

Australian Citizen Science Association

In this newsletter

- Fieldtrip with Japanese students
- ACSA conference

Upcoming events

- World Science Festival and many others - check the list!



CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



Reef Guardians Stall - School's co-curricular stall

7 February 2018, Rockhampton State High School

New students and starting year 7 students were treated to an informative stall regarding the Reef Guardian activities the School takes part in, stall included instruction on Reef Search and CoralWatch slates and 48 extra students were added to the email list for the Reef Guardian group – next trip on the 25th of March.

Phill

CoralWatch Workshop and Long Talk

7-9 February 2018, Australian Citizen Science Conference 2018, Adelaide

Our workshop was attended by a variety of people (17 participants) from other citizen science organisations and provided a great opportunity for them to learn more about the work of CoralWatch. Monique started the workshop with a CoralWatch presentation which was followed by virtual reef activities, quizzes and information sharing activities. A good chance to connect to workshop participant's and discuss potential areas for collaboration. As a CoralWatch Ambassador, I was also able to talk to people about my Ambassador experiences and promote the upcoming CoralWatch Ambassador Workshop.

Monique attended talks and workshops during the conference and also gave a talk (70 attendees) about CoralWatch citizen science work, which was very well received. Overall, the conference provided an excellent platform to interact with other citizen science organisation, share ideas and enhance peoples' awareness and understanding of the work of CoralWatch.

Maria, Monique



CoralWatch in the field with Japanese students

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

The shortest fieldtrip to N.Stradbroke Island we probably ever made was with this group of Japanese students for Tokyo Kasei University. They came to Australia for a study tour (learn English and experience Australia) organised by UQ Institute of Continuing and Tesol Education. Students came for the day to N.Stradbroke Island, to do the gorge walk, eat ice-cream, see kangaroos, potentially koalas and learn about CORALS!

The group arrived at the Moreton Bay research station at 1.30. We organised booties for everyone and did a briefing explaining the CoralWatch activity and safety issues. At 2pm we started walking on the low tide, observing all the soldier crabs and many worms crawling around. We found several corals, lots of soft and boulders. The group was very enthusiastic and tried very hard to get the colour recording correct - which can be hard - given the limited visibility. They were excited about receiving the materials in Japanese! Great event, lots of fun on a very hot day!

Maria, Diana



Presentation Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association (BIEPA)

26 February 2018, 7 pm – Bribie Island

CoralWatch was invited by [BIEPA](#) to provide a presentation at their monthly meeting. The presentation contained coral biology, importance and threats to reefs, coral bleaching and the GBR and then moved on Corals at your Doorstep - Moreton Bay area. Highlight and eye opener was the Flinders [FREA](#) project that CoralWatch was involved in with the Unidive group. People loved the Flinders book and several copies were sold. Nice feedback; 'I never knew the Moreton Bay corals were so extensive' and good questions/discussions afterwards about climate change solutions, politicians and how to save reefs from home.

Diana



Ambassador presenting at Ambassador Return Workshop

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

Our return workshop is Saturday / Sunday with Saturday overlapping with the teacher PD workshop. This was planned on purpose, since we like to introduce our Ambassador program to the teachers. There are 15 teachers and we would like to ask you to put together a short presentation (5-10 min) about your Ambassador activities. Please use the template slides provided to outline your challenges and favourites and highlight your favourite event. Depending on timing, we might choose the ones that are most relevant for the teachers to go first. It would be useful even if you are not attending to still provide us with your slides if you can. Thanks!



In addition



- We have received the first draft of our **new website**, which is very exciting and look who are one there! We will show you more at the return workshop and we might ask you to be model for some specific photos.
- We started developing our **new marine science syllabus lessonplan** for 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 and Iphone data entry app** is finally available! Working hard to get the data entry Ipad version functional.



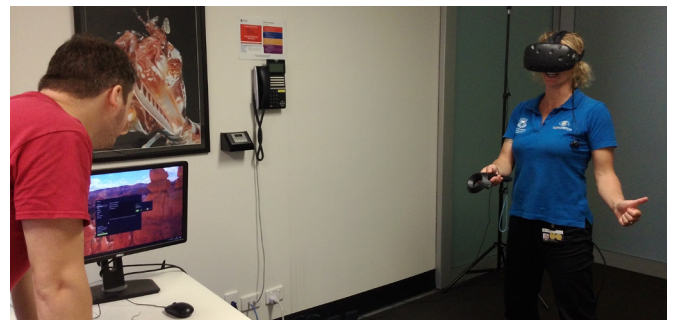
GRANTS Successful

Corals in the Outback – Sustainability Tour

“Coral reef science, a Netflix documentary, and virtual reality experiences will bring Queensland’s coast inland.

Reefs are in trouble worldwide, and the Great Barrier Reef has lost half of its coral cover since 1985. People living away from the coast are often unaware of both the magnitude of this problem and what they can do to help save reefs from afar. CoralWatch, a global citizen science program based at The University of Queensland, will engage with communities between Mt Isa and Longreach presenting the latest reef science, creating reef awareness and provide suggestions on how they can help through presentations, displays and screenings of the Netflix documentary Chasing Coral, from the makers of the Emmy Award-winning Chasing Ice. Virtual reality will provide a realistic reef experience, connecting participants with the reef.”

[See http://www.scienceweek.net.au/2018-national-grant-recipients/2018-National-Grant-Recipients](http://www.scienceweek.net.au/2018-national-grant-recipients/2018-National-Grant-Recipients)



Winning this grant allows us to purchase VR equipment. We will use this on our outback tour but also for many other school and community events. Currently we are exploring different setups and learning lots about pros and cons. If you have experience with this, love your input. We are probably purchasing a google expedition classroom kit and will start with existing VR footage but are hoping to developing our own content in the future.

Rejected

- Unfortunately the grant Maddy D submitted - Women in Stem 'CoralWatch workshop' Philippines was unsuccessful.
- And also our Engaging science grant. 'Help Save Reefs from Home' - Ambassadors in Action through science, art, education has been rejected.

New grants opportunities

- Anyone keen to organise a CoralWatch workshop overseas? [WWF Conservation Workshop Grants](http://www.wwf.org.au/australia/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.
- Port of Brisbane, perhaps to organise more Corals at Your Doorstep events. Closing May / June
- Australia Indonesia Institute, closing 21 March.

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

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. Adam, Paddy and Maria volunteering.



World Science Festival - CoralWatch display and Cool Jobs talk

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 [WSF 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. Since we are next to the turtle hatchlings, we will run a quiz with a daily price winner in the waiting line (to see the turtles). Currently Hong and Maria volunteering for the display plus other regular volunteers.

In addition to our display, [Justin Marshall is invited as guest speaker](#) on March 22 to talk to year 5-10 students about his exciting job.

Reef Guardian Fieldtrip

25 March 2018, Rockhampton Grammar School

Students will be monitoring the health of fringing coral reefs around the Keppel Islands. Organised by Phill.

Chasing Coral Screening

29 March 2018, UQ, Brisbane

[Unidive](#) (The University of Queensland Dive Club) will screen [Chasing Coral](#) for the new club members (mostly first year students) to teach them about coral bleaching and show them with what we are facing on the GBR and worldwide. CoralWatch will do a presentation (15-20 mins) and a stall with some info brochures at the start. Anyone time to help out? Screening is free and so is pizza for helpers/organisers/volunteers.

Tangalooma EcoMarines Ambassador School event

20 and 27 April 2018, Moreton Island

[Tangalooma Ecomarines](#) works with many schools in the Brisbane region to train Ambassadors. Each school appoints a support crew teacher and four student EcoMarines ambassadors to lead various environmental activities or 'challenges.' One of the new challenges will be the CoralWatch challenge where the higher grade students teach the younger students about the reef. Maddie D offered to help for this event.



CMS Biodiversity Roadshow

27 April 2018, Wellington Point

More info soon. Last time Adam volunteered, who is keen?

Conference - Australian Coral Reef Society

15 -17 April 2018, Exmouth

Anyone planning to attend the upcoming [ACRS conference](#)? If so, perhaps you can promote CoralWatch?



Second CoralWatch Ambassador Workshop

23-27 May 2018 – Heron Island

CoralWatch will recruit more [Ambassadors](#) next year. Feel free to advertising this within your networks.

CoralWatch workshop- Conasta teacher conference

11 July 2018, Sydney

Anyone Ambassador teachers planning to attend the upcoming [CONASTA](#) conference? or willing to go on CoralWatch behalf and conduct a workshop. Of course we will assist with organising and materials.

Experience Science - UQ

16-17 July 2018, Brisbane

Anyone Ambassador teachers planning to attend the upcoming CONASTA conference? or willing to go on CoralWatch behalf and conduct a workshop. Of course we will assist with organising and materials.

Corals in the Outback, Sustainability tour

10-20 August 2018, Mount Isa to Longreach

See info previous page.

Citizen Science Forum

11 August 2018, Brisbane

CoralWatch is keen to present at this forum. Maddy D will submit an abstract for the Community Engagement theme and hopefully present.