



**In this newsletter**

- Numerous School visits
- VR experiences
- More art projects
- International outreach
- National Science Week events

**Upcoming events**

- ReefBlitz 2018
- Open day MBRS and many other opportunities

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



## Welcome to the Whales Festival

**27th May 2018, Scarborough Beach Park, Redcliffe**

CoralWatch was invited by Australian Marine and Coastal Ecology (ACME) to be a part of their Coastal Protection Core Ocean Zone Display at the Welcome to the Whales Festival. This was a family-friendly event, which is run annually to celebrate the first whales of the season passing through Moreton Bay and gives the community the opportunity establish closer connections with the marine life on their doorstep. The event offered a host of interactive activities including marine life displays and talks, sand sculptures, stage entertainment and outdoor screenings of 'A Plastic Ocean' and 'Finding Nemo' for all ages to enjoy.

Maria was invited to be part of AMCE marine science panel at the event and joined Mathew Davis, Daniel Reid and Marnie Hrsto from ACME, Sam Harrington from the Climate Foundation, Dr Michael Warne from UQ and Tony Isaacson from Dive Care Down, on stage to talk about all things marine. Maria talked about corals and the importance of coral reef ecosystems to marine biodiversity and local, national and global economy and encouraged everyone to help make a difference through citizen science and positive environmental actions.

Our CoralWatch display was extremely popular and everyone was keen to see our virtual reef and clay corals display, and enjoyed learning more about corals and testing their knowledge with our Moreton Bay marine life quiz. We were very impressed with the knowledge and passion of so many budding citizen scientists that visited our display. We engaged with about 400+ people including families, teachers, students and representatives of other environmental organisations.

CPC donated a Coral Health Chart for each t-shirt sold (24 in total).

*Maria Bavins and Hong Vo*



## Watching coral with prep students

**31 May 2018, Peregrin Springs State School, Peregrin**

The prep classes are studying life in the sea and invited me to show them videos/photos of the animals I have dived with. I started with whales, sharks and rays and then showed healthy corals and then sick corals and discussed what was contributing and what's one thing they could do when they went home to help. Students played with the slates and the virtual reef and I have kept this in the classroom for now. About 50 students and 2 teachers participated and lots of other classes would like the same talk. Sorry no photos.

*Gwen Sands*



## Ecofest

**3 June 2018, Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Gladstone**

The theme for this year's Ecofest was 'Turn a new leaf, love our reef' aiming to educate attendees about the negative and positive impacts humans have on our marine life. Discover how a simple change in the way you live can help protect our national icon, the Great Barrier Reef.

Thanks David, for making CoralWatch part of this on such a short notice. We only just finished our Ambassador workshop!



## Data collection - Small World Journeys

**2 June 2018, St. Augustine's, Fitzroy Island**

11 students taking part in a 4-day trip.

We used one snorkelling location for the whole day – students snorkelled in the morning and were able to "sight see" and then in the afternoon we went back to the same location to do CoralWatch. They were already familiar with the location so that somehow made it easier. Students are anxious to start snorkelling and then the group gets spread out; we are going to do more to make sure the whole group starts at the same time.

**26 June 2018, St Joseph's International Catholic College PNG, Fitzroy Island**

35 participants (30 students, 3 teachers and 2 marine biologists) Unfortunately another day with poor visibility and poor swimming levels. 17 corals surveyed. The group is planning to come back in 2019.

**28 June 2018, St Mary Star of the Sea College NSW, Fitzroy Island**

21 participants (17 students, 2 teachers and 2 marine biologists) Unfortunately a day with poor visibility and only 29 corals surveyed. The group is planning to come back in 2020.

**17 July 2018, Lincoln Children's Zoo USA, Fitzroy Island**

18 participants (12 students, 2 chaperones and 2 marine biologists). Small group, some students not familiar with the ocean and swimming, poor visibility. 58 corals surveyed.

*Laurie Pritchard & SWJ crew*





## CoralWatch Guest Speaking - Art project

**7 June 2018, St Luke's Anglican College, Bundaberg**

Year 9 art students were required to paint a mural based on the southern Great Barrier reef. They had to do some research and make it as much an accurate representation of reality as possible. Their teacher (who I met through a friend) asked me to come along to their art class to do a 'reef presentation'. I introduced the students to coral reefs, what a healthy reef looks like, and all of the different life that can be found around them. Also spoke about realistic colour schemes when painting corals and how this linked in with coral health. The mural was being painted in the school's kindy, so I also had the chance to speak with the kindy manager/head teacher and she said she'd be interested in me coming to do some activities/something with the younger kids also.

The students were really engaged and asking lots of questions. Ended up as more of a 'discussion/ Q&A session' rather than just a presentation. Very 2-way. Kids were so interested in sharing photos they'd taken from their local beaches/rock pools/reefs. Teacher was very pleased and is speaking to other teachers to see if they'd be interested in something similar. Have followed up for younger years. Kindy teacher said lots of early learning centers could be interested in this kind of thing!

*Natalie Lobartolo*



## Conference Presentation

**22 June 2018, Luzerne, Switzerland**

I had a poster presentation at the BEST EN (Building Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Education Network) conference in Lucerne. I spoke about the Great Barrier Reef and the behaviours we need to adopt to help protect our marine environments. The conference had around 60 delegates from around the world, many of whom had heard of the GBR but didn't know much about it.

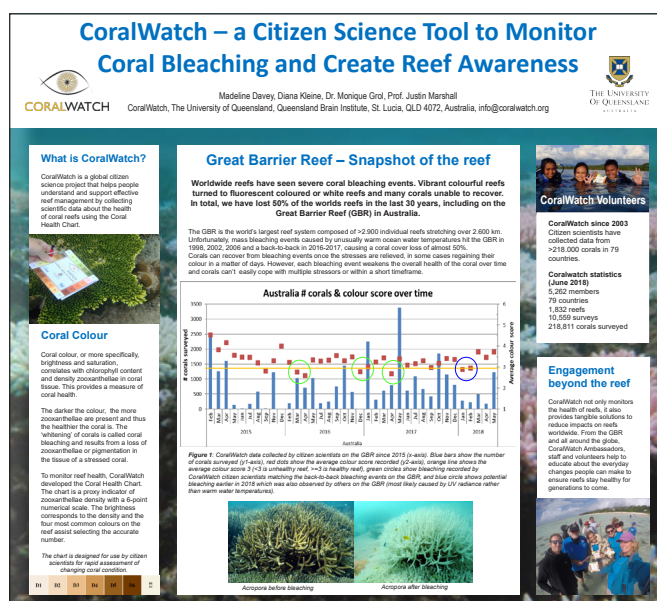
*Karen Hofman*

## International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC)

**27 June 2018, Kuching, Malaysia**

As part of the IMCC5 conference event, Wednesday night was the poster presentation. I presented a poster on CoralWatch and had charts and other give aways. The event was open to all 600 people at the conference, I probably engaged with about 100. Wish I had business cards and more materials to give away, just could not take it all. It was a great way to introduce research – NOAA especially likes our work so reaching out to them is a good idea – one suggestion was to pair our reporting with their predictions more.

*Madeline Davey*



## Presentation Climate Change and Coral Reefs

**26 June 2018, St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville**

St Teresa Catholic College in Noosaville asked for an Ambassador to present for Year 12 Marine Science students. The focus was on climate change and the resistance of coral reefs. I managed to take some samples from work to show, this included a crown of thorns starfish fossil, some cone snail shells, a bears claw clamshell, an abalone shell, some seaweed samples in conical flasks and some corals. I was able to pass them around while I was talking about them and it got the students really engaged. I also got them to work as groups to answer some of the questions. If they got the answers right, they got a mini chocolate bar. The students loved this and I found they were really engaged in the topic as a result. After my talk, they asked me lots of questions and were really enthusiastic about their assignments and some will be using some CoralWatch data throughout their assignments as well. You can find my presentation on the google shared drive.

*Amalya Valle*



## Citizen Science for Tourists

**20 and 27 June 2018, Lady Musgrave Reef and Lagoon**

During my reef presentations and snorkel briefings, I mention taking care of the reef and how CoralWatch can play a part in this. I offer, that if anyone is interested in learning more and collecting some data they can come see me and I will explain, give them a slate and then check-in with them and discuss afterwards.

Anywhere between 15 and 50 people participate but a challenge is that sometimes, even if people seem enthusiastic, they may take a slate and end up not using it, or can be distracted by how beautiful the reef is, or how many fish and turtles they see. Maybe it could work to provide some kind of incentive for collecting data, or make it more of a 'thing' i.e. idea of 'biologist for a day' where they pay \$50 extra and get a kit to keep and personal time with me where I explain more about reefs and coral health?

So far, I take the slates home and enter the data myself on the app. Before I had the brochures, I took people's email and send them a follow-up thank you message and a link to the website so they could learn/read more if interested.

Natalie goes out to the reef weekly and engages with tourists on the boat. This is a massive outreach!

*Natalie Lobartolo*



## Using real life data in your classroom - CONASTA

**11 July 2018, University of Sydney, Sydney**

This presentation was tailored to science teachers looking to include authentic scientific data in their science classrooms. Participants learned how to collect, upload and access coral health data and how this can be included in classroom activities and assessment.

The presentation was well attended (extra chairs were required) and well received. 18 teachers have signed up as CoralWatch members and many expressed interest in the range of CoralWatch educational resources.

The conference delegates seemed to appreciate seeing actual assessment items that have been used; and ways to incorporate coral reef data into the curriculum without necessarily having to visit the reef. Unfortunately, there was limited time for delegates to look at the resources. A stall/display would have increased exposure - there were 700 people registered (although I didn't see that many) - to people that hadn't heard of CoralWatch. There were several workshops on simultaneously - so many delegates missed the opportunity. Next years CONASTA will be in Darwin.

*Adam Richmond*



## Girls STEM Camp

**27 July 2018, Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre, Gladstone**

27 Science-minded Year 9 girls from all over Queensland participated in a 5-day girls STEM Camp hosted by Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre. The girls spent one day at Curtis & Rat Island doing a variety of sessions including CoralWatch and entered data into the CoralWatch database. During the CoralWatch rotation the girls were given a brief explanation of the program and how to use the Coral Health Cards. They then reef-walked investigating the health of the coral around Rat Island.

Challenges we experienced were: finding the coral, being unable to supervise all students and many recorded algae as soft coral. We can solve this next time by; locating the coral before heading to site with others, and try to initially do samples as a whole group with many varieties of coral.

*Somone Boston & David Kopelke*



## Discover Corals on your Shorestep

**29 July 2018, Regional Library, Bundaberg**

I gave a brief presentation (20 mins) about the local reefs around Bundaberg - both directly off the coast and also on the southern Great Barrier Reef. What are the threats to the reef and what can be done to protect them, including community citizen science monitoring using the CoralWatch method. There were very few attendees (only 10) but they were all very relevant, enthusiastic and interested. Maybe for next time, I try a bit more promotion and choose a better time of day of the week. I had a lot of help from the Bundaberg Library staff and GBRMPA banners and materials.

*Natalie Lobartolo*





## Experience Science School Workshops

**17, 18 and 19 July 2018, The University of QLD, Brisbane**  
CoralWatch organised 9 workshops (50 mins each) for year 10 students from various schools. Schools were invited by UQ recruitment team aiming to create interest to study at UQ. After a short presentation about importance of corals, threats, coral bleaching and Coralwatch, students participated in 3 rotating activities.

- Virtual reality watching the intro of Chasing Coral movie
- Virtual reef monitoring using the large posters
- Reef Quiz with daily prize winner

The timing for the three rotating activities worked perfect with Karen as time keeper! Students participated in this event were randomly assigned to the different workshop and unfortunately, some students had limited interest in the reef. A total of 381 students participated.

*Karen Hofman, Madeline Davey, Monique Grol, Diana Kleine*

## HarbourWatch Industry & Water Quality barge Tour

**28 July 2018, Gladstone Harbour, Gladstone**

HarbourWatch hosted a Citizen Science Community Barge tour investigating the water quality of Gladstone Harbour. As part of this event, a CoralWatch stand was set up to provide participants information regarding CoralWatch and how they can become involved. The stand was a great source of information. The virtual reef gave kids the opportunity to have a go at using the Coral Health Cards. A challenge was not being able to 'man' the stand at all times and people taking the Coral Health Card limiting others from using it. Also strong wind was an issue with one gust breaking our CoralWatch banner. Approx 110 people attended this event.

*Somone Boston & David Kopelke*



## Camp Hill Fair

**28 July 2018, Camp Hill State School, Brisbane**

The Camp Hill Fair is an annual event at Camp Hill State School. The fair includes rides, information & bake stalls, showbags, homemade goods and live entertainment. The fair targets children and their parents from the local area and is a good opportunity for locals and schools to promote themselves.

Great first CoralWatch stall! Lots of fun and most people had an interest in coral and bleaching. >1000 people attended, we probably engaged with about 80 of which 50 adults. Younger children were interested in the stall initially but lost attention when we tried to talk to them about coral. There were too many other exciting events going on. Next time we like some more materials to hand out such as stickers and postcards.

*Patrick Cooley, Sophia Descovich and WHSC Environmental Club*

## Straws - The movie

**26 July 2018, Peregrine Springs State School, Peregrine**

We ran four sessions for children and one for the community. The sessions consisted of presentations from CoralWatch (me), Plastic Free Noosa and Cam Spooner, child environmentalist. We showed the movie – STRAWS and there were stalls selling environmentally friendly products e.g. Tupperware, keep cups, glass and stainless steel straws and Ocean Life had a touch tank. It was a whole day event with classes scheduled through the day and a community session for the evening. We included a CoralWatch quiz competition but there was not enough time for children to ponder the material and do an entry form. A total of 1100 students/children, 250 adults, 45 teachers attended this successful event.

*Gwen Sands, Mandie and Cameron Spooner*







## Presentation - Forum on Citizen Science

**11 August 2018, CSIRO Pullenvale site the Queensland Centre for Advanced Technology, Brisbane**

The Hut Environment and Community Association (THECA) hosted a one-day on citizen science with 9 speakers. Maddy presented: "CoralWatch and citizen engagement: How to measure meaningful engagement beyond exposure?" The presentation includes numbers, challenges, highlights and the impact of the Ambassador program. We have uploaded this on the google-drive, it might inspire you for other events. It has a different look with the colours of the chart at the bottom, very creative! About 100 people attended the event with about 27 showing interest in CoralWatch.

**Numbers measurement**

CoralWatch outreach numbers			
#	Jun16-May17	Jun17-May18	Sep17- Jul18
Staff	3	2	2
Ambassadors	0	15	31
Events	44	87	97
Participants	2555	5680	7724

"CoralWatch has successfully expanded its reach and focus in 2017 with the introduction of the CW Ambassadors program. The ambassador program invited engaged citizens from across Queensland to join our team, through their own ideas and initiatives, as official Ambassadors. Through this and other initiatives, CoralWatch has successfully engaged with a wider spectrum of society, not just 'preaching to the converted'. Highlights of the community engagement initiatives include taking coral reefs to rural Australia, a farms to the reef project, school workshops, and working with Indigenous Australian communities."

Madeline Davey

## Latest CoralWatch outreach numbers

**Jan18 - Aug18**

Staff	2
Ambassadors	31
Events	74
Participants	7911

There is a clear increase of participants number. Already more engagement this year (compare to Sept17- July18). This is thanks to you all!

## Year 3 - Virtual Reality (VR) Workshops

**1 August 2018, Brisbane Boys College (BBC), Brisbane**

This was our first Virtual Reality experience using Google Expeditions (<https://edu.google.com/expeditions>). The expedition kit allows you to choose from a wide range of underwater images and take students on a journey around the world. You lead as a guide on the iPad, pointing out features and highlighting areas of interest. All the smiley faces popping up everywhere will show you were students look. This setup is a great tool, especially for the younger students.

Two year 12 BBC biology students - completing a research project with CoralWatch - organised a session at their school researching the effectiveness of using Virtual Reality as a teaching tool. How do students response to information delivered through VR versus a traditional powerpoint? They tested 2 classes with a different teaching sequence. Class 1, started with a powerpoint presentation, followed by a short quiz to test gained knowledge. Class 2, started with VR followed by the quiz.

The same content was delivered and tested afterwards. It was interesting to see that the average mark was much higher in the powerpoint class. Especially since the VR was a new experience for most students, they were too distracted with the images all around them, that they could not focus on the content well enough. Clearly VR has other advantages, it can immerse you in a world that can't be visited easily.

Jonathan Hawking and Declan Morgan (BBC students & CW interns), Sylvie S (CW intern from the UK), Diana Kleine



## Plastic in July - Beach Cleanup

**29 July 2018, Margate Beach, Scarborough**

This was a Plastic Free July event organised by our friends at Australian Coastal and Marine Ecology and the Coastal Protection Core. Over 60 people joined in to help keep our beaches beautiful and our marine life safe! Maria represented CoralWatch and spent a beautiful Sunday morning walking along the ocean - but look at some of the rubbish we found! Over 3400 items of litter were collected including over 1000 cigarette butts, and a myriad of plastic items.



Maria Bavins



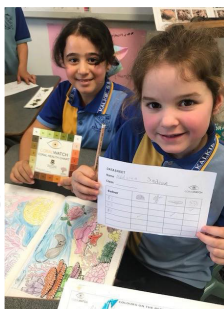


## CoralWatch School Workshop

**3 August 2018, Kalkie State School, Bundaberg**

I introduced reef health and turtle conservation to about 60 children and 2 teachers from Year 2/3. After a short presentation, we did some colouring-in and Coral Health Chart matching, then had a little discussion about what you can do to the health the reef and turtles.

The children had a decent amount of knowledge about turtles and conservation. I was a little short of Coral Health Charts – which made the process a little slow, impatient kids, etc. I would love to do the same thing with other schools as part of a package: classroom session, pool session, and then a trip to the reef.



*Natalie Lobartolo*

## Presentation International Youth Media Summit

**2 August 2018, Sydney Olympic Park Lodge, Sydney**

I was at a 2-week long summit and as part of that delegates were invited each day to give a 15 mins presentation about an issue facing their home country. There were 50 delegates from 22 different countries and 13 'staff' who were media teachers.

At the start of my presentation, I asked who had been to a coral reef before and only two put their hands up. I had predicted this, and so before the presentation I played a brief video of diving footage I had put together which they were in awe of. The information I was presenting was completely new to most people in the room, and so they were extremely attentive and interested in learning about reef biology and the threat of coral bleaching. As many of the delegates were there from landlocked countries, they lost interest when I started speaking about the actual chart, as I suppose it was unlikely they would ever use it, even though I outlined they could use it on holiday. I really enjoyed giving the talk, I think particularly because I didn't feel like I was repeating information they already knew, and I was the only science-based presentation at the event. I had a lot of people come up to me afterwards and say how interesting it was, I would definitely do it again.

*Natalie Meiklejohn*



Our **June** Award was for the best CoralWatch photo in action, this was taken at Manta Ray Bommie, N.Stradbroke Island by Rachel Perry.



The **July** Award has been assigned to the conservation group with most data collected in the first half of 2018. This is Project Abroad in Thailand with 927 corals monitored by several surveyors at several dive sites.

Our **August** IYOR-CoralWatch Award has been assigned to the school that uploaded most corals so far in 2018, which is Matthew Flinders Anglican College in Buderim. They visited Lady Elliot in May this year and collected data from 1234 corals!

## In addition

- In July, Kezia gave an introduction about CoralWatch and how to do the Coral Health Chart to about eleven students of her campus summer courses. She is also planning to collect data close to one of beaches in northern Bali.
- Maria just completed a Certificate II in Laboratory Sampling and Measurement and presented CoralWatch to 8 fellow students. Many of these had never been to the reef before so it was very exciting to introduce them to the reef on their doorstep.
- Someone with HarbourWatch had an info stand on the 13th August as part of our Science Week Community Event and CoralWatch was part of this.
- Suzanne and Valentine had a display at the deadly futures festival in June. Unfortunately they could not go in the water due to bad weather and not having viewers available.
- Valerio managed to double the amount of Instagram followers, we have more than 360 now. He aims to have 1000 by the end of the year. We have 3060 Twitter followers and just passed 4000 page likes on Facebook.
- Monique went in May for a meeting to Coastal Protection Core office to talk about how we can integrate our education materials in their program and on their website and hopefully find sponsors.
- Monique and Maria presented in July at the Australian Marine and Marine Ecology office in Scarborough for the 10 staff members present and each donated a chart to a school.

## Grants

- Rejected - Port of Brisbane grant: Corals at Your Doorstep - a virtual experience.
- Rejected - Engaging Science grant: CoralWatch and Environmental Education Centres Reef Future Collaboration.



**National Science Week** (11-19 August) is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. CoralWatch participated in several events all over the country bringing reef science to the general public. Funding was received from the Australian Government, UQ and Cooktown State School. Thanks to all supporters and amazing volunteers to make this a very successful week.



### National Science Week - Advance QLD display at Ekka Royal QLD show

**17-18 August 2018, RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane**

CoralWatch had their display as part of the Advance QLD display at the Ekka 2018. We were there for 2 days. The focus was our VR experience to fit in with the theme of future technologies. Many people came through to try out the different VR experiences including the Chasing Coral VR documentary used by CW. Our desk also had the stamp on it for the kid's passport they were issued with to encourage them to visit the government stands. This ensured almost everyone who came through the room dropped by our table. Most were only interested in getting the stamp, however, we took the opportunity to quickly drop in what we are doing, give the kids a colouring-in sheet and if anyone showed some interest we went on to explain what we do.

Overall a good event. It was a fun day. Lots of people from all walks of life. 2 attendants for a half day each would be sufficient in future (with the same set up) due to the space and amount of visitors to the table.

*Karen Hofman, Natalie Meiklejohn, Luca Steinhauer and volunteers from UQ-Marshall lab and Biology: Erin, Amy,*



### National Science Week - School visits & Forum

**21-24 August 2018, Cooktown & Lakeland State School, Cooktown**

I just spent an incredible week with students and teachers up in Cooktown (Year 1-12). The children learned all about protecting the reef and how to become citizen scientists during Science week. We had plenty of talks and interactive activities for the students to experience and enjoy, including our virtual reef and Coral Health Charts, quizzes, reef colouring and our Virtual Reality goggles - a great hit. Wednesday's Science forum was also great fun as I represented CoralWatch on the panel and talked to over 300 students and teachers from 5 visiting schools - such an amazing community!

Cooktown State School made this event possible - providing all flights and expenses. A very big thank you to them!

*Maria Bavins*

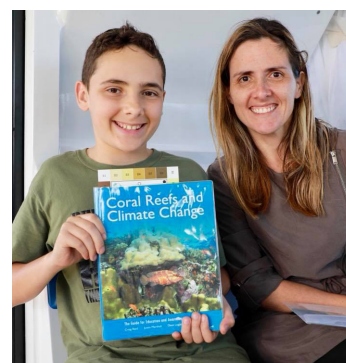


### National Science Week - Community Cruise

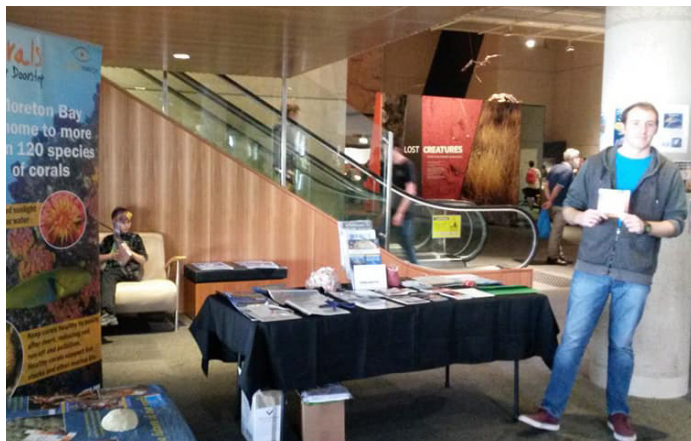
**11 August 2018, Moreton Bay, Brisbane**

An outstanding Saturday to kick off National Science Week exploring Citizen Science onboard the MV Inspiration out in Moreton Bay. Other groups that were involved: UQ Moreton Bay Research Station and Education Centre, Brendan from Reef Check Australia, Amalya from CoralWatch, and Liz & Andrew from Queensland Parks And Wildlife Service. Photo shows lucky prize winner Moreton Bay Quiz.

*Amalya Valle & Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre*







### National Science Week - CoralWatch display

**11 & 12 August 2018, Queensland Museum, Brisbane**

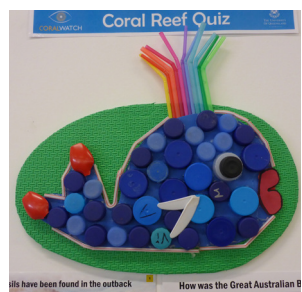
CoralWatch had a stand in the QLD museum during the Science Week festival in Brisbane at the QLD Museum. Various activities for kids were present, such as quizzes and tables with colouring activities. There were also some VR headsets to 'experience' the reef and a virtual reef to try the Coral Health Charts. We were located behind the giant squid which was a spacious area where we could set up a host of activities. Parents could sit and relax while their children coloured-in reefs and learned all about the reef on their doorstep. We have established an excellent working relationship with the Queensland Museum and will definitely be invited to participate in future museum events.

*Valerio Tattemanti, Maria Bavins*

### National Science Week - Reef Art in the Outback

**12-21 August 2018, Longreach, Cloncurry, Winton & Mt Isa**

Natalie M created artwork from plastic to compliment our library displays. She made a whale, fish and turtle which became a great addition to our reef quiz, raising awareness about plastic in the ocean. How many plastic items can you spot in the artwork? Could you reduce the use of plastic? Linking in well with 'Saving Reefs from Home'. The artwork was drawing great attention. Also our beautiful clay corals were a great addition to our displays. They travelled in a box to Longreach and survived the 2000 km roadtrip; Australia Post and us driving! Thanks Natalie M and Hong for your creativity!



### Natioanl Science Week - Corals in the Outback, Sustainability tour

**12-21 August 2018, Longreach, Cloncurry, Winton & Mt Isa**

As part of National Science Week, Monique and Diana did something unusual and brought the reef to the outback! This was a great experience and succes, overall communities were very responsive and thankful. About 1/3 of the people we engaged with had been to the reef or had some reef knowledge, but were all keen to learn more. We organised >12 events in Longreach, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Winton ranging from community workshops, school visits, library displays and Chasing Coral screenings, creating reef awareness and providing suggestions on how to help 'Save Reefs from Home'. As part of the grant we were able to purchase 10 VR sets and get our factsheets nicely printed.



The virtual reality (VR) was a great succes providing a real-life reef experience, connecting participants with reef environments and motivating people towards a more sustainable future for reefs. We managed to get a good amount of media coverage including a radio interview. We engaged direct with about 500 people with our total outreach numbers TBC once we get our feedback forms back from the 3 libraries - 3 week displays ending the 9th of September.





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

## 4th Australian Marine Turtle Symposium

**8-10 September 2018, Bundaberg**

Natalie L is attending the Turtle Symposium - and will be presenting at 9AM on the 9th. In conjunction with the Turtle Symposium we have a 'Reef Together' event with Natalie L as special guest. Over 20 regional schools are attending, that'll be interaction with hundreds of kids, and a good opportunity for the turtles love corals quiz. Check out the cool bags some of the children made this event!



## Marine Teachers Association of Queensland (MTAQ) Conference

**24-27 September 2018, Tangalooma, Moreton Island**

CoralWatch will attend for the Tuesday to reconnect with some teachers and learn the latest about the marine curriculum. We are trying to get into the curriculum with next year another teacher workshop.

## School visit - VR and presentation

**19 September 2018, Corinda State High School, Brisbane**

CoralWatch is invited to present for 2 Year 9 and 10 classes and offer a VR experience. Anyone keen to join?

## Bali Ocean Conference

**29-30 October 2018, Bali, Indonesia**

CoralWatch has submitted an application for a display at this conference. Hopefully Kezia can take part in this.

## CoralWatch Data Analysis Workshop

**23 October and 14 November 2018, UQ, Brisbane**

Part of the new Science curriculum is data analysis. CoralWatch likes to offer 2 workshops (4-hour each) 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.

## International presentations / workshops

**29 October - 4 November 2018, Taiwan**

David will be presenting at 3 conferences in Taiwan!!! One 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 that David rebuilt from CoralWatch presentations.

## Nature For All Outdoor classroom day

**1 November 2018, Australia wide initiative**

Natalie L is discussing the CLASSROOM-POOL-REEF package with a couple of schools. For info and more ideas: <https://www.natureplayqld.org.au/education/outdoor-classroom-day> <http://natureforall.global/>

## Mary River Festival

**12 November 2018, 12pm-7.30pm, Kadanga (Sunshine Coast)**

Mary River is a festival to celebrate the river flow to the ocean with lantern parade and laser show. There will be a stall together with Joolie Gibbs, a CoralWatch fan. Stall includes VR (if an Ambassador attends), virtual reef posters, drawing in, quizzes, etc. The usual and an easy and fun job. Any volunteers?

## Ecological Society of Australia

**18 November 2018, UQ, Brisbane**

Unidive (The University of Queensland Underwater Club) will present their findings for the Flinders Reef Ecological Assessment (FREA) project - Monique is scheduled for this if we can get in for free. 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**

CoralWatch workshop 'Real-life coral reef data as a resource in your classroom' has been accepted. Paddy will present with maybe the help of Adam.

## Open Day MBRS

**24 November 2018, N.Stradbroke Island**

Once a year Moreton Bay Research Station opens their doors to the public. A fun experience to get involved in and CoralWatch will have a display with activities. Most years the station offers to come and help for 2 days and offers accommodation, food and transport at Straddie. Anyone keen?



## Ambassador Return Workshop

**Late February/Beginning of March 2019, N.Stradbroke Island**

Like last year we will organise another 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!



## 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.

This event is organised in collaboration with many other citizen science groups; ReefCheck, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Eye on the Reef Sightings program, Project Manta, Redmap, Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

As well as collecting as much reef data in a month as possible, the focus this year will be on acting on plastic pollution where suitable, as well as promoting IYOR.



## Events

### Gladstone

**6 October 2018, Beach Arts Music Market, Gladstone**

Someone will be part of this in collaboration with ReefCheck Australia.

### Townsville

**13 or 14 October 2018, Townsville & Magnetic Island**

Clean Up Blitz with 8 clean ups around Townsville & Magnetic Island, with debris collected and sorted to create baseline for Dry Tropics Report Card. If any Ambassadors in the area would like to get involved contact us.



### Brisbane

**20 October 9AM to 21 October 9AM 2018, UQ pool, Brisbane**

24-hr underwater event organised by Unidive (The University of Queensland Underwater Club) to celebrate International Year of the Reef. Unidive will organise 24-hr divers in the water, and CoralWatch and other citizen science groups (ReefCheck, Virtual Reef Diver) will have displays and organise activities for the public including a fundraiser and wheel of fortune, virtual reality, reef monitoring, quizzes etc. In the evening there will be a Chasing Coral screening with Q&A.

Need some help for this day: on the day display, Chasing Coral screening and beforehand finding prize donations, freebies, etc, as well as media outreach and promotion.

**21 October 2018, RAMSAR anniversary and UQ Biodiversity Roadshow**

Redcliffe Environmental Forum in partnership with Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC), are holding a "Wetlands Festival" to celebrate the 25th year that our Moreton Bay has been part of the "Ramsar Convention". This will be held in Captain Cook Park, Captain Cook Parade, Deception Bay, on the 21st October, 2018, from 10AM-2PM. Around 20 wetland associated groups will be participating, including CoralWatch. Amalya has volunteered for this event but an extra person would be good since there will be multiple activities and educational stalls.

**There are other events in Cairns on 21 October, (Yarrabah clean up with Tangaroa Blue) and potentially in Mackay / Whitsundays on 28 October, all to be confirmed.**

**If you like to organise a ReefBlitz event, contact us!**