



## Coastcare NSW update

Friday 8, July 2005

Welcome to the third edition of 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](mailto:coastcare_nsw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au). Please forward this newsletter on to any interested friends or colleagues. Cheers Mel.

Coastcare NSW Update now has 121 subscribers. Our 100<sup>th</sup> subscriber, [kvine@shoalhaven.net.au](mailto:kvine@shoalhaven.net.au), has won a Coastcare CAP and Tshirt!

## Updates

### **Australian Seabird Rescue heads south**

2004 National Coastcare Award winners, Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR) will be extending their Envirofund project, 'Operation Coastline', to the Central and South Coast regions this month. Based in Ballina, ASR's founder, Lance Ferris, and partner Marny Bonner, will be conducting primary school talks in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven districts on August 1-4. They aim to target at least 1,000 school students during the visit, taking the tally to 11,000 children reached since the project commenced in 2003. The week will culminate in a Pelican & Seabird Rescue training workshop at Greenwell Point (near Nowra) on the weekend of August 6/7. For more info, ASR can be reached by emailing [admin@seabirdrescue.org](mailto:admin@seabirdrescue.org) or phone, 6686 2852.

### **Catchment Modelling Seminar Series, Sydney - No Cost, All Welcome**

The CRC for Catchment Hydrology is pleased to present FIVE INDUSTRY FOCUSED SEMINARS during 14-21 July 2005 to coincide with the 2005 Catchment Modelling School in Sydney. Each free seminar addresses a key aspect of catchment modelling and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, including seminar abstracts, please download the Seminar Brochure at: <http://www.toolkit.net.au/school05/seminars.pdf>

### **Clean Beach Challenge update**

The Clean Beach Challenge is currently open and nominations are due early August, it is *VERY* simple to nominate your favourite beach! Just go to [http://www.kabnsw.org.au/prog\\_clean.html](http://www.kabnsw.org.au/prog_clean.html) for more information.

The Big News this week is that in the "state of origin" competition of beaches against Qld, Victoria and NSW that our very own Ned's Beach on Lord Howe Island has won the 2004 National Clean Beach Challenge!!!

Well done to the Lord Howe Community, and the beach and the activities of locals and visitors alike are exemplary.

Also, if you're in or around Ballina, please go along to the award ceremony to present Ballina Shire Council and the Seven Mile Beach and Lennox Head communities with the Australian Clean Beach Challenge "Community - Local Government Partnership Award"

Where: Ballina Shire Council Chambers

When: 10 a.m. on the Tuesday 19 July 2005

## **Call for Papers and Posters- NSW Coastal Conference (closing date for abstracts 18th July)**

Living on the Edge - 15<sup>th</sup> NSW Coastal Conference 8 - 11 November 2005 Narooma Golf Club

You are invited to submit papers and posters for the 2005 NSW Coastal Conference. Your paper title, together with a 200 word Abstract of Presentation and a short biography, should be emailed as an attachment to [convention.bureau@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:convention.bureau@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au)

The closing date for all abstracts is 18 July 2005. Phone inquiries can be directed to Catherine Reilly, Eurobodalla Coast Convention Bureau on 02 4474 1085.

The five broad themes of the conference and associated examples include:

Coast and the Environment eg - ecological communities, marine parks, catchment issues, weed management

Coast Planning eg - regional strategies, coastal zones, LEPs, DCPs, CMA-blueprints, coastal hazard zone planning, coastal development, carrying capacity concepts

Coast and the Community eg - Coastcare/Landcare, on ground works, indigenous communities, youth and school involvement, community values and aspirations

Coast and Science eg - sustainability, modelling, research, historic data, climate change

Coast and the Economy eg - industry, tourism, development needs.

**Note to community volunteers:** The Natural Heritage Trust is sponsoring the NSW Coastal Conference and has provided funds to **subsidise community registrations**. To be eligible for a fully subsidized registration you must:

- Be a member of a community volunteer group
- Present a paper at the conference

The subsidy covers full registration only, so you will need to cover the cost of your travel and accommodation separately.

## **Funding**

### **Community Water Grants now open**

The first round of grants is open for applications from 30 June 2005 to 4 October 2005

The grants aim to:

- promote a culture of wise water use through community engagement and awareness about saving and conserving water
- encourage best practice measures and demonstrate water wise solutions adapted to tackle local needs and problems
- provide the support and means for community groups to undertake on-ground projects under the three areas of activity: water savings-efficiency, water reuse-recycling and surface and groundwater health such as protecting or enhancing the health of rivers, wetlands and groundwater resources.
- Who can apply for a grant?
  - Local governments
  - Schools
  - Indigenous organisations
  - Community groups such as:
    - environmental groups
    - rural organisations
    - sporting associations and social clubs
    - community-care sector such as hospitals, nursing homes and childcare centres
    - regional natural resource management bodies.

<http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/index.html>

### **Butt Littering Trust**

The Butt Littering Trust is now calling for submissions for project partnerships that can influence smokers to take positive action to reduce butt littering in the environment.

Funds are available nationally through a series of \$10 - 40K grants to support innovative programs that target butt littering in key litter hotspots. Trust key priority areas in 2005 include:

- Butt littering behaviours in CBDs;
- Butt littering at key transport stops;
- Butt littering in the hospitality and tourism sector; and
- Butt littering behaviours associated with vehicles.
- The Trust specifically values projects that demonstrate:
- Stakeholder participation in managing the butt littering issue, ie. property councils, shopping centres, tourism and hospitality industry, community groups etc; and
- Innovative concepts.

<http://www.buttlitteringtrust.org>

### **Project AWARE Foundation Grant Program**

The Foundation's Grant Program operates on a quarterly funding cycle and supports worthwhile aquatic conservation projects. Funding for the program comes directly from contributions made by divers and nondivers.

They fund projects that have a direct benefit to the aquatic environment such as:

- Public education (formal and informal)
- Grass roots conservation and enhancement projects
- Environmentally focused research that leads to conservation measures
- Public awareness initiatives
- Environmental assessment and monitoring projects
- Volunteer-supported community activism

Micro Grant Program - - up to US \$1000. Provides funding for localized grass roots efforts, including but not limited to, beach and underwater cleanups, mooring buoy programs, research projects, local education and public awareness programs.

Macro Grant Program - up to US \$10,000. Provides funding for large-scale regional, national or international efforts, including but not limited to, broad-based education and public awareness programs and high profile conservation projects.

<http://www.projectaware.org/americas/english/grants.asp>

## **Coastcare Facilitator Updates**

### **Update from Brian Hughes - Northern Rivers**

Coastcare Community Group Survey

The Coastcare team has been surveying community groups up and down the coast with and over 40% of the groups on the Far North Coast have completed and returned the questionnaire to Brian. The information provided has been very enlightening, providing up to date contacts and current knowledge of how coastal groups are going. If your group has not yet completed the survey, please do so and/or contact your local Coastcare Facilitator if you need more information.

A full analysis of the results of the survey will be included in a future Coastcare update but a brief scan of results for the Far North Coast have revealed some interesting facts, including

- The age of volunteers ranges from just 4 to 82 yrs old!
- A conservative estimate of 35 000 volunteer hours on ground per year;
- Less than half of the groups are currently receiving funding.

#### Byron Marine Wildlife Series

The Byron Marine Wildlife Series (a joint initiative of Coastcare, Marine Parks Authority and MESA) continued this week with 40-50 people attending the “*Whales and Dolphins*” evening on Tuesday at the Byron Bay Community Centre. The audience was treated to excellent presentations by local experts and researchers from Whales Alive and Southern Cross University’s Whale Research Centre including amazing audio of whales and dolphins and an incredible sequence of the white humpback whale *Migaloo* breaching.

#### **Update from Kym Bilham - Hunter / Central Rivers**

Hunter Central Rivers region host an independent Expert Panel for marine and coastal issues they will be meeting for the second time on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the current draft of the region’s Catchment Action Plan (CAP) as it relates to marine and coastal NRM targets. It is intended that this group will meet at least four times per year with the intention to share information and comment on regional strategies and projects to do with the marine and coastal environment.

Hunter Central Rivers Region will be losing their current Coastcare facilitator who is moving on to different pastures. Although it’s Kym’s choice to move on, she will miss everyone very much, and the coast is still very close to her heart. “Over the past months and especially during the regional CMA process it has been crystal clear that the only real changes and improvements to our coastal environment are being driven by those of you on-ground and at a local level so I hope this is fully realised and effectively resourced into the future – take care and keep on keeping on”. Hope everyone can be patient over the next month until the new and exciting Coastcare Facilitator comes on board.

#### **Update from Jacqui Smith - Southern Rivers**

The last two weeks have been spent meeting community groups throughout the Shoalhaven and northern Eurobodalla districts; getting in touch with the beautiful coastal areas that are so prevalent on the NSW South Coast, and witnessing the incredible work that is being done by volunteers on our coastlines. It was a pleasure to meet with the representatives of many Coastcare, Dunecare and Bushcare groups and explore their ‘patches’ - learning more about their issues and achievements, and the nature of their group and the work that is being carried out. The passion, enthusiasm and commitment to caring for the coast were very inspiring, and should be celebrated.

A community group survey formulated by NSW Coastcare Facilitators has provided important information on each of the interviewed groups, with interesting patterns emerging. Information is currently being compiled to give an overall picture of coastal community groups in NSW, which should provide valuable insights into the nature of coastal community groups in the State, and current and future needs. Interviewees are thanked for their time and for the contributions they are making to the health of our coasts.

#### **Update from Jo Lane - Southern Rivers**

The Coastcare Community Group Survey currently being conducted across the state has been an excellent opportunity for the Coastcare facilitators to get out and see some of the great work that coastal groups are doing. Far and wide groups are working on a variety of coastal and marine

projects from marine monitoring to River Flow Management Plans and everything in between. Witnessing the commitment and drive of the volunteers is truly the most satisfying part of being a Coastcare Facilitator.

Here are just a few examples of what some groups are doing on the far south coast.

The *Eden Whale & Marine Discovery Centre* volunteers are involved in diving and snorkelling activities developing species surveys for different areas such as Bermagui Blue Pool and Wallagoot Lake. *Towamba Valley Landcare* and *Kiah Rivercare* have been involved in the development of a Flow Management Plan for the Towamba River. *Eden Foreshore Committee* is busy creating access pathways along Aslings Beach and planting native species. *Wallaga Lake Landcare* has recently begun monitoring seagrass in Wallaga Lake. *Bermagui Dunecare*, *Mystery Bay Coastcare* and *Kianga/Dalmeny/Narooma Landcare* are all fighting the relentless coastal weeds (especially sea spurge and bridal veil creeper). *Bingie Landcare* is developing an action plan for their coastal catchment and *Broulee/Mossy Point Dunecare* is busy stabilising and protecting remnant coastal dune vegetation at Broulee.

And that's just the start! There is definitely a lot of 'caring for our coast' occurring in this part of the world.

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](mailto:bhughes@clarence.nsw.gov.au) or Lachie Whetham [coastcare@chcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:coastcare@chcc.nsw.gov.au)

Hunter Central Rivers region - Kym Bilham [coastcare@huntercouncils.com.au](mailto:coastcare@huntercouncils.com.au)

Hawkesbury Nepean and Sydney Metro regions - Charlie Hewitt [Charlie.Hewitt@pittwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Charlie.Hewitt@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)

Southern Rivers region - Michael Fiedler [mfiedler@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mfiedler@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au), Jacqui Smith [coastcare@shoal.net.au](mailto:coastcare@shoal.net.au) or Jo Lane [sthcoastcare@netspeed.com.au](mailto:sthcoastcare@netspeed.com.au)

State Wide - Mel Bradbury [mbradbury@interact.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:mbradbury@interact.com.au)