



In this newsletter reports from

- Indonesia Sustainability Tour
- Marine Teachers Conference
- Fieldtrip Great Keppels
- Small World Journeys

Upcoming events

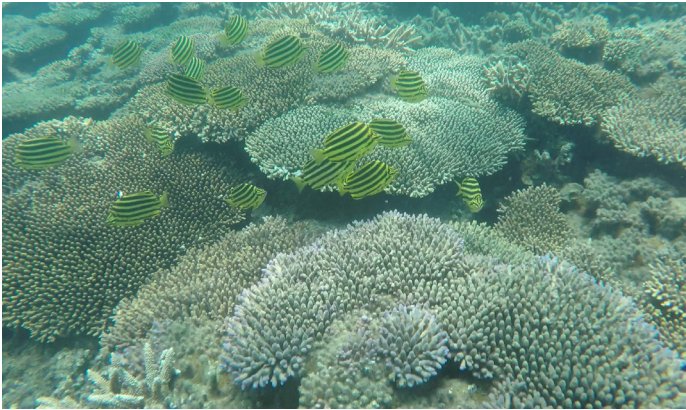
- 13 October - CoralWatch display Queensland Museum during teacher PD event
- 14 Biodiversity Roadshow
- 25 Citizen Science Q&A and lots of ReefBlitz events



KEEP THE DATE
10-11 March 2019

*Ambassador
return workshop*

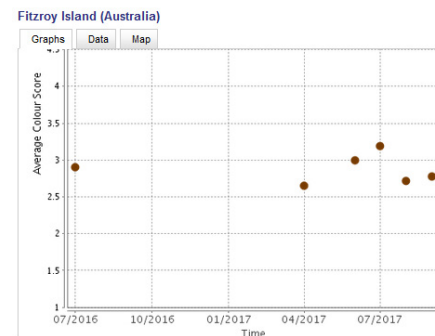
CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



Rockhampton Grammar School (RGS) Fieldtrip 2017
12 September, Ross Creek Mangroves and Great Keppel Island
 Phill and three other Biology teachers from RGS boarded the "Freedom Flyer". We had in tow, 82 Year 11 Biology students armed with their extended response tasks (field booklets) for assessment and ready to explore the fringing reef environments of Great Keppel Island.

Small World Journeys conducted over 34 surveys
May-September GBR, Australia
 CoralWatch data gets collected on a regular base by student groups that undertake an expedition with Small World Journeys. Already 34 surveys have been conducted since June this year by various schools. Thanks Laurie and team for all your data and CoralWatching!

Our first study site involved a snorkel at Big Peninsula, Great Keppel Island, where we conducted – Eye on the Reefs, Coral Watches, animal surveys and abiotic data was collected. Big Peninsula is reasonably well protected from flood borne sediments and many large boulder corals were noted (Porites). While at the Big Peninsula mooring we were treated to numerous breaching Humpback Whales and a baby leaping just beyond the reefs 'no anchoring' buoys.



Graph illustrating Small world journey data with average colour over time from Fitzroy reef.

The second snorkel was at Monkey Reef, Great Keppel Island (one of our very frequently visited sites). CoralWatch surveys were again completed and improved diversity and abundance of marine life noted (compared to Big Peninsula) as Monkey Reef is a GBRMPA Green Zone.

A school from Victoria, Albert Park just spent 9 days in Cairns and surroundings. In Year 9, their students undertake the Da Vinci Project which develops knowledge of the arts, humanities and sciences through the study of environmental issues. Students are asked to produce works of art that reflect their individual topic of investigation, and use this to promote discussion about the environment. As part of the project, students are required to undertake an expedition, which can range from a hike or a school camp. 42 students/children, 5 teachers and 2 marine biologists visited Fitzroy island and participated in CoralWatch. In addition, the students helped raised awareness through stencilling messages on street drains that lead to The Great Barrier Reef, cleaned up and learned about the mangroves (reef nurseries!), and planted native trees.

The following day we completed vegetation transects and animal surveys in the mangrove environments. This term students will complete their assessment on the back of the two-day excursion. By uploading the citizen science data, comparing the abiotic and biotic factors of the two fringing reefs sites, constructing coral and mangrove classification keys, food webs, discussing links between reefs & mangroves and completing essay style responses (using their field data) to a number questions grounded in coral reef and mangrove ecology.

Phill Bessell

Laurie Pritchard





Scientists Enacting Change Tour

13-24 September, Kirwan State High School in Indonesia

A group of students including Emily and 2 teachers including Paddy visited Indonesia for a sustainability tour. They engaged with many locals and participated in the following activities:

Green School - Bali

We have had an amazing first day exploring the green school and meeting the bye bye plastic bags Bali team. We collaborated around a number of environmental projects and presented Coralwatch and Ghost Netting initiatives.

Nusa Lembongan – Snorkelling

We snorkelled on some amazing coral reefs. “The Mangroves, The Wall and Crystal Bay. We collected and uploaded Coralwatch data. Although they were a little tricky to find at first, we had an amazing experience snorkelling with the manta rays.

Gili Trewangan – Biorocks.

Another great day building biorock (artificial reefs which use an electrical field to encourage coral to settle and grow). We sank our own biorock somewhere around Gili Trewangan. The students decided to make a ‘k’ shaped rock and we have all decided we will need to come back each year for the ‘i r w a’ and ‘n’. We then spent the morning attaching small coral colonies to help it get established. All the students worked really well and I’m sure the ‘k’ shaped biorock will establish in no time! Gili Eco Trust have promised to send through some photos every few months so the students will be able to see how their handy work grows over time. We then assisted with projects to upcycle trash and made carrier bags from old T shirts and sculptures from plastic bags.

Paddy McLeod, Emily Wilson



Marine Teachers Association of Queensland Conference 25-28 September, Orpheus Island

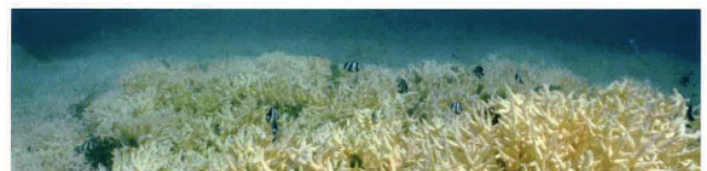
I presented CoralWatch at MTAQ and explained the types of data that can be collected and accessed by school students. Several teachers liked the accessibility of the database and the ease of data entry with the Data Entry App.

We also went in the field for two 90 minute coralwatch snorkel sessions in Pioneer Bay, Orpheus Island and teachers even know now how to enter their data in a hammock!

Several teachers signed up for newsletter. Eye on the Reef organisers and STAQ representative were very interested in how and why I became a Coral Watch Ambassador: this model of extending the outreach capabilities of CoralWatch may be a useful model for other citizen science programs.

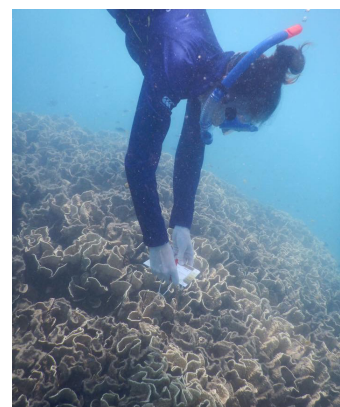
Global Impacts on Marine Environments: Coral Watch Task 7
Extended Response to Stimulus under Exam conditions

Stimulus: **Is the Great Barrier Reef Bleaching?**



With some assistance from CoralWatch, I developed and trialled a new assessment item ‘Is the Great Barrier Reef bleaching’ and shared the student response. A representative of Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority thought the data was very suitable for student assessment tasks for the new Marine Science Syllabus.

Adam Richmond





One of the program's ambassadors, Leroy Noble, explaining the methodology of Coral Watch during an exhibition held in May 2017 at the project's headquarters (Coral Watch)

Believe Earth; Journey to the underwater sanctuary October, [Online article](#)

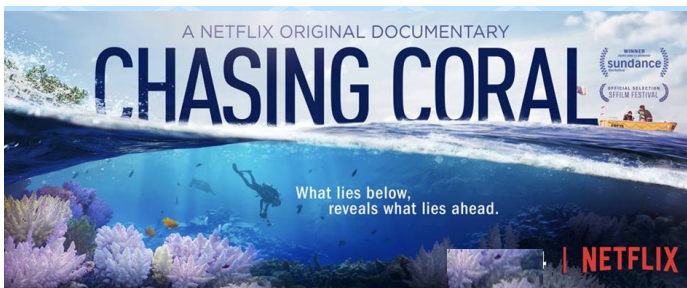
Maria was interviewed by Brazilian magazine talking about her CoralWatch activities as an Ambassador. Photo shows Leroy, Monique and Hong at the Heron Island Research Station during our Ambassador workshop.



90th birthday Moreton Bay fig trees

8 October, Wellington Point, Brisbane

About 100 visitors attended a community event to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the planting of Wellington Point's historic fig trees. There were heritage talks and guided walks to King Island, a sausage sizzle and a birthday cake. CoralWatch & Reef Check were invited to be part of the event and hosted a joint display. We talked to members of the community about the marine environment and reefs of Moreton Bay, and how they could get involved with citizen science activities in the area.



Chasing Coral film screenings

6 October Womens College UQ

Hong organised a CoralWatch display and Justin was part of the panel for Q&A session afterwards. About 50 people attended the event. The screening of this movie can be organised by anyone, there is no cost involved. Just check out this [website](#)

In addition to all this

- Maria organised a meeting with Australian Coastal and Marine Ecology (ACME) based at Redcliffe - A consultancy that is interested in incorporating CoralWatch in their monitoring efforts - date TBC
- Maddy G went to Heron and took all the CoralWatch permanent transect materials.
- April and Leroy collected data at Moore Reef.



- Justin went to Lady Elliot Island. LEI activities team takes visitors on regular base to the permanent transect in front of the restaurant. They area also keen to sell our book and DIY kits in their island shop.
- Paddy wrote a support letter for an Australia Indonesia Institute grant proposal 'CoralWatch Ambassadors Indonesia'. CoralWatch has been active in Indonesia since 2011 with the development of materials and organising local workshop. This grant would enable us to invite some of our Indonesia contacts to Australia to participate in the next Ambassador workshop providing them with the skills to reach out to their communities.
- Hong has been working on a new wooden base for our virtual clay coral reef. This will form a stronger base so that our coral expo can travel easier.
- Monique went on a sailing adventure in the Whitsundays and explored many inshore reefs. Unfortunately she saw lots of damage of the cyclone with some pretty places left.
- CoralWatch is submitting a grant application for National Science week 2018 to conduct a 'Corals in the Outback - Sustainability trip' with community events in the area of Mount Isa and Longreach. Something new and exciting to approach a different audience. Chasing coral screenings with Q&A sessions will be part of the tour.
- CoralWatch is submitting an abstract for the Australian Citizen Science Conference in Adelaide.
- Ocean First Institute in the States is keen to offer CoralWatch to their student groups.
- And I am sure there was more ...

UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER

Creative Lab teacher PD day

13 October – Queensland Museum Brisbane

A full day of teacher PD incl. 3 workshops focusing on STEM education. CoralWatch will have a display and aims to organise a workshop for the next Creative Lab. [Read more](#)
Attending: Maria and Diana

Biodiversity roadshow

14 October – 10:30 -12:30 Suttons Beach Park Redcliffe

Organised by Centre for Marine Science, UQ.
Come along and go on a guided coastal habitat walk, feel a sea creature in a touch tank, check out the microscopic undersea world with the microscope display, listen to fish sing and shrimp snap, test your knowledge with the marine trivia quiz and so much more including CoralWatch display and related activities, organised by Adam. [Read more](#)



Reef Recovery and Beach Cleanup - ReefBlitz

Sun Oct 15th, Nelly Bay Magnetic Island

Join Reef Ecologic and Reef Check Australia to contribute to community reef recovery research and take action to help our local reefs. [To book and more info.](#) Attending: Paddy



CoralWatch data collection - ReefBlitz

Sun Oct 15th, Barolin Rocks, Bundaberg

Monitor the health of the local reef - found right at our feet, Barolin Rocks. Using colour as an indicator for coral health, the scientists of Bundaberg can help save the reef. Snorkel or dive. [To register and more info.](#) Organised by Hannah with assistance from Maria.

Schoolexcursion Data collection - ReefBlitz

Sun Oct 15th, Nelly Bay Magnetic Island

Organised by Paddy

Citizen Science in the classroom - ReefBlitz

20 October St.Catherines College, Proserpine

Presentation and virtual reef activities for year 11 and 12 Biology classes. Organised by Monique, Diana

Citizen Science / collecting data - ReefBlitz

21 October Hardy Reef, Whitsundays

Join CoralWatch on board Cruise Whitsundays for reef citizen science activities. Organised by Monique, Diana



Corals at Your Doorstep community boat trip

21 October - Manly Brisbane

2x Reef Encounter educational/community boat trip in Moreton Bay on board MV Inspiration (MBEEC). Learn how to be a REEFSearcher and CoralWatcher and visit the amazing reefs that exist in inshore Moreton Bay. [To book and more info.](#)
Organised by Maddie D and Maria

Citizen Science presentation

25 October, St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville

CoralWatch presentation and Q&A Citizen Science session for year 11 Marine Science students. Attending: Maddie G

Reef Blitz Wild Cattle Creek

28 October Tannum Sands / Gladstone Qld

Learn about local coastal and marine citizen science programs that YOU can get involved with to look after the Reef! There is a project for everyone! Activities will be led by Reef Citizen Science Alliance members, with host Conservation Volunteers Australia. [Read more](#)

Citizen Science / collecting data - ReefBlitz

28 October Reefmagic Cairns

Join CoralWatch and Reef Check Australia for reef citizen science activities. Attending: April, Monique

[Booking details available soon.](#)

Beach Clean-up and collecting data - ReefBlitz


29 October Fitzroy Island

Join CoralWatch and Reef Check Australia for reef citizen science activities. Booking details available soon on Reefblitz website. Attending: April, Monique.

Student group collecting data - ReefBlitz

28-29 October Fitzroy Island, Small World Journeys, Cairns

Laurie has a large group of NSW students arriving on the 27th and will take them out to Fitzroy Island. Introducing students to CoralWatch and data collection.



ReefBLITZ

ReefBlitz
Besides the events listed, there are many more events organised by the different Citizen Science groups with lots of opportunities to volunteer. Check the website for latest info.

- [See all Townsville events](#)
- [See all Cairns events](#)
- [See all Brisbane events](#)
- [See all Mackay/Whitsundays events](#)
- [See all Gladstone/Rockhampton events](#)



Caring for Corals Teacher PD

9-10 March 2018 – N.Stradbroke Island

Two day workshop for secondary teachers to learn more about reef science and marine conservation. Includes lectures, hands-on field- and classroom activities and take-home materials.

Please forward the [registration form](#) to your contacts.



Ambassador Return Workshop

10-11 March 2018 – MBRS, N.Stradbroke Island

Keep the date! More details in the next Ambassador news!
We hope to see you all there to review, make future plans and celebrate the success of our Ambassador program.



Second CoralWatch Ambassador Workshop

23-27 May 2018 – Heron Island

CoralWatch has secured funding to run our next Ambassador workshop and will recruit more Ambassadors beginning next year. Feel free to introduce us to people that you think might be good Ambassadors.

UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

National Recycling week

13 - 18 November

Moreton Day Research Station Open Day



New Marine Science Syllabus

Diana had a meeting at Queensland Studies Authority to discuss how to promote the CoralWatch curriculum linked materials better. We also identified the need for aligning the CoralWatch year 11 and 12 marine science unit plan 'Healthy Reefs from Polyp to Policy' with the new syllabus as soon as possible.

Assistance with this would be much

appreciated especially from our teacher Ambassadors since you will know much better what works than we do. Let us know if you have interested to assist with this, of course all your efforts will be fully acknowledged.

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