

Lunchbox seminar series

Nathan

Mobilising coastal communities to care for their coast

Abstract:

The Griffith Centre for Coastal Management has been instrumental in engaging coastal communities over the past 15 years. The BeachCare program, that regenerates dune sites on the Gold Coast has grown from 60 volunteers per year in 2005 to now over 1000 volunteers per year, CoastEd has started to work with 40 schools on the Gold Coast in 2001 to now 183 schools and reaching an average of 5500 students per year. The citizen science program DuneWatch has already collected 2 years of data on diversity of dune vegetation throughout the Gold Coast. Effective local stewardship starts with the community on location. The Coastal Community Engagement Program has been mobilising the coastal community on the Gold Coast to do just that.

This talk will highlight techniques on how our success has been achieved, talk about our programs and also how you can get involved or how we can assist you in your work/study.

Biography:

Maggie Muurmans started her career looking after primates, bears and bats. She then traded her captive management experience for research with sea turtles on the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica. She was awarded a Future for Nature award in 2009 (given to her by David Attenborough) and the Woman of the Earth award in 2011. Maggie currently coordinates the coastal education program for the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management. She recently co-founded Ocean Connect Inc., a non-profit organisation for education and advocacy around the Gold Coast marine and coastal environment.



Maggie Muurmans

**Coastal Community
Engagement
Program Coordinator**

**Griffith Centre for
Coastal Management**

**Friday 26th May
Nathan campus**

**Willett Centre,
Seminar Room
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12.00pm–1:00pm**