



Marine Teachers Association of Queensland Inc.

Saltwater

www.marineteachers.org.au



NEWSLETTER No 65

OCTOBER 2009

A WORD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT



State Conference Delegates 2009 Knuckle Reef Field Trip

Again the Mackay Branch has run a very informative and most excellent conference, with over 40 members attending. The theme this year (Linking Estuaries, Great Barrier Reef and Ocean) was reflected nicely in the different presenters and activities that were on offer. The conference included a day trip to the reef for snorkelling, a Daydream Island trip with a look at an aquarium based at a resort, workshops ranging from studying the way fish ladders are developed to building lures, dissecting fish and how to prepare them to eat.

Guest speakers included representatives from Maritime Safety Queensland, Australian Underwater Federation Queensland, Great Barrier Reef TAFE, Australian Maritime College and GBRMPA. Members also had the opportunity to participate in workshops covering several diverse matters including writing criteria for assessments, links between catchments and the reef and making fishing equipment.

We considered the environmental issues of coastal development and reef care, and wondered on the complexities of shark control on our beaches. We learnt what can be offered to our students through TAFE and the Australian Maritime College, and the better development of coastal care through sound scientific process. We had a number of activities to keep us amused and entertained throughout the four days and nights. A great thank you and well done to the whole conference committee which was well directed by Simone Baker.



Simone

We must thank all the sponsors, for without them the conference would not go ahead in the form that it does. Our appreciated supports include Gold Sponsors - Education Queensland, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Wet Paper Publications.

I would like to thank the out-going executive ably lead by Kelly Goodingham. I would like to think that if the new executive can try to reach the levels of the previous, we will end up in a very good place.

I would also like to encourage and thank the regional representatives for all their hard work and the work that is ahead of us in 2010. We have also instituted a new advisory committee to act as an advice body for the executive. This will allow the executive to make well informed decisions on issues facing Marine Education in the future.

The next conference is planned for the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania; sometime during early December in 2010, hopefully we will be able to commit to a date in the very near future.

Mr Ward Nicholas (President)



Ward



MTAQ Mackay Branch comes through again

CONFERENCE 2010 DATE CLAIMER

Set aside December 5 - 9 next year as we take our annual conference south to Launceston Tasmania.

Our main aim is to update our knowledge at the Australian Maritime College as it relates to careers for our students and possible professional development courses for our members.

Sheree Bell will keep you posted so watch the MTAQ website for details.



DATE CLAIMER

5 - 9 December 2010

Launceston Tasmania

CONFERENCE ON TOUR



The Australian Maritime College is an Institute of the University of Tasmania



Kelly, researchers and stranded dolphin Stradbroke Island

DOLPHIN RESCUE

Kelly Goodingham, MTAQ Secretary and Editor, was recently on Stradbroke Island helping a friend from university out with her research into the levels of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in humpback whales. On one of the days they were brought a stranded dolphin and had to nurse it back to health in the water for a while and then they moved it to the University of Queensland Moreton Bay Research Station (the site of the 2008 MTAQ Conference) at straddie while they waited for SeaWorld and (hero extraordinaire) Trevor Long to arrive to sedate it and then take it back to SeaWorld.

Kelly said “It was one of the most exciting mornings of my life (so far)”. To add to that day she then continued to spend the afternoon watching whales from Point Lookout. “I tell you, life is tough sometimes” she commented.

MTAQ ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH EQ, QSA AND MSQ

At the October conference, the new State Executive elected an advisory committee to take us into the next decade. Senior Officers from Education Queensland, the Queensland Studies Authority and Marine Safety Queensland will provide valuable planning advice to MTAQ in Brisbane on November 10th. You can follow our progress in the next newsletter.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report was presented at the conference in September at Airlie Beach and is now available in the news section on our website (see News 9th October). Major details include an update of various MTAQ projects and our plans for the future.



Fish heads dissection Airlie Beach

MARINE TEACHERS POSITION AT TAGAI COLLEGE

We wish to advertise a Marine Teachers position at Tagai College for 2010. It is a great opportunity to work with a range of Marine Agencies (Showcase award for Partnerships in Marine 2008) and includes excellent professional development opportunities. Tagai has incredible Marine resources with the reef within metres of the school gate. With Tagai being Queensland’s first Marine Discovery Centre, 2010 will be an exciting year for a passionate marine teacher.

CONTACT:

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BOATSAFE ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

After much lobbying MTAQ was invited to be part of the Boatsafe advisory panel which meets to discuss Boatsafe implementation in Queensland. Bob Moffatt attended the first meeting and has posted the minutes on the MTAQ September news. It is important we continue to have a voice on this panel with approximately 4 meetings a year proposed in Brisbane from 1pm-3.30 pm on a weekday. Bob will continue to attend these meetings on our behalf and provide input back to the members. You can download the July 2009 minutes below. The minutes of the meeting Thursday 22 October can be found on the BTAQ website at www.btaq.org.au.



Simone cooks up a storm

GREAT RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

Jody Plecas from Marine Education at AUSMEPA has developed an amazing Blog that you can access at <http://ausmepa.blogspot.com/>.

Most weeks articles with links to photos and/or videos are uploaded on topics such as Ocean Acidification, The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, Climate Change, Polar Science and much, much more.

This is a great resource to save you searching the internet for up-to-date issues and research. Become a follower of this blog today!

MEMBERS SURVEY

Kelly Goodingham is conducting a members survey to determine the demographics of the association. This will assist planning for future conferences and events.

TO GET A SURVEY FORM CONTACT

Kelly Goodingham
kelly.goodingham@gmail.com

MATT ALLEN WINS EDUCATION QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE AWARD

The winner of the Education Queensland Marine Conference Award was Matt



Allen from Sarina State High School who receives a cheque for \$550 for Marine Education professional development for 2010. Matt has been teaching Marine Studies now for over 5 years and has developed an amazing aquaculture program at the school where year 9 students learn how to grow barramundi and operate a commercial aquaculture facility.

An interesting form of assessment is where the end of year exam is to prepare an instruction manual for the new year 9's to implement in the following year. The students who go on to year 10 Marine Studies then have to supervise the years 9's. Matt also teaches Senior Marine and Aquatic Practices where students sit for their Boatsafe Licence, AUF Open water Certificate, a St John's Marine First Certificate as well as the AMC National Marine Radio VHF operator's certificate. In Marine Studies they learn how their local marine parks are zoned for fishing and recreation as well as participate in local catchment management issues involving water quality and control of marine debris.

The full interview with Matt Allen can be found in the news section on our website.

TRIAL BOAT PRACTICAL EXAM GOES ON-LINE

The aim of this project is to have on-line movies of the competencies necessary to get a boat licence in a school tinny.

A trial set of tasks was launched at our state conference in September at Airlie Beach where a three hour workshop was held. MTAQ is doing this so students can see what is expected before they sit for their boat licence practical exam.

To view the tasks go to www.marineteachers.org.au/boatexam

Thanks go to the WA Marine Education Boatshed and Laurie Adams for permission to use these as examples of what we could do.

NEW EcoCENTRE FOR CLONTARF SHS

Clontarf Beach State High School has received \$1.97M Federal Government "Building the Education Revolution" funding to build a Marine Science EcoCentre.

The new building (EcoCentre for short) will accommodate two adjacent general learning areas that can be opened up for large group lectures/documentary screenings/workshops, a dedicated marine wet laboratory with mortuary tables, an undercover aquaponics set-up, a lab prep room, a meeting room, and a small kitchenette and toilet facilities. There will also be plenty of room for multiple fish tanks.

It is envisaged that community groups with a marine/environmental focus will be able to use the facility.

ACARA UPDATE

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBMISSION

Please read our submission (see News 9th October) to promote Marine Studies for the national curriculum. Thanks to Kathy Steggles, Kelly Goodingham and Bob Moffatt for their work over the holidays on this document.

Robert Randall, General Manager ACARA Curriculum has replied thanking us for the submission and has provided details of how the new National Science curriculum K-10 is organised.

He has advised that "where existing subjects or courses in states and territories are not currently covered by the content of the national curriculum, state and territory jurisdictions may elect to continue to offer these subjects or courses"

He has advised that "The draft national science curriculum (K-12) along with that of the English, mathematics and history curriculums will be available for public consultation in early 2010." During this time he has encouraged MTAQ to provide feedback.

FOLLOW JESSICA WATSON

Jessica Watson is setting out to become the youngest person to sail solo non-stop and unassisted around the World.

Since Joshua Slocum first sailed singlehanded around the world in the late 1890's, sailors of all nationalities and ages have been drawn to this ultimate challenge: The Everest of sailing.

Slocum's epic tale of his voyage, "Sailing Alone Round the World", has captivated a global audience of readers for over a hundred years.

Following on, record-breaking solo circumnavigations by heroes like Francis Chichester and Robin Knox-Johnston have captured the attention and the hearts of people all over the world.

Inspired in her turn by Kay Cottee, the first woman to sail solo non-stop unassisted around the world and by Jesse Martin, the youngest person to do so, Jessica Watson has set her sights on shattering Jesse's record.

In the process, Jessica hopes to inspire young sailors, adventurers and everyone with a dream in their heart.

Read more about Jessica and her journey and follow her blog at www.jessicawatson.com.au/



New Marine Centre for Clontarf Beach SHS

MEMBERSHIP DUE SOON

Traditionally memberships are due at the end of the year, so we send out renewal invoices in November.

MTAQ has a huge agenda next year

- our fight to keep the subject in Queensland
- our quest to have Marine Studies included in the national curriculum
- our campaign for reaccreditation of our Junior Marine Syllabus
- our campaign for a new boatsafe coxswain and for more realistic boat safety equipment

While the time is not an issue, reimbursement of administration costs and meeting expenses is.

WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP MORE THAN EVER IN 2010. As a matter of interest, due to our continued sponsorship, fees have remained unchanged now for many years.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Four types of memberships are available

1. Ordinary members include practicing marine studies teachers.
2. School Membership A
Available to schools who only have 2 teachers at their school. Members are able to take advantage of ordinary member opportunities.
3. School membership B
School membership B allows 3 or more teachers to take advantage of ordinary membership
4. Associate members include members partners or interested people. No voting rights apply to associate members

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All include gst

Ordinary \$66

Associate \$66

School membership A \$77

School membership B \$142

Membership renewal form
www.marineteachers.org.au
See the JOIN US section

HOW WE ARE ORGANISED

Our Association has ten branches covering the coast of Queensland:

BOUNDARIES

Gold Coast - The border to the southern boundary of Beenleigh

Brisbane South - Beenleigh to the Brisbane River

Brisbane North - Brisbane River to the southern boundary of Caloundra

Sunshine Coast - Caloundra to the northern boundary of Gympie

Wide Bay - North of Gympie to the southern boundary of Gladstone

Rockhampton - Gladstone to the southern boundary of Sarina

Mackay - Sarina to the southern boundary of Bowen

Townsville - Bowen to Cardwell

Far North Queensland - Cardwell to North of Cooktown

Cape and Torres Straits - North of Cooktown to PNG Border

NEW EXECUTIVE

MTAQ'S PHONE NUMBER

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