

## **Coordinator's Report to the Capricorn Coast Conservation Council Committee February 2021**

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### **Headline news**

- Rockhampton Regional Council Mayoral by-election survey. It wouldn't have happened without our volunteer Alison Frahm coming on board, and the help and advice of Tarquin, CAFNEC, NQCC, MCC and QCC. The feedback from our social media audience and CCC members was very positive. Tony Williams did not respond to the survey but was elected Mayor. Interestingly, Russell Claus and Chris Hooper were the runner-up and third placed candidates and both had strong environmental credentials. I like to think that this means that the environment is important to the Rockhampton community.
- Marine monitoring program. After a concerted effort by previous coordinators Michael and Sherie, and the Capricorn Coast LMAC, the inshore marine monitoring buoys are to be reinstated in Keppel Bay. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation kindly approached CCC and provided the opportunity to be involved in the media release associated with the reinstatement of the program.
- I now have a few embroidered uniform shirts. There was a \$50 cost to set up the logo, but it is now ready to go and any embroidery will now be \$12 per logo.

### **Project updates**

This update section includes projects that CCC has an interest in and there is something to report.

#### Climate change symposium

This is a fast-moving project with lots to report on. It will be an agenda item for the meeting so I'll just dot point some of the achievements or highlights so far:

- Climate change symposium steering committee has been formed and is very active
- Trustees of the public donations fund approved funding up to \$5000 for the symposium
- ACF will contribute \$5000 towards the symposium
- QCC will contribute \$1000, the travel costs of the renewable energy transition speaker, and may possibly assist with further funds
- Venue at CQU is confirmed and kindly provided free of charge
- Date claimer has been sent out to stakeholders (lots of enquiries coming in)
- A draft program developed
- Speakers have been contacted and invited to present

There is still a long way to go, but it is coming together very nicely so far.

#### Platypus watch

John McCabe, Steve Elson, Cheryl Greene and I had a meeting to kick start the platypus watch project here in CQ. We all have some homework to do before we reconvene and take the project to the next step.

My role for now is to invite some key people to form a steering committee (WPSQ, CCC, ACF, FBA, RRC and three community volunteers) and hunt up more background information from WPSQ head office.

We will be moving a bit slowly on this project as my focus will be on the climate change symposium for a while, but we will keep moving forward on it.

### Citizen Science Fungi Project –a project funded by RRC.

As reported last month, most of the funding has been spent on equipment, but the citizen science roll out of the project has yet to commence. Time is running out to involve the community in collecting fungi as the wet season is nearing its end. The project then involves four community workshops on:

- How DNA works
- What is DNA barcoding and how does it help us identify different species?
- How environmental DNA can be used to track endangered species, and
- How citizen-scientists can use DNA technology.

The outcome, as per the approved application, is to gather new scientific knowledge of the fungi species of the Rockhampton region and incorporate this knowledge into scientific databases which will enable increased land management capacity. There are also other administrative requirements which need to be achieved and haven't yet been started.

This is Sherie's project, but we know that she has significant commitments to her Honours project and family during the first half of this year and will have limited time to follow up on this project work.

I am seeking the committee's approval to step in and help Sherie get the project started so we can make the most of any rain events we might get. Sherie will provide whatever help she can in getting this project going, but she can't take a lead role just yet. I don't have the DNA knowledge to run the workshops or teach the use of the equipment, so we will really need Sherie to step in once her Honours is completed. Help from the management committee and self-sufficient volunteers would be fantastic!

### **Meetings**

Climate Change Symposium Steering Committee. We had our inaugural meeting to get things moving on the symposium planning. After this formal meeting, there have been many progress phone meetings and email correspondence.

Platypus Watch meeting. Covered above under projects.

ACF. Regular meetings about the climate change symposium

CAFNEC – introduction meeting and chance to share ideas and information. This stemmed from the mayor candidate survey where I sought advice from other regional conservation groups.

QCC. I had a phone meeting with the new Director, Dave Copeman and their Climate and Energy Campaigner, Claire Fryer, in relation to climate change symposium. Key outcome is the need to plan the next steps post-symposium to keep momentum and enthusiasm of participants.

WPSQ Upper Dawson. Jo Wearing is wanting help to put together a submission on the new standard conditions for cropping in the GBR catchment.

### **Issues**

I haven't had a chance to chase up a new printer for the office. I am using my home one mostly, but it is challenging too not have a printer on the days that I am in the office. My quick look at colour laser printers indicated we could get one for about \$600, but it was unclear on whether that included cartridges (which are really expensive). I will get back to the printers at some stage.

I think I have already conveyed this issue in an email to the committee members, but will mention it here too. The Hut is very uncomfortable for day time meetings in this warmer weather and no fig tree for shade. I have held two meetings there in the last month and the temperature was uncomfortably hot both times. It is fine when it is just me or if a volunteer is with me as we can mostly work in the airconditioned office, but I will need to find alternative day time meeting rooms for the next few months.

### **Other meetings attended by a CCC representative**

Port of Rockhampton Sustainable Sediment Management Project Forum. Michael McCabe represented CCC. Michael will provide outcomes of these meetings after the third meeting has been held – expected to be in the next few weeks.

### **Activities**

Consultation session on the draft standard conditions for new cropping in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The office of the GBR is working on new standard conditions which will apply to all new horticultural activities within the GBR catchment. The idea is to better manage sediment and nutrient entering waterways. Submissions have been invited and are due by 17 February 2021. I have some concerns with the standard conditions as they are very focussed on sediment and nutrient management and there maybe perverse outcomes for biodiversity. Worth a brief chat at our meeting to see if the committee is interested in making a submission.

WordPress learning. I am a slow learner when it comes to techno stuff. I did manage to get the results from the RRC mayoral candidates onto the CCC webpage and now feel a bit more confident in adding new stuff to the 'news' section. But there is so much I would really like to do (and Ian is keen to have our home page picture replaced), but it is very time consuming – particularly when I am still learning. I mentioned in my last report, so again, we do need to discuss the website and what we want it to be doing for us.

### **Policy and position statements**

I've made a start in developing templates for working up information into policy documents or position statements. The policy documents are generally for internal CCC use to provide the framework, or set of 'rules' for our operations in line with the constitution. The position statements are more like a 'Fact sheet' on a topic but with the added extra of providing CCC's position (thinking) on the topic. You'll see one of the draft policy documents during the January meeting 'Quiet Achiever' award agenda item.

## Media

As mentioned in the highlights, CCC provided input into the GBRF media release in relation to the reinstallation of the inshore monitoring bores. There may be further opportunities to contribute to further media coverage in the next week.

In the social media space, we have published twelve new posts on Facebook since the last meeting thanks to #Tom being active in contributing to the CCC site. Topics posted and the feedback:

Subject	Reach	Engagement		
		Click	React	Share
# Nature NSW share – impacts of coal mining on wetlands	49	3	2	-
Rockhampton mayor candidate survey results	209	32	29	5
Global climate report	118	0	7	-
# Rising sea levels	68	2	2	-
Clive Palmer's new coal mine news story	72	4	4	-
Pandanus dieback	110	8	7	1
Twiggy Forrest's renewable promotion	122	3	18	1
# Climate Council – cost of climate inaction	38	3	0	-
# Wetlands and storm damage	81	2	7	-
International Wetland Day coming up	613	11	43	6
Global wetland outlook	73	0	4	-
Rockhampton Mayor results	58	3	8	

# Posts on CCC site by Tom Sjolund

CCC Facebook site statistics (as at 4 February 2021):

Likes 766 (up 9 from previous month)

Followers 776 (up 8 from previous month)

### Commitments for next month

Climate change symposium steering committee meeting

Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee

Livingstone Shire Council's Environment and Regulatory Task Force

Platypus watch steering committee

That's all for this report.

Coral Rowston

CCC Coordinator