



WA Coastal Conference Tours the Perth Metro Coast

The WA State Coastal Conference held 7-9 October provided the opportunity for local, interstate and international participants to experience the diversity of the Perth Metro Coast.

North Metro Tour

North Metro Coastcare Officer Kate Sputore, with Dr Robert Kay of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and "Dr Beach" Stephen Leatherman from The Hurricane Research Centre of Florida International University toured some of the northern metropolitan beaches, focusing discussions around foreshore vulnerability, climate change adaptability and building coastal resilience. Broad scale coastal processes and dynamics were looked at from a future planning perspective, with valuable



North Metro Tour participants at Waterman's Bay Beach

input from representatives of Department of Planning and various Local Governments.

At Waterman's Bay the increasing erosion and damage to existing infrastructure was discussed, along with possible protection measures for these fragile limestone cliffs. We also heard from the local community Coastcare group about the measures they are taking to improve stability and natural resilience of the area.

After viewing another Coastcare rehabilitation site at City Beach and discussing the impact and suitability of dune boardwalk structures, the tour stopped at North Cottesloe, where Dr Kay and Geoff Trigg of the Town of Cottesloe gave insight into the foreshore vulnerability assessment prepared for this area, and spoke on future studies that could assist with management of the coastline in the event of sea level rise or extreme storm events.

South Metro Tour

South Metro Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson, with assistance from Dr Tom Rose Cockburn Sound Management Council, David Mort, City of Rockingham and Barry McGuire PRNRM Indigenous Coastal and Marine Officer, toured a mix of sites that reflected the nature of the South Metro coast.

Erosion control methods implemented by City of Rockingham in Warnbo Sound following recent storm events were inspected. Nutrient stripping wetlands constructed by CSBP to successfully treat waste water prompted numerous comments on the importance of bio-remediation in an industrial setting. The Water Corporations Kwinana Water Reclamation Plant (KWRP)

At Kwinana Beach the offshore headlands constructed to control coastal erosion were viewed along with a walk and talk by Barry McGuire along Ngobaat Biddi the Coastal Sandhill Trail constructed with support from

BHP Billiton-Nickel West. Dreamtime stories on the creation of Garden Island and an explanation on how Aboriginal fishers called in dolphins to steer fish into stone fish traps were explained. The tour ended with a briefing by Andrew Trosic from the City of Cockburn on the Cockburn Coast urban renewal project.



South Metro Tour participants at Kwinana Beach

Garden Island Tour

The tour group enjoyed the opportunity to visit Garden Island, an A Class Reserve and maintenance facility of the Royal Australian Navy, an island on which flora and fauna have evolved in isolation from the mainland. These factors combine to create a range of coastal, heritage and natural resource management issues and challenges.

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KIC Coastal Photo Competition snaps the coast

The coastal environment in the Kwinana/Rockingham area has been captured by entrants in the 2009 KIC Coastal Photo Competition. Supported by the Kwinana Industries Council and coordinated by the South Metro Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson, the competition offers the opportunity for amateur photographers to enter their work and compete for prizes.

“Local people who enjoy the coast were delighted to be able to submit their entries and by including a Mobile Phone criteria anyone could take a snap and enter,” Craig said.

Winning photos have been displayed at festivals and events and often draw an appreciative crowd who are keen to see the many facets of the South Metro coastline.



Open Section winning entry by Leon Ebbelaar

Congratulations to Stirling Coastcare 2009 Coastal Awards Winners

Members of the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare group were delighted to be recognized at this year's WA Coastal Awards for Excellence by winning a special commendation in the Community Group Effort category.

The group was awarded a special commendation for the work they have carried out in the North Beach/Waterman's Bay coastal area, which has involved hundreds of volunteer hours being put in to weeding, planting, erosion control, rubbish collection and public education. The group has formed successful partnerships with the City of Stirling, corporate associations and local schools, and has shown a professional and innovative approach to achieving rehabilitation outcomes with limited resources and finance.

Volunteers from Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare can regularly be seen out working on the coast and are gaining strong support within the local community for their hard work and dedication to preserving the natural environment. They are currently seeking funding to continue their rehabilitation work and have put considerable effort into future planning for the conservation of these coastal areas.



Members of the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare group collect their award.

South Coogee Primary students paint the coast

Students from South Coogee Primary School, under the guidance of artist Angela Rossen and with support from Verve Energy, have captured the coastal environment of Woodman Point on a mural recently installed at their school.

South Metro Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson coordinated the project in association with teacher Steve Lushey and City Of Cockburn, Education and Environment Officer, Victoria Hartill.

Following a field day at Woodman Point where students sketched in-situ flora and fauna found on their nature rambles, in-class sessions refined the field sketches

then over a series of days painted the mural with support and advice from Angela.

“The mural project was a valuable lesson in combining art and environment, to involve students who have artistic talent and to kindle an appreciation of the

environment through sensory interaction,” Craig said.

A montage of the mural project was displayed at the WA State Coastal Conference and attracted attention from participants involved in environmental education.



South Coogee Primary School's coastal mural

Up coming Events in 2009

13 November: Clean the Beach Challenge, Leighton Beach North Fremantle, Contact Kate Sputore
14 November: Coastal Plants Workshop, Cottesloe, Contact Kate Sputore or Craig Wilson

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Protecting the dunes from off road vehicles

Damage to the dunes from off road vehicles at Challenger Beach, Kwinana is expected to be reduced following the installation of gates on the two beach access tracks.

The project was initiated by Town of Kwinana Ranger, Brad Wilkinson and South Metro Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson with support from Alcoa. "Beach users in 4WD vehicles and trail bikes were damaging the coastal vegetation, lighting fires and littering the beach with glass," Brad said.

"Installation of the gates will restrict illegal vehicle entry and is expected to lead to lower levels of litter as we come into the summer holiday season", he said.

The coastal reserve, a part of the Beelir Regional Park, has good quality vegetation and supports a range of native animals including bandicoots. Recent community planting activities by members of the Naval Base Shacks Association and Alcoa staff resulted in over 500 coastal seedlings added to the reserve to strengthen biodiversity values and improve its aesthetic amenity for beach users.

Town of Kwinana Ranger Brad Wilkinson inspects the gate at Challenger Beach (right)

2nd Clean the Beach Challenge

The Clean the Beach Community Program was developed to create community awareness of the fragility of our coastline and to educate our youth in the importance of maintaining the health and cleanliness of our beaches for future generations to enjoy.

The event has been coordinated via a partnership between Waves Surfwear, Coastcare, Surf Lifesaving WA and the Department of Education and Training, with sponsorship from local surf labels. The first challenge was held at Trigg Beach in May 2009 and involved over 60 students from 5 metropolitan high schools. Coastcare volunteers took part in the day and provided students with insight into coastal rehabilitation and the actions all individuals can take toward improving the stability and resilience of our coastal environments. The event was a great success and resulted in over 30 bags of rubbish being collected from Trigg and surrounds.

The next challenge is to be held at Leighton Beach, North Fremantle on the 13th of November.



Rubbish collected by Clean the Beach students