

## Legacies: Wetland Communities for the Future

WetlandCare Australia's Coastal 20 project delivered lasting outcomes by engaging, educating and building the capacity of the community and developing ongoing partnerships for wetland management including:

- Educating and engaging the community in the ecological and cultural values and management of wetland environments;
- Increasing the knowledge and capacity of land managers and community volunteers to sustainably manage wetlands into the future;
- Building enduring relationships between state and local governments, community organisations, Indigenous groups, land managers and volunteers; and
- Improving the skills and stewardship goals of the community in wetland conservation through providing ongoing opportunities to participate in on-ground activities.



## Thank you to all our Partners and Supporters

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# Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement



Strategic community engagement plays a vital role in wetland conservation on eastern Australia's populated coastline. Improving community awareness of wetland values and threats and building the skills and capacity of community groups, Indigenous groups, land managers, schools and volunteers encourages and enables them to play an important role in local wetland management.



## Coastal 20 Strategies to Connect the Community

The Coastal 20 project provided awareness raising and participatory activities in wetland management to build the skills and capacity of the community. We did this by:

- Engaging community in on-ground wetland management activities;
- Promoting wetland values and increasing the knowledge and capacity of the community in wetland monitoring and management;
- Maximising opportunities for Indigenous participation in natural and cultural resource management;
- Supporting state governments, local councils and regional bodies to engage the community; and
- Providing information through websites, networks, signage, field days, publications and information sessions.



## Case Study 1: Working together to protect cultural and ecological values at Myora Springs, Queensland

Myora Springs, on Stradbroke Island, adjoins coastal rainforest and mangrove communities, is a popular recreational and educational resource and a site of cultural significance to the Quandamooka people. WetlandCare Australia worked with Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and SEQ Catchments to protect this unique ecosystem and promote its values to the wider community. Outcomes included:

- Enhanced the experience for visitors through construction of a walkway and viewing platform and design and installation of environmental and cultural interpretive signage;
- Rehabilitation of erosion damage and manage public access to protect ecologically and culturally significant areas;
- Worked with community partners and volunteers to undertake weed control and revegetation over 1 hectare to restore habitat and cultural values; and
- Hosted community events including shorebird monitoring workshops and marine debris clean-ups.



## Coastal 20 Community Engagement Outcomes

### ACHIEVED

Engaged **75 community groups** and over **4300 individuals** in coastal wetland management



### ACHIEVED

Assisted **216 farmers and fishers** to improve their capacity in wetland management and biodiversity conservation



### ACHIEVED

Supported participation of **10 Indigenous groups** in natural and cultural resource management



### ACHIEVED

Provided opportunities for over **560 community volunteers** to participate in on-ground wetland restoration



## Case Study 2: Community wetland watch for Hays Inlet

Hays Inlet contains significant estuarine wetlands and is a declared fish habitat area and part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site. WetlandCare Australia partnered with Redcliffe Environmental Forum, MangroveWatch and Moreton Bay Regional Council to train community volunteers in ecological monitoring of this important wetland. Outcomes included:

- Partner in the Hays Inlet Festival, a week of interactive activities celebrating the people, places and environment of the catchment;
- Designed and implemented a saltmarsh monitoring methodology, including vegetation, fish, water quality and macroinvertebrate assessments;
- Deliver training in saltmarsh ecology and monitoring to community volunteers; and
- Develop an online learning module and training package in saltmarsh ecology and monitoring.

