Coastcare members now qualified Reef Check volunteers

Cooloola Coastcare volunteers joined a Reef Check Australia expedition and learnt all about our unique reefs in the Great Sandy Strait. Read more on page 18.
An exciting month to volunteer!

LAST MONTH GAVE some unique opportunities to explore different ecosystems of our beautiful coast. First we hopped on a catamaran and tagged along with Reef Check Australia up the Sandy Strait for a closer look at the reefs in this area.

Using old maps as far back as twenty years we were able to confirm or deny the existence of different reefs along the strait, as well as marking new ones along the way.

Reef Check’s enthusiasm and passion for the environment was infectious and you found yourself getting just as excited as them to spot soft coral amidst the sand.

The most exciting find was along the strait where two volunteers found a long unmarked reef drop off full of life.

Next in the month Cooloola CoastCare drove up to Boonooroo to monitor the quantity and health of seaweed growing in the area. Seagrass is an important food source for marine life big and small including dugongs, sea turtles and sea urchins.

If you want to get involved or have any questions please check out: www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au

Free local plants!

FREE LOCAL PLANTS are available at Cooloola City Farm on your latest rates notice, so come and join us on the farm. City Farm will be open for the Garage Trail Sale on October 22 from 8am-1pm, with lots for sale, so please drop in.

Mulching is the best way to help your plants through summer. Some of its many benefits are: it helps retain moisture, replenishes potassium and nitrogen in sandy soils, decays and provides humus which improves the soil, and reduces weed growth.

Keep mulch away from the stem to avoid fungal and other diseases. A good time to mulch is after rain. If your mulching is successful, fertilising should not be required, but if you do fertilise, use an organic fertiliser specifically for natives.

Lastly, encourage deep roots by watering minimally from the beginning. Deep roots will enable the plants to survive on less water.

City Farm is open to the public for plant sales on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am-3pm.

Plant of the month is Melaleuca pachyphilla (Wallum bottlebrush) - a shrub to 2.1 metres, flowering right now in its green or red form.

Image: Mary Boyle

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CAFÉ
- OPEN 7 DAYS 7am - 6pm Mon - Fri
- 7am - 1pm Sat, 7am - 2pm Sun

RESTAURANT
- LUNCH 11am - 2pm Mon - Sat
- DINNER 6pm - late, Thurs - Sat