



MangroveWatch

Newsletter No. 1 October 2009



October/November
Monitoring



A forest of *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* knee roots with occasional branching roots of *Rhizophora stylosa* on Coochiemudlo Island

Photo: Chris Pfitzner

Welcome to the first MangroveWatch Newsletter.

Thank you to all those who are volunteering their time to take part in the program. Stay in touch and be informed with this short newsletter which will arrive in your email just before each monitoring period as an informative reminder.

There has been some publicity of late regarding the health of the mangroves in Moreton Bay. By participating in MangroveWatch you are helping to collect data that may assist with early detection of changes to the mangrove environment. However if you see anything unusual during the visit to your site that may not be recorded (perhaps to and from site) such as mangroves with dying canopy, or albino propagules (see page 2), please let us know.

Also a big welcome to the new crews about to start MangroveWatch for the first time at Coochiemudlo, Lota and Fisherman Islands. I was thrilled to visit Coochiemudlo recently and see the large stands of yellow mangrove (*Ceriops australis*) and the orange mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*) on my visit to establish the site. We noticed several albino propagules (see page 2) that had washed up. It will be interesting to see if anymore are detected.

I look forward to meeting you all.

*Happy Mangrove-Watching,
Chris*

**October and November is
MangroveWatch Monitoring
time. Now is the time to:**

- Make contact with your fellow MangroveWatch crew members. Contact Chris if you don't have their details.
- Check the tides on the back page and book your monitoring kit.
- Pass on this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in volunteering for the program.
- Please photograph anything unusual on your monitoring visit with the camera provided.

NOTE: Photos taken on the monitoring camera may be used for promotional purposes. Please contact Chris if you don't wish your photo to be used.

- If you come across injured, stranded or dead marine animals, please call 1300 130 372 to report.
- Pick up kits from QPWS office
34 Trafalgar St, Manly, via Fairlead Cr.
Beside Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club. **Bookings essential.**

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propagules propagules propagules ...



What is a propagule?

Mangroves are particularly resourceful plants. To minimise some of the 'ifs' and 'buts' associated with successful germination of seeds, many mangroves actually germinate while still attached to the parent tree (termed vivipary). This means that the 'seeds' you see stranded at the high tide mark are actually portable seedlings complete with sufficient food resources that will enable it to set down roots and send out the first leaves without delay. Because it has already germinated, we call it a propagule and not a seed.



Photo: Chris Pfitzner

Avicennia marina propagules are green and round about the size of a 20 cent piece. They leave the tree wrapped in a thin yellowish 'skin' that soon comes off when they disperse in the water.

Mangrove propagules come in different shapes and sizes depending on the species. Propagules of the grey mangrove *Avicennia marina* are small and round, while species in the Rhizophoraceae family (red, orange and yellow mangroves) are all cylindrical and elongated.

Yellow propagules – have you seen any?

Be on the look out for yellow (or red) propagules. These 'albino' propagules have a genetic mutation in that they lack chlorophyll (green pigment) and are therefore unable to make their own food. As a propagule they are released from the parent tree with sufficient reserves to set down roots and first leaves but will soon die. Research by the University of Queensland has found a link between these albino propagules and petroleum hydrocarbons sometimes found in sediments.

(www.cms.uq.edu.au/marbot/publications/posters)

Albino propagules have not been reported anywhere else in the world.



Photo: Chris Pfitzner

The yellow propagule on the right has a genetic deformity and will soon die.

MangroveWatchers are encouraged to take photos of anything that looks unusual during their monitoring session with the camera provided.

MangroveWatch Training

MangroveWatch training will be conducted at the following locations during the October/November monitoring period:

Coochie Mudlo
 Fisherman Islands
 Lota

MangroveWatch Surveys

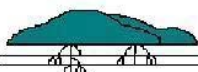
MangroveWatch surveys are undertaken three times a year (February/March, June/July and October/November). The **October/November 2009** monitoring period is upon us and there is a limited number of good tide times - see tide times opposite (Brisbane Bar). Those who have been trained and set up at sites should select a suitable day and contact Chris your MW Co-ordinator by email to book out the equipment.

Please give plenty of notice.

Thank you

Thankyou to all volunteers for generously giving their time to this valuable community monitoring program.

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Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
 Bayside Branch (Qld) Inc



Good Tides...

| Month | Day | 24hr Time / Height |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| October | Thurs 01 | 1331/ 0.49 |
| | Fri 02 | 1415 / 0.43 |
| | Sat 03 | 1456 / 0.40 |
| | Sun 04 | 1537 / 0.39 |
| | Sat 10 | 0653/0.47 |
| | Sun 11 | 0800/0.56 |
| | Mon 12 | 0926/0.59 |
| | Tues 13 | 1050/0.54 |
| | Wed 14 | 1204/0.45 |
| | Thurs 15 | 1309/0.37 |
| | Fri 16 | 1405/0.33 |
| | Sat 17 | 1456/0.32 |
| | Sun 18 | 1543/0.43 |
| | Sat 24 | 0622/0.57 |
| | Sun 25 | 0710/0.69 |
| | Mon 26 | 0815/0.78 |
| | Tues 27 | 0938/0.82 |
| Wed 28 | 1058/0.77 | |
| Thurs 29 | 1201/0.69 | |
| Fri 30 | 1257/0.61 | |
| Sat 31 | 1346/0.54 | |
| November | Sun 01 | 1434/0.49 |
| | Mon 02 | 1520/0.45 |
| | Sun 08 | 0647/0.46 |
| | Mon 09 | 0754/0.55 |
| | Tues 10 | 0913/0.60 |
| | Wed 11 | 1032/0.60 |
| | Thurs 12 | 1145/0.57 |
| | Fri 13 | 1252/0.53 |
| | Sat 14 | 1350/0.50 |
| | Sun 15 | 1444/0.48 |
| | Mon 16 | 1531/0.48 |
| | Tues 24 | 0735/0.75 |
| | Wed 25 | 0842/0.82 |
| Thurs 26 | 0958/0.85 | |
| Fri 27 | 1112/0.82 | |
| Sat 28 | 1218/0.75 | |
| Sun 29 | 1318/0.66 | |
| Mon 30 | 1414/0.58 | |