



'Tell me and I forget,
teach me and I may remember,
involve me and I learn.'

CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS





Small World Journeys Coral Watch staff training

29 May 2017. Moore Reef, GBR

Staff found the slates easy to use, and they were enthusiastic about the project. We will continue to get student groups to do surveys. A green turtle came and said hello! The friendliest turtle we've ever seen.

Laurie Pritchard



CoralWatch Snorkel and data collection

18th of June 2017, Barolin Rocks, Bundaberg

Eight brave people ventured down to the cool, calm water out of Barolin Rocks, Bundaberg. Armed with colourful CoralWatch charts, and geared up in warm wetsuits, fins, masks, and snorkels hired from Bundaberg Aqua Scuba, these citizen scientists dove into the water that lovely, early morning. We spent the day diving down to depths of 3m or less, coming face to face with beautiful fish, inquisitive sea snakes, and a various array of corals, most of which were fantastically unbleached. Blissfully matching coral colour to slate colour, we filled up those twenty spaces on our individual CoralWatch charts, in between watching fish interact others, spotted rays dart from the sand, and soft corals gently waving in the watery breeze. After we had finished, we reclined in the warm winter sun for some data entry, adding yet another new reef to the collection of reefs that CoralWatch has surveyed. Overall, we had a lovely lazy Sunday, and can't wait to do it all again soon!

Hannah Russel



World Environment Day

4 June 2017, Market stall, Cotton Tree, Sunshine Coast

A perfect forum for Coralwatch with lots of community volunteer groups. Had to use rocks, blu tack etc to secure virtual reef and display paperwork. Networking with organisations on Sunshine Coast Maleny Yarn bomb – "Under The Sea" on July 5th are going to knit us a Coral – they will use the coral watch chart colours for a kinaesthetic learning activity for children. My student volunteers are writing a review in the local paper, & on the school facebook page.

Sharon Togher



Inaugural school open day -Kirwan SHS

15 June 2017 – Townsville

There were 2 classrooms dedicated to Science.

1. Citizen Science: getting students out of the classroom!
2. Science Activities: keeping students engaged in the classroom. Coral watch was the focus for the citizen science classroom and the virtual reef activity and coral watch videos worked the best.

A group of spearfisherman who spear regularly will likely start monitoring coral.

Lucy Gardner, Emily Wilson, Paddy McLeod





Coral Watch 'reef guardian Trip'

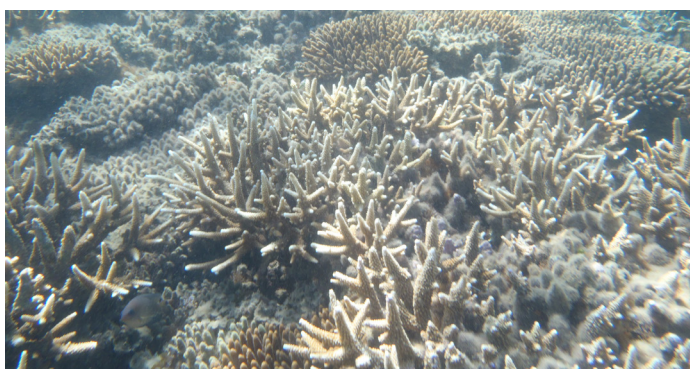
4th June, Keppel Islands

Lachlan Roediger and myself took 25 volunteer RGS 'reef guardian' students across Keppel Bay in the Freedom Fast Cats vessel 'Wild Duck', braving windy weather and cooler temperatures. Students visited and snorkelled the fringing reefs at Big Peninsula (NE corner of Great Keppel Island) where the recently (5/3/17) bleached brain corals had mostly recovered. Students also visited Monkey Reef (SW corner of Great Keppel Island) a regularly visited site. Here year 9 and 10 students completed Coral Watch surveys over the full length of the reef. Returning students were pleasantly surprised to see less bleached corals than March and minimal evidence of algal growth proceeding this year's flood event in April. Students will upload the CoralWatch data in class this week. Other highlights include several green sea turtles, giant clams, barramundi cod and large schools of garfish.

A beach clean-up over the full length of Long Beach (Great Keppel – southern coast) was also conducted with 8 large bags of marine debris collected. Fishing line and tackle was removed carefully from the reefs at Big Peninsula and students observed the Island's feral goat population using a drone. Students also had time to fit in a game of beach touch football and finished off with a few ice creams from the local store, before returning home.

As this school term is coming to a close, planning is in place for semester 2 which will hopefully see us revisit the Keppel's with two more reef guardian trips and excursions using Coral Watch with 10 Marine Operations, 11 Aquatic Practices and 80 year 11 Biology students. Must close now... busy packing for Vanuatu.

Phill Bessel



CoralWatch data collection - Rockhampton Grammar

June 19th and 26th, Hideaway Island Vanuatu

Phill and two other staff took 26 Rockhampton Grammar School students to Vanuatu for a cultural exchange at two schools in Mele Village, Port Vila, Efate. Students had fundraised for school supplies and delivered 100 kilograms of stationery to the local schools. We also visited many points of interest around Port Vila, Efate and the Mt Yasur Volcano on Tanna. While staying at Hideaway Island, Mele Bay, Efate - students snorkelled at various sites within the resorts private marine sanctuary and completed Coral Watch surveys. The coral reefs are surrounded by deep oceanic waters and only minor bleaching was observed. The students noticed however overfishing and crown of thorns starfish were the main threats to the system. At the end of the trip I gave the resort's PADI Dive Centre manager and the local dive masters a training session on completing Coral Watch surveys and donated half a dozen Coral Watch and Reef Check slates to the centre.

Phill Bessel



Primary School Teacher PD + launch of MB package

June 16 - Moreton Bay

12 Teachers attended this event. In the morning, we went on the boat, and observed and learned about Moreton Bay coral habitats using drop cameras, underwater footage and how to use the Coral Health Charts. In the afternoon Monique and Diana presented; 'Moreton Bay Corals, Biology and Reef conservation', 'CoralWatch Curriculum linked lesson materials'. Teachers loved our new Moreton Bay Education package, thanks Ambassadors for your help with packing and distribution.

Monique Grol, Diana Kleine, Maddy Glacken and Maria Bavins



John Monash Science School - CoralWatch data
28 June, 30 June, 2 July and 5 July 2017 Fitzroy Island, QLD

We are getting better at teaching CoralWatch in the field. friendliest turtle we've ever seen. This group is very interested in comparing their results from this year to next year when they return

Laurie Pritchard



Careers Expo - Yarrabah Secondary High School
25 July 2017, Yarrabah

Event organised in collaboration with ReefMagic. Great turn out with students asking questions about land and sea country.

April Thomas and Leroy Noble



Corals at Your Doorstep Community Event
June 17 - Moreton Bay

Lots of community interest for this event. Adam and Sharon attended with classes from their school and we had a scout group attending. Great conditions, very calm and good visibility, we were able to observe many corals on the screen and raise awareness about MB coral habitat to about 70 people.

Monique Grol, Diana Kleine, Adam Richmond, Sharon Togher and Maria Bavins



QLD BrainBee event
20 July 2017, QBI, UQ, Brisbane

170+ students and 43 teachers from schools all over QLD attended this event. The small tour groups of students was good as I was able to present CoralWatch and introduce the students to the CoralWatch and quickly demonstrate how the technique works and how they could use it for Citizen Science. Justin Marshall did a presentation to all teachers. Paddy assisted for part of the time as he was attending the event as a teacher as well as a CoralWatch Ambassador.

Maria Bavins

Australian Coral Reef Society
July 17- Townsville

CoralWatch display during poster session. This event was open to the public as an opportunity to speak to reef scientists and look at displays that will be there. Our coral watch table was a great addition to this.

Diana Kleine, Emily Wilson, Lucy Gardner





Art Meets Science exhibition

August 11 - September 8 Ecosciences Precinct, Dutton park.

Artwork statement

Our coral reefs are under pressure from human impacts and changing climate. This artwork exemplifies the beauty as well as the process of destruction of the reef. The artwork promotes awareness of coral bleaching and how fragile the reefs are, and a reminder that we need to do our part to help save the reef.

Biography Hong Vo

I'm a PhD candidate, studying the neurobiology and the visual system of the mantis shrimps by day, and an avid ceramist by night. In efforts to create a bridge between my two passions, art and science, I have volunteered to be a CoralWatch Ambassador. My aim is to use interactive art such as moulding clay to teach and outreach to individuals about the beauty of the corals reefs, their current demise, and how we can help to protect the reefs. Through sculpturing clay coral reefs experience, I believe that one can learn to care for what's living beneath the oceans.

Hong Vo, Maria Bavins, Monique Grol and Diana Kleine



The artwork is like a virtual reef, an accompanying flyer will provide information on CoralWatch and how to use the Coral Health Chart to measure the reef.

Official opening 14 August 2017, 12:30PM

'Art meets Science'

exhibition organised by Science Division, DSITI
Coral Reef exhibition by Hong Vo and CoralWatch Ambassadors
Ecosciences Precinct, 41 Boggo Road
Register via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/opening-2017-art-meets-science-exhibition-registration-36646119530?aff=es2>



Colours on the reef Schoolvisit year 1

August 2- Brisbane Boys College

Maddie did her first colours on the reef presentation last week and she did a fantastic job. The kids were really engaged, asked lots of questions and were very concerned about water bottles floating in our Brisbane river. Even though, several of time had been snorkeling or seen the reef their colours on their colouring in page did not quite match the coral health chart they got a good understanding of colours on the reef.

Diana Kleine and Maddy Glacken

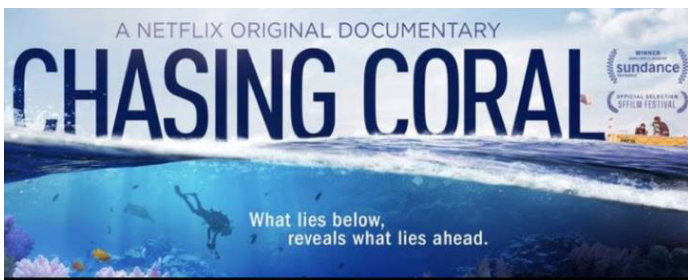
In addition to all this

- Maddy D went on a field trip to the Phillipines and got locals involved in CoralWatch monitoring.
- John took 30 CoralWatch sets to Indonesia to spread the word at the Gadjra Madah University in Yogyakarta
- Several ambassadors helped in the CoralWatch office with creating slates, Moreton Bay education packs, mail, looking for grants.
- Maria went to Salisbury State School to demonstrate the virtual reef and Coral Health charts and passed on resources to Grade 1 teachers.
- Maddy D applied for a UQ conservation society. Unfortunately this was unsuccessfull at this stage, but we are thinking to resubmit.
- Maria distributed the Moreton Bay education package to Mansfield state school and got the whole year 7 keen for a fieldtrip in the Moreton Bay.
- Adam offered to do a CoralWatch presentation at the Marine teachers conference at Orpheus Island.
- Paddy helped with getting us in contact with curriculum to classroom organisation.
- Laurie is offering CoralWatch data monitoring to her student groups ongoing.
- Adam ordered 30 Coral Reefs and Climate Change books for his school.
- Adam, Laurie, April, Paddy received a big fabric virtual reef that includes their school or company logo.
- CoralWatch submitted an 'Ambassador in action' project grant and Eureka award - unfortunately both were unsuccessfull.
- However, CoralWatch, did secure 3 years funding by QLD government!
- and I am sure there was more...



UQ Sustainability Week

21-25 August 12-2pm Women's Fountain, Campbell place UQ
Coral bleaching events happen more frequent and severe due to the impact of climate change, with back-to-back bleaching occurring on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016/7. Come and visit CoralWatch and ReefCheck – two partner citizen science programs at UQ- and learn how to look after reefs in the ocean and from home. There are many things you can do to make a difference to our reefs, and we will show you just a few today! A stall with a table of information about coral reefs and the work coral watch does, a flat lay of a 'virtual reef', Quiz poster/photo booth area with people pledging to save the reef
Organised by Maddy Davey - anyone else that can assist?



Chasing Coral film screening

17 August 2017, 6:30PM Schonell Theatre, UQ
Sold out, but doors open at 6:55PM to fill empty seats for people without a ticket. Incl. CoralWatch display and Diana Kleine in panel discussion.

24 August 2017, 6:30PM – Palace Cinema Barracks, Brisbane City, organised by AMCS. Monique Grol in panel discussion. Register via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/chasing-coral-brisbane-tickets-36738551998>

31 August 2017 – Location TBC organised by ReefCheck Sideshow, West End. Justin Marshall in panel discussion.



Bundaberg OceanFest

26 August Bundaberg Port Marine Precinct.



MTAQ Conference

25-28 September, Orpheus Island
CoralWatch presentation and perhaps field session
Adam Richmond



Reef BLITZ

ReefBlitz

1 October - Mackay Whitsundays
7-8 October - Townsville
14 October - Gladstone
21-22 October - Brisbane / Rockhampton
28-29 October - Cairns
More info on events and opportunities in the next newsletter.



Young scientist day - Queensland Museum

17 August, CoralWatch display by Maria TBC



Kirwan State High School visit to Indonesia

13-24 September Indonesia
Kirwan state school will take a group of students for an action packed sustainability tour to Indonesia. There will be a Coral Watch citizen science data collection opportunity at Gili Island and Nusa Lembongan.

Paddy McLeod, Emily Wilson

Please let us know if you know of any other opportunities or add them to the calendar in google drive.