

Cambridge Coastcare – Chair’s Report for 2023

Hello and a warm welcome to you all for our Coastcare AGM, 26 Feb 2024. This is the first AGM held early in the new year to allow us to report on the full twelve months of activities in the previous year.

Most of you will know our fabulous Committee members for 2023 - Anna, David, Erin, Ivo, Jo, Keith, Kingsley, Lionel, Peter and myself.

I would like to mention our special thanks to our members & volunteers - for your support, your energy and your good humour throughout the year – as we look back on the achievements during 2023.

From Jan to Dec, our activities included :

- Attaching windbreak material to fencing to help protect plants near Floreat Kiosk
- Removing plant covers (after about 9 months the plant covers have protected our seedlings through the worst of the summer months)
- Weeding, matting, mulching, planting and some hand watering
- Monitoring plant survival rates
- Beach cleanups

For those of whom like to hear the stats:

- 630 hours on the dunes
- 34 rolls of matting staked to the Floreat dunes
- ~ 6,000 plants in the ground – with plant covers & fertiliser tablets
- Plant survival
 - 80% if watered in 1st & 2nd summers after planting
 - Up to 60% without watering

Not bad when you remember that this is done by volunteers, mostly on weekends, when they have other commitments/distractions on their time !

We do all this because we love and appreciate our amazing natural coastline and want to help conserve it – for biodiversity enhancement, for aesthetics, for asset protection eg from sand movement, and to mitigate against coastal erosion.

Our other stakeholders who support and assist us:

- Our fellow Coastcare neighbours at Cottesloe, Stirling and Joondalup – all active on their stretch of coastline and we gain so much when we share knowledge together
- Town of Cambridge – with A/CEO Kelton Hincks, and Andrew Head and Karen Schmidt from the Natural Areas group. For the 1st time significant sand nourishment was done on a section of the Floreat dunes (smoothing out the dune slopes which made it more possible for us to matt & plant) . We rely on Andrew and Karen to plan, budget and arrange watering, provide some ~1200 plants .
- Coastwest – for significant support and funding
- Floreat Surf Life Saving Club – John King, Cathy McIntyre and Ros Blair who work with us on the dunes, ensure the shed is maintained well and make their wonderful upstairs function rooms available for our Christmas function with monthly use of the Training Room for our Committee meetings.
- Perth NRM – Kate Sputore and Jenni Harrison for their support, & some ~1400 plants

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- Natural Areas Management contractors (funded by Coastwest on a section of the Floreat dunes in front of Floreat SLSC)
- Corporate groups – some organised with PNRM, some who work with us direct

Your committee worked behind the scenes to

1. Upgrade tools and equipment:
 - new trailer tyres (so the trailer now scoots along the inner roads),
 - trailer shelf supports (making it easier to store and extract tools)
 - Hi-Vis vests with Coastcare name on the back so we are recognisable and safe as we work near roads
 - New gloves, rubber mallets, light weight spades, battery powered augur – supplied by PNRM
 - Leaking shed ceiling fixed by us and Town of Cambridge contractors
2. Take on significant projects
 - 2.1. **New and more modern website** – planning led by Keith Meadow with more input contributions being planned for in the next few weeks. We want to make it easier for the community to see what we do, to contact us and to join in our activities
 - 2.2. **History of Cambridge Coastcare** – researched, developed and drafted into a significant and fascinating history, by David Forbes. Seeks to ensure that the drive and achievements of the earlier years is never forgotten and provides a resource for future generations.
 - 2.3. **Coastcare Toolkit** – framework agreed with our neighbouring Coastcare groups with more work planned in 2024, sponsored by Ms Christine Tonkin, State MLA Churchlands .

Which brings me to the special significance of December 2023 and March 2024 – it is 25 years since Cambridge Coastcare was:

- initiated, on 7 December 1998, and
- formally became an incorporated organisation on 15 March 1999.

We celebrated the silver anniversary of Cambridge Coastcare and all it has achieved over 25 energetic years, with a special Christmas function on 18th December.

And following the short formal part of tonight’s AGM, David will give a snapshot of the fascinating history of the coastal area of Cambridge and Coastcare’s role in assisting with the management of the beautiful natural coastal areas.

Finally, thank you all for your support, your energy and enthusiasm. It is truly amazing what can be achieved with hours given voluntarily. Special thanks to Committee members (Anna, David, Erin, Ivo, Jo, Keith, Kingsley, Lionel and Peter) – we work so well together as a team to contribute over and above what one could expect from a voluntary organisation.

We look forward to keeping in contact with you (on or off the dunes) in 2024.