



In this newsletter

- Ambassador return workshops in Bundaberg and Minjerribah
- Heron Island Alumni event
- New materials and media by Ambassadors
- National Science Week
- Upcoming events

CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR REEFS



Junior Rangers

2 July 2024, Heron Island

After completing the new Junior Rangers CoralWatch Workbook, I took 7 children ranging in ages from 6 – 12 years old out on a reef walk at low tide to show them how to use the CW Health Chart. Once the children quickly learnt how to use the chart, they felt confident to monitor corals on their own without any further assistance. They absolutely loved the experience, and if we had more time, they would've completed the whole chart with 20 corals surveyed, instead of the 10 required as practice in their workbooks!

This was also a good opportunity for me to trial the workbook, and make any changes required as it was the first time I had used it with children.

What worked well: Going through the first section of the workbook indoors, and explaining how to use the CoralWatch Health Chart before going out to the reef flat. Breaking up the indoor activities with the outdoor activities to keep the children engaged.

Participants: 7

Susy

World Science Festival Gladstone

21-22 June 2024, Gladstone Convention Centre

World Science Festival Queensland brings immersive and family-friendly events for everyone to enjoy.

The value of VR goggles in attracting people to the CoralWatch stand is immense. Drawing on the work of Sam Ham and personal experience at events, there is a need to stop people at your stall before you can even engage with them, VR goggles achieve this. While the children are exploring the reef, in the past I've been able to engage verbally with the parents. While talking with them I'm able to decide what message is best suited for that individual and I'm able to tailor my presentation to meet their needs. This year, working on my own, I was so busy working with the goggles that I was restricted in opportunities to engage with the parents. I relied heavily on paper resources, in particular the multi-activity A3 sheet and the sheet about why the reef is important and what we can do

to help protect the reef. I also handed out the pamphlet that was produced for the local Coral at your Doorstep kit about corals in Port Curtis.

Over the years I have streamlined the design of the stall. In past years, I had a wide variety of resources that CoraWatch has produced on display. Some of these resources I have assisted in developing yet for the event situation they are not suitable.

My display is now characterised by:

- the CW pull up banner
- TV showing a very old video coral sea dreaming to provide a moving image to help attract people and make the stall more "alive".
- the 3D printed coral polyp and a couple of coral skeletons to show the diversity of shapes. This display is complemented by a fossil I obtained in Morocco of a coral that grew in the Tethys Sea. This illustrates that corals are a very ancient animal.
- Plastic display stands containing CW books pamphlets brochures
- I have a QR code stand to link people with the CW educational resources
- Virtual reef
- The cloth display that you supplied of the local area provides a backdrop.

I have a quilted version of the decomposition activity which I hang as a backdrop rather than use as an activity. (The local group that quilted this item were very pleased that it was being used when they saw it on display).

The sheer number of people that visited the stall made it impossible for me to engage with individuals effectively. My response was to rely on paper educational resources. However, one is uncertain if the people will take the time to read these when they get home, and one questions if it is simply a waste of money and trees. This has always been my concern has resulted in me being very frugal in the past in handing out paper. A small display also provides ambassadors with greater ability to control the display.

Participants: 850 students/children, 150 adults, 5 teachers

Dave





Coral Lantern Making Workshop

3 August 2024, Whale Festival Hervey Bay

Coral lantern making workshops using waste plastic and algae to engage community about corals. Giant coral polyps were fitted with lights, to hold in the lantern parade that evening. Many people didn't register so we had double the numbers expected, but we made do thanks to support from the gallery staff and CoralWatch ambassadors.

I also had some artwork on display, which was meant to be installed at the festival site, but due to difficulties communicating with the festival staff, the gallery and I decided to problem solve at the last minute by installing it outside the gallery instead. It worked better as we had more control over the final outcome.

The gallery wanted to raise the profile of the whale festival by engaging an artist and doing something on sustainability to connect with the values of what the festival could be. Hopefully they continue to do this for the future.

Participants: 53 (28 students and 25 adults)

Nadine, Jasper, Tania, Christine



Paddle out for the Whales - CoralWatch display

6 August 2024, Hervey Bay

Paddle out for whales event attracted marine enthusiasts with the focus on whale conservation.

We did a survey about coffee cups and asked people if we have coral reefs in Hervey Bay.

Questions:

Can this whole single use coffee cup be recycled in Hervey Bay?
49 people were surveyed with 27 saying yes and 22 saying no.

Watch the video to find out the answer!

Do we have coral reefs in Hervey Bay?

41 people surveyed 37 saying yes and only 4 saying no!

It's interesting at Ocean events how much people know! We are excited to take our survey to Stocklands and see how different the responses are.

Participants: 41

Breannah, Sharon, Zarley



Soapbox Science

8 August 2024, QLD museum, National Science Week

Soapbox Science Brisbane 2024 is a free public engagement event which aims to inspire new generations of women scientists, challenge perceptions of what a scientist does and looks like and encourage the public and wider community to engage with novel science.

I successfully presented CoralWatch as a citizen science tool and encouraged the public to be more involved in marine science.

It was interesting to present on a wooden box talking as loud as I could to draw attention. Interactive activities and having physical corals brought many people to my stand.

It was hard sometimes to keep people engaged as it was an open space where they had the liberty to move around and not stay for the whole thing. Some arrived at the middle of the speech and was hard to give them all the information required to catch up. Ideas for next time: recap the information in interactive ways to include the others and inform the people that just got there.

Engagement: 25

Pauline



Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day 10 August 2024, Minjerribah

We had an info stand with CoralWatch resources, plus fun activities for kids including VR headsets, colouring in, the symbiosis game and Coral Crown making workshop. The Coral Crown making workshop began with the Corals are Cool presentation, followed by a collage-based activity for all ages and abilities, using paper and markers with stencils to cut and glue a wearable coral reef.

What worked well?

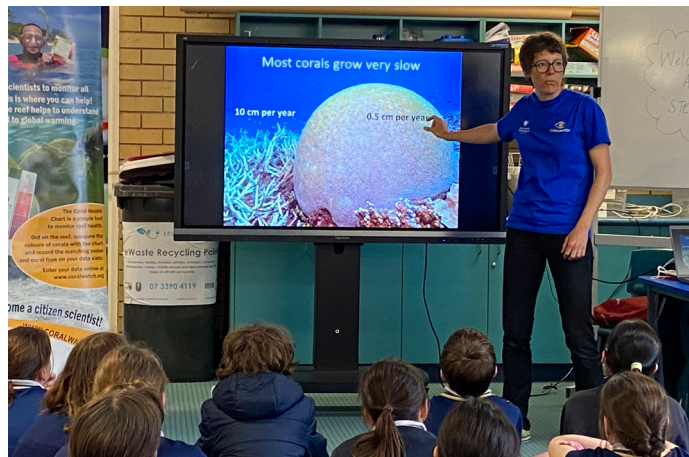
Having Sarah and Patricia there already, and the stall already set up made things go smoothly. There was plenty of space to spread out with activities.

We had plenty of materials. Just need a few more staplers and scissors next time. Coloured markers rather than sharpies would be better for young children as parents get nervous about permanent markers. Any old images of corals from magazines, calendars etc would work well to use as collage for the workshop activity in the future.

Some visitors commented that we were somewhat hidden away and would have been more visible downstairs with the other stalls. Maybe a sign out the front advertising for the workshop. Or having the stall downstairs and the workshop still in the library. The workshop was fun and both kids and adults were really engaged.

Engagement: 25 – workshop 80 – info stand

Nadine, Sarah, Patricia, Cassie



National Science Week School visit 13 August 2024, Holy Family primary, Indooroopilly

We started with a presentation of what is a coral, why the reef is so important, what we can do to protect it. Then we separated the class into four groups because there were 4 activities : 1) virtual reef 2) Ozbots and quiz game 3) virtual reality goggle on Lady Elliott 4) symbiosis game. Finished by asking what they learned today and gave them a postcard or a bookmark, as well as a what can I do sheet to take back home. Everything worked well. Arrived on time, could settle everything, computer were working fine. One ambassador per activity. Kids were nice, asking questions.

Participants: 40 students, 3 teachers

Patricia, Diana



Schoolvisit - National Science Week 8 August 2024, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

We first met teacher Anna Pianta at Fig Tree Pocket Primary and Anna didn't hesitate to introduce CoralWatch to her new cohort of year five students at Brigidine College. The school was new to us too and the event location a novel surprise. We set up in a tiered auditorium with the different activity tables (virtual reef, Ozbots, VR headsets, symbiosis game, quizzes) on staggered levels to model a cascading reef. Devon captivated the Year 5 girls with her presentation. The CoralWatch display was then opened to the whole school during the lunch break with the initiative that the senior girls could meet and talk with our Ambassadors, as role models of young people making careers in science.

Participants: 45 Students, 4 teachers

Karen, Patricia, Devin, Marcin



Science Fair - National Science Week

13 and 15 August, Brisbane Boys College, Toowong

As part of our National Science Week celebrations this year the Brisbane Boys College STEM Club and science department organised pop-up science fairs for our junior and senior school students. The theme for this year's National Science Week was 'Species Survival: more than just sustainability'. The CoralWatch display was hosted by Brisbane Boys College EcoMarine students who demonstrated the power of citizen science in the protection of our natural reef ecosystems. The display engaged students through reef quizzes, coral health identification using CoralWatch health charts, reef symbiosis games and took our students on an underwater journey through the reef environments with the assistance of the VR headsets. The students were all very engaged in the workshop activities. Students particularly liked the CoralWatch reef quiz, the 'live' coral specimens and enjoyed the VR headset experience.

Engagement: 200

Maria



UQ Sustainability CoralWatch workshop

20 August 2024, Global Change Institute, UQ

After a 30min presentation, attendees were encouraged to do different CoralWatch activities to be more informed including the 'What Can I Do?' climate action game. The presentation seemed a good introduction as everyone was very excited about the activities that followed. People enjoyed the pizza at the end which encouraged more conversations and relationship building! The attendance number was a bit disappointing, perhaps next time it can be promoted better? Thank you very much for the opportunity to present, was a great challenge and opportunity to develop my skills.

Participants: 15 in-person, 15 online

Pauline



National Science Week School visit

3 September 2024, Queensland Children's hospital, South Brisbane

To celebrate National Science week, CoralWatch shared a classroom presentation and interactive activities with 20 students at the Queensland Children's hospital. The group discussed why Corals are cool and crucial and shared stories about their experiences on the reef. Students then tested their programming skills with the Ozbots, and explored the Great Barrier Reef using VR goggles.

OzBots and VR goggles were a hit. Students were very engaged in the presentation, actively contributing to the discussion. The room was well set out and easily accommodated the group.

Plenty of time for activities, but the virtual reef was not quite as exciting as the VR goggles and Ozbots.

Yes, there is a potential opportunity for CoralWatch to offer activities in waiting rooms. Also opportunity to share the curriculum materials that we are currently developing with QCH School staff for feedback

Participants: 20 Students, 5 teachers

Courtney, Marcin



EVENTS August 2024



Youth Ambassador return workshop

17 August 2024, Bundaberg

Thanks for attending the Ambassador return workshop last Saturday, it was wonderful to see you all and inspire each other again for the upcoming events. Love it, that you were all proudly wearing your Ambassadors shirts and we did get another beautiful group photo.

We started the day with some videos from our actual workshop in December, discussions about events that happened in the last half year, talked about the coral bleaching and refreshed our coral reef knowledge. We also discussed some of the favourites and challenges we have experienced as Ambassadors and thought about some solutions.

- Favourites: showing people the virtual reality and watch them since most people love it, getting people involved with a quiz, and sharing what we have learned about corals to others.
- Challenges: Language barriers, (at World Science Festival in Brisbane there were several overseas visitors), setting up can be a bit overwhelming with all the materials where to start, time to commit to events and zoom meetings, confusion about what we do again and why, and talking to friends about changing habits to help the environment can be difficult.

After morning tea, we made jellyfishes for the Ocean festival display as decoration and made coral reef crowns, an activity that we will also offer during the event. Next to that every family provided great input into CoralWatch new 'What Can I Do?' survey game, thanks for all your feedback.

Participants: 14

Georgina and Rachela, Sapphire and Hannah, Jasper and Tanya, Breeanna and Melinda, James, Henry and Victoria, Skye and Tamara, Jess, Diana



Meeting with Traditional Owners

17 August 2024, Gladstone

We met with Uncle Mick Eggmosses and Byellee Family members in Gladstone at Auckland House. They would welcome the opportunity to become more involved in CoralWatch activities, and learn about Chris Roelfsema's research, mapping, monitoring of Heron and surrounding Islands of their Traditional Country.

Chris, Academic Director for Heron Island research station, initiated this meeting to discuss future engagement and potential HIRS activities. A follow-up meeting took place in November.

Engagement: 8

Diana, Chris



Heron Alumni Event

22-24 August 2024, Heron Island

Like last year, UQ advancement team organised another alumni event and the CoralWatch team helped with the delivery of activities. The aim of the event is for UQ alumni to experience the island and the reef and learn about the research occurring at the station. There were several presentations, reef and island walks, guided snorkel tours from boat and shore and you could even listen to the whales on a guided tour with Mike Noad.

What worked well

The location of the stand, Diana's talk was so well received and the reef walks exposing people to corals and CoralWatch. The only challenge was time and making sure people could do all the activities – I found lots of people engaged with the stall on the last day.

Engagement: 75

Marcin, Jessica, Carissa, Susy, Anouk, Chris, Diana

EVENTS August 2024



Oceanfest

24 August 2024, Burnett Heads

Oceanfest Bundaberg focuses on quality, local seafood, local wines, local beers, entertainment and a range of ocean orientated attractions, displays, demonstrations and workshops for all members of the family. They estimate over the day 10,000 people came through the gates. CoralWatch spoke To 456 people that day. Our stall spoke to a very diverse range of people, including children, adults and the elderly as well as people from many different cultures.

What worked well

- Having set shifts worked really well for knowing when holders would be in. Particularly for Nat and Jess who were there all day and could organise breaks.
- Halfway through the day changing the way we setup was the best decisions and next year/future events I think we will set up "the new way".
- Location of tent was great. We had the same spot as last time, much more beneficial then the first year.
- Having the younger generation involved. Just need to keep encouraging them to be involved more and not be shy about it. I think possibly holding some sort of catchup to refresh them on information, like the return workshop.

What did not work so well

- We originally set up the tent as an open space. The tables were around the edges with the walls behind them. We were having issues with wind blowing the walls and then moving the tables/displays and we were having to pick up a lot of stuff off the ground. We decided to change our setup and put the tables in the middle with us stall Holders standing behind them and this was definitely the best decision in preventing the walls moving the tables and displays. We still were able to interact with visitors the same and we could easily walk out to the front if needed.
- Not having all the walls meant more wind coming through with the port being so windy.
- Getting a marque the walls can attach to properly (although a big cost) as trying to stabilise walls was difficult, maybe even more clips to help.

Well done to everyone involved.

Engagement: 456

Jess, Nat, Skye and Tamara, Jasper and Tanya, Henry and Victoria, Sapphire and Hannah



Sunshine Coast Bioblitz

30 August 2024, Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast, Queensland

A Sunshine Coast Council run event over 3 days including excursions out in the ocean, coastal walks and guided tours. Interaction with schools and on Friday and Saturday, public engagement at a BaseCamp with stalls, talks, movies and Traditional Owner interaction. The Sunshine Coast Biosphere includes marine area to 1 mile from coast and this was the focus of the 3 days.

Setting up stall was easy as Sunny Coast Council well organised. No real challenges other than reaching the people who did not come.

Engagement: 100-200

Justin, Ben, Sue, Claudia



Reeftrip, reaching out to local councillors

21 August 2024, Hervey Bay

Thank you Councillor John Weiland, Division 7 - Fraser Coast for coming out with us this arvo

What a wonderful day to spend the afternoon, after a day of meetings, checking out our reefs. The tide today was so low that we had exposed corals, walking distance from shore. Thank you to the Coral Watch team for the invite and the shared teachings around this unique coastal environment.

Hervey Bay CoralWatch team



Ambassador return workshop

17-19 September 2024, Moreton Bay Research Station, Minjerribah

A big thanks to all Ambassadors attending our CoralWatch Ambassador return workshop last weekend at the Moreton Bay Research Station, Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). On Saturday, we started with a great snorkel in very calm and clear waters at Amity rock wall. We collected CoralWatch data, while enjoying seeing lots of corals, octopus, fish, and even a seahare.

After lunch, all Ambassadors presented their current project activities including favourites and challenges they have experienced. Marcin showed a video he created "We are coral reefs", about the impact of climate change on coral reefs, very impressive and moving. Great work Marcin, we hope to share this soon online.

And then there were the AWARDS We are very proud of all of you but some of the 2024 Ambassadors received a special award for their outstanding achievements. This year, the DATA award went to Christine for



collecting lots of data in Hervey Bay and inspiring many locals to get involved. Jessica received the EDUCATION award for helping with the marine teachers' conference and inspiring them to use the CoralWatch database for year 11 data tests and exams. Pauline received the OUTREACH Award for presenting at several events including soapbox science, and the UQ sustainability event and last but not least, the ADVOCACY award went to Zarley for her efforts to protect Corals at Your Doorstep in Hervey Bay and speaking up to local councillors. Well done everyone!

On Sunday, after a walk at the point, we worked on the 'What Can I Do?' program, thanks for your input in the climate actions. We discussed challenges including the need for CoralWatch data, and the best way presenting data to the public. Thanks all for a very productive weekend, you are a great inspiration for the CoralWatch program and people. Ambassadors helped in the last 9 months to deliver 61 events with outreach to >5,000 people. We could not have done this without your passion, help and input ... thanks ... thanks.... thanks

Participants: 12 Ambassadors, 3 staff

Sarah, Pauline, Zarley, Breannah, Christine, Sharon, Nadine, Marcin, Gabriella, Susy, Jason, Patricia, Courtney, Karen, Diana

Beach clean-up

20 September 2024, Bargara

Elijah organises many beach clean-up other youth CoralWatch Ambassadors often help.

On the last one, just as they started something really cool happened... Some other children asked what they were doing and after the boys explained they were going to beach clean the other children asked to join them!!! We love the ripple effect. Well-done boys!!!!



Elijah, Henry and James

STEM SPARK Conference

30 August 2024, Rothwell

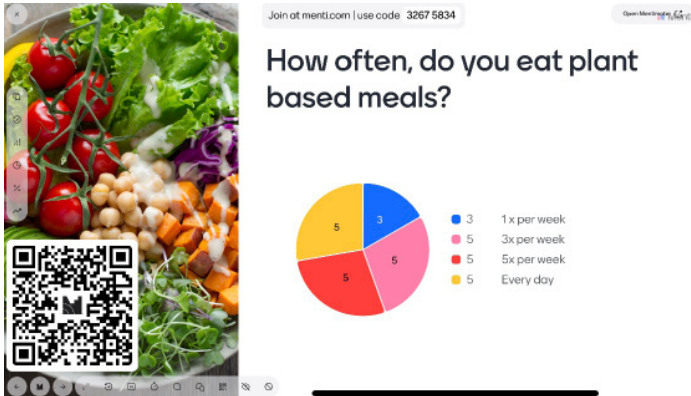
The theme of the conference 'STEAM – Empowering Leaders for a Changing World' highlight how STEAM provides the skills and thinking for people to solve challenges, overcome barriers, and create a better and thriving world for everyone.

As previous years, CoralWatch delivered a workshop for year 4-6 students to learn more about coral reefs. The ozbots were the most popular activity



Engagement: 20 students

Diana



Social Science Conference, 10-min presentation 10-13 September 2024, Gold Coast

What can I do? Applying behavioural science approaches to support community engagement in climate change mitigation activities.

*Presenters: Diana Kleine and Karen Johnson - Coral Watch
Co-authors: Yolanda Waters - CoralWatch & UQ, Angela Dean - UQ, Carissa Klein - UQ*

The CoralWatch "What can I do" program, supported by the GBRF, aims to make climate change solutions accessible to a public increasingly committed to a decarbonized future. Using behavioural science approaches, the program seeks to empower individuals and families to be actively involved in climate change mitigation activities. The program will also use qualitative methods to measure impact and document successes, failures, and lessons learned to inform the replication and scaling up of similar projects across Queensland. The presentation went well and many people engaged in the Mentimeter activity sharing their choices towards plant based meals, barriers and possible pledges.

Engagement: 20

Diana, Karen



Marine Teachers Association Queensland 14 - 17 September 2024, Lady Elliot Island

On the first day of the conference, the whole morning was assigned to CoralWatch activities. We started with a presentation, followed by a reefwalk collecting and entering data in rotating groups. While some were out in the field, Jessica was leading an activity to develop data test questions using CoralWatch data. Teachers were presented with existing

different data sets and discussed questions. This has been reviewed by Adam (working at QLD studies authority) and is available as a resource for marine teachers. Thanks Jessica for initiating this, great work and great new resource.

Special guest speaker Charlie Veron was there for the length of the conference and answered many questions. Very special to talk and learn from the godfather of corals.

Engagement: 30 teachers

Jessica, Adam, Diana



Australian Marine Science Conference - poster 20 September 2024, Hobart

The benefits of involving CoralWatch in research outputs, and how this citizen science initiative can increase the understanding of the impacts of climate change on our global reefs was presented by Authors: Maxwell L Steven, Diana A Kleine, Karen Johnson, N Justin Marshall at the AMSA conference.

Abstract: CoralWatch is a highly successful, predominantly citizen scientist dependent, coral health monitoring program. In the face of increasingly common mass bleaching events, CoralWatch provides the resources for crucial and instantaneous understanding of reef health. Citizen science has steadily seen increased uptake in recent times, with the widespread realisation that professional scientists cannot do it alone when monitoring large-scale ecosystem health.

CoralWatch's data collection methods are specifically designed to be simple and accessible for citizen scientists of all ages and backgrounds. These methods are a numerical colour rating system that measures bleaching extent, whilst indicating a coral colony's level of zooxanthellae occupation. The accessible nature of CoralWatch methods has aided its widespread use with current coral health data being collected in 80 countries.. CoralWatch's methods and resources empower localised communities with authority and passion to outwardly promote action against climate change. Additionally, CoralWatch is introducing a new "What can I do?" program that provides simple guides for how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint working towards a more sustainable lifestyle to save reefs for the future. Finally, CoralWatch's annual ambassador program brings together people with different skills, background and expertise to develop various personal projects aimed at promoting climate change and coral conservation.

Max, Justin



The Wave, Ecomarine 6 October 2024, Townsville

We held a workshop with a small group of students from different schools, primary school-aged. The students talked, brainstormed then presented our findings to the whole cohort.

In our CoralWatch group we discussed how different people/jobs/positions/roles in society have decision-making power to make positive impact for climate and the reef.

My student group did a great job roleplaying: The Australian Prime Minister, The CEO of GBRMPA, Greta Thunberg, Head Fossil Fuel Delegate.

The students workshoped how these roles might respond to their responsibilities to the reef and planet, and how easy it is to transfer carriage of these issues to other parties - or if someone is willing to take ownership and structure a way to work together how positive action can occur.

They were funny and inspiring acting out these roles and coming up with some classic and creative responses as to why certain people would or wouldn't want to do anything, really grasping the rhetoric of adult conversation style. Saying things like, "I can't deal with climate change or the reef, because I don't have time."

We discussed the theme of shared responsibility - particularly how it can lead us to inaction if we believe someone else will do it, (using the example of feeding the family dog!) We arrived to the point that anyone at any age or role in work/school/life can take empowering action with big or little steps. We then brainstormed what these actions might look like and they came up with some great ideas.

It was these ideas the students then presented to the group. All other groups had their mentors talk through the presentation as well, however my special group who had been building their confidence as PMs and big bosses wanted to do the whole presentation alone. Which made me feel really proud, especially considering their age, the big topic, and that they had been strangers only moments before.

Their understanding of what climate change is was the best I've come across so far in school-aged kids - even better than many teenagers. So that was wonderful to behold.

It's also worth mentioning that some of these students were incredible standouts - though are all amazing!

One year 4 student has been making bracelets to raise money for turtles and has several little pocket-money businesses she runs so she can donate to environmental causes.

My group was all females and roughly the same age, give or take a year or two. I have their names and schools, and if via the appropriate channels with EcoMarines, I think they would be a great fit for invitation to apply for the family ambassador workshop - if you're interested in this approach?

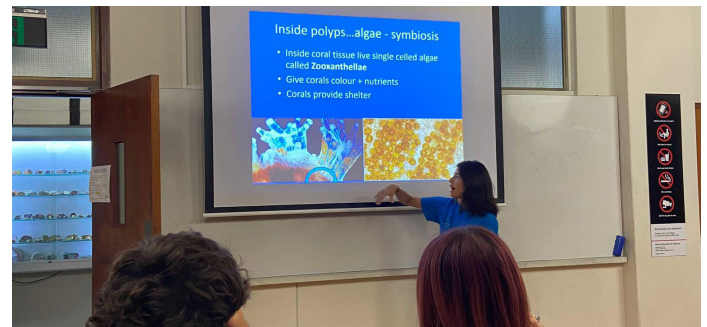
All in all, another great collab with EcoMarines, Lucinda is wonderful and great to work with and very organised and friendly and great with the students and adults. The students were delightful and engaged and very impressive. The venue was lovely and everything ran smoothly and there was a great opportunity for CoralWatch to connect with students and talk in meaningful ways about climate change and reef.

There did seem to be a slight disconnect with environmental messaging some of the mentors/guests who were representing different bodies who likely had other agendas in terms of energy production and fossil fuel usage - I believe they were event sponsors. However other mentors/guests had incredible resources and knowledge and skill to share that seemed very values aligned with CoralWatch, and I for one learned a lot from them, so that was great!

I think if possible in the future, CoralWatch has a great opportunity to expand and continue our relationship with EcoMarine and their events.

Participants: 40 students, 10 teachers

Bridget



GEMS CoralWatch workshop 8 October 2024, UQ

The Geography Environmental Management and Science Society hosted a coral watch workshop to inform first year environmental students about citizen science, the reef, and encourage them to engage with CoralWatch!

The one-on-one interactions and the prospects of it using it as a tool to engage with the public about the environment and gain experience on their field worked really well.

What did not go so well was the catering. The catering was dominos pizza with meat and the majority of students were vegetarian. I filed a complain to GEMS for it not to happen again. Specially in an event where we are encouraging people to contribute to climate mitigation.

Participants: 18

Pauline



CleanUp Toon Toon Creek

27 October 2024, Toon Toon Creek, Pialba, Hervey Bay

This event was created to be a small scale clean-up calling an "Elite Clean Up Crew." It was our goal to clean up Toon Toon Creek and surrounds beach and park, in order to stop debris from being flushed out into the ocean before the storm season.

The ticket system, although free, worked well as I think it encouraged people to honour their commitment. The flyers I made and where it was shared appeared to create engagement and encourage participation. Going through CleanUp Australia was helpful as the liability side was covered and they provided resources very fast for the event.

Asking local businesses to display posters was helpful in spreading the event to another demographic who may not have been on social media. The morning tea went really well.

It was difficult to organise for the council to come and collect the bagged rubbish as the waste department would not confirm. Volunteers showed up earlier than some, so it was difficult to man the stall/registrations and "entertain" the other volunteers whilst they waited for us to begin.

I want to keep conducting "elite" clean-ups (over 18s in not as accessible areas) and I would love to hold my bigger event which is family inclusive and has other eco group stalls! I'd like to involve more of the HB CoralWatch group as well. Thank you for encouraging me to pursue this. I literally could not do it without everyone's support!

Engagement: 19

Zarley, Sharon



Display at Milbi Festival

4 November 2024, Mon Repos

Milbi festival at Mon Repos officially launched the opening of the turtle season with first nation performances, entertainment and displays.

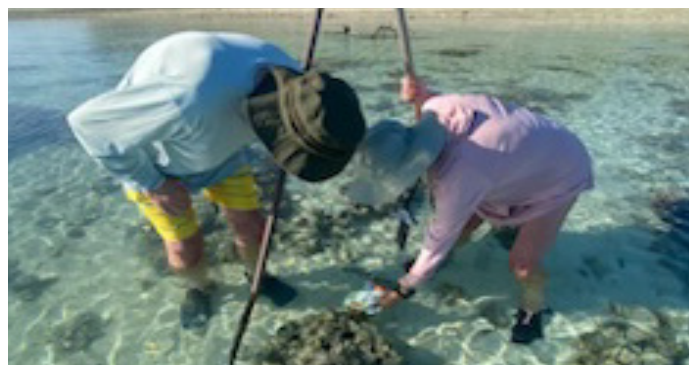
We arrived at around 9:00 am and headed over to the stall where we met up with Victoria and her two sons. There were a couple different schools there too, which were interesting to watch. In the morning we had around 100 visitors by lunchtime. I wandered the premises briefly, and painted a pin with Henry & James. Over all, it was a pleasant day despite the heat. We also saw a turtle mascot named Sandy.

People liked gathering paraphernalia from the stall. There were no challenges, everything worked really well.

Great to see that so many of our Youth Ambassadors were involved.

Engagement: 50 students, 50 teachers

Skye, Henry, James, Victoria, Hannah, Sapphire, Kerry, Geoff, Elijah, Jess, Jasper, Tanya



Reefwalks

4 November 2024, Heron Island

This reefwalk was for The Australian Geographic Travel guests on tour with me. The previous day I did the CW presentation with the same guest. It worked well to let them monitor in teams. I encouraged guests to use balance pole. Next day, Diana joined to speak with the whole group, while I entered data.

Engagement: 6

Susy

CoralWatch Data UPDATE

Between 11 June and 11 December 2024 (6 months), 1,297 CoralWatch surveys have been completed. Potential bleaching in the last 6 months has been recorded in many countries including Australia, Seychelles, Guam, Maldives, Thailand, Mexico, Indonesia. Check out [this view](#) in potential bleaching mode on our interactive datamap.

Highest contributing countries/number of surveys:

Australia (446), Indonesia (205), Honduras (197), Thailand (94), Taiwan (93), Seychelles (50)

Highest contributing groups/number of surveys:

Oceans2Earth (234), Utila Dive Centre (173), Gili Ecotrust (90), The Coral Tribe (70).



Clean Up Australia Great Spring Clean up 8 November 2024, Sandy Straits State School, Hervey Bay

A job well done to our Sustainability Squad Members who participated in our first ever collaborative clean up with Urangan State High School in honour of ReefClean and Clean Up Australia Great Spring Clean up last week. What makes this clean up extra special however, is that every bit of waste collected (right down to tiny microplastics), was not only sorted but was also be counted with the data collected then being entered onto the Australian Marine Debris Database for research purposes.

We wish to thank Zarley of Hervey Bay CoralWatch for not only participating in our clean up, but for delivering a truly informative talk about marine debris and microplastics to our students.

Participants: 30

Zarley and Sharon



Wonder of Science State Conference 16 November 2024, UQ

At the end of November, CoralWatch attended the 2024 Wonder of Science State Conference at the University of Queensland. The team was excited to run a workshop with over 80 students and teachers from across the state of Queensland. The students learned how to monitor coral health through the virtual reef activity and explored the various symbiotic relationships among animals found on the reef. The students also brainstormed creative ideas for protecting coral reefs and crafted personal pledges, each represented by a magnet they could take home to remind them of their commitment to reef conservation.

Participants: 80

Abby and Svetlina



Divers for Climate - Hervey Bay Film & Panel Event 29 November 2024, Regional Art Gallery, Hervey Bay

In addition to screening @theundertowmedia's film, we also heard from some amazing local legends about their own experiences navigating conversations about the ocean and climate change.

Bianca Sands @parentsforclimate_au

Ali Hammond @turtlesintroublefc

Breannah Mitchell @hervey_bay_coral_watch + a few stalls from local conservation orgs on the night!

What an amazing night in Hervey Bay!!!

Huge thanks to Hervey Bay Regional Gallery for hosting us in your sweet venue, Parents for Climate and Hervey Bay CoralWatch for being awesome co-hosts and inviting us, stallholders Turtles In Trouble Rescue Inc. and Wildlife Fraser Coast for sparking conversations, and of course our local legend panelists for sharing their own climate stories!

Thanks to all who came out to join the conversation. We love helping bring more climate stories to the surface through our events! People had open conversations about climate change. Thank you to everyone who came - communities coming together is what change is all about.

Participants: 40

Breannah, Sharon, Yolanda



CoralWatch events in Taiwan

CoralWatch Taiwan ambassadors have had a busy and successful month conducting survey training workshops, public education events, and collecting data with newly trained citizen scientists.



28 August 2024, Taiwan CoralWatch Ambassador Chang CW held a CoralWatch citizen science workshop which included classroom activities, diving and data entry.



4 November 2024: The NMMST volunteers had made a special CoralWatch display in the 2024 Taiwan Science Festival from 2 to 10 November, Keelung, ROC. There will be 2000 participants to have the chance learning CoralWatch.



| Date | location | activities | Engagement |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| 3 June | Keelung, Taiwan | Online TW Ambassador zoom meeting | 11 |
| 16 June | Kaohsiung, Taiwan | Taiwan CoralWatch ambassador CW Chang did CoralWatch public education display in the National Ocean Day Festival | 300 |
| 17 June | Kaoshiung, Taiwan | Prof. Liu present NKUST would promote public awareness of coral conservation by CoralWatch in the 2024 National Marine Talent Cultivation Forum -Taiwan Sea Grant Program | 80 |
| 19 June | DaGuang, Pingtung, Taiwan | Ambassadors Legend LC Lin and YH Lee lead tourists practiced CoralWatch night observation at the intertidal zone | 9 |
| 25 June | NanjenHu, Pingtung, Taiwan | Ambassadors Legend LC Lin and YH Lee lead tourists practiced CoralWatch observation at the intertidal zone | 5 |
| 25-28 June | Green Island, Taitung, Taiwan | Ambassador JR Pan held a CoralWatch workshop for National Taitung University (NTTU) | 26 |
| 30 June | DaGuang, Pingtung, Taiwan | Ambassadors Legend LC Lin and YH lee lead tourists practiced CoralWatch at the intertidal zone | 9 |
| 27-28 June | Taichung, Taiwan | Coral education materials was displayed at the TISCR (Taiwan International Symposium of Coral Reefs) | 120 |
| 29 June-1 July | Taipei, Taiwan | Coral conservation is displaying in the Special Exhibition of the Application of Marine Weather Forecasting for the anniversary of Bureau of Weather by NMMST staffs and volunteers. | 1600 |
| 2 July | HsioliuChiu, Kaoshiung, Taiwan | Local CoralWatch Volunteer HJ Chen lead children doing CoralWatch practices in SF harbor. | 8 |
| 10 July | Kaoshiung, Taiwan | CoralWatch Ambassador ChiaWei Chang held a CoralWatch workshop for CMAS. | 5 |
| 29 July | Chialoshu, Pingtung, Taiwan | Ambassador JR Pan held a CoralWatch workshop for local resort owner | 4 |
| 5 August | Henchun, Pingtung, Taiwan | Online TW Ambassador zoom meeting | 8 |
| 28 August | Wanlitung, Pingtung, Taiwan | Taiwan CoralWatch Ambassador Chang CW held a CoralWatch citizen science workshop | 12 |
| 2 to 10 Nov. | Keelung, Taiwan | The NMMST volunteers had made a special CoralWatch display in the 2024 Taiwan Science Festival | 1200 |
| 9 November | Kaohsiung, Taiwan | The NMMST volunteers had made a special CoralWatch display in the Budizen Book Festivals (Kaohsiung) | 400 |
| 10 Nov | Taipei Zoo Taiwan | CoralWatch Ambassador ChiaWei Chang participated community conservation projects by applying the CoralWatch. | 300 |
| TOTAL exposure: 4000 visitors to events / 97 participants in workshops | | | |



Interview with Jasper

28 August, Frasercoastfm107.5

interview with Jasper, who serves as a Youth Ambassador for Hervey Bay CoralWatch. Top stuff Jasper! Your work in helping to inspire young and not so young to think about the marine environment and our collective impacts is so very worthwhile. We are so very proud of you. (Comment Sharon)



Interview with Breannah and Zarley

5 August, Frasercoastfm107.5

We talked about corals in Hervey Bay and why they are so important. We feel very grateful to be interviewed by our Mayor George Seymour - Fraser Coast

Breannah, Zarley

Interview Primary Geography

26 October

interview for Primary Geography (the Geographical Association's journal for all Early Years and Primary teachers in the UK) Elijah got to talk about his role as the youngest ever CoralWatch Ambassador (interview was done before there were more youth ambassadors).

He also got to talk about his passion for wanting to protect the Great Barrier Reef, marine life and what others can do to get involved in protecting the Great Barrier Reef



Elijah's interview for the Weekender tv episode

26 September, filming on Lady Elliot Island Date on air - TBC

A fun day filming with Lee Carseldine and the channel 7 crew for an episode of Weekender on Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort.

Elijah knew that they were coming up to Bargara where they live to film with him BUT what he didn't know was that they were going to surprise him by flying him to Lady Elliot Island for the day to film. What an incredible surprise!

Huge thank you to producer Sammy for putting this amazing surprise together, to cameraman Jed, TV host Lee & Amy Gash for hosting us while we were on the island.



Elijah wins international Eco-Hero Award

16 October, Bundaberg now

Local environmental advocate Elijah Richardson has been awarded third place in the Action for Nature (AFN) International Young Eco-Hero Awards.

The 11 year old was honoured for his unwavering dedication to protecting the Great Barrier Reef and promoting ocean conservation, making him a beacon of inspiration for youth activism worldwide.

Growing up in Bundaberg, Elijah developed a deep connection with the ocean and its delicate ecosystems.

His passion for marine life, particularly the Great Barrier Reef, ignited a desire to protect these natural treasures from environmental threats.

Elijah's advocacy efforts are extensive and impactful.

[Read whole article](#)



Interview with Elijah

22 November, ABC Widebay Radio

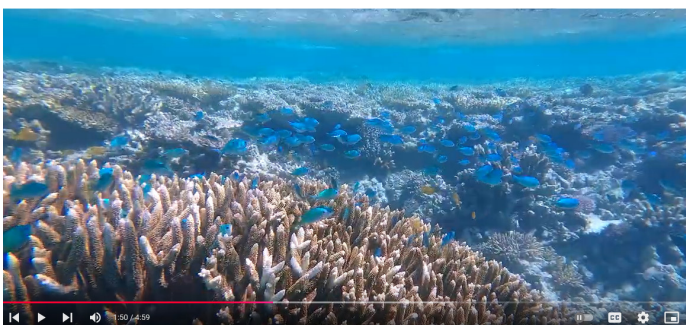
Elijah's recent interview with ABC Widebay Radio - Discussing the International Young Eco Hero Award award he received this year from Action For Nature and also talking about CoralWatch & Tangaroa Blue.



Video: A Coral is Born
Created by Nadine Schmoll
[View video](#)

One calm night when the oceans were clear and the tide was neither high nor low, the moon was full and all the corals of Coralville were getting ready for a big event... Discover a tale of coral spawning as Ellie the egg sets off into the Big Blue on the biggest adventure of her life. Fusing art, science and education, this animation short features hand drawn illustration, photography and underwater footage filmed on Heron Island, in the Great Barrier Reef. A Coral is Born is a collaboration by Wunderpeach, made up of New Zealand animator Tessie Liddell and Australian artist and educator Nadine Schmoll.

This short film about coral spawning recently won an award at the Hervey Bay Film Festival this year.



Documentary: We are Coral Reefs – the 5th mass coral bleaching event
Author: Marcin Kielar
[View video](#)

Sites: Heron Island Reef, Lady Musgrave Island Reef, Flynn, Milne and Hastings reefs (The Great Barrier Reef), and also: coral reefs in Maupity, Bora-Bora, Rangiroa and Fakarava (French Polynesia)

Time: 2022, 2023, 2024. Coral bleaching footage is from 2024.
Gear: GoPro 8 and GoPro 12
Render: Adobe Premiere Pro 2025

Music: "Saturn" by Sleeping At Last
We like to thank the singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Ryan O'Neal for the music track for this video.



Podcast - Classroom Dynamics

Youth Activism: How 11-Year-Old Elijah Richardson is Leading Ocean Conservation Efforts

In this special episode, we're taking a detour from the tech world and heading to the beautiful shores of Queensland, Australia, to meet 11-year-old environmentalist Elijah Richardson. Elijah's passion for protecting the planet, particularly the Great Barrier Reef, earned him 3rd place in the 2024 International Young Eco-Hero Awards. Featured in the documentary Trust Your Wild Side, Elijah is on a mission to raise awareness about ocean conservation.

Join us as we dive into Elijah's inspiring journey, from his love for the ocean to his incredible advocacy efforts. We'll discuss the importance of environmental education and how young voices, like Elijah's, are making a global impact in the fight to preserve our planet. This episode is a must-listen for educators looking to inspire their students with stories of youth-led conservation and the power of environmental activism. Tune in for an uplifting conversation that proves you're never too young to make a difference!

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4SNcvoueXyJdKnqxnI10C...>
<https://podcasts.apple.com/.../classroom.../id1700440389...>
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DCjKmbgxhm8/...](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DCjKmbgxhm8/)



Video: Coral Reefs: The rainforest of the sea

It's Coral Bleaching Awareness month! Thank you to Elijah's World and Action for Nature! [View video](#)

The Dying Reefs: Coral Bleaching & What We Can Do to Save Our Oceans, Leo's Animal Planet

Join the movement to protect our oceans and coral reefs! Subscribe for more videos on environmental conservation, marine life, and actionable ways to take care of our planet.



Future CoralWatch's office in France

Meet our man in CoralWatch's office in France, Marcin Kielar. It was no easy thing letting this Ambassador (friend) leave our close knit team here in Brisbane for his overseas post and we have done so on the proviso that he comes back. Congratulations my Australian, newly minted Professor and friend. Your shoes we won't fill, they simply await your return. You carry us all with you into your new adventures, and you go with our best wishes.



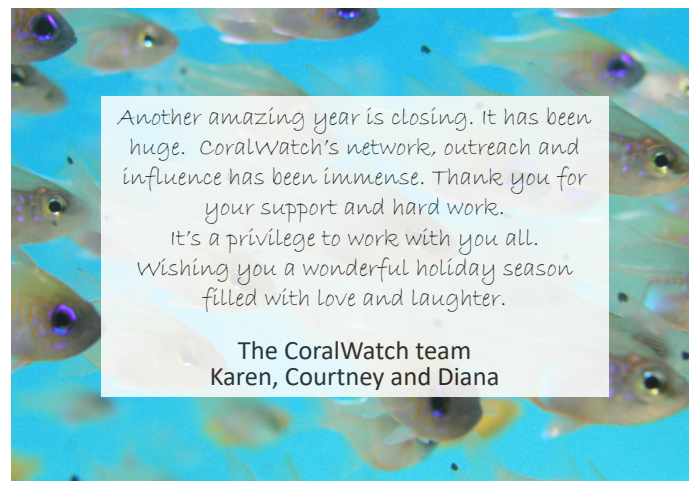
Special visitors Taiwan

Lishu and team from The National Museum of Marine Science & Technology in Taiwan, came for a visit to our office at UQ. So nice to see you Lishu and thanks for all your presents including a virtual reef for our next workshop in Taiwan!! Unfortunately it was a rainy day, umbrellas were needed to walk to the ferry and take the citycat to the Queensland museum together. Nice to show you around, see you again!!



Thanks Patricia!! on sabbatical from Switzerland

Just at the right time, in the middle of National Science week and many other events, Patricia came, keen to help with basically anything and everything!! And best of all, as a science teacher she helped developing new materials for marine science year 11 and 12! We love your enthusiasm and please spread the word in Switzerland.



CORALWATCH UPCOMING EVENTS SIGN-UP SHEET 2025

| DATE | EVENT plus organisers | LOCATION | ACTIVITIES | Ideal number of Ambassadors | Available |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 17 December | Sunnybank Hills OSHC visit | Sunnybank Hills State School | Presentation/Display with activities | 2-3 | Jack |
| 20-24 January 2025 | Ambassador Youth Workshop | Townsville | Presentations, snorkelling in pool and reef trip, CW activities incl. local event | | Bridget, Toni, Kerry, Elijah |
| 23 January 2025 | Expo for Queensland Children's Hospital School | Sommerville house, South Brisbane | Display with activities | 2 | Susy |
| 4 March | Teacher PD | Tangalooma, Moreton Bay | Presentation, data collection on snorkel, data entry | 1 | |
| 22-23 March 2025 | World Science Festival | Queensland Museum | Display with activities | 6 | Our events calendar can be found online, please add events and indicate your availability |
| 7-11 April 2025 | Ambassador Youth Workshop | Yeppoon | Presentations, snorkelling in pool and reef trip, CW activities incl. local event | | |

Monthly Ambassador Zoom Meetings Every last Monday of the month, 7-8PM

To catch up, hear about recent events, discuss upcoming events and open discussions about materials, support needed eg