region can apply for up to \$40,000 for works that will contribute to aquatic habitat restoration or protection. This project recognises the critical link between healthy catchments and waterways of the Sydney Metropolitan region for the commercial fishing industry to meet the demand for seafood. For more information contact the project officer, Simon Rowe, on 02 9660 2262.

Our Valuable Estuaries

Ocean Watch, supported by the Myer Foundation and DPI, have produced an environmental education CD ROM called "Our Valuable Estuaries" for primary school students (to fit in with Stage 2, NSW Human Society and Its Environment Syllabus). It outlines the importance of healthy catchments, aquatic habitats, and water quality for sustainable and productive fisheries, human impacts and ways to reduce these impacts. This resource has been posted to all public primary schools within the coastal catchments. If you would like a copy, please contact Ocean Watch on 02 9660 2262.

Aquatic Habitat Fundraiser Night

Ocean Watch will be holding a trivia night on Tuesday 4 October as a fund raiser for our Aquatic Habitat Program which works to protect and restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality through providing education and advice to, and working with schools, government, coastal and marine stakeholders etc.

It will be in a central location (possibly a pub in central) from 7pm. Details will follow shortly. Please stick it in your diaries now!!! Invite your friends. Pass it on. Anyone is invited.

CSIRO to investigate national strategic coastal development plan

Chiefs of the CSIRO divisions of Land and Water, Marine Research, and Sustainable Ecosystems are working together to consider CSIRO's potential contribution to a nationally coordinated strategic development plan for coastal regions.

Six CSIRO divisions and related flagships have been doing research into Australian coastal regions, but the research has been relatively un-coordinated. Coastal research also is one of the projects the CSIRO Executive Team is investigating with internal Science Investment Planning (SIP) funds.

A scoping study is being prepared to establish a value proposition, with \$400,000 of SIP funding.

If the Coasts Research proposal is further funded after the scoping study, CSIRO will embark on a five- to seven-year research program.

The assessment is being undertaken by Dr Rob Vertessy, Chief of Land and Water, Dr Tony Haymet, Chief of Marine Research, and Dr Andrew Johnson, Chief of Sustainable Ecosystems.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Dr Rob Vertessy, CSIRO Land and Water, (02) 6246 5855.

New marine conservation alliance formed

New South Wales conservation groups have joined together in a marine alliance to lobby for greater protection of the ocean and marine species.

The Saltwater Environment Alliance, made up of the Nature Conservation Council, the National Parks Association and the Wilderness Society will lobby the Government to protect the Manning Shelf bioregion, between Stockton, near Newcastle, and Nambucca Heads, as well as other environmentally sensitive areas.

The alliance is calling for a minimum of 20 per cent of NSW waters to be protected in marine sanctuaries.

The NSW Government has initiated a process of creating marine sanctuaries in the Manning Shelf Bioregion (from Stockton to Nambucca Heads) within multiple-use Marine Parks and aquatic reserves. There are five marine bioregions in NSW. More information is at <http://nccnsw.org.au/water/>

Australian Local Government Association Coastal Management Discussion Paper

ALGA has released a discussion paper on coastal zone management. It can be downloaded at <http://www.alga.asn.au/policy/environment/coasts/discussionPaper200508/01.php>. The report is available as a PDF or word document. Councils and other interested parties are being encouraged to provide written responses to ALGA by 23 September 2005. Written responses will be used by ALGA to develop a strategy to assist coastal councils to fulfil their coastal zone management responsibilities.

The paper addresses five priority environmental concerns, as identified by coastal councils who have participated in the ALGA coastal project during the year. They are

- Planning
- Water Supply
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Change and
- Infrastructure.

The issue of funding is also canvassed.

Finding useful solutions to these problems is very difficult. It is hoped that this discussion paper adds to the development of a strategic response by all governments and stakeholders.

Little Tern protection recognised

Protecting endangered Little Terns along the Bega Valley coastline has resulted in State-wide recognition for Bega Valley Shire Council. The program of protecting the birds and their young has won the Council a prestigious award for Best Innovation in Companion Animal Management announced at the 2005 Australian Institute of Local Government Rangers annual seminar in Sydney.

The nomination featured council's companion animals control areas policy and the proactive approach to keeping dogs away from little tern breeding areas. The award recognised the strong partnership between council and the community in the protection and preservation of habitat and breeding sites of the threatened species at several sites across the shire.

Council has supported the initiative by declaring the site as a wildlife protection area under its companion animals control areas policy. Consequently, the site enjoys dog prohibition status from October 1 to April 30 each year. Signposting educational information and regulatory signage had further enhanced the integrity of the nesting site. <http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/>

Marine Parks News

The Bioregional/Biodiversity Assessment for the South Coast - Batemans and Twofold Shelf Bioregions (Shellharbour to NSW/Vic Border) has been released by Ministers Debus and MacDonald and is available for download from the Marine Parks Authority website www.mpa.nsw.gov.au (Note its 8 Mb, 160 pp). According to the Ministers media release, the assessment will help the State Govt to determine possible locations for future marine protected areas on the south coast.

From the National Parks Association

As most of you are aware there is a proposed multiple use marine park for NSW mid north coast. This is likely to lie around the Port Stephens and Great Lakes area and will help to safeguard the marine life of the region and the activities which rely upon our coast.

New wave of environment research funding

Research into Australia's most pressing environmental issues will receive a \$100 million boost with the launch of the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) Programme.

Funding of \$40 million will support a Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, located at James Cook University, and will help to address the urgent needs of the North Queensland region, including environmental concerns facing the Great Barrier Reef, tropical rainforests and the Torres Strait.

A further \$60 million will be allocated across Australia to support public-good environmental research through a series of competitive grant processes. The funding will support the establishment of national research hubs to build critical mass in areas of Australia's research strengths, with some support also considered for significant separate projects and fellowships.

The \$60 million will be allocated to research in four priority areas needed to protect and manage Australia's environment into the future. They are:

- *The condition of our environmental assets* - Using tools such as remote sensing, rapid assessment and data collection to better classify the condition of Australia's environment assets, including our freshwater and marine areas, our threatened species populations and our land resources.
- *The threats and risks to our environment* - Assessing and managing risks to the environment posed by water availability and quality, changing land use patterns, fire regimes and climate change.
- ***The pressures on our coastal environment* - Research focusing on urban and land-use pressures in our coastal environments, including estuaries, wetlands and coastal waters as a result of the rapid expansion in urban development.**
- *Social and economic aspects of our environment* - Determining and understanding the social and economic dimensions to environmental management, for example natural asset valuation, economic incentives and pricing for sustainability and predicting usage patterns.

The CERF programme will support research that delivers public benefits in relation to our environment assets.

A Reference Group with scientific expertise will be established shortly to assess bids and make recommendations to the Government for funding.

Further information about CERF is available online at www.deh.gov.au/cerf.

Cool Coastal Jobs

Dugong & Turtle Project Facilitator, Thursday Island, Torres Strait, Queensland

Salary: \$54,545-\$62,656 per annum (APS Level 6), Position No. T00020

Non-ongoing position for a period of two years

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

TSRA is a Commonwealth statutory body engaged in a wide range of service delivery functions to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. It is participating in a cross-regional project to support community based initiatives for managing dugong and turtle, funded under the Natural Heritage Trust

and coordinated by the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAI LSMA).

This position requires a highly motivated and experienced person to support communities to sustainably manage dugongs and marine turtles in the region, operating as the contact point between Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula communities, the TSRA, NAI LSMA, and Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

The principal task will be coordinating implementation of the Regional Activity Plan to support a sustainable community-based approach to managing dugongs and turtles and their habitats. Providing technical and logistical support to communities is an integral part of this position. Other duties include preparing communications materials, monitoring an allocated budget and contributing to the TSRA Annual Report and Board Meetings.

Accommodation will be provided on nearby Horn Island. Extensive travel to the outer Islands will be required.

CONTACT: For selection documentation: Miya I sherwood, 07-4069-0700 (email:

miya.isherwood@tsra.gov.au) or visit:

<http://www.tsra.gov.au/www/index.cfm?ItemID=215> Applications detailing experience against the selection criteria & nominating two referees, marked 'In Confidence', to: General Manager, Torres Strait Regional Authority, PO Box 261, Thursday Island Queensland 4875 (Attention: 'Recruitment - PN T00020').

Applications close: Friday, 30th September 2005.

Requests for information

Request for Information - Coastal Management Education Research Project

Are you involved in a coastal management education program? Have you recently participated in a coastal management education workshop, course or meeting? Are you aware of a coastal management education initiative happening in your community?

The Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) is seeking information on coastal management education actions that are happening across Australia for a new project which seeks to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of coastal management education and capacity building initiatives. The outcomes of this project will assist governments with promoting good practice, establishing national standards and developing ways of assessing the value of existing programs in coastal management education.

Please send relevant information on coastal management education programs to khebert@gse.mq.edu.au. Visit the ARIES website at <http://www.aries.mq.edu.au> to find out more about other current projects, past projects, news and events. Please contact Kristen Hebert, Coastal Project Researcher 9850 8597 if you would like to know more about this project.

Coastcare is part of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust. The Coastcare Program invests in activities that contribute to protecting our coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment. For more information on Coastcare contact one of the staff below:

Northern Rivers region – Brian Hughes brian.hughes@clarence.nsw.gov.au or Lachie Whetham coastcare@chcc.nsw.gov.au

Hunter Central Rivers region – Chris Tola coastcare@huntercouncils.com.au

Hawkesbury Nepean and Sydney Metro regions – Charlie Hewitt Charlie.Hewitt@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Southern Rivers region – Michael Fiedler mfiedler@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au, Jacqui Smith coastcare@shoal.net.au or Jo Lane sthcoastcare@netspeed.com.au

State Wide – Mel Bradbury mbradbury@interact.com.au

If you would like to contribute to this fortnightly newsletter please send your contribution to Mel Bradbury mbradbury@interact.com.au