A coastal education model for partnerships and participation

Hilary Bouma – Coast Guardians Program Coordinator
Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
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!
THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST COMMITTEE

World-leading environmental protection and coastal experiences for all
**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.
The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee:

• protects the sensitive coastal environment
• maintains facilities, assets and infrastructure
• manages coastal projects
• issues leases and permits
GORCC reinvests the income from our caravan parks, leases, permits and licences back into conservation, facilities, assets, infrastructure and EDUCATION.
Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Education Program = Environmental Education Program + Coast Guardians Program
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

Award Winning Flagship Environmental Education Program:

COAST GUARDIANS
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.
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors
The Coast Guardians program aims to:

- Increase awareness of environmental issues
- Encourage social responsibility
- Foster stewardship of the local Great Ocean Road coast
The kids: what's special about Year 9?
A year of change, decision making, finding direction, needing mentors and role models other than parents.
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

How do we do it?

• Immersion in nature
• Hands on artefacts
• Humour
• Inspiration
• Participation

• Practical activities
• Incentives
• Technology
• Relevance
• Connection to people and place
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
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
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS:
The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

Coast Guardians Education Sessions:
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
Citizen science activities
• community understanding
• community participation
• caring for coast

Coastal monitoring
• shifting sands
• marine debris
• plants and animals
• photopoints
• camera traps
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
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

GORCC conservation team partnership
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

Weeding and mulching
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS:
The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

Planting and rubbish removal
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Rehabilitation Whites Beach, Torquay

2015

2017
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
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
GORCC COAST GUARDIANS: The Next Gen of Coastal Protectors

John Foss – Surfrider Foundation

Luke Hynes – Jan Juc Coast Action
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
Coast Guardians Student Forum
Valuable contribution by partners.
Coast Guardians Forum - partnerships
Coast Guardians Forum commercial & donation partnerships

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

- I am looking forward to the coast Guardians program
- I am aware of threats to the coast
- I value the coastal environment
- I know of many plants and animals on the coast
- I know how I can look after the coastline
- I know about erosion
- I know about weed invasion
- I know about litter pollution
- I would volunteer to care for the environment
- I try to reduce my impact on the environment

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.
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!
Photo credits:
• Ferne Millen
• Steph Moroney
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• David Petty
• Karen Pegg
Thank you