



GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Generation of Coastal Protectors

A coastal education model for partnerships and participation

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Great Ocean Road Coast Committee



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COAST COMMITTEE

GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

We can build partnerships for our future by creating young environmental stewards with your inspiration, knowledge, and mentoring.

GORCC Coast Guardians are the next generation of coastal protectors!





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THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST COMMITTEE

World-leading environmental
protection and coastal experiences
for all





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GORCC is responsible for the management of 37km coastal reserves on Victoria's Great Ocean Road: from the rolling waves of Point Impossible east of Torquay to the dramatic Otways at Cumberland River, southwest of Lorne.





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The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee:

- protects the sensitive coastal environment
- maintains facilities, assets and infrastructure
- manages coastal projects
- issues leases and permits





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GORCC reinvests the income from our caravan parks, leases, permits and licences back into conservation, facilities, assets, infrastructure and EDUCATION.





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Great Ocean Road Coast
Committee Education
Program =
Environmental Education
Program
+
Coast Guardians Program





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Award Winning Flagship
Environmental Education
Program:

COAST GUARDIANS



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What is the Coast Guardians Program?

Coast Guardians are Year 9 students from five local schools who participate in GORCC Environmental Education sessions a number of times per term.

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The Coast Guardians program aims to:

- Increase awareness of environmental issues
- Encourage social responsibility
- Foster stewardship of the local Great Ocean Road coast





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The kids: what's special about Year 9?

A year of change, decision making, finding direction,
needing mentors and role models other than parents.





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How do we do it?

- Immersion in nature
- Hands on artefacts
- Humour
- Inspiration
- Participation
- Practical activities
- Incentives
- Technology
- Relevance
- Connection to people and place

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Which schools are Coast Guardians?

- Geelong Lutheran College
- Lorne P-12 College
- Northern Bay College, Geelong
- Surf Coast Secondary College, Torquay
- Sacred Heart College, Geelong



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Where do the Coast Guardians work on the Surf Coast?

- Point Impossible
- Jan Juc cliffs
- Torquay— foreshore, Spring Creek, Whites/Fishermans Beach, Cosy Corner
- Point Roadknight
- Lorne – foreshore, Point Grey, Queens Park
- Anglesea Family, Torquay and Lorne Foreshore Caravan Parks



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Coast Guardians Education Sessions: Engaging. Exploring. Understanding. Acting.





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Education topics

- fauna and flora
 - biodiversity and ecosystems
 - marine and coastal adaptations
 - coastal processes
 - volunteering and careers
 - caring for the coast
 - pest plants and animals
 - history and indigenous culture
 - human influences
 - coastal management
 - coastal monitoring
 - environmental problems and solutions
- *Links to curriculum and school requirements



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Citizen science activities

- community understanding
- community participation
- caring for coast

Coastal monitoring

- shifting sands
- marine debris
- plants and animals
- photopoints
- camera traps






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Caring for our coast

- Practical conservation skills and knowledge, participation, community service and volunteer work
- Repeat visits to coastal sites the students 'own'
- Hands-on weeding, mulching, planting, site maintenance, rubbish removal
- In conjunction with the GORCC conservation team and volunteers



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GORCC conservation team partnership



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Weeding and mulching





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Planting and rubbish removal





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Rehabilitation Whites Beach, Torquay



2015



2017



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Volunteer Group Partners

- Jan Juc Coast Action
- Friends of Queens Park, Lorne
- LorneCare
- Surfrider Foundation
- ANGAIR
- Birdlife – Hooded Plover Volunteers
- Torquay Coastcare



John Wilson – Friends of Queens Park



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Coast Guardians value volunteer partners

Volunteers are mentors to future volunteers, demonstrating passion, knowledge, understanding, skills, expertise and environmental solutions.



Ian & Roma Edwards – Jan Juc Coast Action



Alain Purnell - LorneCare



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John Foss – Surfrider Foundation



Luke Hynes – Jan Juc Coast Action



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Coast Guardians value other partnerships

CCMA – Waterwatch,
Estuary Watch

Birdlife

Wathaurung RAP

Wathaurong

Zoos Victoria

Marine and Freshwater
Discovery Centre

Tangaroa Blue

Parks Victoria

EcoLogic

DELWP- Coastcare

Surf Coast Shire





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Coast Guardians Student Forum

Celebrating. Inspiring. Challenging. Creating. Connecting.
Valuable contribution by partners.



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Coast Guardians Forum - partnerships





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Coast Guardians Forum commercial & donation partnerships

Go Ride A Wave, Torquay	EcoLogic, Anglesea
Quiksilver, Torquay	Streamline Media
Sea All Dolphin Swims, Queenscliff	Lisa Hunter Artist
Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre	Patagonia, Torquay
Bomboras Restaurant, Torquay	Yummy Tummy Catering, Torquay





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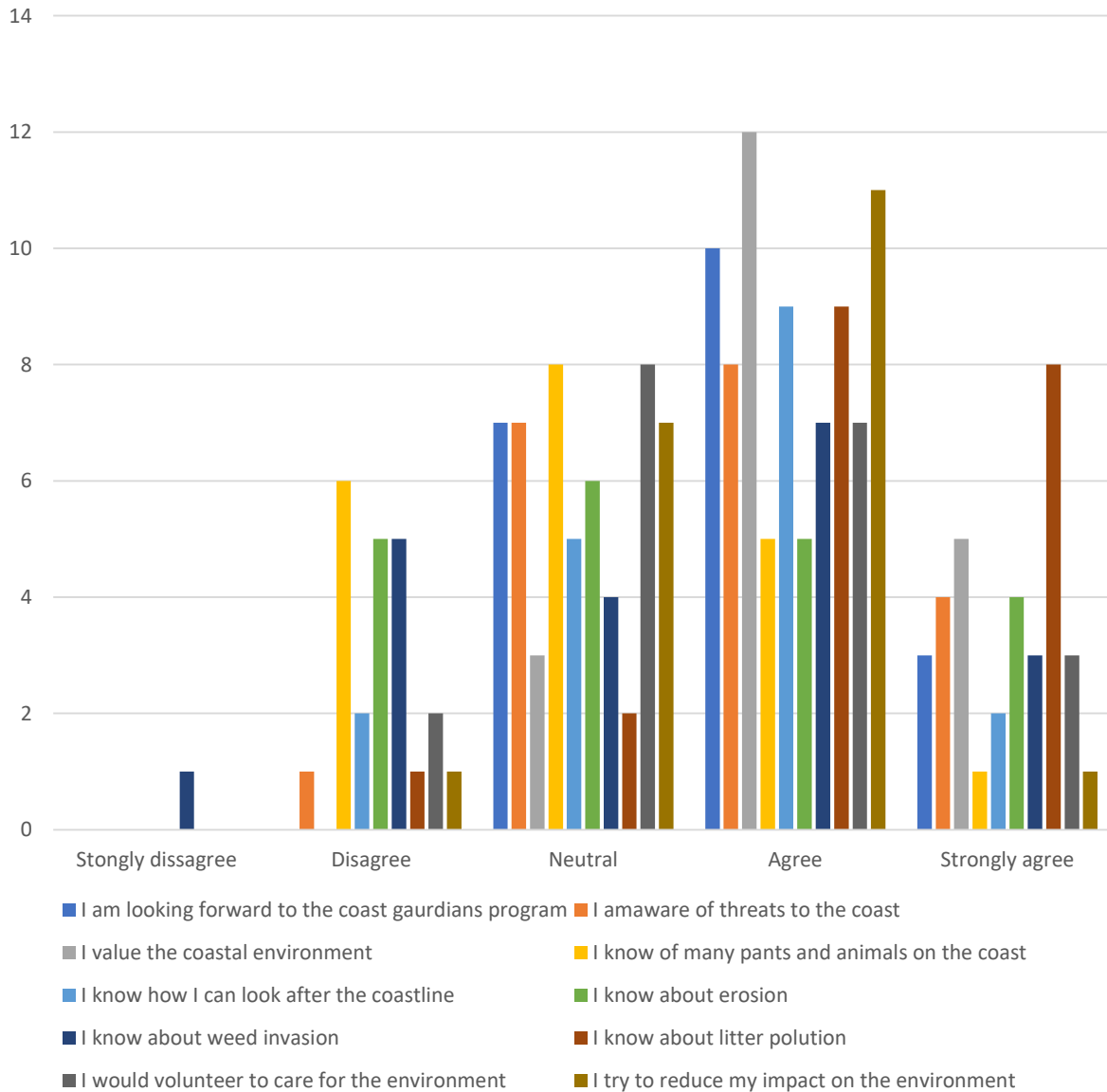
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How do we know Coast Guardians works?

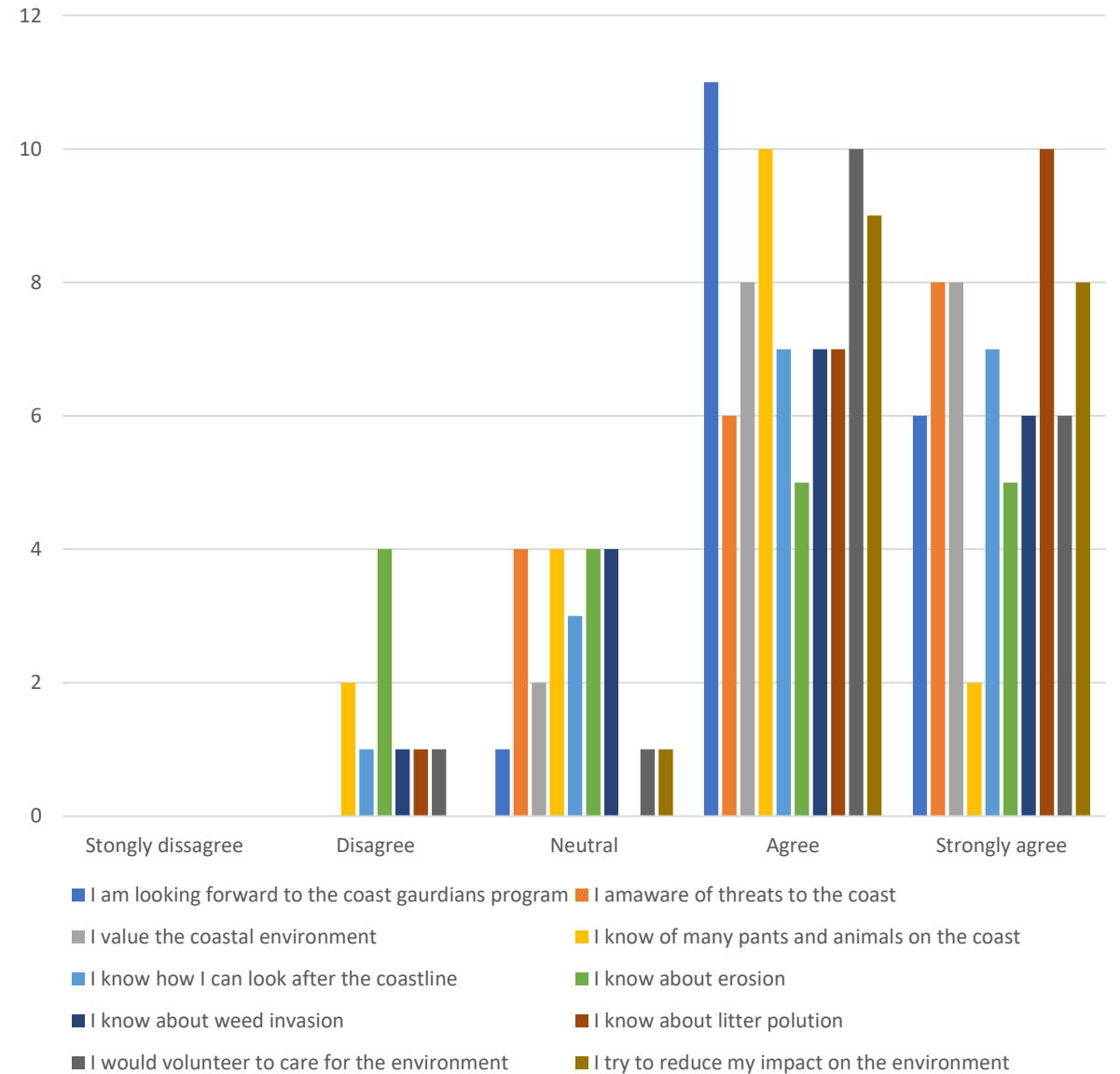
- Student survey data- changes in behaviour and attitudes
- Teacher testimonials
- School feedback
- Participation and immersion
- Award-winning program



Northern Bay 2018 Mixed Term 1 Pre



Northern Bay 2018 Mixed Term 1 Post





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The Coast Guardians program is part of our GORCC vision to provide: *World-leading environmental protection and coastal experiences for all.*

We do this by encouraging students to understand, respect and protect our natural environment on the GOR by offering inspiring, innovative and meaningful experiences and ongoing connection to the coast.



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Photo credits:

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- Steph Moroney
- Hilary Bouma
- David Petty
- Karen Pegg





Thank you

www.gorcc.com.au/education/coast-guardians/