



Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc.

Keeping our seas clean!

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September Newsletter 2014

Welcome to our September newsletter for 2014.

Welcome to Eco Barge's third newsletter for 2014. The weather has remained quite difficult throughout the dry season, however, we have still been able to undertake ten marine debris removal trips since the start of June. We have also had numerous turtles in care, with August generally being the busiest time for the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre.

LATEST ECO BARGE NEWS

We firstly need to give a big thank you to the **Cruise Whitsundays Airlie Beach Running Festival** and **Body Mind Spirit Expo** for their incredibly generous donations! This money will assist directly with the running of the Whitsunday Marine Debris Removal Program and the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre.

Specsavers Cannonvale have also chosen Eco Barge as their newest local charity. We were supported over the weekend of the 26th and 27th of July through their 'Super Weekend', with \$5 being donated to Eco Barge for every sight test completed over the weekend. Customers will also have the option of donating \$1 to Eco Barge for every pair of glasses purchased until December.

We cannot thank each of these local businesses enough for their amazing support!

WHITSUNDAY MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM

Eleven marine debris removal trips have been undertaken since the middle of June, with five of these trips being possible through retained funding from our project with **Everyone's Environment Grants**. Two trips were thanks to our partnership with the **Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing**, our STARFISH sponsor **Reef Catchments** and the final two thanks to our Partner **BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal (BMC)**

32 marine debris removal trips have therefore been run for the year, with a total of **7,793.75 kilograms of marine debris** being removed from the Whitsunday region so far in 2014.

WHITSUNDAY TURTLE RESCUE CENTRE

We have sadly had eight turtles in care since our last newsletter, not including the beautiful adult green turtle **Delilah** that was released on the 13th of June but unfortunately rescued again on the 17th of July. Her condition was obviously much worse than her first time in care, so she has now been taken to Reef HQ in



Townsville to undergo further analysis and treatment.

The other rescued turtles have include eight green turtles and one hawksbill turtle: **Talep** was rescued on the 10th of June from Midge Point, but unfortunately died from a spirorchid in the brain after five days in care; **Buddy** was rescued on the 4th of July near Hayman Island with a severe laceration across the top of his head, and after being transferred to Reef HQ the sad decision was made for him to be euthanized; **Shute** was rescued at Shute Harbour on the 12th of July but was incredibly sick and passed away after just a few hours in care; **Kankama** was rescued near Hayman Island on the 26th of July suffering from float and is still receiving care; **Touché** (the hawksbill turtle) was rescued in Mackay on the 9th of August with a contracted lung and is still receiving care; **Ross** was found at Abel Point Marina of the 11th of August also floating and is still receiving care; **Bubble** was rescued from Conway Beach on 31st August with float, **Bunny** was rescued from Mandalay Point on 4th September also suffering from float and **Turts** was rescued from Grassy Island on the 12th. Turts is showing signs of being healthy and we will release Turts soon.

If you do ever see an injured or distressed marine turtle on land or at sea please **phone the RSCPA Qld stranding hotline on 1300 ANIMAL (264 625)** and the details will be passed onto Eco Barge so that their trained team can respond.

MACKAY COASTAL CLEAN UP

The Mackay Coastal Clean Up is an initiative of Eco Barge and the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) Hay Point Coal Terminal Expansion Stage 3 (HPX3) project, designed to bring people together to improve the condition of the ocean and beaches of the Mackay region. Preparations are now underway for the **FIFTH Clean Up** to be held on the weekend of **18 and 19 October 2014**. This Mackay Coastal Clean Up will be targeting the following ten beaches between Dudgeon Point and Cape Hillsborough (with the southern beaches in Sarina being the focus of the next Clean Up in May 2015).

- **Shoal Point**
Adopted by EIMEO ROAD STATE SCHOOL and CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA
- **Dolphins Head**
Adopted by ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA MACKAY DIVISON GROUP
- **Blacks Beach**
Adopted by MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL and MACKAY NORTHERN BEACHES STATE HIGH SCHOOL
- **Lamberts Beach**
Adopted by DIG-IT! LANDSCAPES
- **North Harbour Beach**
Adopted by AURECON
- **Harbour Beach**
Adopted by GHD
- **Town Beach**
Adopted by REEF CATCHMENTS
- **Far Beach**
Adopted by PIONEER CATCHMENT AND LANDCARE GROUP
- **Dudgeon Point**
Adopted by NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS
- **Cape Hillsborough**
Adopted by QUEENSLAND PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Clean Up will take place on each of the beaches between



9am and 11:30am and will be followed by a thank you barbeque from 12 noon. The previous four events have been responsible for removing a total of **15,978 kilograms from beaches in Mackay and Sarina**. To continue this success we need as many **volunteers** as possible, so please go to www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au to register your interest in getting involved!

OTHER PROJECTS IN BRIEF

Education (particularly for our children) is a vital component in our fight against marine debris, as well as in our efforts to raise awareness for the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre. **School visits and community group presentations** are incredibly successful at getting people of all ages engaged and excited to help – armed with all the knowledge they need to do so! We would like to thank the local schools and learning centres that have already invited us to spread the word about Eco Barge and its programs and initiatives. If you are interested in organising a visit or presentation please email Emma at admin@ecobargecleanseas.org.au



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MARINE DEBRIS REMOVED FROM THE
WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS SINCE JULY 2009

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AMOUNT

114,288 kilos

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