



## Coastal Education Officer Makes a Splash

Sharon Munro, Perth Region NRM's new Coastal Education Officer, recently presented at the Australian Association for Environmental Education professional development day "Catchments, Corridors and Coasts".

Sharon explained the importance of dunes and native vegetation along the coast line and the best management practices for dune rehabilitation.

Participants were then asked to build a sandcastle with different protection from the water: one group was to use nothing, another used a man-made sea wall, and another just a sand pile with no vegetation, another with vegetation, and finally one with rocks. Each barrier was then put to the test by Sharon and her destructive bucket of water – and then by Mother Nature herself!

The Coastal Education Officer is funded through Coastwest and Caring for Our Country, and will be developing coastal education activities with schools and other educational institutions, helping to establish the Adopt-a-Beach program and facilitating in-class and on-ground coastal educational activities.

Sharon has excellent Coastcare credentials, is a natural teacher and Perth Region NRM is thrilled to welcome her to our team!



Figure 1 Mother Nature helps to test the barriers to the sandcastles!

# Coastcare Art at Medina Primary School

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, a class from Medina Primary School teamed up with Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson, Coastal Education Officer Sharon Munro, and local artist Angela Rossen to create a coastal mural for their school.

The day started with students learning about the wonderful creatures that can be found along Perth's coastline, visually aided by Ms. Rossen's spectacular photographs and artwork. The class was then taken on a guided excursion to iconic Kwinana Beach where they were encouraged to draw

the animals, shells, and vegetation that captured their imaginations.

On returning to school, students researched what they had seen that morning along with other creatures and features found along Perth's coastline. They each sketched their

favourite coastal discovery to later be transferred onto the wall mural. Ms. Rossen first painted a delightfully realistic background of Kwinana Beach on the wall, to which students then added their chosen coastal animal, shell, or plant.

The final result is a bright and educational feature wall decorating the front of the school for students, teachers, and visitors to enjoy.

**If you would like information regarding the Coastcare program please contact Craig Wilson on 9439 0433.**

Photo: Medina Primary School coastal mural



Big Help Mob in action

## Coastcare and Big Help Mob

On Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare were fortunate to attract the mass volunteer work force that is Big Help Mob to the dunes of Brighton Beach.

Big Help Mob is a youth volunteer organisation that activates hundreds of young people across Perth to get involved in community and non-profit activities. They were keen to get their hands dirty and get involved in the conservation of our beautiful beaches, and we were keen to get their help!

Over 60 volunteers came from all across Perth for the day, joined by a few Conservation Volunteer helpers and the dedicated team of Stirling Natural Environment Coastcarers. After a brief lesson in 'friend or foe'

(weeds vs natives) and a couple of warm up games the volunteers got stuck into the removal of weeds from the dunes with impressive enthusiasm. Brighton Beach has been subject to little rehabilitation activity apart from weed removal – the dunes contain some good quality native vegetation so to free these from the invasive species such as tetragonia, pelargonium, trachyandra and euphorbia will have a positive effect on the area and allow for natural regeneration of the coastal native species.

By the end of the day the Big Help Mob volunteers had removed several huge piles of weeds from the dunes and were newfound experts in coastal plant identification.

It was a fantastic day for all involved and Coastcare is really appreciative of the Big Help Mob for recognising the need to conserve our coastal natural areas and supporting local community groups – they are welcome back anytime!

# Environmental Educators Educating Educators

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, the Department of Fisheries in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Transport, Western Australian Museum, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Ocean Reef Senior High School, Perth Region NRM Coastcare, and Rottnest Island held the Seaweed Educators' Expo 2012. This year, the theme was Marine Debris and educators came from all over the state to participate in the interactive workshops and presentations.

Perth Region NRM Coastcare set up a display in the main foyer area showcasing the types of conservation events they run each year and information about what sort of educational opportunities are available for schools, members of the community, government agencies, and businesses. The Coastal

Education Officer, Sharon Munro, also ran a workshop on Hillarys Beach where participants were given a quick informational talk about the detrimental effect rubbish has on coastal plants and animals before being asked to collect rubbish from the beach.



The Rottneest Island team and their hillbilly blue-ringed octopus.

After the participants had collected rubbish, they were then asked to split into teams and build sand art on the beach, using the rubbish they had collected to decorate their artwork. The team from Rottnest Island made a fantastic hillbilly blue-ringed octopus from fragments of blue plastic they'd found in the sand.

The Teachers Team – consisting of teachers from three different Perth based schools – decided to use one of their group members in building their lovely beach mermaid, decorating her sand tail with pieces of shiny foil collected earlier.

After the fun of the sand art, a discussion was held about what kinds of rubbish are found on the beach, where it may have originated from, how long certain types of rubbish can take to break down in the coastal and marine environments, and how to help prevent rubbish from littering Perth's coastline.



The Teachers Team and their mermaid tail.

**For more information on this event or environmental education opportunities offered by the Perth Region NRM Coastcare Team please contact Sharon Munro on 9374 3313.**

## Beachcombers at Bathers Beach

Students from Fremantle Primary School gathered at Bathers Beach for their Adopt a Beach Explorer excursion. Students spent the morning combing the beach for interesting plants and animals.

Along with natural wonders including Ram's horn shells, Velvet sponge weed, seagrass fibre balls, Globefish and cuttlebones students learnt about the importance of dune plants such as Spinifex and how it helps to reduce erosion. Marine debris including rope and old fishing lures were collected so Coastcare Officer Craig Wilson and Coastal Education Officer Sharon Munro highlighted the importance of not disposing litter that may entangle wildlife.

Students also discovered an Albatross that had washed ashore so a discussion took place on the importance of removing plastic from the worlds oceans.



# UWA Student's and Cottesloe Coastcare Join Forces

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, residents from the University of Western Australia's Trinity College joined with volunteers from the Cottesloe Coastcare Association and Coastcare Officers Kate Sputore and Sharon Munro to carry out rehabilitation works at Vlamingh Memorial in Cottesloe.



Plants being watered by volunteers from UWA's Trinity College.



Volunteers from UWA's Trinity College share a well earned drink with Cottesloe Coastcare representatives.

The university students liberated native plants, which were planted 2010 and 2011, from their outgrown protective sleeves, giving them more room to develop and continue growing. Plants were then given water to help them survive through the hot summer months.

The Trinity College crew also helped to clear the rehabilitation site of weeds and rubbish. This event was a great opportunity for the university students to discover what kinds of volunteer activities are available around the Perth metro area and to get an idea of the type of work they could be doing in future years should they pursue a career in environmental care. It gave the students and volunteers a chance to socialise and share knowledge and experience, especially during refreshment breaks.

**For more information on this event, or if you would like to hear about upcoming coastcare volunteer opportunities, please contact Kate Sputore on 9285 5099.**

## Upcoming Coastcare Events

### North Metro Coastcare

#### Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum

- Sun 29 April, Warren Way Mullaloo, 3 pm
- Sat 5 May, Mullaloo foreshore near Surfclub, 3pm
- Sat 12 May, Mullaloo foreshore, Westview Carpark, 9am
- Sun 13 May, Mullaloo foreshore, Key West path, 3pm  
Contact Sharon 0422224849
- Sat 19 May, Mullaloo foreshore, Korella path, 9am
- Sun 20 May, Mullaloo, Warren Way, 3pm
- Sat 26 May, Mullaloo, Key West path planting 9am Contact Sharon 0422224849
- Sun 27 May, Iluka foreshore carpark planting 2.30pm,  
Contact Marjorie 0404267995
- Sun 3 June, Mullaloo, south of Korella path planting, 2pm,
- Sat 23 June, Mullaloo, south of Warren Way path planting, 2pm Contact Sharon 0422224849,
- Sun 1 July, Mullaloo Westview Carpark planting, 2pm,
- Wed 4 July, Mullaloo, Key West path planting, 9am Contact Sharon 0422224849

### Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare

Coastal planting activities will commence in June on Monday to Thursday mornings. For more information contact Rae Kolb on 0419 191 710

### Cottesloe Coastcare

Will commence monthly sessions on Sunday May 6 from 9 to 11am. For more details contact [www.cottesloecoastcare.org](http://www.cottesloecoastcare.org)

### South Metro Coastcare

#### Planting events

- 2 June Kwinana Beach, Kwinana
- 9 June Leighton Beach Fremantle
- 16 June Singleton Beach, Rockingham
- 23 June Coogee Beach, Cockburn

**For details contact Craig Wilson**