

# The Creek to Coral Echo

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## Welcome to the first edition of the Creek to Coral Echo!

We are pleased and excited to introduce you to Creek to Coral's new communication tool: the Creek to Coral Echo. This informative bimonthly newsletter will keep you updated on total water cycle management and environmental programs and initiatives around Townsville, Thuringowa and beyond.

The 'Echo' will be a conduit of water and sustainability information to a wide audience across the twin cities providing relevant information through the Science Scene and Community sections. If you have any information that you would like to have included in upcoming Echo's, please forward this to [Donald.mackenzie@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:Donald.mackenzie@townsville.qld.gov.au).

## What is Creek to Coral?

Creek to Coral is a communication network and branding which serves a coordinating role for total cycle water management in the Townsville and Thuringowa local government regions. It promotes a "whole of catchment" perspective to link impacts from land-based activities on the marine environment. Creek to Coral is managed by Townsville City Council, Thuringowa City Council and the Environmental Protection Agency.



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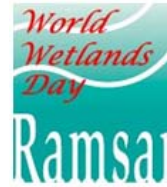
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Big Wet-Lower Marabou-January 2007  
(Photo: George Baker)



## Events

27 February - *Business Clean Up Day*

Friday 2 March 2007- *Schools Clean Up Day*

Sunday 4 March- *Clean up Australia Day*

Clean up Australia Day is the biggest annual environmental campaign in Australia. This is your chance to get involved in a fun, easy and communal activity!

Sunday 4 March 2007

**Better Earth Expo**

See article on page 4

4-10 March 2007

**National Sea Week**



Sea week a national campaign organised by the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA). Its aim is to raise public awareness on marine issues and encourage appreciation of the sea. The theme for this year is "Marine bycatch matters". Creek to Coral will organise a range of community activities to celebrate Sea week.

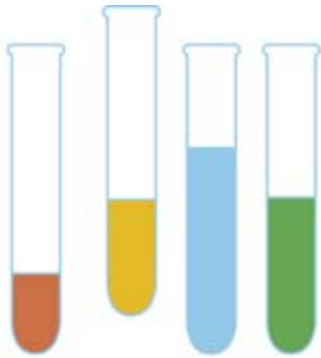
14-22 April 2007

**National Youth Week**

National Youth Week (NYW) is Australia's largest celebration of young people. If you're aged 12-25, you can showcase your talent organise an environmental event!



A combined Townsville/Thuringowa and State Government (infrastructure-based) initiative to maintain and enhance our healthy waterways in the coastal dry tropics.



## Science Scene

### Rowes Bay Metropolis unearthed *by Melanie Wood*

Rowes Bay is an intertidal area located near Kissing Point at the end of Pallarenda. It is a collection of habitats each with different communities and infrastructure that are connected in various simple and complex ways to form a diverse metropolis. In conjunction with Townsville City Council, Environmental Management Services and James Cook University I have been photographing and cataloguing an astounding assortment of flora and fauna found in this ecosystem. With this information we are working to develop signage, an online database and an online walkthrough to promote awareness of the importance and beauty that is Rowes Bay. Some of the amazing organisms which may be observed include sea stars, tube worms, anemones, seaweed and gastropods, including the nudibranch, *Dendrodoris denisoni* (pictured above left).

### Links + Facts

- Rowes Bay is the host of an estimated thousand species
- Rowes Bay intertidal flora and fauna have adapted to survive in this harsh environment
- When low tides occur at night many macro-invertebrates leave their hiding places to graze on algae
- Rowes Bay has changed significantly since human development began in the area

### Not Shark poo!!

*Many people mistake this strange thing for "shark poo". This is actually egg masses containing the larvae of moon snails (pictured above right). They have chemical properties which protect the developing young from bacteria, ultra-violet rays and exposure to the elements.*

For more information of Rowes Bay please visit <http://www.soe-townsville.org/rowesbay/index.html>



## Projects

### Coastal Catchment Initiative

The Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI) is a Commonwealth Government funded program aimed at achieving targeted reductions in pollution discharges to coastal water quality 'hot spots'. Hot spots are broadly defined as coastal waters of high conservation value threatened by pollution, and where there is a strong jurisdictional commitment and capacity to improve water quality. The Great Barrier Reef Catchment is considered to be one hot spot.

The CCI supports the development and implementation of Water Quality Improvement Plans in accordance with the Australian Government Framework for Marine and Estuarine Water Quality Protection.

Creek to Coral is managing the Townsville and Thuringowa component of CCI, which includes the development of a Coastal Catchments Initiative Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Townsville and Thuringowa sub-catchments, the area covered by the C2C initiative.



For more information on CCI please visit <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/cci/>

# Community-Based Education & Involvement (CBEI)

## Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) News

CVA would like to welcome two new recruits to the CVA team – Mick Brady and Adam King. Mick and Adam will be replacing Greg Willcox in his role as Community Waterways Education Officer. Greg will be staying with CVA in an operational role managing all CVA Townsville programmes.

Mick Brady will be co-ordinating Townsville and Thuringowa's Creekwatch Groups. Currently there are 6 groups – Louisa Creekwatch, Mundy Creekwatch, Sacs Creekwatch, Bluewater Creekwatch, Bohle Creekwatch and Ross River Network.

Mick has experience in environmental management, bush restoration and working with community groups. He looks forward to expanding the Creekwatch programme as it is an opportunity to promote community involvement in creek management. Creekwatch activities include water quality testing, fish and macroinvertebrate surveys, and creek rehabilitation. Data collected by Creekwatch will be utilised by Townsville City Council, and Creek to Coral for waterway health assessment, and future management decisions. The Creekwatch programme is supported by Townsville City Council.

Adam King is the new Coastal Education Officer. He has experience in Marine Biology, Tropical Geography and Tourism. In his new role he will be assisting Townsville-Thuringowa Seagrass-Watch, a community-based intertidal seagrass monitoring programme established by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. This role is supported by Burdekin Dry Tropics Board.

Adam will also be working with Townsville City Council on Total Water Cycle Management and Environmental Education Programmes in local schools. The programme is about bringing the environment to the class room through interactive talks, activities and field trips, to enhance student's experience of Townsville's catchment and environment. This programme is supported by Townsville City Council Citiworks, Citiwater, and NQ Water.

If you would like to be involved please contact Conservation Volunteers Australia on 4721-4077.

## What is Community-Based Education Involvement (CBEI)?

CBEI is a Townsville City Council initiative to transform water management culture and paradigms through enhanced community participation in environmental activities. The vision is for communities to have ongoing, long-term ownership of local environments and habitats. Creek to Coral is facilitating CBEI across Townsville and Thuringowa regions.

## Reef Check News

Reef Check Australia is looking forward to our 6th year of successful operations monitoring the Great Barrier Reef. Our mission is to directly involve the Australian community in coral reef conservation, monitoring and management, whereby our trained volunteer scuba divers collect data on reef health. The significance of our work has been recognised by the Australian government, and Townsville City Council is a strong supporter of our Magnetic Island monitoring project. We run training courses in Townsville and Cairns, and are always recruiting new coral reef surveyors. If you would like to know more please see [www.reefcheckaustralia.org](http://www.reefcheckaustralia.org) or call 4724 3950

You make a difference



## SCHOOL NOTES



Primary and Secondary Schools around Townsville have once again showed their commitment to environment conservation and education. Seven High Schools have participated to the successful Urban Nature-Youth Ecotourism Forum held as part of the 2006 International Ecotourism Forum last November. The interactive Forum showcased keynote speakers from around the world and included an international link with schools from around the world thanks and included an international link with young people from Brazil, France and South Africa. The outcomes of the Forum including the development of a Youth Ecotourism Charter were presented by two students at the final plenary session of the Ecotourism Conference.

Primary schools were involved in an "Art in School Ecotourism Puzzle Map", which culminated in the design of pieces of 3-dimensional artworks, reflecting the environment and wildlife of the schools' local areas. The artwork was launched during the Ecotourism Conference and exhibited at Perc Tucker Gallery during the month of November. For more information about these events please visit [www.soe-townsville.org/ecotourism](http://www.soe-townsville.org/ecotourism)







## Thuringowa hosts region's first environmental expo

The first-ever Thuringowa Better Earth Expo is scheduled to take place at Riverway on Sunday, March 4, 2007. This event will be a first for the region and will showcase the environmental industry, service providers and environmental groups from throughout North Queensland.

The Better Earth Expo will showcase Thuringowa's popular annual environmental events and include a trade display and business expo, guest speakers, presentations and entertainment for all the family.



Activities include:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Tilapia Fishing Competition on the Ross River;
- Thuringowa Tree Day activities – we will be giving away 10,000 native plants on the day;
- Clean up Australia Day – including a free sausage sizzle for everyone registered and involved in Clean Up Australia Day;
- A guided, informative boat cruise on the Ross River;
- Guided flora and fauna walks along the bank of the Ross River;
- 'Envirocrafts' activities – sustainable craft activities for the whole family (check out [www.envirocraft.com.au](http://www.envirocraft.com.au));
- Environmental business and services expo – see the latest and greatest in environmental products and innovation;
- Recycled art competition;
- Pest plant awareness and activities; and
- Entertainment, amusements and workshops.

Sponsors of the event include Thuringowa Waste, the Community Environment Fund, Parkside Development, Creek to Coral and the Burdekin Dry Tropics. Bring the family along to see the region's first showcase environmental event and help Thuringowa City Council to make a 'Better Earth'.

For further information and a full program, visit [www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au](http://www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au) or phone 4773 8411

### Contact

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## Creek to Coral Coordinator Connects

By DJ MacKenzie



I am exceptionally pleased to welcome you to the very first issue of the Creek to Coral newsletter – The Creek to Coral Echo.

Since its launch in 2003, Creek to Coral has been involved in many exciting projects and initiatives developing and evolving the concepts of total water cycle management in the Coastal Dry Tropics integrating community, government, science, business and industry.

2007 promises to be another productive and exciting year for Creek to Coral with the Coastal Catchments Initiative and the development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan a major priority. In addition and complimentary to this, the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Program and supporting TCC and CoT with their Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plans will be critical tasks for the coming year as well as developing and facilitating key community based education and involvement opportunities. The Thuringowa Better Earth Expo and National Sea Week are the upcoming community events that C2C will be supporting.

In April, we are planning to officially launch the Coastal Catchments Initiative project as well as connecting 'live' the revised Creek to Coral web portal. The web site will provide a comprehensive "one-stop shop" for local total water cycle management information, mapping and links. Stay tuned!

The Creek to Coral Echo is also interested in receiving articles, contacts and relevant catchment/coastal/marine information so that we can post it on the website and in the Echo – send articles/information to [donald.mackenzie@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:donald.mackenzie@townsville.qld.gov.au)

I am looking forward to the year ahead and actively working towards the vision of Creek to Coral - Enhancing our healthy waterways!

Photographs: Cover | TCC | Internal spreads: Macroinvertebrates- Melanie Wood | Townsville vista-TCC-EMS | Student speech- Tristram Denyer | Artwork-TCC | Wetlands-TCC-PR | C2C Coordinator-Fran MacKenzie