

**In this newsletter**

- Change of events due to COVID-19
- 'Come Join our Watch' campaign
- UQ Sustainability week
- Heron Island 'Act to Protect' Teacher PD
- New Ambassador and Return workshop
- Upcoming opportunities



**CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS**



## Meet the virtual CoralWatch team

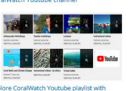






In March 2020, something we could have never imagined happened, COVID-19 hit and Brisbane went into lockdown. The CoralWatch team started working from home, we had to cancel all our outreach events over the next few months and moved our efforts into the virtual space.

Since schools were also closed, we organised an online survey asking teachers what materials they would need the most. Teachers were most keen for worksheets, lessonplans and easy-to-do activities for students at home. We made a separate page on our website with online home teaching resources and started developing new materials such as an instructional video 'Bringing the reef into the classroom'. We also uploaded the full 'Coral Reefs and Climate Change DVD series' on YouTube.

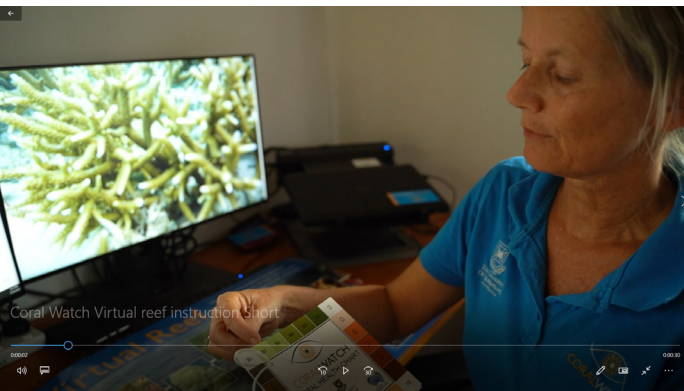
### ONLINE TEACHING RESOURCES

Home education  
Online resources and lessons for homeschooling and remote teaching

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>CoralWatch Youtube channel</b></p>  <p>Explore CoralWatch Youtube playlist with instructional videos, virtual reality, the complete Coral Reef and Climate Change DVD series, workshop experiences and lectures.</p>  | <p><b>Colours on the reef</b></p>  <p>Hear 1 biological science includes teaching guide, 3 activities and presentation.</p>   | <p><b>Sustainability</b></p>  <p><b>SAVE REEF FROM HOME</b></p> <p>Feedback: How to save money and reefs.</p> |
| <p><b>Coral colour and types</b></p>  <p>Watch Youtube instructional video. Use the virtual reef to practice reef-recognition in the classroom or in preparation of your fieldtrip. Learn about coral spawning, coral types and data collection using the Coral Health Churn.</p> | <p><b>Virtual reality</b></p>  <p>A fun activity combining science and art. Immerse yourself in the underwater world while at home. Learn about CoralWatch monitoring, meeting reefkeepers, snorkelers and divers using the Coral</p> | <p><b>Sustainability Quiz</b></p> <p>Quiz: How sustainable is your current lifestyle? Learn about how actions you can take in your daily life.</p>   |

HOME EDUCATION  
WWW.CORALWATCH.ORG

<https://coralwatch.org/index.php/education-2/home-education/>



'Bringing the reef into the classroom'  
<https://youtu.be/g27Xw78dKos>



## 2019 Ambassador Return - Virtual meeting 26 May, 7 -8 PM, from home

We had planned our Ambassador return workshop for the last weekend in May. Unfortunately this was cancelled and we organised a catch-up on zoom. It was really good to see all the Ambassadors again and hear some updates on CoralWatch activities and personal life.

We planned to follow up with more zoom meetings on targeted topics - such as social media, videos and other. These virtual meetings will be for any ambassador keen to join. More soon!

**Number of participants at event:**  
**9 Ambassadors, 3 CoralWatch staff**



## Tangalooma Ecomarines - CoralWatch video

One of our regular events in April is the Tangalooma Ecomarine training day on Moreton Island where >150 young school children learn about CoralWatch. Due to COVID also this event was cancelled. However our Ambassador Radhini turned our usual presentation into a engaging informative video so nobody had to miss out.




'For Ecomarines - coral reefs' <https://youtu.be/AZETzG3mf-Q>



**Ambassador virtual meeting - Creating videos**  
9 June, 7-8 PM, from home

The CoralWatch team participated in 2 courses: Creating videos offered by UQ and Storytelling Course by GBRF. This inspired us to get our Ambassadors involved and create more videos as a fun and useful activity during COVID. During this zoom meeting, we shared information about how to create a storyboard and tips and tricks for filming. We ended with a brainstorm session in break-out rooms to get video ideas within the following categories: Saving reefs from home, Corals at your doorstep and instructional videos/science lessons.



**Number of participants at event: 9 Ambassadors, 3 CoralWatch staff**



**CREATING VIDEOS**

Overview

- Existing CoralWatch videos
- New – produced recently and in production
- How to create a storyboard
- Brainstorm session using themes (Break out rooms)
- Tips and tricks for filming

**A Celebration of World Ocean Day - STEM at BBC**  
9-10-11 June, Brisbane Boys College

- Junior – CoralWatch and Ocean Discovery activities
- Middle/Senior – BBC STEM Day including CoralWatch VR and Ocean Quiz

Sharing my love of the ocean with our students at BBC is always a joy to me. This year World Ocean Day was on 8 June 2020, and to celebrate the awesome power of the ocean, both the Junior School STEM Club (grades 1-6) and the Middle School STEM Club (7-16) dived into our Ocean activities. We had CoralWatch quizzes and activities, the CoralWatch VR headsets for that immersive reef experience, coral specimens to see and touch, as well as a wave machine and even a game of Ocean Bingo for our younger students.

The VR headsets and real coral specimens are always a fantastic learning tool. These enhance any ocean week program, enabling the students to fully immerse themselves in learning about our coral reefs. The reef information sheets were a great way for students to have a better understanding of how they are able to help the reef from home.

**Number of participants at event: 30 students and 3 teachers**

*Maria*

**CANCELLED CW EVENTS due to COVID-19**

**Capricorn Coast Coral at your Doorstep Teachers' Education Resource Launch**  
25 March, Flow Centre, Rockhampton  
Anticipated outreach: >60 people

**World Science Festival - CW display**  
26-29 March 2018, QLD Museum, Brisbane  
Anticipated outreach: >2,500 people

**Blues Festival - CW display**  
9-13 April 2020, Byron Bay  
Anticipated outreach: >2,000 people

**Wynnum Seafood Festival - CW stall**  
4 May 2020, Manly  
Anticipated outreach: >500 people

**CW Workshop - Sustainability - Save the GBR from Home / School**  
3 April 2020, Cooktown

**Film shoot 'Come Join our Watch' media campaign**  
5 April 2020, Low Isles

**Reef Citizen Science Day**  
6 April 2020, ReefMagic, Moore Reef, GBR  
Anticipated outreach: >100 people

**Teacher PD 'Act to Protect' Bundaberg**  
4-6 June 2020, Bundaberg  
Anticipated outreach: >15-20 teachers

**School holiday program Palm Island**  
April/May 2020

**World Ocean Film Festival**  
29 April - 2 May 2020, Brisbane Powerhouse

**It takes a spark - education conference**  
3 June 2020, Toowoomba

**International Coral Reef Symposium**  
5-10 July 2020, Bremen, Germany





## Development of Coral Coast Education Pack February 2020 to August 2020, Online

With the limited face-to-face outreach opportunities during lockdown, our Ambassadors stayed motivated and helped producing new materials such as the 'Coral Coast – Corals at Your Doorstep' education pack. We had fortnightly zoom meetings to discuss content and since the team lives right next to the water they were still able to go out snorkelling for missing photos. They collectively contributed to compile Coral Coast specific information to adapt the Moreton Bay education package for this region, these fantastic new resources will be launched during a community workshop in Bundaberg later this year. Thanks so much *Bundy Team: Jess, Natalie and Rebecca* for your amazing work.



*Coral Coast - Corals at Your Doorstep- Education Package includes: Year 7 Science booklet, Coral identification sheet, big cloth virtual reef and a community leaflet.*

*Working on local data during the current Covid19 situation has been challenging. Things change from day to day and it's very hard to plan or do anything with the current regulations. In saying that however we have managed to put some time in and help with putting together the corals at your doorstep package for the coral coast region. I cannot wait to see the end product and I'm incredibly proud of all the work everyone has put into developing this material.*

*I feel I've gained and learnt so much more regarding our local reefs and I'm incredibly honoured to be able to help work with them in some way. This furthers my need and want in knowing that I need to be involved anyway possible in creating community awareness and spreading the message about what's on our beautiful shorelines and about The Great Barrier Reef in general.*

Jess



## Ambassador return - virtual meeting VIDEOS 6 July, 7-8 PM, from home

Our second video creation meeting had only small attendance numbers but was very productive. CoralWatch received a request to create a video for National Science Week following the theme: 'Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans'. We brainstormed on the idea of numerous CoralWatch Ambassadors presenting a call to action. We practised this with an activity where each got 10 minutes to create a short video of yourself, answering the following questions:

*I am ..... a CoralWatch Ambassador and .....*

*My action to protect the ocean is .....*

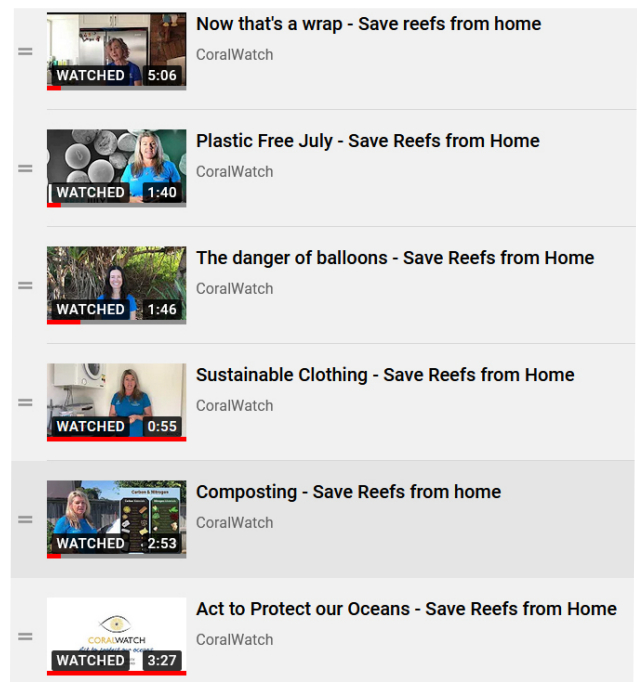
*This will help the ocean because .....*

Check out our 'Act to Protect our Oceans - Save Reefs from Home' on CoralWatch YouTube channel

### Number of participants at event:

**3 Ambassadors + 2 CoralWatch staff during Zoom, many more individuals involved in the video creation**

## Saving Reefs from Home video series



We are very proud and like to thank our Ambassadors for their hard work on 7 NEW videos. Saving reefs from home is an important and effective message while we all spend more time at home. Watch these videos <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLW39EtxGwg02dNY3SYy53CO42RxGjhFfo>





## CoralWatch Market stall - UQ Sustainability week

17 August 2020, UQ, Brisbane

**Our first real event after the COVID-19 lockdown**

UQ Sustainability week encouraged the engagement of UQ community members to evaluate their personal activities and encourage the adoption of sustainable habits. CoralWatch participated by setting up a stall where visitors could learn about reef monitoring, participate in a sustainability quiz, and take a pledge for the reef.

The organization of the stall with “entry” and “exit” signs, sign in sheet at the front, as well as sanitization stations throughout made the flow of the booth run smoothly and kept everyone COVID safe. The Instagram frames were a hit and participants like taking photos and posting them to their stories to be entered into the competition. We setup a big frame of which the PLEDGE frames could hang to so that participants did not have to hold them up themselves – preserving the integrity of the frame and reducing the spread of germs.

Thought it was a great event considering the social distancing restrictions and COVID safe considerations. Visiting numbers were fairly low, probably due to the fact that people had to sign in to visit our stall. It was exciting to be back talking to the community again about CoralWatch.

**Number of participants at event: 20**

*Jason, Devin, Justin, Karen, Diana*



## Kids Club Bowen

15 September 2020, Hardy Reef, GBR

As you can all imagine COVID-19 put a spanner of Ocean Club and we were unable to run our local events in Bowen. In a delightful twist of luck, it worked out easier to take kids to Hardy Reef than the delightful spots a stones fall from our sandy beaches.

On Tuesday the 15th, Kate and I departed Bowen at 6am, journeying to Port of Airlie with 17 students from Years 7 to 10. With Blowing Bowen living up to its reputation the winds held to a light 30km breeze for over a week and were set to increase to 40km on the day, so yes you would be correct to think we'd gone mad with determination to go through with it all.

Two spews and three hours later we were ALL in the water and while visibility was poor, smiles stretched from ear to ear. No, it wasn't what I imaged, no we did not collect the data I wanted, and yes, it could have been so much better, but by goodness it was a success! Like the small seed that will one day grow into a lofty tree, our club has a footing in our school and now that we have actual taken kids out, it will grow and continue to do so for many years to come. 5 hours of snorkelling and eating ended with the promised 45 km winds which took our spewing tally to 8 on the way home, no it wasn't pretty, yes we became caretakers of several primary kids as their parents removed themselves to the toilets, but yet-again when evening tea arrived, cakes, cheese and fruit, all were eating, smiling and laughing. With a little luck, Kate and I will get our oxygen training in the early weeks of term 4 and be able to take kids to our local treasure holds, but if that fails, I am confident that 2021 will see 3 trips within Bowen, one trip to the outer reef, and zero spews!

This journey has not been easy, and while Kate and I have put many hours into it, we did so with the support of our schools leaders and several dedicated administration staff who I am eternally grateful to. Thank you all.

**Number of participants at event: 17 students**

*Ben and Kate*







Elijah

To grow the community of CoralWatchers and raise more awareness, CoralWatch started a social media campaign titled: **'Come join our watch'**. CoralWatch Ambassadors, Natalie, Rebecca and Jess wear in charge to help attract local volunteers to appear in a social media video filmed on Lady Musgrave Island and on Coonarr Beach. **"OPERATION EILISH, DE NIRO & HARINGTON"** is documenting CoralWatch's somewhat audacious quest to attract three global superstars to add their famous faces to our local faces, to get more people watching out for the reef. Hollywood legend, Robert De Niro; teenage music icon, Billie Eilish and Game of Thrones lead, Kit Harington have all been specifically chosen for their relevance to the message, "Come join our Watch".

The campaign is being shared online now, even though it is still in it's developmental phase. Visit the CoralWatch Facebook page to see it unfold and, be part of it! CoralWatch invites everybody who cares about the reef to 'Come join our Watch'! Whether it be in the water monitoring coral, or from home reducing your carbon footprint, if you want to get involved, we encourage you to like our Facebook page, invite your friends to like our Facebook page, share our posts and help spread awareness. Our big star in this campaign is 7-year old passionate Elijah, Natalie took him already out for another snorkel and he has now produced a video for Billie Eilish to help SAVE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF !!! Please follow [Elijah's World](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=elijah%E2%80%99s%20world) (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=elijah%E2%80%99s%20world>) on facebook and SHARE!



### Fimshoot - Come Join our Watch Campaign

**5 September 2020, Lady Musgrave Island, GBR**

We went out to beautiful Lady Musgrave for the day. Part of the team did the underwater photoshoot and four of us went to the island for drone and beach footage. *"It was a lot of fun acting out underwater although it wasn't as easy as it first appeared to be. We got into our snorkel gear and headed out near the reef edge. Once we found a nice location we started filming what we discussed. Everyone done an amazing job."*  
Jess

**Number of participants at event: 6**

*Natalie, Jess, Monique, Diana, Rem, Jellan, Damien*

### Fimshoot - Come Join our Watch Campaign

**6 September 2020, Coonarr Beach, Bundaberg**

20 local CoralWatchers and friends lent their face and voice to the 'Come join our Watch' campaign, to raise more awareness for the reef and increase the number of likes on CoralWatch social media. 3 time frames of each 2-2.5 hours were set and around 8 participants were photographed by Damien on the beach near the water, repeated phrases Rem read out loud in a car (soundbox) and interviewed by Jellan on the beach (behind the scenes questions).

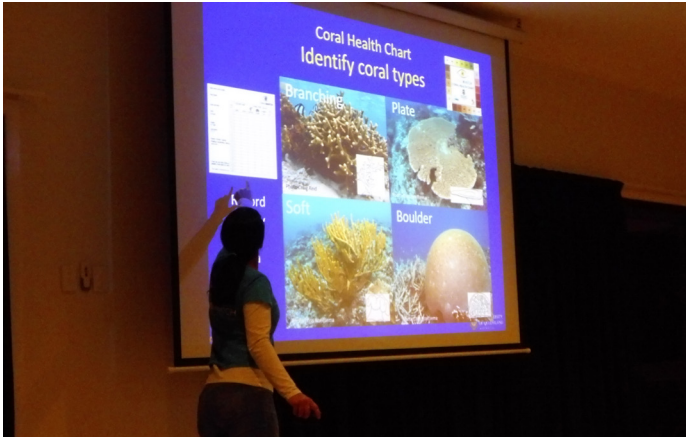
**Number of participants at event: 20 community members**

*Plus Natalie, Rebecca, Monique, Diana, Rem, Jellan, Damien*

### A special thanks to the team for Joining our Watch

We started developing this campaign with Rem Buijn, creative director of Brainheart and WOW what a journey it has been since! Rem pulled a whole team together of professionals who all help making this campaign a succes. They are providing their professional skills pro bono, out of passion for the reef. **A special thanks to:** Creative Director Rem Buijn and Lukas Russell from Brainheart, Photographer Damien Bredberg, Underwater photographer Jelian Merlant-Pilonchery, Graphic designer Anastasia Yves Lihou, Pat Dwyer from the Cutting Edge team and Melissa Watter, Barbara Cox and Michele Hele for their PR expertise.





## CoralWatch Presentation

18 September 2020, 7 PM Heron Island Resort, GBR

I presented the CoralWatch Act to Protect / Come join our Watch presentation on CoralWatch, coral biology, climate change and coral bleaching, how to use the Coral Health Chart, how to save the reefs from home and introducing the Come Join Our Watch social media campaign.

We also setup a display for people to come over and talk more with us after the presentation. This worked well.

Challenge: Some of the resort technology wasn't clear so it was hard to get sound working for videos in the presentation at first. Low engagement number because of COVID restrictions, people had to sign up for the event.

**Number of participants at event: 18 total**

6 resort guest + 12 teachers from the teacher PD)

*Rebecca*

## CoralWatch Reefwalk

19 September 2020, 3PM Heron Island Resort, GBR

The next day, we continued our activities and attended the Reefwalk with resort guests and I introduced and explained the Coral Health Chart to the resort guests and also the tour guide.

I then assisted resort guests to collect data for CoralWatch using the Coral Health Chart. I collected all of the guests' data and entered it into our database. We also left several Coral Health Charts so that the tour guide could incorporate CoralWatch into their future tours.

I walked between guests checking if they were confident using their charts and helping them if need be. I also introduced the Coral Health Chart when the tour guide was talking about coral and coral bleaching. It was tricky to help all guests with their charts as the group spread out really far and wide.

**Number of participants at event: 25 resort guest**

*Rebecca*



*Heron Island resort offers reefwalks almost on a daily base. Great way of learning about the reef.*



## Act to Protect - Heron Island teacher PD

18-21 September 2020, Heron Island Research Station, GBR

We had a marvellous practical professional development workshop on beautiful Heron Island with 12 school and community educators from Queensland. Participants came from the local Bundaberg region, to as far north as Sarina, to Stanthorpe in south East Queensland. Over the course of the four days participants engaged in in-class lectures on citizen science, coral bleaching, coral biology and identification, coral monitoring, data management and manipulation. Activities were tied to the curriculum to demonstrate how educators could incorporate material into classroom lessons.

Field activities allowed us to explore coral reefs and to put coral monitoring theory into practice during snorkel and reef walking transect surveys.

Heron Island Research Station provides both the teaching facilities (labs and boats) as well as an excellent location from which to explore the GBR given the easy ability to of reef walk and snorkel. The participants – all enthusiastic learners and networkers

We were the first group to return to HIRS since COVID lockdown. The facility was still coming out of hibernation in terms of facility readiness (no hot water facilities in some accommodation) cleanliness, IT support, and clear guidelines on COVID accepted activities.

Also for CoralWatch it was quite challenging to organise this workshop with all the extra paperwork that was required.

*Karen*







## Ambassador workshop

30 September-3 October 2020, Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island

Due to limited funding and travel opportunities this year, we only invited Brisbane based people to apply for the Ambassador positions. The content of the workshop stayed the same, just a bit smaller than usual and in combo with the return workshop, which turned out to be very effective for all parties. Maybe add an extra day next time to not have a too full program....

We welcomed six new Ambassadors from the local Moreton Bay area to the CoralWatch Ambassador family. The first full day of the workshop was focused on learning all about CoralWatch, Coral Health Chart surveys, data entry, coral biology, and importantly Moreton Bay Corals.

The new Ambassadors as a group are diverse in age, areas of interest, and experience and this was reflected in their individual project outreach ideas which included schools, craft groups, the Royal Life Saving Association, and environmental catchment tours.

Our new Ambassadors were joined by fellow Ambassadors who joined for the following 'Return Ambassadors Workshop' to learn from experience, build ideas and network. Together the Ambassadors engaged in community roleplay and science communication, planning, risk management and project development.

**Number of participants at event: 6 total**



Karen

## Ambassador Return Workshop

1-3 October 2020, Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island

It was marvellous to reconnect again with twelve Ambassadors from previous programs. It was an opportunity for established Ambassadors to showcase their activities, share their challenges, and talk about their future outreach plans formally through presentation, and informally through networking and socialising. It was an empowering experience for our newly crafted Ambassadors to meet current Ambassadors and sound out the viability of their potential project with people who have greater experience in this role. It was also an excellent opportunity for all to review community event planning, insurance, and risk management.

On Friday night we had our AWARDS night. Always hard to decide who should get the extra mention since you all are doing an amazing job. We decided to give the Education award to Rebecca for all her hard work on the Coral Coast package. The Data award went to Amber for her data collection on various trips this year and her effort to help push the CoralWatch PADI specialty. And last but not least, Melinda received the Outreach award, for her passion to produce 3 videos in the Saving Reefs from Home series.

Due to COVID restrictions we could not take everyone out on the boat but we managed on Saturday to snorkel from shore at Amity with the boat as support. Everybody had a great time!

**Number of participants at event: 20, including Edward Harwood, and Craig from the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd.**

Karen



## These workshops have been proudly supported by Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd.

On Friday, we were joined by Edward Harwood, Community Relations Advisor, and his colleague Craig Wilson, Environment Manager from fund sponsors. Edward and Craig's visit coincided with presentations from our old Ambassadors and suffice to say they were seriously wowed and inspired by the output and outreach, especially during COVID-19. Keep up the good work!





## Reef Check Surveyor / Ambassador Training Course 9-11 October, The beautiful Whitsundays - aboard the New Horizon

For the first time, Reef Check Australia combined their Surveyor and Ambassador Training Course and they kindly extended an invitation to CoralWatch to help promote citizen science projects. It was an incredible weekend with a group of enthusiastic and passionate volunteers aboard a sailing vessel in the Whitsundays. We were blessed with fantastic weather, dolphins and gorgeous coral!!

Reef Check surveyors and ambassadors learnt about reef health monitoring techniques, community education and the value of citizen science. CoralWatch ambassador Amber presented a CoralWatch training session for the ambassadors and they put their learning into practice with CoralWatch snorkel surveys in Butterfly Bay and Peter's Bay.

It was a fantastic collaboration with Reef Check Australia. They organised all of the logistics, as well as providing a captive and enthusiastic audience on the boat. We provided CoralWatch training and practical survey experience for their Reef Check ambassadors. It was fantastic to be on the water for two days and not have to worry about transport to the reef. Snorkelling equipment was provided by the New Horizon boat crew as well as surface support, and we had two instructors in the water at all times.

Challenge: I wish the Data Entry app didn't provide an error message when uploading the data. It feels a little disheartening for students.

**Number of participants at event: 24 – Ages 14 to over 60**

*Amber. Thank you again for this opportunity.*



## School visit

**14 October 2020, Fig Tree Pocket State School, Brisbane**

Stall-like educational stands were set up, along with a presentation from Karen. Three classes of year six students came along and were educated about the basics of corals, their role in the ecosystem and stressors that they face. The hands-on activities that the children especially seemed to enjoy – virtual reef, writing down sustainability goals, interacting with coral skeletons.

Feedback from the teachers was fantastic and allowing children to talk to people who are studying the marine world seems to be beneficial (as myself and two of the other volunteers are studying Marine Biology). Being taught about corals by people other than their teachers seems to help in engaging some new interest and potentially inciting passion in some children. Great experience getting out there and spreading the CoralWatch message to children, thank you for the opportunity!

**Number of participants at event: 74 total**  
(70 students + 4 teachers from the teacher PD)

*Yohana, Melanie, Hannah & Hayley*

## Other

Amber has been working hard on updating the Coral Health Chart Specialty presentation for PADI instructors. She also contacted Kmart about substituting plastic items.

Melanie has organised a pool event on SCUBA for children to participate, including CoralWatch activities.

Kate has helped to upload some CoralWatch materials on [Teachers pay Teachers](#) website.

Hanna is working on a Coral Biology video series and would like some assistance. Looks great so far!

Hanna, Yohana, Valerio are Histake creating a Moreton Bay video to promote our Doorstep!

Amber and Hayley are working on an App game with guess what animal this is.





## Community workshop Bundaberg area

**Early-mid December 2020, Bundaberg**

Launch our new Coral Coast education materials and get more locals involved in looking after their local reefs. A community presentation and display with potential rock-pooling.

## Inspire U Stem Camp & Science Experience

**Jan 2021, UQ, Brisbane**

This is a yearly UQ event where we organise 45 minute sessions that include a presentation, and interactive activities.

## Online remote teaching session

**13 Jan 2021, online remote teaching session**

Australian wide year 11 students to help them make a choice what they want to do next. Online interactive presentation and activities, 1.5 hours.

## World Science Festival - CW display

**25-28 March 2021, 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). Write it in your diaries as we may need 25 volunteers!

## Blues Festival - CW display

**9-13 April 2021, Byron Bay**

Anticipated outreach: >2,000 people

## Toowoomba - STEAM conference

**2 June 2021, Toowoomba**

Regional QLD students will visit rotating stations and CoralWatch will be one of them. Twice the same session for year 4-10 students.

## ICRS conference

**July 2021, Bremen, Germany**

CoralWatch presentation and maybe display/stall/poster.