

Tide to Table – Burdekin Dry Tropics



[Tide to Table](#) – Burdekin Dry Tropics flows on from the previous project which commenced in October 2007. This round aimed to increase fish connectivity in the Bowling Green Bay and Ross River catchments and reduce illegal waste dumping/littering in salt marsh habitats around the Townsville area. Again, a strong community awareness component aims to increase understanding of the links between healthy

waterways and productive fish stocks.

Commercial fisheries in Townsville are dominated by trawl, net and crab fisheries. Trawlers in the area target banana prawns, endeavour prawns, red-spot king prawns, bugs and scallops. Net fishers' major targets are barramundi but will also catch a wide range of species (>40) including threadfins and grey mackerel. Local fisheries rely on healthy habitat which is our focus.

Stuart Creek Connectivity

This project increased the outcomes from the last funding round.



The Stuart Creek project undertaken by [Conservation Volunteers Australia](#) (CVA) involved:

- rehabilitating 2.36ha of the Stuart Creek riparian area (removing weeds and native plant revegetation).
- community tree planting events with participants from local residents, schools and businesses

Stuart State School along with CVA and Reef guardian schools have developed an environmental education curriculum that involves the students undertaking regular activities at the Start Creek site. Some of their activities include tree planting, watering of seedlings, water quality monitoring through CreekWatch and photographing the project site to monitor change over time.

Horseshoe Creek Weed Control and Connectivity

[Horseshoe Creek](#) is heavily infested with aquatic weeds that degrade water quality and affect fish passage/movement within Horseshoe Creek. It will enhanced valuable work achieved at this site. This project included:

- Aerial spraying of [hymenachne](#) and other aquatic weeds within the creek channel, to open up a channel for oxygenation of the water and to provide passage for fish movement
- Regular control of hymenachne and other aquatic weeds through managed grazing and herbicide application
- Removal of [rubbervine](#), [chinee apple](#) and other woody weeds from along the creek banks

OceanWatch Australia aims to find a sustainable long term solution to the problem of heavy aquatic weed infestation in Horseshoe Creek by facilitating discussions amongst stakeholders and our partners.



Townsville Saltmarsh Restoration



Illegal dumping and littering in saltmarshes and bushlands adjacent to aquatic areas is a problem throughout the Townsville region. Cleanups in 2007 and 2008 ([rubbish cleanup of saltmarsh habitats in Stuart](#)) uncovered truckloads of commercial, industrial and residential waste. While this was removed a group was formed called the “Alliance for a cleaner Townsville” (AFACT). AFACT is an initiative that brings concerned groups together to discuss and work on tackling [rubbish issues in Townsville](#).

A primary goal is to change behaviour towards illegal dumping in saltmarsh areas. Signage has been developed and installed and a number of initiatives have commenced to address the problem holistically. The project aims to increase awareness of these issues by involving the local community in two proposed saltmarsh clean-ups in the Oonoomba and Railway Estate areas.

The clean-ups are jointly organised with Townsville City Council and [Marine Wildlife Australia](#). The first event was held on 11 October 2009 as part of the Great Northern Cleanup and the second was held on 23 January 2010 in preparation for the 4.11m king tide on the following Saturday.

Community Engagement

Some of the public events tide table facilitate or attend include:

- [Schools tree day](#) planting event at Stuart Creek with Stuart State School
- Fishing and Outdoor Expo
- Belgain Gardens Fishing Classic
- Burdekin Barra Bash

A [connectivity tour](#) is also part of this project and focuses on fish passage in the region.

Past Projects

These projects were undertaken between March and December 2008

- Rock ramp fishway across the Rita Island sand dam
- Aquatic and riparian weed control at [Horseshoe Creek](#)
- Removal of a barrier to fish passage in [Stuart Creek](#)
- Rubbish removal, weed control and revegetation within the declared [Bohle River](#) Fish Habitat Area
- Weed control, litter cleanup and revegetation at beach swale wetland at Bushland Beach
- Weed control and riparian revegetation at Rollingstone Creek

If you are interested in being involved or for more information on Tide to Table in Queensland, please contact the Project Manager, Michelle Haase on (07) 4181 2999 or email michelle@oceanwatch.org.au