



In this newsletter



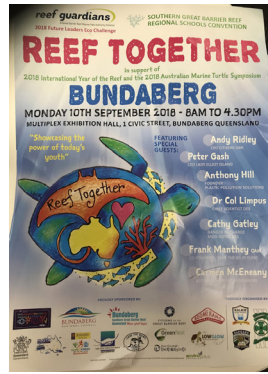
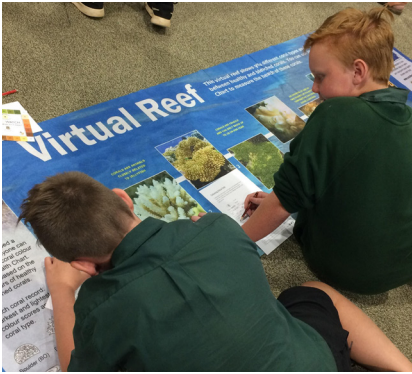
**Reef
BLITZ**

- ReefBlitz events in Gladstone, Bundaberg and Brisbane
- Data collection, VR and other

Upcoming events

- Open day MBRS
- STEM conference
- Teacher PD's
- Ambassador return workshop

CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



Reef Together - Southern GBR Regional Schools Convention 10 September 2018, Bundaberg

Over 100 students from 10 schools in the region came together to showcase their environmental activities and projects for the reef. Speeches were delivered from an array of guest speakers including Any Ridley (Citizens of GBRO, Peter Gash (Lady Elliot Ecoresort), Mon Repos Turtle Center, etc.)

A lot of the displays were just displays. The kids were attracted to the CoralWatch display because of the virtual reef and turtle quiz – fun activities to do with prizes to be won! Could've been a great opportunity to gain expressions of interest for data collection activities, but kids were too little. As it's towards the end of the year, the teachers I spoke to about presenting at their school said it was a bit late.

Outreach: 400 people attended, I engaged with about 100 students, 45 adults and 12 teachers.

Natalie



SpringX - School's MakerFaire

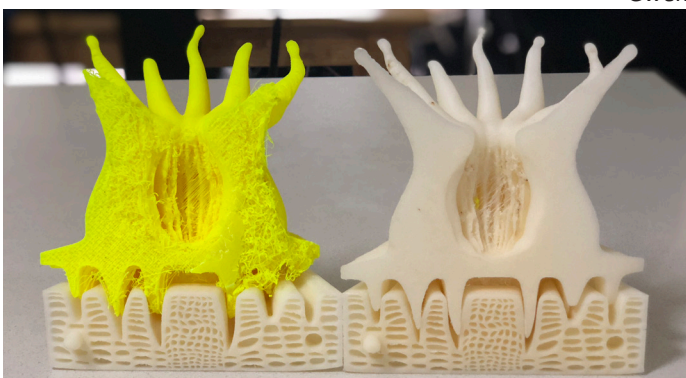
14 September 2018, 11AM-1PM, Peregian Springs SS

All students in Year 6 have a stall and present something they have made or the results of an inquiry. One of Gwen her students, Lucy simulated what is happening on the reef with models, posters and her own research. We 3D printed the NOAA coral polyp which looks amazing.

Outreach: Total no. of visitors: 1000

Direct engagement: 150 (120 students/10 teachers/20 others)

Gwen



Data Collection - Small World Journeys

4 September 2018, Alamanda College VIC, Fitzroy Island

19 corals were surveyed during this trip where 18 students, 3 teachers and 2 marine biologist participated. Students were very young, there were a few non-confident swimmers as well. The group is planning to come back in 2019.

10 September 2018, St.Aloysius College, Fitzroy Island

11 students participated. The group was introduced to the CW program at an evening presentation using the virtual reef banner. The reward of the on-water jumping trampoline after the snorkel and data collection encouraged the students to survey an amazing 61 individual coral samples. School might return next year.

12 September 2018, Albert Park College VIC, Fitzroy Island

33 students, 3 teachers and 4 marine biologist participated. Even though, there were lots of non-confident swimmers, they still managed to survey 72 corals!

Laurie and SMJ team



4th Australian Marine Turtle Symposium

8-10 September 2018, Bundaberg

For the turtle symposium, Natalie presented among many turtle researchers, national parks representatives and the general public. The number of people registered for the symposium was about 300 and the crowd I presented to was probably close to that. I think it was refreshing to present something other than just turtles to the audience, and make people think outside the box and about the bigger system/picture when it comes to turtle conservation.

Natalie



School visit - VR and presentation

19 September 2018, Corinda State High School, Brisbane

Diana organised a Year 9 science presentation, VR and virtual reef experience at Corinda SHS. Interesting enough hardly anyone had been to the reef but they were very interested to hear about it.

Now that we have our VR sets, we like to offer more schools a presentation and VR experience. Challenge is cost and time to do this, should we charge schools? And if so, how much? We had a meeting at UQ student recruitment office and potentially there might be some state government funding available to visit schools in lower socio-economic areas. This will be something we will look into beginning of next year.

Diana



AWARDS - International Year of the Reef IYOR 2018

With appreciation of International Year of the Reef IYOR 2018, CoralWatch is assigning a monthly award during 2018. This is a great opportunity to thank an organisation, dive centre or individual for all their CoralWatch efforts. In the last months some of our CoralWatch Ambassadors were the lucky winners.

September - World's most surveyed reef (in 2018 so far)

This turns out to be Fitzroy Island with 18 surveys and 996 corals uploaded by Small World Journeys! Congratulations to Ambassador Laurie and her team for all their fantastic effort to get many schools involved in CoralWatch monitoring.

October - Community engagement and most corals surveyed during ReefBlitz

Congratulations to Ambassador Natalie L who entered data from 309 corals, during October ReefBlitz month alone. Data was collected during community shorebased events organised by Dive for Change and on-board Lady Musgrave Experience.

In addition to all this

- On 18 August, Emily, Lucy and Paddy organised a CoralWatch stall as part of the Townsville STEM Hub/STEM Faire for science week at the Thuringowa library in Kirwan.
- Suzanne promoted CoralWatch event on a Sealink Day Tour in August from Townsville to Orpheus Island. Sealink is organising these daytrips on a regular base including barbecue lunch and snorkelling. Perhaps something to explore further in the future.
- Diana attended the Marine Teachers Conference at Tangalooma reconnecting with teachers and learning more about the new marine science curriculum. Monique, Adam and Paddy are now developing CoralWatch data examples that can be used for the data test Year 12 marine science.
- Maria started working as Lab assistant at Brisbane Boys College and included CoralWatch as part of the afterschool STEAM activities on 29 and 31st of October using virtual reef materials, coral skeletons, quizzes, etc
- David will soon be returning from his 3 conferences in Taiwan, can't wait to hear more. He presented at the National Museum of Marine Science & Technology, one at the southern end of Taiwan and at the International Conference on Environmental Education. David had 2 Taiwanese interns at Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre who helped translating the PowerPoint presentations.
- Joolie Gibbs a CoralWatch fan that we met at the World Science Festival organised a display that included CoralWatch materials at the Mary River Festival (11 November) in Kadanga (Sunshine Coast). This festival is to celebrate the river flow to the ocean with lantern parade and laser show. It turned out to be a great success and they managed to reduce bin numbers aiming at minimum land fill wastage. Only a quarter bag of rubbish was left on the ground!
- Unfortunately we did not attend the Bali Ocean Conference at the end of October since the exhibition fee was 6000 US dollar!

GRANTS

- Natalie would like to apply for funding to get some snorkeling equipment for participants to use during her community data collection events. Anyone has any ideas?
- CoralWatch will submit another Engaging Science grant to support Ambassadors in their activities. This can cover materials and potentially transport cost. Let us know ASAP about your ideas, plans, wishes and \$\$ needed. Due 30 Nov.
- Another upcoming grant is National Science Week (due 20 Nov). We have been approached already by the Office of the Chief Scientist QLD to deliver some workshops and community events in Maryborough in August 2019. In addition, we like to develop our own CW - VR content and deliver this at various places along QLD coast. Rather than CW organised events we might also tap into existing opportunities like community markets. Ideas welcome.

ReefBlitz 2018

ReefBlitz is an annual event that lets you contribute to a snapshot of catchment and reef health, and get involved in practical actions to help look after Queensland's reefs. As well as collecting as much reef data in a month as possible, the focus this year was on acting on plastic pollution where suitable, as well as promoting IYOR.

This event is organised in collaboration with many other citizen science groups, e.g. ReefCheck, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Eye on the Reef Sightings program, Project Manta, Redmap, Tangaroa Blue Foundation. This year, all groups together, delivered over 60 events along the QLD coast. CoralWatch organised events in Gladstone, Bundaberg, Brisbane and Moreton Bay.

ReefBlitz Gladstone



ReefBlitz @ 8AM (Beach, Arts, Music Markets)

6 October 2018, 2-5 pm, Millennium Esplanade, Tannum Sands
CoralWatch had an interactive display as part of ReefBlitz Event hosted by CVA & GHHP. There were quite a lot of other citizen science groups involved: Port Curtis Harbour Watch; CVA, GHHP; Creative Recycling Centre; Gladstone regional council – tree planting for dune restoration; Tangaroa Blue – marine debris collection.

Unfortunately there was limited space, we were sharing an area with others. There was lack of community interest – the people at market not wanting to engage and we were away from crowds. What did work well: Quiz; Coral skeletons; Microscope worked well with iPads; Stand looked great; Aligning CoralWatch with HarbourWatch outcomes.

Outreach: Total no. of visitors: 150. Direct engagement: 20 (8 students/12 adults)

Somone

ReefBlitz Bundaberg

ReefBlitz - Cafe Pop Up

14 October 2018, Windmill Cafe, Bargara

The pop-up community cafe was a fun event. With a colleague from work we held a stall at the café. The owner kindly let us set up and also donated a voucher that we raffled off as a fundraiser for the ReefBlitz event (just for printing and to buy some fruit, first aid supplies, water dispenser, etc.). Overall I think we probably interacted with around 50 or so people that day. It was a success and we'd do it again.

Natalie



ReefBlitz Outdoor Classroom Day

27 October 2018, Lady Musgrave Island

Local people and school groups were invited for a day out at the reef to learn about and collect important data on the reef. People were encouraged to take a CoralWatch chart snorkelling and also to collect Eye on the Reef data (for GBRMPA). People got so encouraged and involved! I had over 30 data collection slates and we ran out! Some people were seasick on the way out so was a little difficult to brief them, but did not impact on the day's effectiveness overall. Not many people had the CoralWatch Data entry app already so I had to enter a lot of data myself when I got home...

Very big success with lots of positive feedback. I would love to make it a monthly event or organise a specific program for schools based on citizen science and data collection.

Next time I will need more coralwatch charts/slates and I should improve communication about downloading the app beforehand. I did advise the school groups, but some locals who signed on didn't specify when they were booking that they were interested and coming for reefblitz, so I couldn't notify them about downloading it before.

Ambassador Hong travelled to Bundaberg to assist Natalie. In addition, 4 Marshall UQ group members joined the ReefBlitz events. They collected data while diving on Saturday from the boat and on Sunday from shore and had a great time.

Outreach: 80pax onboard the Lady Musgrave Experience, of which 30 specifically signed up for Reefblitz day.

Natalie and Hong





ReefBlitz Community Event - Data Collection

28 October 2018, Barolin Rocks, Bundaberg

Local community event organised by Dive for Change (Natalie) bringing people together in Bundaberg to learn about and protect local offshore reefs!

People were very involved, were very happy that a community event like this had been organised. Due to the options of activities (rockpooling, snorkelling and diving) there was something for everyone and it was a great activity for the kids as there are corals in the rockpools too – nice and shallow and protected. Perfect!

I would love to be able to make this a regular event. Had so much positive feedback and people were already asking when the next one would be! This event was especially appreciated by families and children, but all age groups were represented. We had a LOT of news coverage – Stephen Bennet (local MP) came down to film a news story with me, filmed by Channel 7 and Win News, and also had interviews with ABC and Triple M! Many people in the local community recognised me and said they saw me on TV and that they'd like to get involved next time – very cool!!!

I also had some interest from a teacher who came and she asked me to come and speak/do some activities at the school where she works. This was a very, very successful event!

Outreach: 57 total no of people I engaged with, of which: 30 students/children, 20 adults, 1 teachers, 6 divers
If we include news coverage: more than 5,000 (views on Facebook + however many people – a LOT! – saw the TV segment, radio, etc). Literally thousands!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Natalie



School visit - Coral Clay lesson

26 October, St Luke's school, Bundaberg

While visiting Bundaberg, Hong went especially to talk to an art class about corals and provide instructions how to make them from clay. The students were very interested incorporating coral reef science and art. Unfortunately, there was not enough time, half a day event rather than just one period of classroom would be much more efficient.

Outreach: 9 students and 1 teacher

Hong



Bundaberg ReefBlitz Media / Marketing

TV

- 24 October, [Citizen scientists required for Southern Great Barrier Reef](#) 7 News Wide Bay
- <https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsWideBay/videos/>, Win News Wide Bay



Online news

- 28 October, [How your trip to the Great Barrier Reef could be the thing that saves it](#), ABC Wide
- 25 October, Help maintain Bundy's coral reefs in: The Morning Bulletin, News Mail, The Northern Star, Sunshine Coast Daily, The Queensland Times
- 24 October, Diving in to help the reef, Stephen Bennett MP website, <http://www.stephenbennetmp.com.au/diving-in-to-help-the-reef/>

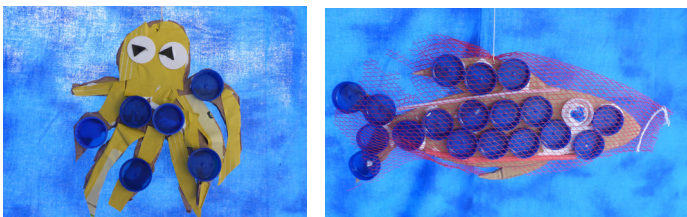
Plus many posts on Twitter and Facebook including ads to promote events.

ReefBlitz Brisbane



24 HR Underwater - For the Love of the Reef 20-21 October, 9AM to 9AM 2018, UQ pool, Brisbane

This 24-hr ReefBlitz event was organised by Unidive (The University of Queensland Underwater Club) to celebrate International Year of the Reef. Unidive organised 24-hr divers in the water, and CoralWatch and other citizen science groups (Reef Check Australia, Virtual Reef Diver) had displays and organised activities. There were Virtual Reality and reef monitoring workshops, quizzes, and plastic art kids activities. People could buy raffle tickets (24 prizes, hourly drawn) and buy food (sausages, crepes, burger and cakes). Close to \$1.200 was raised. In the evening the Movie 'Beauty and the Reef' by Liz Sutherland was shown with Q&A afterwards, CoralWatch was part of the Q&A panel.



Our CoralWatch stall included an art project where kids could come and turn collected waste plastics into coral and marine animals. Participation was aimed at children but they had to be supervised so parents were engaged with the stall as well. We then took any artwork which kids didn't take home and hung them in our 'coral reef' display, which everyone in the event could look at. The kids really enjoyed the activity and it was attractive to people walking past. Having the parents there to assist allowed us to engage with children and parents simultaneously. However, it was hard to get our message across as a lot of the kids were very young and once they had the art materials in their hands they were immediately distracted. Next time, perhaps we have one dedicated volunteer to do an 'induction' to kids as they come to participate.

This way, someone stands at the front of the tent and explains about what we're doing, the negative impacts of plastic pollution, and what they can do to help, etc. Once the kids get the spiel they can then go and participate in the craft but only after.

Outreach: Art stall about 55 of which 30 children, VR: 50 participants, CoralWatch display: 125

Media

- 16 October, [Dive marathon to raise funds for reef campaign](#), Cosmos

- 11 October, [24 hour dive to support coral reefs](#), UQ

Natalie M, Hong, Maria, Peta, Quinn, Monique, Diana



ReefBlitz Moreton Bay

RAMSAR anniversary/ UQ Biodiversity Roadshow 21 October 2018, 10-2, Redcliffe, Moreton Bay

Redcliffe Environmental Forum in partnership with Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC), organised a "Wetlands Festival" to celebrate the 25th year that our Moreton Bay has been part of the "Ramsar Convention". Around 20 wetland associated groups participated including CoralWatch. Amalya and Maria volunteered for this event. Lots of people put down their emails to become CoralWatch members. VR was a huge hit among both the kids and adults. We had some great conversations and quite a few people took flyers to go onto our website and have a look at the materials. We also had some people asking about our programs for schools, taking flyers back to show their principals.

Amalya and Maria



Please let us know if you could help with any of our upcoming activities:

CoralWatch Data Analysis Workshop

14 November 2018, UQ, Brisbane

Part of the new Science curriculum is data analysis. CoralWatch is offering a 4 hour workshop with an introduction to CoralWatch, virtual reef activity, data entering and data analysing activities to familiarise Science teachers with CoralWatch and the option to use our global database for teaching.

Reef Guardian Trip - CoralWatch Data collection

18 November 2018, Rockhampton Grammar School

Phill is organising a trip with students to Keppel Island to collect data.

Ecological Society of Australia

28 November 2018, UQ, Brisbane

Monique will be presenting at this conference on behalf of Unidive (The University of Queensland Underwater Club) about findings for the Flinders Reef Ecological Assessment (FREA) project. CoralWatch was involved with monitoring, reporting, scientific paper writing, and the writing and design (Diana) of the Flinders photobook.

STEM International Education Conference

21-23 November 2018, Brisbane

Paddy, Adam and Diana are running a 2-hr CW workshop 'Real-life coral reef data as a resource in your classroom'. It will include a presentation, virtual reality, curriculum linked classroom exercises, data entering & analysing.

Search for Solutions - Great Barrier Reef Legacy

15-30 November 2018, Great Barrier Reef

Building on the success of 'Search for the Super Corals', GBR Legacy's second expedition refines our ground-breaking model for even greater impact. Justin is part of the research and education team on board of the Flying Fish organised by the [GBR Legacy](#). Justin will be collecting coral health chart data and creating virtual reality footage - we recently purchased a VR 360 camera and underwater housing.

Open Day MBRS

24 November 2018, N.Stradbroke Island

Moreton Bay Research Station will open their doors again to the public. There are all day activities such as research talks, show times, kids activities and CoralWatch will have a display, looked after by Patrick. [Full program](#)

Presentation: Protecting our Coral Reefs

27 November 2018, 6.30pm, CWCN Centre, Chapel Hill

Maria's talk at Cubberla Witton Catchment Network (CWCN) will include a background on CoralWatch, biology and health of the corals of the Great Barrier Reef and Moreton Bay, and address the threats and impacts of climate change. Using interactive reef activities everyone will have the opportunity to learn how they can help make a difference by becoming citizen scientists and monitoring the health of the reef using

CoralWatch's virtual reef and coral health chart. Maria will also bring virtual reef goggles along so people can experience the coral reef world.

Coral Cove Community event CoralWatch

2 December 2018, 2-4pm, Barolin Rock, Bundaberg

After great initial success during ReefBlitz, Natalie is organising a second community event, collecting CW data at Barolin Rocks. Come along to help build a local community of citizen scientists! Learn about and protect our local reefs, make new friends and have some fun. You'll be briefed and guided by a CoralWatch Ambassador who'll help you learn how it all works. It's really easy, no experience is necessary and there's no age limit. You don't have to be a strong swimmer or experienced snorkeller as rockpooling is also an option. This is a great fun and educational activity for the kids - they'll be learning without even knowing it! Please bring all your own gear. Contact Dive for Change to learn more and get involved. Briefing will begin at 2pm so please arrive 15 minutes before.

Teacher Professional Development

5 December 2018, Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre, Boyne Island

Someone is organising this Harbourwatch / CoralWatch workshop which includes classroom and field sessions. More info on our [facebook page](#)

Ambassador Return Workshop

1-3 February 2019, Moreton Bay Research Station, N.Stradbroke Island

Like last year we will organise a return workshop for Ambassadors to reconnect, evaluate and work on new projects. Hopefully the weather will be better this time so that we can include some fun time in the field too!

Please keep this date available, we hope you can all attend, this includes our **still active** 2017 Ambassadors. Some of you will have to travel from far, but CoralWatch will be able to provide some travel support. A separate email with more info and registration will be organised in at a later stage.

Teacher Professional Development

7-10 March 2019, Lady Elliot

This is a four-day practical professional development on Lady Elliot, focusing on coral biology, reef health and threats, coral bleaching, citizen science and the importance of reef conservation - linked to the new marine science curriculum. [More info](#)

World Science Festival

20-24 March 2019, Brisbane

Details will follow but there might be opportunities to have a display again in the museum and potentially we will add plastic art activities and VR experience.

Any other upcoming events that you know, please let us know.