

South Port Noarlunga

City Of Onkaparinga

Adelaide

South Australia

Community Action & Partnerships

Demonstrably high involvement by state government, local government, SLSC and the wider community as part of an efficient team working for the local beach environment and community. There were very obvious close personal relationships between the leaders of each group without any apparent disharmony. They all seemed to have a high level common goal and were focussed on achieving beneficial outcomes for the community and environment. It is noteworthy that the strong interpersonal relationships between all sectors of the team – paid and volunteer – across all age groups.

Most groups arranged for one or more of its members to meet with and discuss their activities and projects with the judge. The South Port Noarlunga SLSC took responsibility for organising and making the Clean Beach submission. The club is actively involved in Surf Life Saving Australia's ECO Surf program for juniors.

The seniors (some over 80) who led us up 30 m high dunes to show the dune restoration and weed management activities were hard to keep up with. They could not be stopped from bending over and weeding as they walked and talked in the rain. They hold in their heads a lot of local flora and dune knowledge – much of which is currently being digitised for use by others in the future.

The presence and involvement of officers from at least two state government departments and their knowledge of, and support for, the local community activities was a highlight. The judge was able to meet with state govt rep on beaches - Natural Resources and Marine Environment Departments. SA Education Department's Aquatics program operates at the foreshore of Port Noarlunga, South Port Beach and the Onkaparinga River and estuary.

Christie's Beach High School has been involved for the last five years with revegetation and rubbish removal activities within the South Port dunes.

A local contractor is providing work for some local youth. He is ensuring they acquire useful skills in erecting dune fences to prevent sand boarding. The mutually beneficial partnership between local government and the contractor and workers is very cost-effective and productive.

A local restaurant owner is leading a *Bin your Butt* campaign in the local commercial area. He is extremely enthusiastic and keen to do his bit for the local environment.

Partnership with the local print media is strong with a keen photographer working in the rain to obtain photos of all the partners present at the judging.

'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

No litter observed and no significant quantity of cigarette butts anywhere in beach community / shopping centre and associated parks and gardens. Very passionate prevention program by a local restaurateur with numerous signs, smoking bins and strong involvement with 'butt-it' collector program.

Rubbish bins are provided at SLSC and more placed during events. These bins and contents are moved by club members the 600 m back to the road for collection by the council.

Community walkers carry bags to pick up litter during their daily walking programs.

Resource Recovery & Waste Management

The SLSC is actively promoting recycling by providing colour coded recycling bins inside the club and at beach entrances. Bins numbers are increased at SLSC for events. This is linked with the kerbside collection of recyclables provided by LG.

Despite some instances of loss of visual amenity, old dune fences – timber and wire- have been left in place as additional barrier to limit access, protect vegetation and enhance dune recovery. The cost and damage associated with removal is also avoided.

Seeds of indigenous species are collected for the propagation and dune planting.

A survey of youth undertaken by the SLSC indicated that Recycling was their major focus for environmental protection. This reflects current community, government and environmental organisation focus on recycling including kerbside collections. Perhaps similar well-funded education programs could reduce wasteful consumption and littering.

This type of survey is an excellent initiative that could be used to direct future education programs. For example, eg sand boarding by young people could be targeted as dune protection was well down the list – despite it being of critical importance if the beach is to be preserved.

Environmental Innovation & Protection

Southport SLSC is a national beacon club to encourage surf clubs to take up environmental initiatives. The club is one of first clubs in Australia to have a nominated environmental officer.

The Coastal Action Plan is comprehensive and reasonably detailed actions are identified. This plan covers activities such as:

- protection for Hooded plovers that nest on beach;
- removal of exotic weed threat;
- seed collection and replanting of plants that help hold dunes;
- replanting of indigenous species; and
- reduction of site specific wind erosion, drift movement and blowout areas.

A Dune Management Plan is also being followed.

As the only ecologically intact estuary in SA, the Onkaparinga river estuary is a focus of attention. Some additional planning for potential climate change impacts and stream changes could be worthwhile as the dunes could be under threat from both sides.

Witton Bluff instability audit has been completed and remediation work commenced.

The 600 metre boardwalk provides access to SLSC and reduces footprint on dunes and vegetation

Good sediment control practices in place in the local area . Further monitoring and development is being undertaken to minimise wash off from building sites – though some housing sites inadequately protected. This action will protect the estuary and its contiguous beach.

The marine environment between the beach and natural reef has been declared part of the Aquatic Reserve as a protection measure for the reef and beach.

The collection and assessment of reliable data followed by effective planning and action is recognised by local authorities, SLSC and other community partners as pivotal to enhanced environmental protection. This approach is highly commended.

Water Conservation

The SLSC has undertaken a water audit and implemented its recommendations. These include:

- low volume shower heads and dual flush toilets;
- use of buckets and sponges for cleaning boats instead of hoses; and
- funding application to City Of Onkaparinga for funding to install rainwater tanks adjacent to the clubhouse.

The City of Onkaparinga's *'Water Proofing the South'* is aiming to reclaim water and harvest stormwater. This has already commenced with sediment control measures and water catchments being constructed near new developments to collect water and trap sediment. The sediment trapping is particularly important to reduce impacts on the reef in the Aquatic Reserve.

Energy Innovation

The South Port SLSC has partnered with Balance Carbon to undertake a desktop audit with the goal of reducing the club's carbon footprint. Energy reduction initiatives to date include:

- Partnership with City Of Onkaparinga to provide matching funds for club to install solar tubes.
- Solar powered lighting along boardwalk
- Installation of energy efficient globes in club house
- Plans to use renewable energy sources (wind and solar) to power event announcement systems

Heritage & Culture

Very strong SLSC tradition with 50th anniversary in 2009. Club is strongly competitive locally and nationally and continues a very strong juniors program.

Historical records and photos of former club officers and surfers are proudly displayed along the walls of the Clubhouse. Local aboriginal elders work with the City to protect sites of cultural significance in the South Port Dune area. This consultation continues during any dune works programs.

The Club partners with a local arts group to host a beach and surf art exhibition '*Sensational South Port*' to raise community awareness of the cultural and recreational importance of the local coast and marine environment. The SLSC also assisted the local Warraparinga people with the removal and transport of a canoe tree. The Club also hosted a number of aboriginal children from remote areas as part of Surf Life Saving SA's CALD learn to swim program.

Young Legends

Two Christie' Beach High school student leaders from 2009 (on holiday) and 2010 were very impressive in terms of involvement in beach care activities and other programs. They demonstrated strong commitment and leadership with excellent communication skills that left little doubt that the future was in strong hands. They were very knowledgeable and able to answer some rather difficult questions put to them.

A large group of young people are working and learning with local business man to build fences along the river side of the dunes to help prevent sand boarding over the dunes. They acquire skills to undertake general beach protection work – and hopefully gain future employment.

A young, professionally competent and knowledgeable Environmental Projects Officer with the City of Onkaparinga demonstrated her total commitment to the protection and enhancement of the beach and environment. She showed an ability to engage in effective working partnerships with state government officers, her own local government colleagues from different departments and South Port SLSC and volunteers. Notably, she is also a passionate, very active volunteer outside working hours. A young legend indeed with an ability to communicate and lead effectively and work with volunteers and professionals at all levels.