

**In this newsletter**

- MBRS Open Day
- Charity Cruise AMCE

**Upcoming events**

- Teacher PD
- Ambassador return workshop
- World Science Festival

## CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



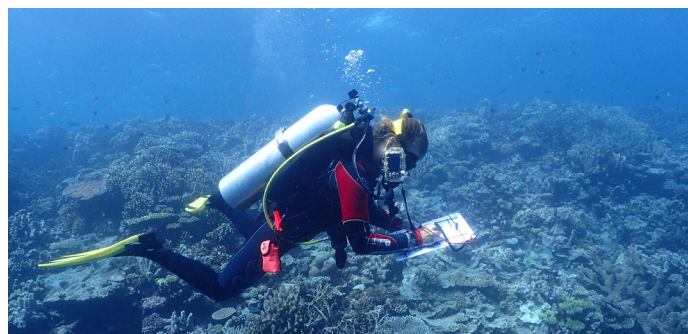
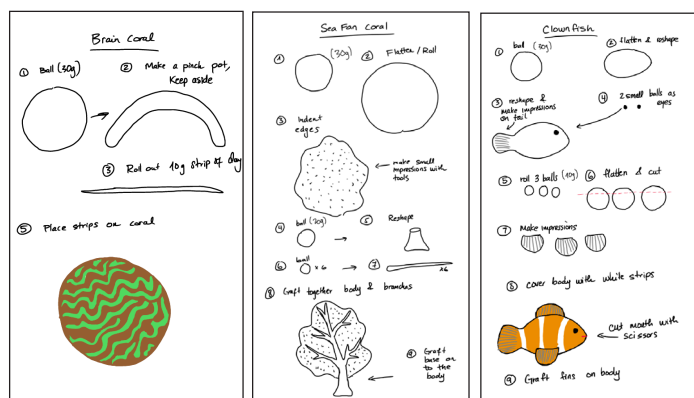


## CoralWatch Display with Clay and Colouring Activities

**25 November, Moreton Bay Research Station, N.Stradbroke**

A great event with 1200 visitors and about 200 kids participating in our new clay a coral activity. In preparation, Hong and Maria made easy-to-follow instruction sheets for various corals (brain, fan, mushroom and branching), starfish, shells, sea turtles, nemos, and butterfly fish with the turtle being the most popular. The event was succesfull in the sense that the kids did art and had lots of fun, but the setting was not quite right to really teach the kids about corals. A classroom will be better for this and we will trial this next year. For similar events, we know now that we will need more volunteers.

*Hong Vo, Maria Bavins, Gabry Scata*



## Search for Supercorals - Great Barrier Reef Legacy

**15 nov - 8 Dec 2017, Great Barrier Reef**

Monique took part in the 21-day Search for Super Corals expedition, organised by the [GBR Legacy](#) and supported by tourism. This was the biggest underwater mapping ([UQ Remote Sensing Research Centre, RSRC](#)) and sampling expedition since the 2016-2017 back-to-back bleaching occurred. World leading scientists visited 11 reefs in the Far Northern GBR and [searched for coral survivors](#). Monique was part of the [habitat mapping](#) team and swam 32 km (diving & snorkelling) and took almost 60.000 pictures of the benthos that will be used to create detailed maps of the reefs. Besides this, she collected CoralWatch and RHIS data on 51 different sites, i.e. data on 1020 corals. Also the AIMS and UTS teams used the chart to measure the health of the super corals they collected before and after their experiments. Daily CoralWatch and RHIS data was plotted on an [expedition map](#) so the public could follow the expedition progress and the health of the corals. At the end of the expedition there was a [public symposium](#) where all first impressions were shared with the public and a [short 7 mins movie](#) was made. A full documentary will follow.

Dr. Charlie Veron, the Godfather of Coral was part of the expedition and found 1 new coral species (first time since 30 years) and at least 6 new species for the GBR. This particular reef is the most diverse reef on the GBR with a record of 181 hard coral species. A spot of hope! Zack Rago from Chasing Coral was also on board and documented Charlie's findings.

*Monique Grol*







## ACME Charity Christmas Cruise

**2 December, Brisbane River**

CoralWatch would like to extend a very special Thank You to Australian Coastal & Marine Ecology (ACME) and Coastal Protection Core for inviting CoralWatch to be part of their annual Christmas cruise. Each year ACME and the CPC support a worthy cause through hosting this event and this year, ACME supported our CoralWatch citizen science initiative by generously donating all ticket proceeds to CoralWatch. This will enable us to provide 302 Coral Health Charts to Grade 1 & 7 schoolchildren around Queensland to engage and inspire the citizen scientists of the future. However, the latest news on this is that they have just decided to double the donation and will now be donating money to provide 604 Coral health Charts! Fantastic!

CoralWatch Ambassadors Maria & Hong were very proud to represent CoralWatch for the evening. Over 40 people attended, and we gave a short presentation to the guests about the role of Coralwatch and how we can all work together to protect the reef. As a thank you, Maria made a coral reef inspired cake for the event so that those aboard could test out their Coral Health Charts and experience the sights and taste of the reef. The weather was perfect, the moon was out and it was lovely to share the evening with so many inspiring people.

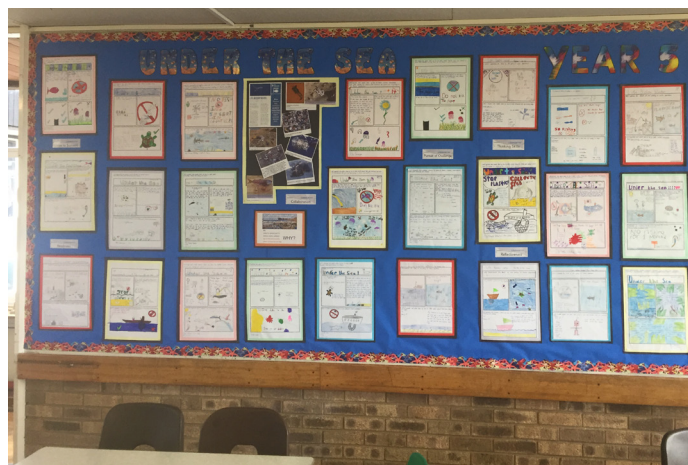
*Maria and Hong*

## Education - Planet Earth Day

**24 November 2017, Brookland Junior School, England**

On Friday 24th December, Brookland Junior School, Cheshunt, England launched a Planet Earth Day to raise more awareness about the damage we are making to our Planet Earth. Each Year group took a different aspect. Year 6 Climate - The Bigger Picture, Year 5 - Life below the water, Year 4 - Sustainable Living and Year 3 - Every Plate Tells a Story. Between 344-360 Junior Children participated in the activities planned for the day. The teacher printed out the CoralWatch Fact Sheets, which were given to every class to put up for the week in their individual classrooms and given to Year Group Leaders to use in their planning. The [CoralWatch Daily Life posters](#) were also printed off from our website, and sent home with the children to create their own ideas on how they could further support the slowing down of Global Warming. The whole school was shown the CoralWatch video 'How we can help reef conservation' on Monday 20th November before Planet Earth Day.

*Teacher in the UK, friend from Maria*



## CoralWatch on board Paul Gauguin Cruiseship

**18 nov - 2 Dec 2017, French Polynesia**

Once a year, together with my husband Chris Roelfsema (UQ Remote Sensing Lecturer) we organise lectures and CoralWatch workshops on board the [Paul Gauguin cruiseship](#). This small ship hosts only 300 guests and sails to amazing places in French Polynesia, we are very lucky to be part of this. This time, guests from Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, UK and Australia participated and collected data from various sites such as Bora Bora and Motu Taha. All data has been entered online. The lectures focus on basic coral reef biology, coral reef mapping / research and how to help save reefs from home. Guest were very engaged and there were many interesting conversations on the ship about the use of straws, towels, printing and the reef.

*Diana Kleine*





## Movie screening: A plastic ocean

**10 December, The side show – West End, Brisbane**

Following the success of the multiple screenings of Chasing Coral, A free movie screening of A plastic ocean was held for the public in West End as a collaborative event with ReefCheck. The film shows the impacts of plastic on all aspects of the ocean – from the deep sea floor to seabirds stomachs. The attendance was a bit disappointing, of tickets rsvp (78) only 1/3 showed up. This can be a challenge with free events, people can be less committed so perhaps it is better to charge a small fee. CoralWatch did buy the screening rights for this movie so we can use this again. Anyone else keen to organise a screening?

*Maddie Davey*

## CoralWatch data collection and education

**9 Dec 2017, Cecil Hills High School - Fitzroy Island**

Ecosystems at risk; human and natural impacts on the reef and the Wet Tropics rainforest were part of the educational goals for this group. 24 students and 3 teachers from Cecil Hills High School participated and collected 71 coral samples. Sometimes data collection at Fitzroy can be challenging due to weather conditions, inexperience of participants and recently it has become increasingly difficult to actually find live coral to measure. This time we tried having 6 students at a time on the ring (3 pairs) with Darryl the marine biologist to facilitate the sampling instead of having all the students do CoralWatch data collecting at the same time. We thought we would have better, more accurate results this way. However, students took an extremely long time to get in the water, get masks adjusted, etc. that we ran out of time for the last groups. Next time will try to take less time for lunch and will try to make the CoralWatch briefing shorter.

*Laurie Pritchard*



**ROUGHLY 8 MILLION METRIC TONS OF PLASTIC GO INTO OUR OCEANS EACH YEAR. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

**1** Support policy makers who recognize that addressing plastic pollution must be a priority

**2** Buy a set of reusable cutlery for eating on the go

**3** When plastic use is a must, recycle

**4** Buy natural products that don't contain microbeads or microplastics

**5** Purchase a reusable water bottle

**6** Ditch plastic grocery bags for reusable ones

**7** Participate in a local beach clean-up day

**7 Easy Ways to reduce plastic in our oceans**

**OCEAN CHAMPIONS™**

## Grade 1 – Colours of the Reef presentations

**1 and 4 December, Sunnybank State School, Brisbane**

Over 2 days Maria visited Sunnybank State School and gave Colours of the Reef presentations to two Grade 1 classes. The children were all very excited to become citizen scientists for the morning and learn more about the reef and how they can help protect it. They loved the interactive presentation and asked lots of questions about the corals that I had brought for them to see and touch. They also loved colouring-in their own reef and learning how to assess the health of their corals through the use of the Coral Health Charts. Two teachers and over 50 students participated.

*Maria Bavins*



# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

## In addition to all this

- CoralWatch will get a **new website** in 2018. It will have a new look, easier navigation and will include features such as an online shop, a teachers login, permanent transects display, direct social media links, mobile phone compatibility eg. Feel free to bounce ideas since we are only in the first development stage.
- We had a very successful meeting at Queensland Studies Authority discussing the **new marine science syllabus**. Their recommendation for CoralWatch is to focus on Unit 3, Marine systems - connections and change, with the reef and beyond and changes on the reef as topics. Our current unit plan will be amended and Adam has kindly offered to assist with this.
- **An updated version of our Android data entry app** is now available while our iPhone app has been taken temporarily out of iTunes. Due to a major update of iOS the app does not allow to upload your data. Hopefully this is all fixed beginning of January, and will be back online together with our new data entry iPad version.

## GRANTS

### Submitted

- Women in Stem 'CoralWatch workshop' Philippines.
- National Science week 2018, 'Corals in the Outback - Sustainability trip'
- Engaging science grant. 'Help Save Reefs from Home' - Ambassadors in Action through science, art, education.

Unfortunately our Australia-Indonesia Institute grant has been rejected

### New grants opportunities

- [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Research Grants 2018](#). The grants support new management-relevant research that addresses key risks and threats faced by the Great Barrier Reef. The grants provide an important avenue for postgraduate students to contribute directly to improved future management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Closing 14 February
- Anyone keen to organise a CoralWatch workshop overseas? [WWF Conservation Workshop Grants](#) cover travel expenses, meals and accommodations, room rentals, materials, and other related costs. Applicants may request up to \$7,500 for the proposed training. Next closing date February 1, 2018.

Get in touch if you are interested to apply.

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



## CoralWatch in the field with Japanese students

**13 February 2018, 1.30-3.30 pm – N.Stradbroke island**

Institute of Continuing and TESOL education UQ has requested a low tide CoralWatch activity for 9 Tokyo Kasei students & 1 visiting professor. We will organise a short presentation, 'reefwalk' at Polka Point, data collecting and entering.

## Presentation BIEPA

**26 February 2018, 7 pm – Bribie Island**

[Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association \(BIEPA\)](#)

has requested a CoralWatch presentation for their monthly meeting. Apart from Bribie community members they will extend the invitation to students of the local high school.

## 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**

Further planning and arrangements will start in January.

## World Science Festival - Cool Jobs

**22 March 2018, 10-11 School Years 5 to 10, Brisbane**

The future of our job market is changing – so what does it take to do some of the coolest jobs on Earth? Meet four amazing scientists including Justin Marshall with some of today's most innovative jobs. Learn how they got there and what inspired them to choose their exciting and inspiring careers. [More](#)

## World Science Festival - CoralWatch display

**21-25 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 4 days (Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 9-5) 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.

## Second CoralWatch Ambassador Workshop

**23-27 May 2018 – Heron Island**

CoralWatch will recruit more Ambassadors next year. Feel free to start advertising this within your networks.

