

Yeppoon Main Beach

Community Action and Partnerships

Yeppoon demonstrated that a very strong relationship had been developed with all sectors of the local media. A 10 minute Live interview was held with ABC Radio Morning Show. ABC Radio News and Prime TV News also provided primetime coverage of the National KABC Clean Beaches Award judging. Good newspaper coverage with photos were printed by The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and the local community paper Capricorn Coast Mirror. This coverage reflects an expectation by the media that the community has a strong interest in the Awards and the condition of their beaches.

Both the Keppel Bay Sailing Club and the Yeppoon Main Beach SLS Club are actively involved in partnerships with the Rockhampton Regional Council. Similarly strong partnerships were in place with the former Yeppoon Council.

Excellent partnerships have been realised between a number of community groups and Council – at both officer and elected representative level. Almost all groups were represented among the 60 guests at a semi-formal lunch that was used to provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to speak to the judge. The function also served to promote the success of Yeppoon Main Beach in being a state finalist and to thank all those involved. Numerous representatives of partnership organisations took the opportunity to talk about their activities.

There is a cooperative, mutually beneficial partnership with the local Indigenous people. A local Darumbal elder welcomed the judge and during subsequent conversation it became clear that she considered her involvement was as an equal leadership role as applied to other organisations. This was a quite different role from that identified during other visits where there appears to be cooperative separation of roles and activities.

Other community organisations that work actively in partnership with the Council include:

- Capricorn Coast Tourist Information Centre
- Shell World – a museum that presents an important part of the Yeppoon coastal heritage
- Local schools
- VERBL – a youth support and care organisation
- BeachCare group and individuals who prefer to work by themselves
- Friends of the Beach
- Remnant Vegetation Study Group
- Council Community Nursery
- Capricorn Coast Historical Society
- Waru Permaculture Grounds
- Landcare / Envirolink
- Community Development Centre

Judging involved visits to and / or conversations with enthusiastic representatives of all these organisations except the schools which were on vacation. It is recommended to KAB that wherever possible judging occurs during school terms to enable young people and their teachers to be recognised and available to present their activities.

There is a very active and strong partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GRMPA). GRMPA provides technical support and other resources. An officer of GRMPA is stationed in Yeppoon. No litter observed on beach or roads

'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

The Council has installed gross litter and sediment traps to reduce sediment and litter flowing into stormwater drains. It was observed that current development sites do not match the Council's actions with sediment barriers on site. It may be worthwhile to ensure developers contribute to sediment control on site. This will help avoid the potential impact on the creeks, beach and marine life Yeppoon's beaches.

Numerous bins are provided in the foreshore park and visitor facilities in an effort to prevent littering. Bins are clearly signed with 'Don't Rubbish Yeppoon' and other signs.

Local Government staff collect litter as they work in the parks and gardens and have a programmed litter collection at least once a week. Litter is also picked up by volunteers taking a walk.

Resource Recovery & Waste Management

Excellent seed collection and nursery program with 50% of nursery product supplied free. Increasing use of the hardy indigenous plants from the nursery by Main Roads Qld for nature strip dividers and screening supports this resource recovery initiative.

The Waru Permaculture grounds are used to teach children about organic gardening and bush tucker harvesting. The gardening is coupled with mathematics and language curriculum through plant bed layout and other activities.

The Nursery houses a refrigerated seed bank. Seeds have been sent to the International Seed Bank in Norway to ensure plants can be recovered in the event of a major catastrophe removing original species. The Nursery also conducts well designed research programs.

There is a large number of bins which are generally well placed along the foreshore. Public Place Recycling could be looked at by pairing with designated recycling bins – at least for major events such as the Australia Day Beach party.

State government bans on the use of some types of nets have allowed a strong recovery to occur in the local turtle populations. These are recovering as major tourist attractions.

Environmental Innovation and Protection

Species selection and indigenous plant propagation by the nursery help to ensure plantings enhance dune stabilisation and expansion. Yeppoon effectively uses exotics as well as Spinifex grass.

Gross pollutant traps reduce sediment loads to the beach and also reduce the energy of stormwater outlet flows. Devices to reduce this energy further and redesign of beach outlets could assist with beach stabilisation.

Weed management program involves both individual and groups of volunteers weeding and replanting.

Concrete barriers along the foreshore above / behind rock walls are designed to allow wash over by high tides. The walls reduce energy and help ensure the rock retaining walls are not undermined

Large bat colony (>1000 bats) is protected as natural and as a tourist attraction. The accompanying nutrient load and tree damage considered natural and rehabilitation occurs as a natural process when the colony moves to another site. There is ongoing debate as to the potential risks to humans associated with the bat population in the middle of a major urban community.

Seed collection is properly stored and samples provided to international repository in Norway.

Crocodiles are protected and signage warns of possible presence in Ross Creek – swimmers beware!

The Community Nursery conducts well designed weed and plant propagation research. The nursery has developed an innovative automated sprinkler system based on increased leaf weight from moisture deposition.

Trawling practices have been changed by the state government to reduce turtle mortality

Water Conservation

The Waru Permaculture site owners promote garden layouts that effectively use moisture eg high spiral garden beds with plants needing water at top and dryer plants towards bottom where have to rely on what is left over.

Recycled water from the Sewage Treatment Plant is used for parks and gardens

Knee operated taps have been fitted to wash basins in the toilet facilities to reduce water wastage. The Community Nursery utilises an efficient water management system to minimise water use.

Energy Innovation

Bikeways have been constructed along the beach front as part of an initiative to encourage reduced reliance on cars. The Rockhampton Regional Council has also signed up to the Cities for Climate Protection Program.

Heritage & Culture

The Capricorn Coast Historical Society have produced two books about Yeppoon. The Yeppoon Main Beach features prominently in these histories through photographs and text-anecdotal and recorded.

The SLSC has some historic photos of previous officials and champions displayed but there are inadequate display facilities available.

A traditional nippers program and life saving activities are run by the club.

The great Australia Day Picnic and other traditional events are held through the year on Main Beach.

A focus on Bush Tucker helps the 'Indigenous Mob' and the 'Harmony Working Group' share cultures to achieve better understanding and preserve both cultures.

Young Legends

Local Schools are involved in weed management and green care on the local beaches.

Schools were on vacation during the judge's visit so schools could not present their young legends and promote their very strong involvement in Main Beach. RCC has appointed a Coastal Officer to assist schools with their curricula. The GRMPA also runs a 'Reef Guardian' program that effectively engages and educates local youth.