

Griffith Centre for Coastal Management Hinterland to Ocean Newsletter

Issue 24 December 2011

In this Issue:

- Celebrating Tallebudgera Beach
- Queensland Youth Parliament
- Humpbacks & Highrises
- Spotlight on Katie Jackson

From the Director

It has been another busy year at GCCM. Our team has been involved in a wide range of research and community engagement projects, attending conferences and winning awards – the latest of these being an Engineers Australia Research Excellence Highly Commended Award for our joint efforts with DHI and Allconnex on the optimisation of the release of recycled water at the Gold Coast Seaway. Over the last couple of months various staff and students have attended the Queensland and NSW Coastal Conferences, and the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure Early Career Researchers Forum. The quality of our research and community engagement activities was evident in the GCCM presentations at these events. In particular, our team had a major impact at the Queensland Coastal Conference with a number of colleagues commenting to me on the professional and enthusiastic attitude of our staff.



The GCCM team @ QCC

It has been sad to say farewell to Drs Ali Golshani and Will Thurston, both of whom have put a major effort into the Future Coastlines Project over the last few years. We wish them well in their new roles at the University of Queensland and Bureau of Meteorology respectively.

May I take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and restful holiday period, and all the best for the New Year.

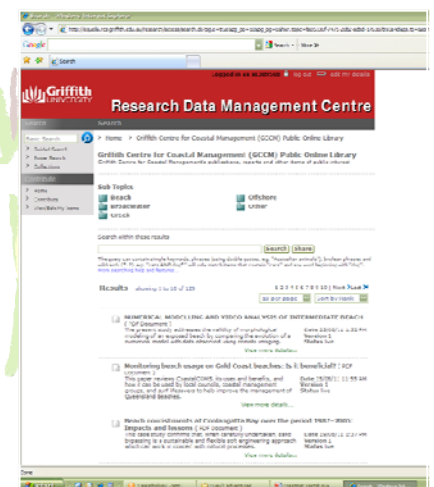
Rodger Tomlinson

Research at your fingertips

The new Griffith Centre for Coastal Management's public online library is a compilation of the many relevant studies completed by GCCM and other key stakeholders such as Gold Coast City Council and International Coastal Management Pty Ltd. The online library allows public access to GCCM publications, reports and other items of public interest.

The research data management centre is a Griffith University supported repository that makes research accessible and searchable via a web interface.

Over 300 publications and reports are grouped in four main categories: Beach, Creek, Broadwater and Offshore and can be accessed via the following link <http://equella.rcs.griffith.edu.au/research>.



**Griffith Centre for Coastal
Management wishes you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year!**

Projects

The Centre has been very busy working on numerous projects at local, regional and national scales. This has involved facilitating many workshops, providing advice on steering committees, presenting at conferences and much more. Here are just a few...

Monitoring Our Latest Tourism Project

In March 2010, Gold Coast Tourism commissioned the development of a Gold Coast Dive Attraction Scoping and Operational Study. The aim of the project being to identify and investigate opportunities to expand dive tourism on the Gold Coast.

Through a collaborative joint venture between International Coastal Management Pty Ltd, Griffith Centre for Coastal Management and Ian Banks from Diving the Gold Coast, a 12-month monitoring project has commenced on two proposed dive site locations - a northern site offshore from the wreck of the Scottish Prince and a southern site, offshore from the desalination intake pipe.

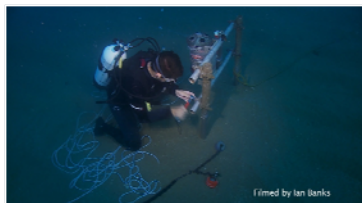
Three types of structures have been identified as possible dive attractions: a Navy vessel, a purpose built structure and a collection of structures including a purpose built and existing structures.

GCCM will undertake site monitoring including:

- site surveying and mapping
- monitoring current meters and visibility
- providing technical support for instrumentation

Already completed surveys have discovered a previously unrecorded reef system.

The project is due for completion in late 2012.



If we like it then should we put a value on it? The SEQ Ecosystem Services Project

Ecosystem Services are the goods and services provided by natural (and semi-natural) ecosystems that benefit, sustain and support the well-being of people. They include the production of food and medicines, the regulation of climate and disease, provision of productive soils and clean water, and landscape opportunities for recreation and spiritual benefits. Ecosystem services are fundamental to the maintenance of a healthy economy. Geographic areas that provide ecosystem services comprise vital 'green infrastructure' for any region. For too long in industrial economies, ecosystem services have been inadequately recognised and hence undervalued. When ecosystem services are lost they can be extremely - or even prohibitively - costly to reproduce.

In response to a growing interest in ecosystem services and their role in supporting the economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability of South-East Queensland, SEQ Catchments has been working with expert panels and technical working groups to develop a framework for ecosystem services. The SEQ Ecosystem Services Framework is based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment established by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The SEQC approach has been to:

- assess available data describing the environmental and ecological resources of SEQ;
 - identify and map the ecosystem functions of SEQ;
 - establish relationships between ecosystem functions and services;
 - map ecosystem services in SEQ;
 - identify the benefits (constituents of well-being) and beneficiaries of ecosystem services in SEQ; and
- explore processes and techniques for evaluating benefits in various planning, management and policy-making contexts.

For more information contact Simone Maynard

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Humpbacks & Highrises

The community based organisation Humpbacks and High-Rises (HHR) aims to improve our knowledge on how the Gold Coast region is used by Humpback whales. Through collaborative research, HHR will develop a model that can predict Humpback whale movements and aggregation to ensure they are provided with a safe passage. HHR is establishing a number of research projects all aiming to improve the survival of marine mammals in urbanised coastal zones.



Bettina Lottes completed a 6-week internship at GCCM working with the HHR project. As part of the research program looking at humpback whale behavior and distribution in relation to ocean processes Bettina ventured out on whale watching boats nearly every second day to capture the movement and behavior of Humpback Whales. Bettina also helped to collect skin samples, take photos of the whales flukes and underwater video. Still very little is known about these amazing creatures, so every bit of data collected is important. Data collected was collated into a database and prepared for software called Fluke Matcher.

Bettina also worked on a data base, which collects all the information on strandings of Humpback Whales on Australia's east coast for the last 20 years. Unfortunately, this included the most recent stranding of the small calf at Surfers Paradise. This data base collects information about the main stranding times and regions, changes of the amount of strandings during the recorded time, the type of stranding (e.g. shark net entanglement or self-strandings), and the fate of the stranded whale, with the collated data and information leading to the reasons for whale strandings.

Community



As the weather warms up and summer arrives, another calendar year finishes and it has been non-stop for the CoastEd team. On Gold Coast's beaches, or taking the beach to the community, CoastEd has been educating those with a coastal interest to learn to love our coast - just a little bit more.

This year CoastEd delivered 88 CoastEd sessions and engaged with over 3700 individuals... Incredible! Valuable feedback from students, teachers and community members has been a successful way for the CoastEd team to continually strive to provide an engaging coastal experience. And we must be doing something right as the 2012 calendar is booking out fast!

Lastly, the CoastEd team would like to say thank you for your support, encouraging feedback and inspiration to keep us aspiring to inspire.

Have a safe summer season and see you on the beach in 2012!



It is hard to believe 2011 is nearly over. The longer days in summer allows us with more time to enjoy the outdoors, and for BeachCarers, that includes Gold Coast beaches of course! The enthusiastic support and participation, not only at each BeachCare event but also in the intervals between, has been overwhelming. BeachCare now has a bag full of awards to prove what we always knew - that it is a winning experience for all involved. Again, a big thank you to everyone! Ok, now for a wrap-up of the last few months:

- BeachCare facilitated 11 community events
- over 224 hours were volunteered by community members
- 660 native dune plants planted
- 46 large bags of weeds collected
- 5 large bags of rubbish collected

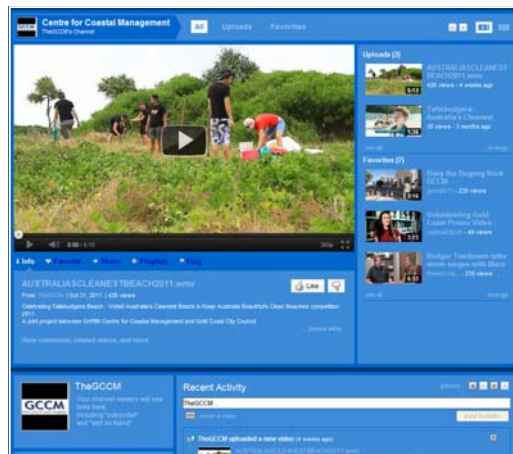
GCCM has joined the world of social media... Keep up to date with GCCM and BeachCare activities via our Facebook pages, Twitter account and YouTube channel!

Find us today!



Thank you for making Tallebudgera Beach Australia's Cleanest Beach 2011!

As part of the Coastal Community Education Program for 2010/11 a series of videos were developed to complement GCCC's information sheet suite named Our Coast. The videos aim to raise awareness of the long history of coastal issues and their management on the Gold Coast and to raise awareness of the dynamic nature of this coastal environment within the community, using a medium that is easily consumable by the target audience over the internet. Within the suite is an additional short video promoting the natural beauty of Tallebudgera Beach and celebrating its victory in the 2010/11 Clean Beaches Competition. GCCC in partnership with GCCM developed this short promotional video on Tallebudgera Beach recognising various people/groups within the community who work in and around the beach to keep it looking clean. The video demonstrates that what happens at Tallebudgera Beach applies right along the coast, and these initiatives are just a snapshot of our outstanding Council and community coastal management programs and initiatives at one location.



Please click on the link to our You Tube channel and enjoy the video!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfhctOW_nj4

Queensland Youth - HAVE A SAY!

Throughout the year I represented the Broadwater Electorate as a YMCA Queensland Youth Parliamentarian. I was elected on the Science, Sustainability and Innovation committee, which worked on a Youth Bill on Coal Seam Gas that had a landslide victory during a week long residential sitting in the State Chambers. Other debates I participated in included the Live Export Trade and I delivered a Private Members Statement on the awareness of littering by cigarette butts. The professional and personal development I gained through the program will, no doubt, help to succeed beyond my own expectations. I had a lot of fun, am thankful for the experience and feel more empowered to keep pursuing what I love doing - advocating for our coastal environment.

- Naomi Edwards



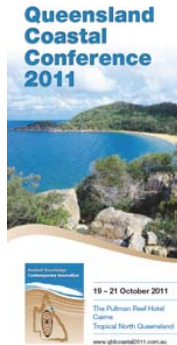
What's On

Lifestyle and learning

A part of being engaged in caring for our beaches is understanding coastal processes, as well as past, present and future management strategies. Given this, the team at CoastEd will be providing free information sessions about our coastal environment and the management practises which have shaped our coastline. Everyone is encouraged to come along to these sessions at the following Gold Coast libraries to learn a little more about our coast.

3rd Queensland Coastal Conference

The 3rd Qld Coastal Conference (QCC) was held at the Pullman Reef Hotel in Cairns over 3 days in October. The conference theme was based around ancient knowledge, contemporary innovation. The overall conference was a great success with an excellent program of keynote presenters, papers and workshops all based around the Indigenous theme. Believing in the value and benefit of the QCC, GCCM once again showed its support by presenting three papers and facilitating a workshop as part of the Future Coastlines project. The State coastal conferences provide an excellent forum to discuss localised coastal issues in the lead up to the National coastal conference, which is held every 2- years. The next Coast 2 Coast Conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre on the 17-21 September 2012.



20th NSW Coastal Conference

GCCM was again well represented at the recent NSW Coastal Conference which was held in the Tweed. Naomi presented a paper on a current educational resource that is being developed to help address capacity needs for BeachCare's self-sufficient dune care groups - Building Dunes for the Coast and Community. This resource is expected to be available in the new year, to kick off another fun-filled year on Gold Coast's dunes. Other highlights included visiting the Dune Care groups of Northern NSW, especially the longest running group in Coast Care history - Fingal Headland. It was definitely inspiring to see groups still powering on 20+ years later. Got us thinking... where will BeachCare be in 20 years?



Dates, times, locations and topics:

- 8th Dec @ 10am - 11am, Broadbeach, History of GC storms
- 10th Dec @ 10am - 11am, Southport, Natural Features of our Coast
- 15th Dec @ 10am - 11am, Burleigh Heads, Natural Features of our Coast
- 17th Dec @ 10am - 11am, Palm Beach, History of GC storms

Library sessions will also be held throughout January and February 2012...
Pick up your What's On book at any Gold Coast Library for more information...

COAST CARE Week 2011

KEEP THE SEA FREE OF DEBRIS A Celebration of Our Coast

You are invited to attend this FREE community event...

THURSDAY
8TH DECEMBER

6.00PM TO 9.00PM

SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY
CENTRE
6 LAWSON STREET

Coastcare week is a National initiative held each year to raise community awareness of coastal and marine issues.

Discover more about the marine environment, how we impact upon it and what we can do to help protect and conserve this fragile environment for our future generations.

Guest speakers include...

Greg Stuart - Australian Coastal Society Queensland Branch

Naomi Edwards - GCCM BeachCare

Kathy Townsend - University of Queensland

Kris Boody - CCCC Catchment Management Unit

Never before seen Ian Banks diving footage

Information booths from various coastal groups



Contact: Peta Williams
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BeachCare will be back on the dunes from 11 February 2012...

First up Palm Beach @ 27th Avenue

Spotlight on KATIE JACKSON

My position at GCCM: A PhD student at GCCM researching breaking wave characteristics in the surf zone. I am funded under a scholarship from Coastalwatch where I also work as a marine forecaster.

My career so far: I completed my undergraduate studies at University California Santa Barbara where I focused on physical oceanography and meteorology coursework. I began my career in Marine forecasting for a surf media company Surfline.com in 2004. Following work in the surf industry, I moved to Hawaii where I continued marine forecasting as a contracted meteorologist for the US Navy. It was always a goal to go back into graduate school and I accepted an offer by CoastalCOMs to come to Australia to do research under the CoastSAFE Alive research initiative. I now continue forecasting for the surfing website Coastalwatch.com while doing my PhD research at GCCM. Besides telling surfers what the swell is doing, my PhD research aim is to advance wave forecasting techniques and further the understanding and predictability of breaking wave characteristics in the surf zone.

Where I am from: I grew up in Seal Beach, which is a small beach town in Orange County, California. Between surfing and sailing, I spent many years living back and forth between Hawaii and California. However, over the last two and a half years, I have found Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast, Australia to be my home.

Best country I have travelled in and why: I most recently travelled to Fiji and I absolutely loved it. The waves were world class for surfing and the islands, reefs, and people were just beautiful. I will definitely be going back there. Also, I grew up going to Mexico frequently because my dad races motorcycles there and I would say Baja is another favourite. I crave Mexican food all the time!



Where was GCCM in 2011?

- NCCARF Coastal Ecosystem Response to Climate Change workshop, South Stradbroke Island, Qld
- MMOS/MSNZ, Wellington, New Zealand
- MMEMR, Plymouth, UK
- Southampton University, UK
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Symposium, Arendal, Norway
- Keep Australia Beautiful's Clean Beaches Awards, Adelaide, SA
- University of California, USA
- Queensland Coastal Conference, Cairns, Qld
- NSW Coastal Conference, Tweed Heads, NSW

Wedding Bells for Sally & Steve

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Obst who after 14-years of living in sin, finally tied the knot on September 24!



What will our beaches look like in the future?

That is the question we all want to know! Green Cross Australia are asking you to get out along our coast and take pictures of the sea-level during a king tide. This is a great opportunity to encourage everyone to take the time to reflect - what could the coast look like with an increase in sea-level, and just maybe help us visualise how we can to best manage our coastal environment.

Get snapping and send your pictures into: greencrossaustralia.org/our-work/witness-king-tides-community-photography-project.

Check tide dates and times for the next KING tide!

Newsletter is also available on the GCCM website www.griffith.edu.au/coastal-management

Subscriptions to the Centre for Coastal Management newsletter should be directed to Peta Williams on 07 5552 8530 or peta.williams@griffith.edu.au