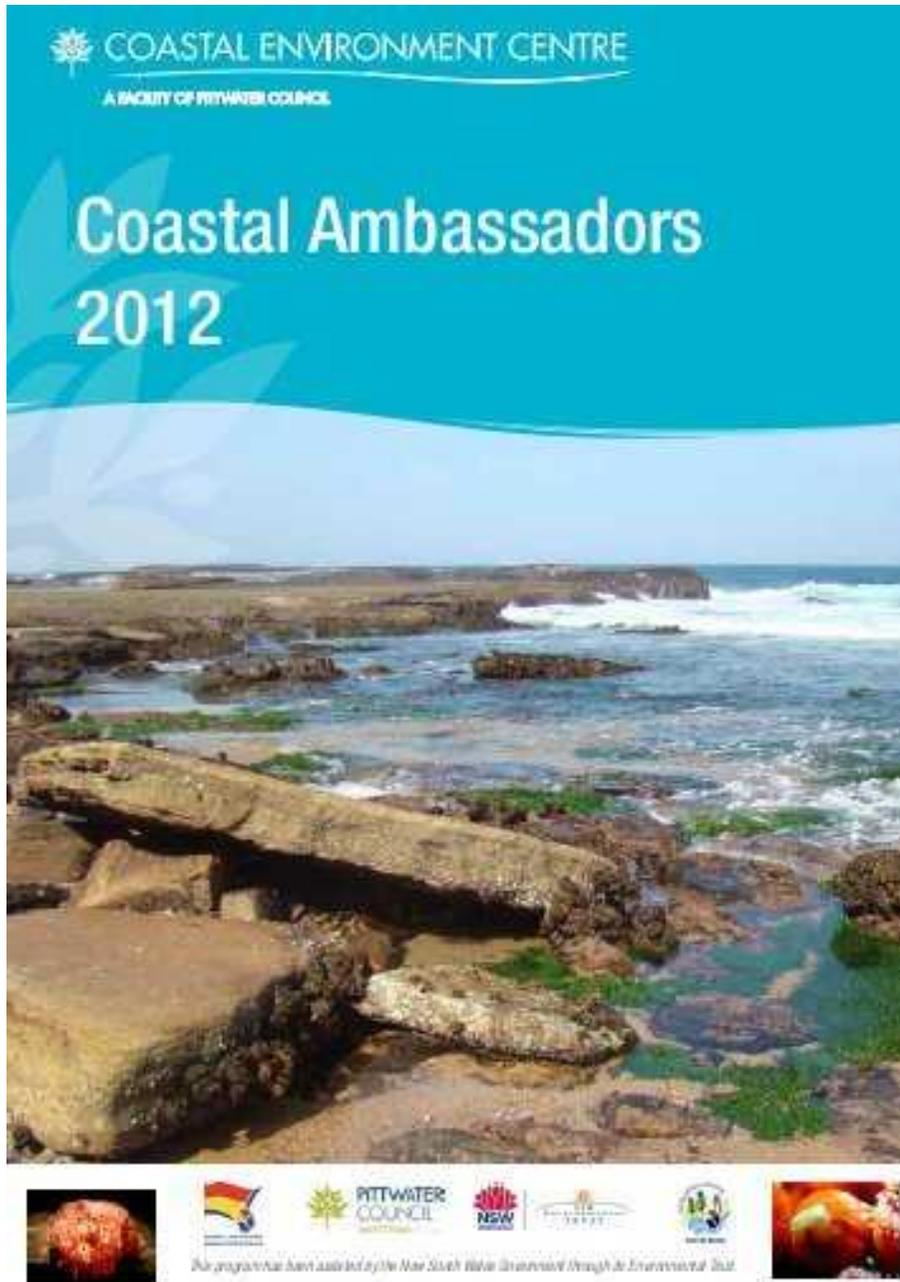


An Evaluation of the Coastal Ambassadors Course in South Australia



Mike Bossley & Kristy Watson (Adelaide & Mt Lofty NRM)



A Coastal Ambassadors program was started by the Pittwater Council's Coastal Environment Centre in 2005.

Over a hundred volunteers from surf clubs and other community groups were trained to become 'ambassadors' for the local marine environment.

The program no longer operates.



Audubon Coastal Ambassadors Program Kickoff



**Thursday, October 26, 2017
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Cranberry Museum
2907 Pioneer Rd.
Long Beach, WA 98631



**An evening of discovery
and discussion about the
things that make Willapa Bay
special, and how we can build
community support for birds
and nature in Willapa Bay.**

MORE INFORMATION AND RSVP:
<http://wa.audubon.org/ambassadors>

QUESTIONS?
Jen Syrowitz at audubonwa@audubon.org

Let's go!

Student comments from past camps:

"Wicked - best fun I've ever had."

Kira

"It was AWESOME!! I learnt so much... it changed my mind about the coast and the environment."

Taryn

"A really great experience that was once in a lifetime. It was really relaxed and the food was great."

Anthony

"Amazing, I learnt a lot."

Jorde

"It's been really fun and I've learned so much! We really don't want to leave."

Kirsten

"Surfing was pretty awesome and gnarly! Kayaking was pretty awesome too and of course meeting new people."

Jasmin



Phillip Island Nature Parks is dedicated to the conservation of Phillip Island's wildlife, habitat and natural features. With its unique combination of wildlife management, ecotourism and research facilities, Phillip Island Nature Parks provides an ideal location for environmental studies. Phillip Island Nature Parks learning programs are supported by the Department of Education and Training (DET).

The DET is committed to ensuring that every young Victorian thrives, learns and grows, enjoying every opportunity to realise a rewarding and fulfilling life.



Contact the education team at:

Phillip Island Nature Parks
PO Box 97
Cowes VIC 3922

Telephone: 03 5951 2826

Facsimile: 03 5956 8394

Email: coastalambassadors@penguins.org.au

penguins.org.au

Coastal Ambassadors 2017



A four day camp at Phillip Island Nature Parks for Year 9 students

Conserve our coast

Be a Coastal Ambassador

SA has stunning coastlines with unique and amazing critters and plant life which live in the ocean and on our beaches. Become a Coastal Ambassador and help conserve our coast!

This NRM levy-funded program includes fun and informative activities including snorkelling, kayaking, expert talks and opportunities to make a difference. Activities are held in the evenings or on weekends.

Space is limited to 20 people. Register now!

Applications close Monday 20 October 2014 ready to start Tuesday 27 January.

To find out more or to apply contact
**Kristy Manning, Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges.**

Email: kristy.manning@sa.gov.au

Phone: 8273 9137



The Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM Coastal Ambassadors course was based on the Pittwater model and introduced to SA by the NRM's Tony Flaherty.

The course is managed by Kristy Watson and delivered by Mike Bossley and guest presenters.

The course has run every year since 2011.

Course Objectives

- Introduce temperate marine ecosystems
- Provide information on local coast and marine environmental issues
- Explore options for ameliorating coast and environmental problems
- Enthuse, motivate and empower participants to become active in marine conservation AND to promote this to their friends and colleagues
- Encourage group cohesion to facilitate resilience
- Provide on going mentoring

Participants

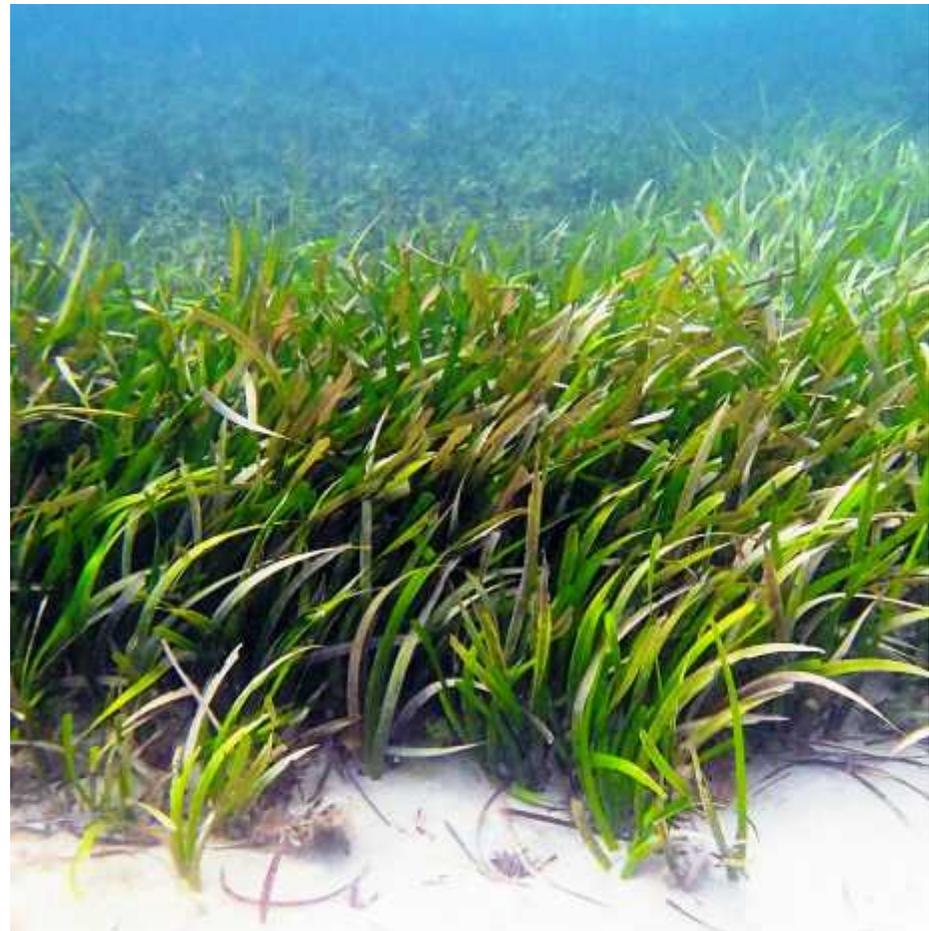
The course is free but only 20 people are selected each year. Selection criteria included evidence of enthusiasm and involvement in marine conservation and potential for the applicant to spread the conservation message to other people.

“I would like to become a Coastal Ambassador because I wish to learn more about the coastal and marine environments around South Australia and how I can help protect and maintain the biodiversity of our beautiful coastal regions while spreading awareness and educating the community on the dangers of plastics and litter.”

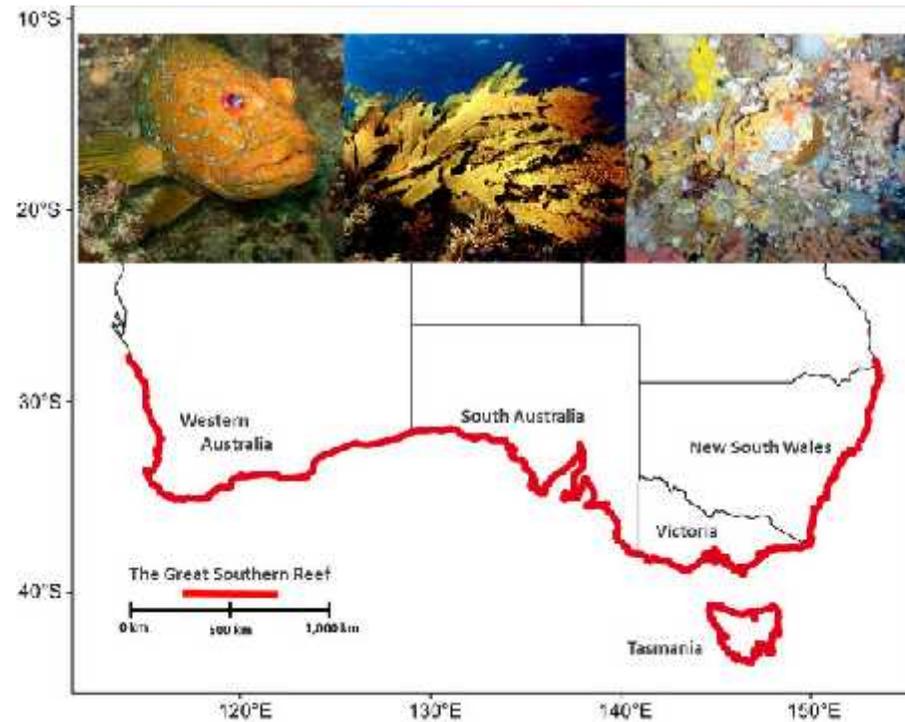


Message: unlike the tropics, temperate marine environments are dominated by plants.

And these habitats are just as important and beautiful as tropical coral reefs!



The Great Southern Reef



“Just as the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is recognised as an entity made up of more than 2900 individual reefs dominated by corals, Australia’s temperate reefs should be considered collectively as an entity made up of thousands of kilometres of rocky temperate reefs, dominated by kelp forests and interconnected through oceanographic, ecological and evolutionary processes—truly a Great Southern Reef (GSR)”. (Bennett et al, 2016)

Other Topics Covered

- Marine Protected Areas
- Beach Ecology
- Catchment Management
- Marine Debris
- Marine Pollution

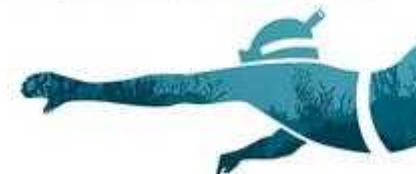




Field Trips



Presentations from Marine Conservation NGOs



The Evaluation Survey:

The Survey used a combination of self report Likert scale and open ended questions. It was emailed to the 131 people who had undertaken the course and 40 responded.

Quantitative Results:

Knowledge: average self report increased from 2.9/5 to 4.3/5, **an increase of 28%**

Enthusiasm: average self report increased from 3.8/5 to 4.7/5, **an increase of 18%**

People changed their behaviour:

- Became active in established conservation groups
- Spread information about coast and marine issues
- Used social media to promote issues
- Watched more documentaries
- Improved their personal impact (eg no straws)
- Increased their use of the coast and marine environment (eg more snorkelling or beach walking)



General Personal Comments Included:

- *“Opened a whole new world. Sparked my interest in so many environmental issues. Connected me with fantastic people. It is a great program.”*
- *“Motivated and empowered me to tackle marine threats and to educate those around me about the impacts just one person can have.”*
- *“The program was eye opening, to learn about the coast & marine environment of my local area by actually getting out into it.”*
- *“I could not help but be inspired by the drive and passion of the experts that gave talks to our group. The course appreciation for the coastal ecosystem and I am enthusiastic to continue and encourage others to do so.”*

- *“I was always interested in coastal biodiversity and action - however the course encouraged me to not just learn - but become proactive and take others on the journey with me!”*
- *“I can now speak confidently to others on the state of our ocean, the need for conservation and respecting our marine sanctuaries.”*
- *“My family and I go snorkelling now (the first time I went snorkelling was with the Coastal Ambassadors).”*
- *“I now have a desire to constantly increase my knowledge and to assist others in doing so as well to ensure a greater awareness of the importance of our coast and its environs.”*
- *“I get less discouraged in the face of barriers in the realm of marine conservation, due to a network of like-minded and passionate people from the program.”*

Discussion and Conclusions

- The course increased knowledge and enthusiasm to promote marine conservation.
- Participants joined existing groups; became active in social media; and talked to friends and colleagues about marine environmental issues.
- The course informed participants of the many threats facing the marine environment without destroying their optimism for a better future.

