



Cambridge Coastcare Chair's Report 2021

For the year from November 2020 to October 2021

Cambridge Coastcare has continued to enhance the natural environment along the coastline of the Town of Cambridge and to raise awareness in the community of the need to value our natural coastal environment.

Before planting got underway this year, we did **five (5) days of hard yakka - fencing, adding wind-break material and matting**, from October last year to May this year. The fencing not only deters public access but also builds up wind-blown sand along the dune frontage with the aim to help stabilise the dunes that suffer erosion with winter storms.

Eight (8) planting days were organised over the winter months:

- commencing on 13th June at Floreat northern dunes (CMB12) to coincide with World Environment Day and the 'Make A difference Week' organised by global Society for Ecological Restoration
- In July we held 2 planting sessions at the base of Floreat SLSC
- In August, we moved to City Beach for plantings at Fred Burton Drive, Clancy's and Challenger Pde

In all, we planted 2,700 native seedlings of 15 different species.

Winter storms – we had several winter storms from June to August with further severe erosion of the northern Floreat dunes. Some of our 'erosion control' fencing was swept away with concern for where the displaced steel pickets may ultimately end up.

We had the courage to try these experimental methods and we've learnt some valuable lessons.

After discussion with the Town of Cambridge, it has been decided in future years to avoid activities in the area of the high-water mark for two reasons:

- Impacts of surges and storms, which are beyond our control, will remove or displace restoration, and
- It is beyond our competency skills to be involved in eco-engineering solutions.

We will instead focus on areas beyond the high water mark, where our impacts are enduring, within our technical competency and provide the greatest conservation benefits through biodiversity enhancement.

Community engagement

We continue to update the Cambridge Coastcare website and Facebook page with photos and activities – with both sites regularly attracting 'visits' and 'likes' from community members.



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Our new local Members of Parliament – Federal member Ms Celia Hammond and State MLA, Ms Christine Tonkin, accepted our invitations and spent considerable time reviewing Cambridge Coastcare projects and how our grant funds are spent.

Project grant funding – two submissions granted Coastwest funding for 2021-22

- Floreat 'helicopter' car park dune restoration (submitted by John Campbell) and
- Improving coastal dune monitoring - Phase 2 (submitted by Meg Anklesaria)

Major milestone: Since the 1st project in 2000, this makes a grand total of 25 projects funded by our sponsors for a total of \$458,222 across the Town of Cambridge coastline.

I would sincerely like to thank the many people and organisations who contribute to Cambridge Coastcare achieving its objectives, especially:

- **Town of Cambridge for their continuing administrative, technical, operational and financial support.**
 - in 2021, the fabulous coastal viewing platform at path CMB12 was built along with robust new fencing along the CMB12 coastal path.
 - the Town's CHRMAP recommendations to manage coastal erosion are anticipated to be finalised in 2022.
- **Cambridge Coastcare committee and the many members and volunteers for their enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing the biodiversity of the dunes. THANKYOU**

There is one Committee member, I'd like to specially acknowledge – John Campbell's contribution in leading and supporting countless planting days and programs, over the past 10+ years with indefatigable energy and good humour. There's not much of the 5 kms of Cambridge coastline that has not benefited from John's organisation of planting days. A special thankyou from all of us.

- **Kate Sputore from Perth NRM** who provides corporate volunteers and joins us with her young family on so many of our planting days
- **Our major financial sponsor – Department of Planning Lands & Heritage, Coastwest program**

Looking ahead – your committee will soon be planning for 2022. Thank you for your contribution to 2021, and we look forward to seeing you "on the dunes" in 2022.

Meg Anklesaria, Chair Cambridge Coastcare, October 2021.