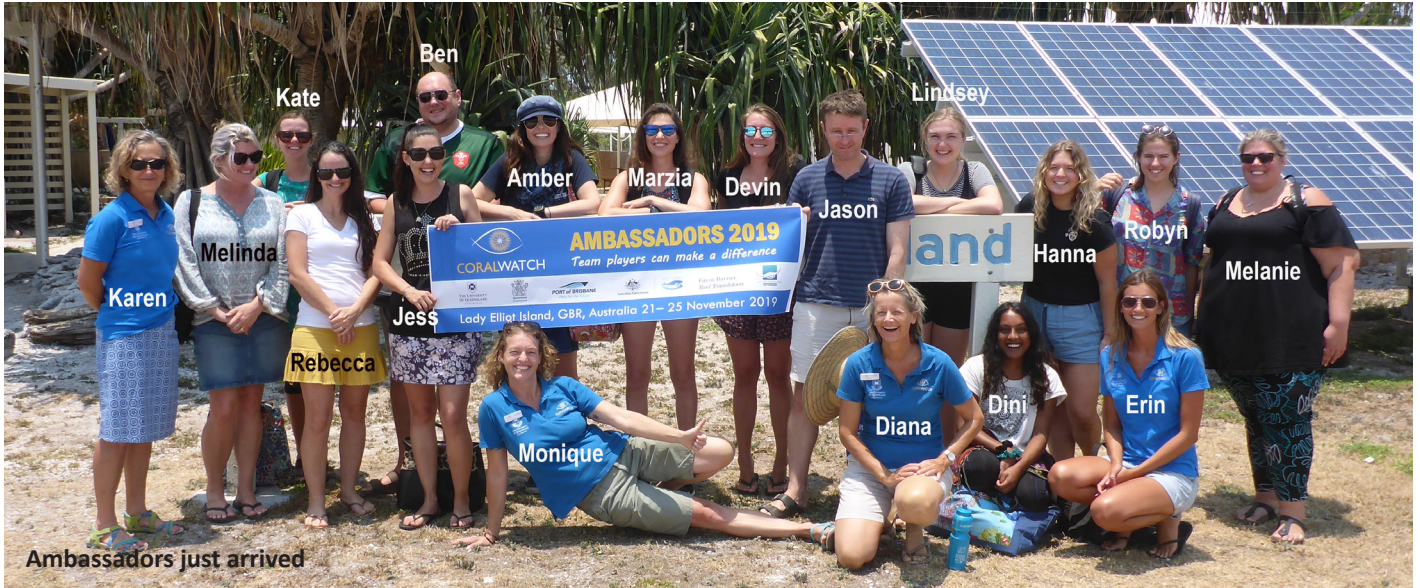


In this newsletter

- 3rd Ambassador workshop
- Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day
- Education conference Thailand
- School visits Bundaberg
- Upcoming opportunities



CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



Ambassadors just arrived

3rd Ambassador workshop

21-25 November, Lady Elliot Island

We had a very successful workshop on Lady Elliot, training 14 new ambassadors to help spread awareness about the reef.

Ambassador locations: Bundaberg (2), Bowen (2), Lennox Heads (1), Brisbane (6), and Brisbane Bay side (3).

Ambassador demographics: High school teachers (2), distance education teacher (1), civil engineer (1), UQ students (marine and environmental studies) (6), coral collection industry (1), diving/tourism industry (2), and interpretive ranger (1).

During the actual workshop, the initial proposed applicant ideas were executed into individual Ambassador plans. Ambassador projects vary from: Social media videos presenting reef science topics, Virtual Reality excursions, remote underwater camera systems to show people what is below the surface, lesson plans grade 5-8 on impacts of land on the ocean/reef, display at 2020 Film Festival, social nights at Dive Club, community day promoting locals reefs of Moreton Bay, info booth at open days, markets and festivals, reef encounters and data collection, offering citizen science to reef

visitors, school visits, and outreach projects overseas in Hawaii. CoralWatch will deliver materials, expertise and assistance in planning and implementation of these and other future events.

Our Ambassador workshop has been proudly supported by the Queensland Government Queensland Citizen Science Grants (44%, 7 Ambassadors), Port of Brisbane community grants program (29%, 5 Ambassadors) and the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (12%, 2 Ambassadors). Additional support has been provided by The University of Queensland VC Strategic Funding (15% workshop plus staff) and Queensland Government – Department of Environment and Science (staff), and in-kind support through CoralWatch and Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland, and Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort.



Ambassadors after 4 days



Reefwalk - Collecting CoralWatch Data

24 November, Lady Elliot Resort

CoralWatch Ambassadors took guests from the resort out on a guided reef walk in small groups. The idea of the walk was to teach guests how to survey corals using the CoralWatch health chart. We also educated the guests on coral biology, climate change, reef threats and fun facts about the reef.

Splitting into smaller groups with a few ambassadors per group ensured one on one conversation and the ability to make a connection with the guests. Teaching people about coral biology and how the reef works instilled a sense of excitement and enthusiasm in the guests which was empowering to observe. It was great safe, convenient and fun way to raise awareness and educate guests about the reefs. It was children-friendly as well. Some of the guests entered their own data as well, all other data was entered by Ambassadors.

Outreach: 26 adults, 6 children

Ambassadors in training



CoralWatch Display

23-24 November, Lady Elliot Resort

A stall was set up with a children's activity station, CoralWatch information sheets, a virtual reef and VR headsets. This was designed to engage with resort guests and invite them to our reefwalk and talk the following day. The location of Lady Elliot Resort was good for getting people out on the reef collecting CoralWatch data as most people are here because they are interested in the reef and plan on going snorkelling. Surprisingly, the VR was still a big a hit as it was a tactile activity and drew in guests to engaging in more conversation. What did not work so well was the timing, a lot of people were arriving at dinner and said they would return later but sometimes didn't. The stall definitely had much better success after dinner and after talks at the education centre. Perhaps breakfast time would work well too when people are making plans for the day.

Outreach: 40 adults

Ambassadors in training



Resort Presentation - Act to Protect the GBR

24 November, Lady Elliot Resort

Present to resort guests, educating them about the importance of coral reefs, the threats our reefs are facing, basic coral biology, what CoralWatch is and how data is collected, and how people can help save the GBR.

The presentation ran smoothly, guests seemed to be interested throughout the presentation. There were not many questions at the end, perhaps instead of asking if there's any questions, ask a couple from the audience (very short quiz). Assess retention of info by the guests.

Outreach: 17 people, 14 Ambassadors

Jess, Hanna, Diana

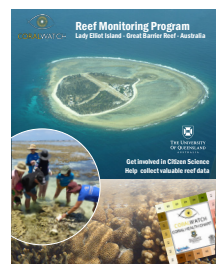


CoralWatch Data collection and briefing

22-24 November, Lady Elliot Resort

Through role play and LEI guests that attended the reefwalk, all Ambassadors practised an instructional briefing for reef visitors keen to participate in CoralWatch. Data was collected randomly at the following sites: Lighthouse Reef, Reefy Seconds, Coral Garden, the Lagoon and the CoralWatch permanent transect. We updated our LEI reef monitoring info booklet, with new photos, location and size info on these individual corals that we track over time. Available on our website early next year.

Ambassadors in training





CoralWatch Data collection

29 September, Small World Journeys, Fitzroy Island
We organised for a school group of **21 girls** from Sydney to go out to Fitzroy Island as part of a school trip to Far North Queensland and do CoralWatch as one of their activities.

28 October, Wollengong HS, Fitzroy Island
Study goals: reef, rainforest and aboriginal studies
27 pax (22 students, 3 teachers and 2 staff)
60 corals surveyed

4 December, Bulli HS, Fitzroy Island
Study goals: marine studies
50 pax (42 students, 4 teachers and 4 staff)
109 corals surveyed

Laurie

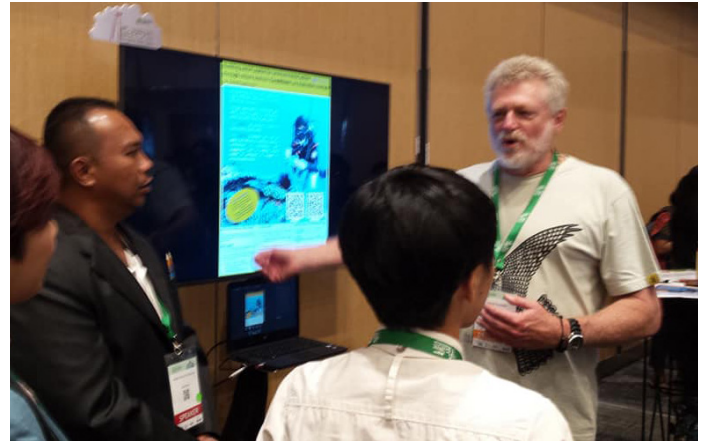


Brisbane Boys College Interact Club dinner

1 November, Toowong Bowls Club, Brisbane
The event was the Brisbane Boys College annual Interact Club dinner. Each year the club holds an annual dinner and auction to raise funds for a nominated cause. A fun night was had by all and the event was a success. This year the Interact Club supported the "Australian Conservation Foundation" and the boys and rotary club member together successfully raised \$1,500 for this worthy cause. As the resident BBC Coralwatch advocate I was asked to be guest speaker at the event and talked to the members about the importance of protecting the environment and coral reefs. I was assisted by one of the youngest BBC students who did a wonderful job of demonstrating the different coral types. A few Rotary club members expressed an interest in hosting a future CoralWatch presentation and interactive event.

Number of participants at event: 45

Maria



Conference poster session

3-7 November, World Environmental Education Congress, Bangkok, Thailand

The World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) is an international congress focusing on education for environment and sustainability and this 10th World Environmental Education Congress is the first of its kind to be held in Asia. International attendants provided innovative ideas, power and energy to develop the environment in order to reach the goal of making the world become a better place to live. Dave his poster 'Building social capital for environmental action through citizen science: CoralWatch, an Australian example' turned out to be highly effective as a conversation starter.

Number of participants at event: 5000, direct outreach 100

Dave



**透过公民科学建立环境行动的社会资本
—以澳洲的珊瑚监测为例**

在澳洲，志工服务发展社会资本与协助个人去参与公民生活。

透过参与、个人技能成长、与行动意图或自我效能，可以带领出更进一步的参与。

珊瑚监测可以提供建立一个建立社会资本的模式。

珊瑚监测创造对动机与参与有着正面影响的功能，并建立社会资本的行动与效能，以作为约束环境行动的途径。

社会文化论与社会资本
社会文化论与概念改变论者透过公民科学来提升对自然的理解有重要的贡献。

社会资本
社会资本是指其他资源外，帮助和个人履行义务与承担责任的能力，并引发有益于社会的行动。通过：
• 信任与合作行为
• 数据知识
• 信任个人网络

社会资本
参与文化与社会资本的方面：
• 拥有一个明确的科学焦点。
• 影响人们和团体投入在科学活动与事件。

透过珊瑚监测提升自我效能：
个人成为参与者的控制点效能：
• 提供指引的反馈链接，使参与者在有成就感与成就感。
作为一个行为榜样，得到期望的结果，输出：
• 适当行为模式
• 展示积极行为的可能
• 拥有一个有科学背景的正向影响

Dave collaborates with Lishu Chen of the National Museum of Marine Science and Technology in Taiwan. Lishu has organised already 5 CW workshops and she has helped to translate CW instructions into Taiwanese. Also Dave his poster has been translated into Taiwanese and Lishu presented this at the International Conference on Environmental Education Academia & Practices in Taiwan in September.

Display Moreton Bay Open Day

30 November, N. Stradbroke Island, MBRS

CoralWatch Ambassadors hosted a stall at the MBRS open day. We had families and visitors come through and passed on relevant information about our organisation. Information was given in the form of pamphlets and health charts. We also had the virtual reality headsets set up which were a great hit as well as the 'quiz' which had an associated prize for those who joined in.

At times, the stall got incredibly busy and bustling and it was hard to make sure we were having a conversation with everyone that went by. In particular, the line for the VR headsets would get quite long and everyone wanted to experience the full length of the VR video. We also had a very interesting conversation with the coordinator of the Indigenous Junior Rangers of Stradbroke Island who particularly organises ranger duties through the Primary School. We exchanged information and he seemed very keen to organise an event with the Junior Rangers and CoralWatch.

I thought it was great way to raise awareness and educate guests about the reefs and our organisation. It was children-friendly as well. We had plenty of people who were very keen and interested. However, this event did not reach the non-converted as most people who visited the open day had some prior interest in the marine environment.

Number of participants at event: 120

Dini, Devil, Amber, Maria



STEM Day

5 December 2019, Brisbane Boys College, Brisbane

The STEM Day was an end-of-year event for the Middle and Senior School STEM Club boys (grades 7-12) to participate in a variety of STEM-based activities including a Plastic Art Challenge, Create-a-Planet, Forensic Science and of course CoralWatch, which launched the day's activities. The CoralWatch interactive display, quiz and VR activities really engaged the students sparking ideas of how they could help to make a difference and protect the marine environment. The winner of the quiz loved the book Coral Reefs and Climate Change.

Number of participants at event: 30

Maria



School visit: Year 7 Science Excel Workshop

5 December, Bundaberg State High School, Bundaberg

The students had already been out to Lady Musgrave Island with Ambassador Natalie so this workshop was to follow up after their reef experience. I facilitated the class to brainstorm ways we could help the reef with actions at home and school. Students were then asked to prepare a poster for the reef – either their favourite reef creature, why it's important, threats and how to help; threats to the reef and how to help. Best poster may be displayed on the Lady Musgrave Reef Express and the teacher offered some small incentives to students as well. Students could work as an individual or group. I received five posters to judge which were all fantastic. We also did a brainstorming session for different ideas to help the class apply to become a Reef Guardian School.

Number of participants at event: 22

Rebecca



Some great posters were made during the workshop.



School visit, Great Barrier Reef presentation

11 December, Years 4,5&6, Bundaberg North State Primary School, Bundaberg

I prepared and presented a powerpoint presentation on The Great Barrier Reef, corals, threats to the reef, coral bleaching, how to help at home, CoralWatch and the Coral Health Chart and how the school can help. The Year 6 students then got practice with the chart on the virtual reef. Ambassador Natalie initiated this event and has been working with the school already, she provided some of the materials such as the big virtual reef.

Number of participants at event: 140

Rebecca

CoralWatch Media and Grants

MEDIA

Maddie Davey, Ambassador since 2017 has been featured in the [National Geographic](#) "You easily feel helpless and overwhelmed": What it's like being a young person studying the Great Barrier Reef.

Ambassador Natalie was interviewed by [Newsmail Bundaberg](#) about her new 'Marine Biologist for a day' program on board the Lady Musgrave Experience.

Women of Water, Ambassador Amalya Valle has been featured in [DiveLog](#) magazine December 2019 issue (Moinque in August 2019).

Podcast series

Our Ambassador Amalya is looking for someone to write a little blurb on how/why be involved with CoralWatch for her new Podcast series in Jan 2020. I know we have a writer in the new CoralWatch Ambassador group (are you keen?), but anyone is welcome to help her out (old/new Ambassadors). Please let us or Amalya know!

GRANTS

Another grant submitted, **National Science Week 2020**, to participate in 3 science festivals: New Scientist Live in Melbourne, Brisbane Street Science and UQ Sustainability week, and to create and print the 'What can I do' action booklet.



School visit

6 December, Fig Tree Pocket, Brisbane

Year 6 students took part in 4 activities; snorkelling the GBR through Virtual Reality, learning about coral biology, a virtual CoralWatch survey, and a coral related quiz. Students also listened to a short presentation to learn more about CoralWatch and coral bleaching. Two representatives from The Port of Brisbane were also in attendance.

It worked really well dividing students into 4 smaller groups. Students loved the VR. There was slightly too much time at some stations (i.e. coral biology/clay station). Perhaps include another activity at this station. E.g. have a device with some saved videos of corals: feeding, competing, spawning, bleaching. Or if possible, a microscope with some pre-made slides (e.g. close up of a real skeleton, zooxanthellae). Students can take turns looking through.

Number of participants at event: 68

Hanna, Dini, Lindsey, Karen, Erin



Other

- Amber headed up north to work as dive instructor in Port Douglas for a few weeks and has taken CoralWatch materials.
- Melinda will be presenting on Thursday 19 December to staff of the School of Distance Education in Balina.
- Ben is assisting to convert our Coral Reefs and Climate Change DVD series into the right format for YouTube so we can share them online.



And then it will be XMAS

**Enjoy XMAS and all the best for 2020
from the CoralWatch team!**

I rather be CoralWatching ...

Posted by Melanie on the CoralWatch Ambassador facebook page.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES 2020

Please let us know if you are keen to help with any of our upcoming activities:



Experience Science at UQ

Thursday 23rd January (room 09-218, Michie Building)

3 workshops – 50 min each, presentation and rotating activities

- 11.30am-12.20pm (Experience Science)
- 2.00pm-2.50pm (Inspire U STEM Camp)
- 3.00pm-3.50pm (Experience Science)

Friday 24th January (Parnell Building)

3 workshops – 50 min each, presentation and rotating activities

- 10.30am-11.20am (Experience Science)
- 11.30am-12.20pm (Experience Science)
- 1.00pm -1.50pm 07-326 (Experience Science)



World Science Festival - CoralWatch display

26-29 March 2018, QLD Museum, Brisbane

CoralWatch will setup a display with coral skeletons, clay coral reef and our virtual reef at the museum. The event is sustainability focussed and we will be there 4 days (Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun from 9am-5pm and Fri, Sat 5-9pm) with the potential of lots of public engagement. Please let us know if you are available to help for all or part of it. Depending on number of volunteers there is still scope for additional activities.

Bues Festival

9-13 April 2020, Byron Bay

We have submitted our application for our stall. If accepted, 5 spots will be available over the full 5 day period.

Ambassador Return Workshop

23-24 May 2018, MBRS, N. Stradbroke Island

Please note that the dates have changed, further planning and arrangements will start in January.