



Coastcare NSW update

Friday 5, August 2005

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coastcare_nsw-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.au

Please feel free to forward this email to any interested parties.

Coastcare NSW Update now has 163 subscribers. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send your stories to mbradbury@interact.com.au

Updates

Fishos industry leaders

Article from the Manning River Times - Tuesday, 2 August 2005

COMMERCIAL fishers along the Manning River became industry leaders yesterday with the launch of the first environmental management strategy for any New South Wales river.

In what was described as a milestone for commercial fishing in the State, the 17 Manning professionals became stewards of the river's marine environment, signatories in a plan to operate in a responsible and sustainable manner. The strategy took two years to compile and is expected to now become a blueprint for commercial operators on other NSW rivers to follow.

The local fishers were congratulated by officers of Ocean Watch, the environmental, non-government group sponsored by the commercial seafood industry to safeguard the responsible future of fish habitats and stocks, and to promote sustainable fisheries.

Also lending its support was the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Authority, whose director Chris Scott was present.

Taree Fishermen's Co-operative director Allan Saundercock said the commercial fishers he represented needed to appreciate and look after the Manning River, and the environmental management system would ensure its sustainability for the future.

"If we don't look after it, we won't have it in time to come. I'd like to think that other rivers will follow the example we are setting," he said.

Executive officer of Ocean Watch, Anissa Lawrence described the Manning River operators as 'stewards of their estuary' who recognised their responsibility as being those who were in the best position to manage it for future generations.

Commercial fisherman Chris Watson said he and his fellow professionals on the Manning were proud to be able to ensure that the local community could continue to enjoy seafood from the Manning, "and not just those lucky enough to catch their own. Our new environmental management system shows we've got nothing to hide on how we operate on this river. We hope others can say the same," he said.

"Environmental management is what we do every day," said Rodney Tisdell, another Manning River commercial fisher. "We have to look at this river today so we can still work tomorrow - very few people are in the same position."

SUBMERGE INTO MARINE PASSIONS - FILM PREMIERE AND DVD LAUNCH

North Coast locals will have a chance to submerge themselves in Marine Passions, a new film released on DVD by Planula Productions and GreenhouseFX, with a premiere screening on Friday August 19 at the Byron Bay Community Centre.

This underwater movie was filmed over 1000 dives exclusively in Byron Bay, the most easterly point of the Australian mainland and a mecca for marine life.

Audiences will encounter worlds beyond imagination as they meet the true Byron Bay locals: graceful manta rays, inquisitive turtles, awe-inspiring sharks, a playful octopus and many other colourful creatures.

Marine Passions is the result of five years of filming, over 1000 dives around Julian Rocks and hundreds of hours of film shot and directed by Tim Hochgrebe of Planula Productions with editing and special effects by Osvaldo Alfaro from the local Animation and visual effects company GreenhouseFX.

EVENT DETAILS:

Friday 19 August 2005, Byron Bay Community Centre From 6pm - \$15

The ticket price includes the screening, a drink, entry to the DVD launch party upstairs after the screening and a live performance at 6pm by outstanding local artists Bhakta and Disha featured in the soundtrack. Additionally ticket holders are offered \$5 off the Marine Passions DVD with their entry ticket (on the night only).

Doorprizes for ticket holders include the opportunity to win a 2 night stay at the Planula Divers Retreat or a snorkel session with the turtles for 2 at Julian Rocks from Byron Bay Dive Centre or a Marine Passions Promopack containing the DVD, a T-shirt and poster.

Tickets are available at Byron Bay Dive Centre, Sundive, Byron Visitor Centre, Byron Community Centre and on-line at www.marinepassions.com - seats are limited, so get your ticket now.

For ticket enquiries please email us at submerge@marinepassions.com or call us on 02-66809134.

OFFSHORE SAND EXTRACTION IN NSW - LEGITIMATE RESPONSE TO A REAL DEMAND FOR SAND OR ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM ?

Half day seminar on Monday 8 August 2005 in Milsons Point, Sydney:

Register now through the Institution of Engineers Australia.

Call Gary Blumberg

Secretary, Maritime Panel I EAust Syd Div

ph 61-(0)2-9460 7663

mobile 0416 037 336

E-mail gba@tpg.com.au

North Coast Weed Read

If you love a good read about weeds as much as I do check out the latest Weed Read newsletter of the NSW North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee. It includes lots of news from around the region and elsewhere plus funding, weed profiles and local updates.

<http://www.northcoastweeds.org.au/newsletters.htm>

National Asparagus Weeds Management Workshop

November 10 and 11, 2005, Adelaide

Download a copy of the flyer from : <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper>

This is the first document under the heading of Documents Available.

Click on the thumbnail or on the heading The National Asparagus Weeds Management Workshop - November 10 and 11

The flyer gives full details on the structure of the workshop, the keynote speaker and has provision for expressing your interest in attending or presenting a paper or poster.

New Minister for Natural Resources

In the recent shake-up of the NSW Government Cabinet, Ian MacDonald MLC has been announced at the new Minister for Natural Resources. Mr MacDonald is also the Minister for Primary Industries and Mineral Resources. The future of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources is uncertain, with Michael Costa MLC taking over Infrastructure, and Frank Sartor MP the new Minister for Planning. The Opposition has called for clarification of DIPNR's future and the possibility of a new separate Department of Natural Resources.

The Department of Local Government also has a new Minister with Kerry Hickey MP taking over the portfolio from Tony Kelly MLC.

National Threatened Species Day

The Threatened Species Network would like to encourage everyone to take part in National Threatened Species Day on September 7th, and biodiversity month through September.

What Is It?

National Threatened Species Day (NTSD) is a day to raise awareness of the plight of our more than 1600 Australian native species and ecological communities at risk of extinction. Held on the same date that the last known Tasmanian Tiger died in captivity at Hobart Zoo in 1936, NTSD is the gateway to Biodiversity Month which runs for the entirety of September.

Find out more at www.wwf.org.au/tsn

Funding

Funding for marine species recovery and protection

The Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) is calling for proposals to fund projects that will contribute to the implementation of recovery plans for several threatened species. DEH is responsible for implementing recovery plans for threatened marine species listed under the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The Department is calling for proposals to fund projects for sharks, marine turtles, seals and sea lions and handfish.

To be eligible, your project must:

- be for activities to be carried out in Australia
- contribute directly to the recovery of a threatened marine species population
- be able to demonstrate that it contributes to the implementation of the recovery plan to which the species is related.

Project funding proposals should be based on actions identified in the respective species' recovery plans. For further information on possible project funding proposals please see

www.deh.gov.au/programs/index.html or contact Kelly Mullen on (02) 6274 2130 or email kelly.mullen@deh.gov.au

All project funding proposals must be received by close of business on Friday, 2 September 2005, and be addressed to:

Kelly Mullen
Migratory and Marine Species Section
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

The funding round will be advertised in national press tomorrow (Saturday, 6 August)

Australian Government Funding Guide

A new guide to the Australian Government's Funding Programs for Environment and Heritage has been produced. This guide provides an overview of the full range of grants available through the Department of Environment and Heritage. It directs groups and individuals to further information about each programme and where to find detailed criteria and application forms.

Programs include:

Community Water Grants (\$200 million over five years)

Envirofund (part of \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust)

Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities program (\$100 million over five years)

Environmental Education Grants

Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations

The guide is available from: <http://www.deh.gov.au/programs/publications/guide/index.html>

Community Water Grants

The Community Water Grants program has been launched by the Australian Government with first round applications closing 4 October. The Community Water Fund will provide \$200 million over five years for projects that deliver water saving and efficiency, reuse and recycling, and surface and groundwater health. Applicants can apply for up to \$50,000 per project for on-ground activities that demonstrate public benefit. The program does not require matched funding. Community-based groups, CMAs, Local government and non-government organisations eligible. For further information visit <http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/>

Coastcare Regional Updates

Update from Brian Hughes - Northern Rivers CMA

Coastal Partnership Forum

On the Far North Coast, Brian has organised a two-day Coastal partnership forum on the 16th-17th August 2005 at the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre. The forum aims to promote networking between coastal land managers, encourage participation in existing partnerships and establish new partnerships where needed. A highlight of the forum will be a presentation by Thorsten Mosisch, who is the coordinator of the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program run in South-East Queensland by the Healthy Waterways partnership. It is hoped that there will be more cooperation in the future as a result of the forum, as well as more effective investment in coastal NRM issues and improved support for coastal volunteers.

Update from Chris Tola - Hunter / Central Rivers CMA

Howdy,

Just a brief note to introduce myself as the new Regional Coastcare Facilitator for the Hunter - Central Rivers CMA Region, hosted by the Environment Division of Hunter Councils in Thornton, near Maitland.

I am a long term resident of the Hunter and spent much of my early years on the Central Coast. Having recently returned to the region after two and half years working as Program Manager for the Tidy Towns and Clean Beach Challenge programs run by Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) out of Sydney, I am eager to re-establish links to the Hunter and get involved in regional initiatives.

I'd like to thank Kymmy for the work she has done in this role, and look forward to developing and enhancing her many accomplishments. As an example of Kym's work, I walked in to the excellent Bitou Bandits project, and we had our first of three Launches at Hargraves Beach on the Central Coast, which went really well. If the enthusiasm and support of the Crew at Hargraves is any indication, I think we'll have bitou beaten by Thursday!

I'm settling in to the new role at the moment, and look forward to catching up and chatting with the Crew soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or advice on 49784027, or 0438 203 964. - Chris



Update from Charlie Hewitt - Sydney Metro and Hawkesbury Nepean CMAs

Against a background of preparing estuary/coast/marine support material as part of the CAP development processes for the Sydney Metro CMA and the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA, Charlie is busy with a number of other projects. For September, he has organised a Media Skills and Advocacy Workshop where representatives from the Sydney Morning Herald, the Manly Daily, the Environmental Defenders Office and the NSW Nature Conservation Council will present to coastal community groups. In October there will be a "Salty Bushcare Tour" for Coastcarers to tour 6 significant coastal bush regeneration sites, representing wide range of vegetation communities management needs, in order to share lessons and successes. Charlie's ongoing work includes: working with SLISA on interpretive signage for Surf Life Saving Clubs; working with Northern Beaches Councils and Oz Green (an NGO) on the development of Youth LEAD program to build skills amongst youth to pursue sustainability issues relevant to them in their coastal environment; and working with recreational fishers and DPI on the establishment of fish ID and measuring stations in the Sydney Metro and Hawkesbury regions.

Update from Jo Lane - Southern Rivers CMA

Coastal Weeds are a huge problem for all of us and many of our coastal groups are tirelessly working away. On the south coast we are busy tackling Sea spurge (amongst other weeds) which is unfortunately gaining momentum and creeping up the coast. Coastcare is looking into innovative ways to remove weeds and is currently investigating different methods. Fingers crossed that one of these new methods meets with success. Sea spurge removal at present involves pulling the plant by hand- remembering to wear protective clothing as the plant has an irritating white sap. Coastcare is also currently working with the CMA, Council, NPWS, Landcare and the community to develop an integrated approach to coastal weeds on the Far South Coast.

The Eurobodalla Local Management Team recently met and discussed some excellent biodiversity projects occurring in Eurobodalla through the Eurobodalla Shire Council's Environment Team. We were also provided with an update on the latest listings of Endangered Ecological Communities by Jackie Miles a local expert botanist.

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 bhughes@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