

# GCCM

Griffith Centre for Coastal Management

## Coastal Community Engagement Program

The Coastal Community Engagement Program (CCEP) seeks to increase the capacity of the Gold Coast community to participate in coastal decision making. This is achieved through community and school based programs such as CoastEd, BeachCare and the Queensland Beach Challenge.

CoastEd is a school and community based program that offers free information sessions, activities and resources that relate to the management of our local coastal environment from qualified Environmental Scientists.

Clean Beaches is an annual competition facilitated by Keep Australia Beautiful. If you think you have the most beautiful and user friendly beach in Australia, then nominate it in the beach challenge, it's free and there are 9 Regional and State awards up for grabs along with the title of Australia's Cleanest Beach.

For more information about the CCEP please visit the GCCM website or contact us on the details provided.



BeachCare is supported by:



Australian Government



### Coastal Community Engagement Program

Griffith Centre for Coastal Management  
Griffith University - Gold Coast campus

BeachCare is a non-profit organisation. Donations are appreciated.

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# BeachCare

Community Involvement



Care for our local dunes

## About the BeachCare Program

BeachCare is a community-based dune care program facilitated by the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management with support from Gold Coast City Council. The program assists in establishing volunteer groups to undertake activities caring for the Gold Coast beaches and foreshores and increasing the sustainability of the dune environment.

Dune revegetation assists in changing the landscape within the coastal dune system and improving values by connecting fragmented coastal vegetation and revegetating weed invaded areas with native species. These activities encourage the establishment of healthy dunal areas, thus increasing the biodiversity of the coastal vegetation and habitat found along Gold Coast beaches.

The improvement and appropriate management of our dunal areas is of benefit to the entire community. Without healthy dunes, there would be no beach!

## BeachCare offers volunteers

- Activities such as
  - Dune planting and hand weeding
  - Seed collection and propagation
  - Rubbish collection and removal
- On-going support, technical advice and resources
- Provides a fun, outdoor activity allowing volunteers to share their own local knowledge and socialise with like minded people
- Creates a sense of community and ownership of an area
- Educates volunteers allowing them to develop new skills or brush up on old ones

The work completed by the volunteer groups greatly improves the aesthetic appeal and habitat of local coastal dunes through revegetation and on-going maintenance.

## BeachCare activities can cater for:

- Local residents
- School groups/School community service
- Work experience
- Community groups/organisations e.g.
  - Scout/Girl Guide groups
  - Church groups
  - Rotary Clubs
  - Surf Life Saving Clubs/Nipper groups
- Overseas visitors
- Corporate Sponsorship\*

## What to Bring

- Hat
- Enclosed footwear
- Sunscreen
- Enthusiasm

Materials, equipment and light refreshments are provided for activities by the BeachCare program.

\* Fee applies

## Current BeachCare Locations

BeachCare has established five BeachCare groups located at Runaway Bay, Paradise Point, Mermaid Beach, Palm Beach, North Kirra Beach. BeachCare also runs additional groups in partnership with Surfriider Foundation at North Kirra Beach, Friends of Rainbow Bay at Rainbow Bay and Labrador Residents Action Group at Harley Park, Labrador.

## About our Dunes

Our sand dunes are part of a very fragile and dynamic environment which is often overlooked on our journey to the beach. The dune environment is critical for the protection of our beaches. It acts as a natural buffer zone that reduces the impact of beach erosion. Dunes are often neglected through the removal of vegetation for development and damage by beach users.

Our coastal environment is constantly exposed to abrasive winds, tidal and storm events and salt-laden air. Plants must adapt to these conditions playing a vital role in the formation and stability of our coastal dunes. Plants capture and hold windblown sand that acts as a sand bank for the dunes and the plant structure helps stabilise the dune in the event of storms and erosion.



BeachCare also accommodates for school groups



Beaches are an important part of our community, be a part of their management!