



MangroveWatch

Newsletter No. 5 March 2011



Rhizophora stylosa (Photo by C Pfizner)

Welcome fellow MangroveWatchers!

This issue includes some important words from Simon Baltais on page 2.

Be sure to check out the tide times on the back page, and make contact with your fellow MangroveWatch crew members and book a kit.

Thank you to everyone who is volunteering their time to take part in the program, your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon

Happy Mangrove-Watching,

Nick



March is Mangrove-Watch Monitoring time. Now is the time to:

- Make contact with your fellow MangroveWatch crew members. Contact Chris if you don't have their details.
- Check the tides on the back page and book your monitoring kit.
- Pass on this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in volunteering for the program.
- Please photograph anything unusual on your monitoring visit with the camera provided.

NOTE: Photos taken on the monitoring camera may be used for promotional purposes. Please contact Nick if you don't wish your photo to be used.

- If you come across injured, stranded or dead marine animals, please call 1300 130 372 to report.
- Pick up kits from QPWS office
34 Trafalgar St, Manly, via Fairlead Cr. **Bookings essential.**

CONTACTS:

Nick Hoffmann

Coordinator, MangroveWatch

c/- QPWS Manly

Nick.Hoffmann@derm.qld.gov.au

Simon Baltais

Secretary

WPSQ-Bayside Branch

simonbaltais@wildlife.org.au

Ewa Meyer

Projects Manager WPSQ

ewameyer@wildlife.org.au

After the flood

A taskforce of scientists from a range of organisations in the fields of marine ecology, remote sensing, modelling, water quality monitoring, geomorphology and hydrology are out in Moreton Bay to answer two big questions:

What is the initial impact on the waterways & Moreton Bay?

How long will it take for Moreton Bay to recover?

Seagrass-Watch and Mangrove-Watch will be playing their roles in helping answer these questions. Therefore, we believe it's very important that as many of our sites as possible are monitored during the up and coming monitoring season.

Worldwide seagrass meadows are responsible for about 15% of total carbon storage in the ocean*. An enormous contribution of great value natural systems.

With over 80 monitoring sites across Moreton Bay and the Gold Coast, Seagrass-Watch and Mangrove-Watch are well placed to help understand what is going on in the bay after the floods.

The flood has also raised many questions about how we best manage our urban and rural catchments and creates opportunities to design for greater resilience to future rainfall events.

However, we do know that:

- There are likely to be human health implications regarding recreational use of waterways and fishing.
- Flood waters will increase turbidity (or the amount of sediment/soil) in our waterways and Moreton Bay
- Large plumes of soil will move into mangrove areas and Moreton Bay. In time these deposits will settle and may smother seagrass and corals. Dugongs, turtles, birds and other marine life dependant on seagrass as a food source could be at risk
- The elevated nutrient levels carried in flood waters could lead to outbreaks of algae after the waters clear of suspended sediments
- Slumps in dissolved oxygen levels, as a result of increased organic matter that decomposes, could result in localised fish kills.

Moreton Bay has been put under severe stress from recent flooding events. We need to know what is going on to help make the right management decisions to bring it back to a healthy state.

For all these reasons your help this monitoring season will be one of the most valuable to date. We look forward to seeing you on the mudflats and helping the scientists answer those questions.

Simon Baltais

*http://www.marineclimatechange.com/marineclimatechange/bluecarbon_2_files/carbon_managment_report_final_printed_version_1.pdf



What did you see? What do you know? What do you think?

Please send in mangrove related interesting things you come across out in the mud or behind your mouse for inclusion in the MGW newsletter.

Did you know? A teaspoon of mud from a north Queensland mangrove forest contains more than 10 billion bacteria. These densities are among the highest to be found in marine mud anywhere. This indicates the immensely high productivity of this coastal forest habitat.
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/factsfigures/FloraAndFauna/Flora/mangroves.html> (accessed 7/03/2011)

The Water Mouse (*Xeromys myoides*) lives in small populations above the high tide line. It is nocturnal and is rarely seen. In south-east Queensland, the animal's mangrove and coastal wetland habitat has been extensively cleared and redeveloped. The Water Mouse is now classified as a species vulnerable to extinction



Water Mouse attacks a Red-fingered Marsh Crab claw. Photo: Bruce Cowell, www.qm.qld.gov.au/microsites/mangrove/prey.asp (7/03/2011)

For something different, take a look at the example below of mangrove inspired art. Do you recognise the shape? <http://www.uapstudio.com/assets/Uploads/Art-Projects/Mackay-Bluewater-Quay/MangrovePod.jpg> (accessed online 7/03/2011)



Here is a clue:
Photo by C. Pfizner



Good Tides...

MangroveWatch Surveys

MangroveWatch surveys are undertaken three times a year. The **March/April 2011** monitoring period is upon us and there is a limited number of good tide times - see tide times opposite (Brisbane Bar). Those who have been trained and have sites established should select a suitable day and contact Nick, your MW Co-ordinator, by email to book out the equipment.

Please give plenty of notice (at least a week).



Photo by C.Pfizner

Thank you

Thankyou to all volunteers for generously giving their time to this valuable community monitoring program.

Compiled by: Nick Hoffmann
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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Queensland Government or Wildlife Queensland.



Month	Day	Time/height in metres
March	Tue 1	1408/0.61
	Wed 2	1447/0.55
	Thu 3	1521/0.51
	Fri 4	1551/0.49
	Sat 5	1618/0.46
	Wed 16	1320/0.59
	Thu 17	1411/0.45
	Fri 18	1457/0.34
	Sat 19	1539/0.26
	Sun 20	1618/0.21
	Fri 25	0813/0.73
	Tue 29	1245/0.68
	Wed 30	1329/0.60
	Thu 31	1406/0.54
April	Fri 1	1439/0.49
	Sat 2	1509/0.45
	Sun 3	1538/0.42
	Mon 4	1606/0.41
	Wed 13	1141/0.64
	Thu 14	1241/0.51
	Fri 15	1333/0.39
	Sat 16	1420/0.29
	Sun 17	1503/0.23
	Mon 18	1544/0.21
	Sat 23	0800/0.69
	Tue 26	1101/0.73
	Wed 27	1153/0.67
	Thu 28	1238/0.59
Fri 29	1317/0.52	
Sat 30	1353/0.47	
May	Sun 1	1427/0.43
	Mon 2	1458/0.40
	Tue 3	1530/0.39
	Wed 4	1602/0.40

Take care with a turning tide late in the day, and ensure you have sufficient time to complete your monitoring