



Kokoda Challenge Youth Program at Palm Beach

¼ already, ¾ to go

BeachCare is feeling the pace of 2012 as we approach another month – in fact another quarter. BeachCare has had a flying start to the year, with a very successful end to summer, the formation of new partnerships and an action packed Clean Up Australia weekend. To date, BeachCare's participation statistics have past the 2009/10 financial years', with over 1400 hours volunteered since July 2011. This participation increase is rewarding, however, seeing and hearing people's enthusiasm to care for Gold Coast's beaches is what drives BeachCare's momentum and success!

What is coming up on the BeachCare activity radar?

- Coast care for Singles at Coolangatta Beach
- North Burleigh's first official dune care activity in April
- Gold Coast TAFE caring for the dunes at Tallebudgera Beach
- Youth on the dunes with All Saints School and QLD Youth Environment Council

... plus much more ...

Building a more sustainable and resilient coastal environment is only possible with community support. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers of BeachCare for making BeachCare a success and fun! Without you our coast, beaches and dunes would not be as special as they are.



Naomi and the BeachCare crew

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Like our Facebook Page "BeachCare & CoastEd - Centre for Coastal Management" and follow us on Twitter @Beach_Care

FAST FACT: WHY ARE SOME DUNES BIGGER THAN OTHERS?

The size of dunes is dependent on the amount of sand within the sand budget, wind strength and ability to 'hold' onto the sand.

Love is on the Dunes!

If you didn't see us on the front page of the Gold Coast Sun advertising the upcoming Coast care for Singles event and wanted to RSVP, unfortunately you have missed out. We received a very fast response within 48 hours after the article was published, and have confirmed the 50 places that were open.

Thanks to Land care Australia for coordinating and funding this initiative, as the event aims to provide another creative way for like-minded individuals to meet others interested in the environment and volunteering. With the twist of having activities like speed planting, this event will create a fun atmosphere at the beach and opens the opportunity of meeting new people while giving back to the environment.

BeachCare is one of five organisations around Australia hosting a Coast care/ Land care for Singles event. For more information about this event or initiative please contact Naomi Edwards or visit coastcare.com.au.



We know all BeachCare volunteers are cool; we just want to keep you cool – literally, and with ICEY POLES! The Land care Be Natural grant has covered the costs for an ENGEL Fridge/ Freezer to have onsite. The flash new 'esky' will keep refreshments chilled and enable us to relax with ICEY POLES. It is about time we upgrade from the 'best freshly cut watermelon', though there have been requests to keep fruit on the menu. We hope you are excited as us, so come down to BeachCare and stay cool taking care of Gold Coast beaches.

There are other rewards to come... stay in the cool loop!



Youth on the Dunes

It is important to have intergenerational engagement in any community organisation, and to ensure coastal conservation is handed down through generations, engaging with today's Gen-Y is evermore important for the sustainability of our coast.

All Saints School will again be involved in caring for the dunes at Mermaid Beach after much success last year. The Sustainability Club of the School will encourage up to 50 students per session to help care for the dunes and beach. Additionally, Queensland's Youth Environment Council will also be supporting an activity at Mermaid Beach.

Various youth programs BeachCare has engaged with this year include: Kokoda Challenge Youth Program, Gold Coast Buddhist Youth Group, Griffith University Student Linx, Bond University, North Burleigh and Tallebudgera SLSC and Tallebudgera Beach School.

Keep up the enthusiasm Gen-Y!

The power of partnerships!

Branching out and forming new partnerships is the way to go to keep our coast clean and healthy. This is why over the last month BeachCare has been working with Gold Coast TAFE students to improve the health of the dunes at Tallebudgera Beach. The students have been particularly targeting the eradication of the invasive weeds species and will be planting native dunes species to increase biodiversity. Part of their training has included working on a management plan for the area, identifying all the plant species and developing a native plant species list. Thanks to Cr Daphne MacDonald, for supporting this partnership through the recent Divisional funding round.

If you are around Tallebudgera Beach on Thursday mornings, please say hello and thank the very enthusiastic Gold Coast TAFE students and supervisors.

What plant is that?

Singapore Daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*): is a very invasive weed found in many natural areas on the Gold Coast. What is most severe about this weed is that it will out-compete natural vegetation. Declared as a Class 3 pest plant under Queensland legislation, the lush, glossy green leaves and bright coloured daisy flower makes it desirable to have in the garden at home. Fortunately the sale and supply is prohibited, however regrowth can occur from the smallest cutting. Description: leaves – usually 3-lobed (three leaves); flowers – bright yellow (picture) and establishes into a very thick ground cover.



Have you seen a Platypus in the wild? Want to see one and contribute to their conservation?

Gold Coast Catchment Association's PlatypusWatch monitoring season is just about to begin, and being involved in this campaign is the best way to see a platypus too. Natalie Hoskins is the new coordinator and is looking for some quiet sharp eyed volunteers. The surveys will be conducted in the same format as previous years and will begin this month.



Contact Natalie Hoskins by email at theecologytree@gmail.com with your name and contact details, what river you'd like to monitor, if you know of a particular site and how many people are able to help.

More information can be seen at www.goldcoastcatchments.org

community BEACHCARE CALENDAR

BEACH	APRIL	MAY
PARADISE POINT beach end of Abalone Avenue		Saturday 5th 9 am - 11 am
RUNAWAY BAY Constance Esplanade		Saturday 12th 9 am - 11 am
LABRADOR Harley Park north of Charis Seafood		Saturday 19th 9 am - 11 am
MERMAID BEACH beach end of Montana Road opposite Mermaid Beach SLSC		Saturday 19th 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
NORTH BURLEIGH just north of North Burleigh SLSC	Saturday 21st 9 am - 11 am	
PALM BEACH beach end of 27th Avenue	Saturday 28th 9 am - 11 am	
NORTH KIRRA just south of North Kirra SLSC	Saturday 14th 9 am - 11 am	

Contact the BeachCare Coordinator for more information
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