

CLEAN4SHORE PROGRAM REPORT 2017



HAWKESBURY RIVER AND BRISBANE WATERS REPORT BY GRAHAM JOHNSTON – CLEAN4SHORE

*This Project received Grant funding from the Australian Government through the
Improving Your Local Parks and Environment program.*



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Commencing 2017, the stability of the Clean4shore program was under pressure, with very little general funds and grants that were still pending. Field trips for our regular schools in term one were cancelled or deferred. Local community groups MacMasters Beach and Bar Point Progress Associations, together with JD's Family Auto, Corporate Landcare and IT group Dimension Data contributed financially to "kick start" the program, allowing a limited number of school trips to proceed.

The substantial grant provided in 2016 from the EPA and Wyong Council was not available in 2017, this was a disappointing conclusion to the large task commenced in Tuggerah Lakes, which involved many local organisations.

Central Coast Council renewed a promised grant pledged in 2016, and brought forward the funding in 2017. Smaller grants from Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Green Army Program and Central Coast and Hornsby Shire Councils, which allowed 21 field trips to be funded in the first half of 2017.

Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks, pledged the Clean4shore program three years of funding which was subsequently applied for and awarded via the Improving Your Local Parks and Environment program, commencing in August 2017. This finally provided security and planning options for litter removal within the Robertson Electorate. The grant is managed by Central Coast Council which is providing approximately \$85K annually, over three years, allowing a total of 76 field trips, which were completed during 2017.

Clean4shore recognizes the role of our subcontracted barge operators, Simon Funnel (Brisbane Waters) and Rob Moxham's Hawkesbury team (Mitchell, Lee and Brett), for their valuable mentoring, local and maritime education, coupled with the important role of removal, storage and unloading of the 60 tonne of rubbish collected during 2017. Their guidance and recognition of risk management procedures is vital to Clean4shore's operations.

Field trip reports, including litter statistics, are distributed to all stakeholders and interested parties following each clean up. Tangaroa Blue compiles our statistics for the Australian Marine Data Institute and provides valuable data analysis for the annual report.

Social media communication of field trips via Facebook attracts a huge following, with valuable feedback received through this medium. Media promotion is well received from Clean4shore, including regular live ABC radio interviews with Scott Levi and Malcom Poole. Together TV and print media now recognise marine litter as a National issue.

Clean4shore wish to acknowledge the following organisations, who have contributed financially allowing subcontractor employment, PPE for volunteers, transportation and disposal of litter. Also listed are the organisations that have contributed logistical support and volunteers towards the Clean4shore 2017 program.

Financial Support

Australian Federal Government
 Central Coast Council
 Green Army Program
 Hornsby Shire Council

 Greater Sydney Local Land Services

 JD's Family Auto
 MacMasters Beach Progress Association
 Bar Point Progress Association
 Dimension Data
 Corporate Landcare
 Telstra Corporation
 Environmental Protection Authority
 Central Coast National Parks and Wildlife

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

Simon Funnell (barge operator)
 Rob Moxham (barge operations)
 Tangaroa Blue (statistics/data)
 Brisbane Waters National Park
 Seacoast Seafoods (barge support)
 Sallie-Ann Macklin, Wendy Graham, Jan Sillato
 Whittons Oyster (barge support)
 Central Coast / Hornsby Shire Council
 Greater Sydney Local Land Services
 ABC Radio

Volunteer Contribution

Brisbane Waters Secondary College Support Unit
 Brisbane Waters Secondary College Bushcraft
 Brisbane Waters Secondary College Marine Study
 Brisbane Waters Secondary College Umina Support

 Brisbane Waters Secondary College Work Experience

 Brisbane Waters Secondary College The Croft
 The Glen Aboriginal Men's Health Clinic
 Kincumber High School Peer Support Group
 ET Australia's Green Army Gosford
 Youth Connection's Disability Services
 Narara Valley High School
 MacMasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club
 GSLLS Floating Landcare
 North Gosford Learning Centre
 Bar Point & MacMasters Beach Community
 Dimension Data
 Cherrybrook Technology High School
 Rolland Hassall High School
 Asquith Girls High School
 Department of Juvenile Justice Frank Baxter Centre
 Telstra Corporation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clean4shore is a small not for profit, community based organization, based at MacMasters Beach. The program utilises schools, youth, disability and community groups to clean litter and general rubbish along the foreshores of the Hawkesbury River estuary and Brisbane Waters.

The clean-ups commenced during a MacMasters Beach Surf Club, Duke of Edinburgh's Award kayaking expedition of the Hawkesbury River in 2010 and quickly expanded annually into Brisbane Waters with Clean4shore being registered as a not for profit organisation in March 2015. The program further expanded into Tuggerah Lakes in 2016.

Coordinating the program required the engagement of two highly competent subcontractors, Simon Funnell and Rob Moxham, both oyster barge operators, responsible for the marine transportation of volunteers and litter collected off the waterways. The program must comply with stakeholder approvals, and a comprehensive risk assessment, in order to meet NSW Department of Education and our funding partners WHS requirements.

The number of completed field trips is reliant on grant funding. Major stakeholders Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Hornsby Shire and Central Coast Councils are proactive in securing these grants, to keep the volunteers and subcontractors on the water.

The removal of litter, especially plastics and polystyrene from waterways, improves the visual appearance of the estuaries, but more importantly, improves safe estuarine habitat, whilst providing an educational adventure for the volunteers.



Left: Narara Creek
Mangrove Litter

Right: Erina Creek
Roadside Litter



The Tuggerah Lakes program was unfortunately not repeated in 2017, which was disappointing to the local organisations, initially involved in this “high traffic” waterway.

Clean4shore commenced 2017 with very few planned programs for the established schools. This was due to a severe lack of funds, and a delay in promised grant funding. The community was approached to “kick start” the program, with local progress associations MacMasters Beach and Bar Point, together with Dimension Data and JD’s Family Auto, providing finance for initial surveys and limited school field trips.



Left: Floating Landcare and BWSC work experience



Right: Kincumber High School

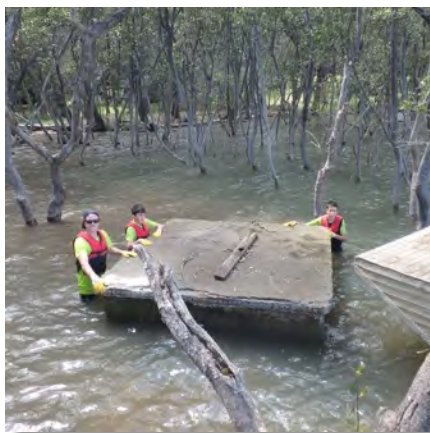
Clean4shore’s educational promotions within the schools generated further interest, especially in the Hornsby Shire, with Cherrybrook Technology and Asquith Girls High joining the program.

Grants from Central Coast Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Hornsby Shire Council rejuvenated the program. This was prior to the Federal Government awarding Central Coast Council and Clean4shore a three year grant via the Improving Your Local Parks and Environment Program (IYLPE). Local Federal Member Lucy Wicks, had prioritized Clean4shore for funding, three years earlier. The local MP tirelessly supported the program, and eventually these funds arrived, providing structure and improved planning options for Clean4shore.

Local high schools, Kincumber and Narara Valley joined the program together with community group Youth Connections, with the task of removing litter from their local waterways. The “tried and trusted” teams from The Glen, and the Green Army continued working on the larger, more challenging tasks. Additionally, Floating Landcare engaged a small work experience group from Brisbane Waters Secondary College, on a successful joint weed/litter removal program on Pelican Island.

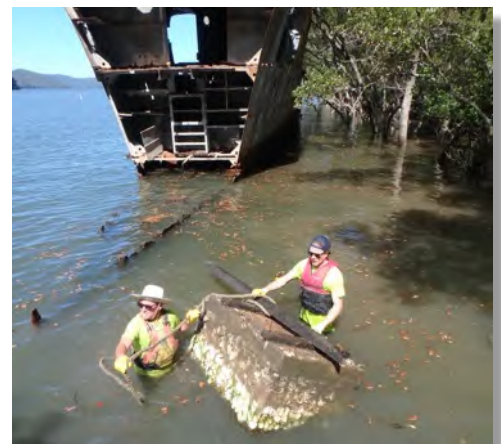
Derelict oyster leases in Brisbane Waters continue to be an unwanted source of disused infrastructure, including trays and baskets entering the waterway, with wind, and tidal influences depositing them on the foreshore. This is a serious issue of concern for Clean4shore and requires action by the relevant regulatory body.

The IYLPE grant provided funding for the removal of larger items, listed as “issues of concern” in the 2016 Clean4shore report, from the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters. These items included concrete covered polystyrene pontoons, floating or loosely tied within mangroves in the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary. In action from stakeholders was frustrating, as these pontoons continually move with storms and tide and are therefore a serious risk to boating navigation, as reported by Clean4shore and the Bar Point Community. Initially 12 were sighted, and eventually 23 removed. These pontoons weighed between 480 kilos and five tonne. Central Coast Council refunded the \$5K in disposal fees, however actual expenditure to Clean4shore was \$16K for removal and transportation of these pontoons to Woy Woy Landfill.



Concrete covered polystyrene pontoons. Bar Point.

Not a navigational hazard????



Derelict boats in Brisbane Waters and Cogra Bay on the Hawkesbury, were enthusiastically dismantled by The Glen team. The schools and Youth organisations tackle the high litter local estuaries of Narara, Erina and Kincumber Creek.

On a positive note, the absence of major storms or flooding rain prevented bulk additional rubbish from entering the waterways. Our efforts are noticeable on all foreshores within our grant funded zones.

The second positive outcome was the recognition Clean4shore and partners received from Regional and State Landcare Awards. Brisbane Waters Secondary College and Clean4shore won regional awards at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services presentation. Clean4shore was then nominated and won the State Landcare Award in the Coastcare category. Clean4shore will now represent NSW at the National Landcare Awards in October 2018.

Statistics and data are collected on each field trip, then collated and forwarded in a field trip report to all stakeholders and interested parties with Facebook posts on a regular weekly basis.

The following project summary identifies the location, weight, volunteers, including total hours involved and in-field trips from each waterway.

Clean4shore Project Summary 2017

Location	Completed Field Trips	Collected Item	Weight Tonne	Volunteer Numbers	Volunteer Hours
Brisbane Waters	36	86,065	13.265	239	883
Hawkesbury River	40	20,568	43.640	185	720
Totals	76	106,636	56.905	424	1,603

Comparison from Project Summary 2016

Location	Completed Field Trips	Collected Item	Weight Tonne	Volunteer Numbers	Volunteer Hours
Brisbane Waters	20	108,559	13,325	218	825
Hawkesbury River Estuary	17	32,308	27,170	223	883
Tuggerah Lake	30	41,933	11,720	113	452
Totals	67	182,800	52,215	554	2,160

A comparison from 2016 reveals less items were collected in the 2017 program, due to the absence of Tuggerah Lakes, and a reduction in the presence of bulk small items collected in Brisbane Waters and the Hawkesbury River Estuary over the past seven years. However, the weight per tonne has increased as there were bigger items removed during this past year.

Graham Johnston
 Project Manager
 Clean4shore

Statistics and Comment from Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Tangaroa Blue Foundation (TBF) acknowledges the important ongoing role of the Clean4shore Program in its work in the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters estuaries. The Program in 2017 has concluded another successful year in locating and removing some of the extensive deposits of litter, industrial waste and derelict and abandoned oyster gear, infrastructure, barges and pleasure craft. The Clean4shore Program partners work hard to bring the scale and extent of this problem to the attention of the public, the media and the wide range of stakeholders who benefit from the health and amenity of these ecologically important systems. Clean4shore is strongly supported in its endeavors through strong and enthusiastic community and media support which this year has been capped off with a well-deserved State Land Care Award.

TBF notes the concerns expressed in this year's report about the difficulty of maintaining momentum because of several major obstacles. These include the problem of lack of ownership of particular occurrences of pollution and abandonment, the related problem of a lack of regulation of activities and industrial practices in the waterways and uncertainty in securing funding. These matters need to be addressed urgently.

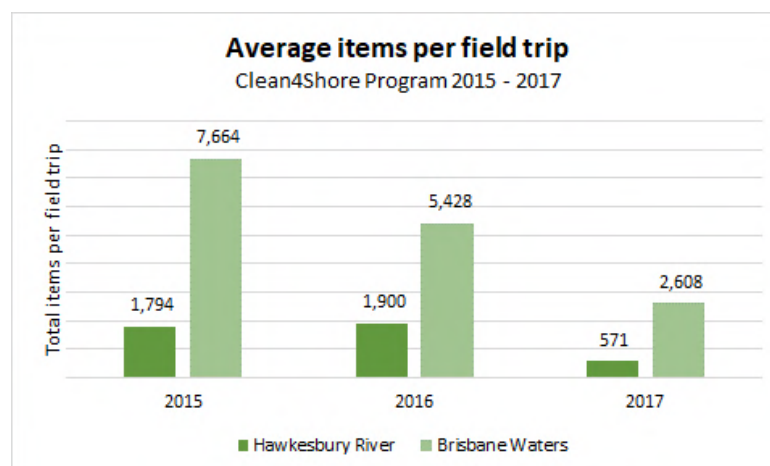


Figure 1: Average items per field trip Clean4shore 2015 – 2017

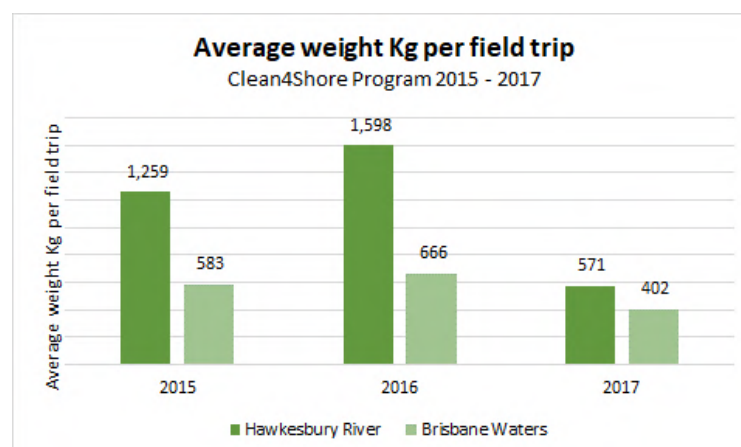


Figure 2: Average weight Kg per field trip Clean4shore 2015 - 2017



Figures 1 and 2 show a reduction in the number of items and weight removed. As discussed in the main report there were two things influencing this reduction. First the region was not impacted by significant East Coast Lows in 2017 whereas significant amounts of debris were released from flooding due to these events in 2015 and 2016. And second, the project, since 2010, has made deep inroads into the historically accumulated debris spread throughout the region. The massive numbers of items removed from Brisbane Waters reflects the major problem of uncontained waste and litter in that system while the weight of debris from the Hawkesbury River reflects the efforts to remove abandoned oyster farming gear and a variety of barges and water craft. Despite the reduction very high levels of debris remain in the system and the program needs full ongoing support to maintain momentum and be able to respond to new influxes of debris.

Parts of the Fagan's Bay and Narara Creek system have been completely choked with litter and waste for years. The Clean4shore Program has been able to make inroads into this but the improvement reflected in figures 3 and 4 will only be temporary if source reduction measures are not implemented. Clean4shore has on many occasions pointed out the need to capture litter and waste before it reaches the drain outfalls feeding into the river as a starting point and for wider source reduction actions to be developed for this system and the region.

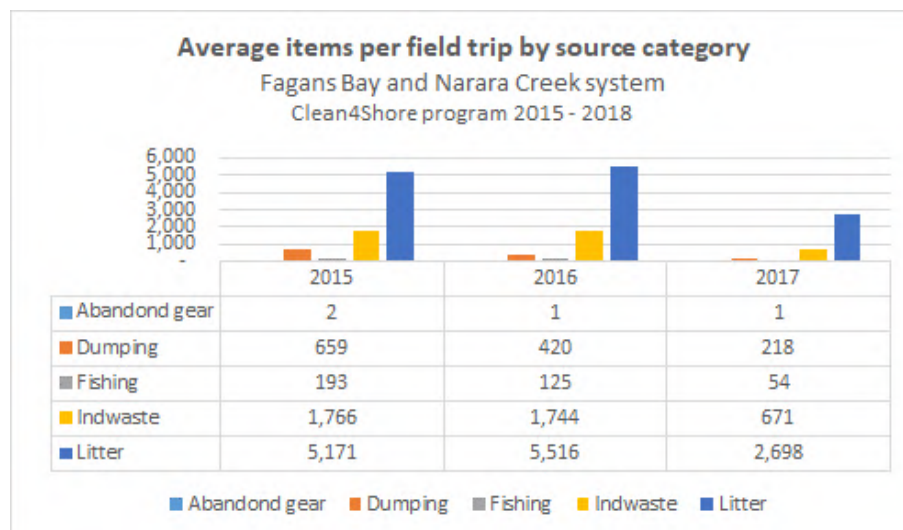


Figure 3: Average items per field trip by source category

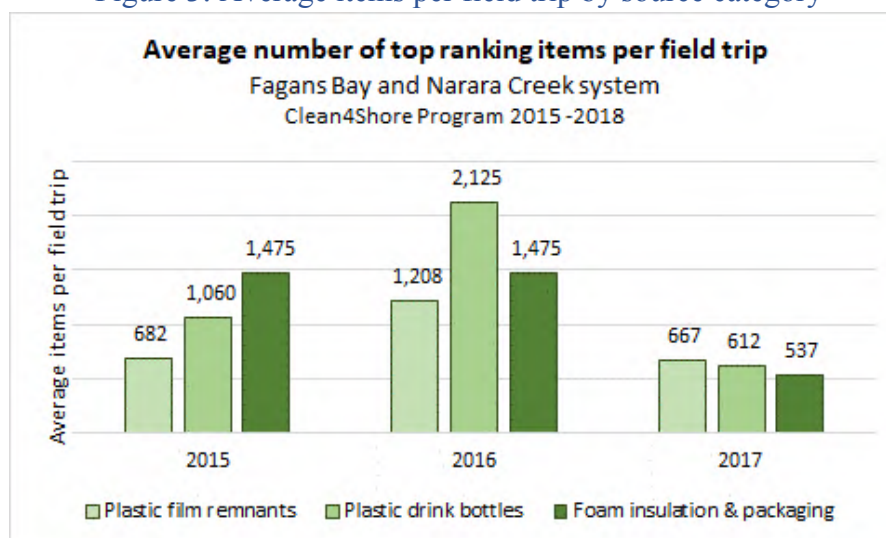
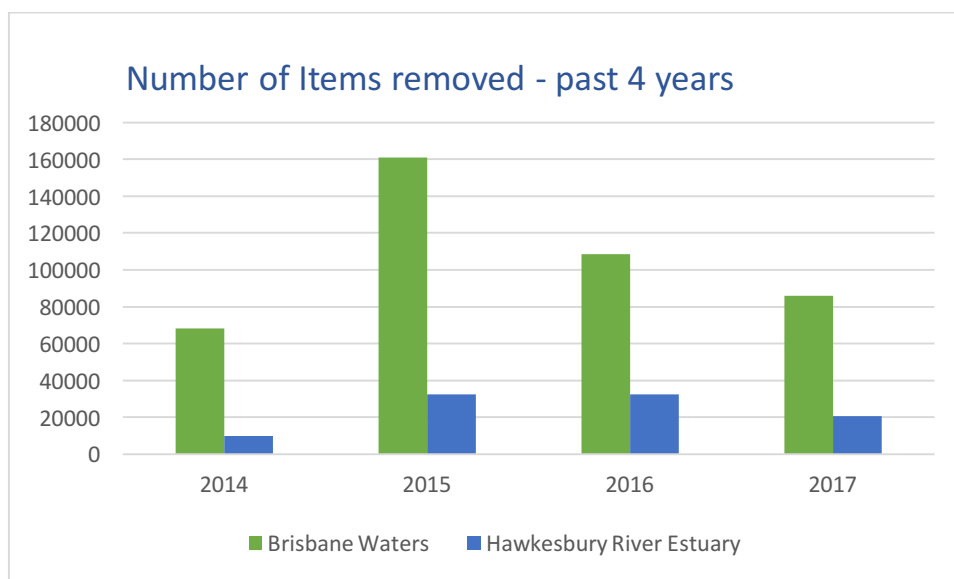
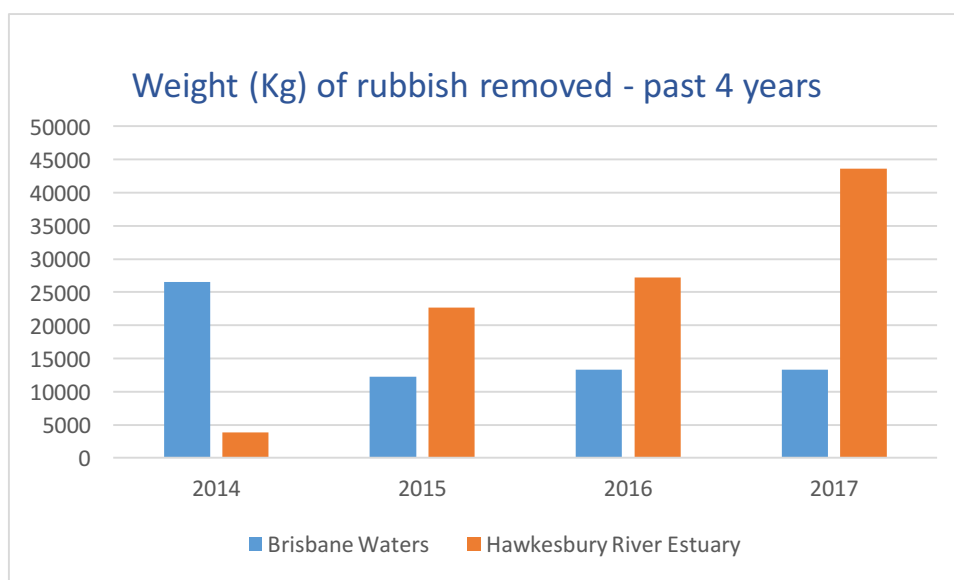


Figure 4: Average number of top ranking items per field trip

Project Summary over the past four years

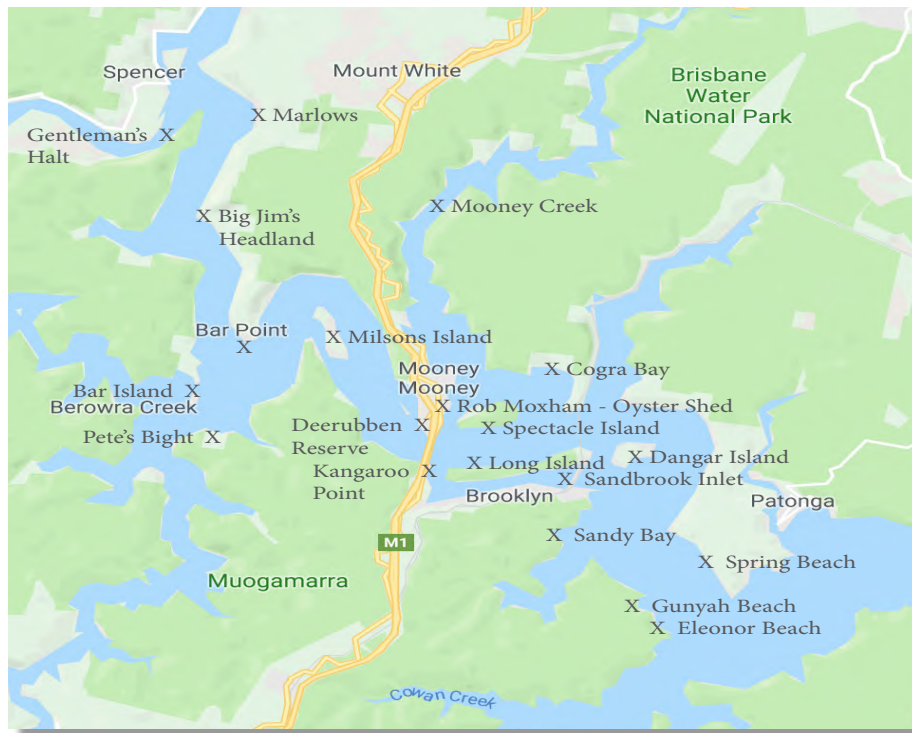


Items removed from Brisbane Waters are consistent with a higher residential population and industrial sites. This generates a larger flow of litter, uninterrupted into the waterways.



Weight in 2017 in the Hawkesbury River is consistent with larger items removed including; pontoons and derelict vessels under the Improving Your Local Parks and Environment Grant (IYLPE).

HAWKESBURY SUMMARY



Initial surveys, early in 2017 revealed vast volumes of litter, on the Hawkesbury River above Bar Point. Funding from the local progress association, Clean4shore, JD's Family Auto, MacMasters Progress Association and Dimension Data removed 4 tonne of litter from five field trips prior to June 2017.

The large pontoons sighted last year were again visible, mostly moving with the tides. Stakeholder inaction was very apparent, most adopting the "out of sight, out of mind" policy, following Clean4shore and Bar Point community concerns.

Hawkesbury River Big Loads



Clean4shore received a combined grant from Greater Sydney Local Land Service and Hornsby Council to enable local school participation in the program. This grant also

promoted educational classroom forums, enabling Clean4shore and Hornsby Shire Council's David Bolton, to speak at Cherrybrook Technology and Asquith Girls High.

Sandbrook Inlet, a safe haven and boat mooring centre at Brooklyn, is a major "hot spot" for litter. Four field trips were completed by The Glen, Cherrybrook Technology High and Dimension Data retrieving 2.3 tonne of litter. This inner "gut" of Sandbrook Inlet is continually choked with residential and boating litter. Floating polystyrene is abundant at the end of the channel, where thousands of pieces gather and break up. Much of this polystyrene is from foam boxes which are commonly used on commercial houseboats. Clean4shore has tried to encourage the commercial houseboat rental business's, to ban these polystyrene boxes from all craft hired, however, so far no change has been forthcoming.

The "junk yard" at the western end of Cogra Bay was a priority this year, once the IYLPE grant began. The Glen team demolished boats, removed dumped household items and removed concrete pontoons. The demolished house that was inspected by the former Gosford City Council in late 2016, still remains, on the foreshore, with stacked whitegoods, bedding and wall cladding all on the tidal water. Despite consistent complaints from locals, "nothing has changed".

Berowra Creek was not touched past Bar Island and the Twin Beaches, with Cowan Creek only monitored to Cottage Point, once prior to the Christmas holiday period, with very little rubbish collected.

Removal of the 12 concrete covered polystyrene pontoons, began once the IYLPE grant commenced, a difficult task made easier by nature. A perfect two metre "king" tide allowed access, requiring a simple push of each pontoon into deeper water for the slow tow back to Rob Moxham's shed. Rob's large crane and excavator made short work of removal from the water and demolition for transport to Woy Woy Landfill. Stakeholder resistance to recognise ownership and responsibility was huge with the grant consuming \$21K on this task alone. Central Coast Council refunded Clean4shore the disposal fee of \$5K. The negative side of this was that another nine pontoons were found and removed, with many more still in the water, oozing polystyrene into the Hawkesbury River Estuary. Three more of these pontoons floated into Brisbane Waters, and are still on the foreshores in Kincumber Broadwater.



Dimension Data



Hawkesbury
Rob Moxham's Crane Offload

Corporate Landcare continued their involvement with Clean4shore engaging the Telstra Corporation on a “tough muddy” field trip at Gentleman’s Halt. The Department of Juvenile Justice’s Frank Baxter Centre also utilized the program as a community reintegration tool for young offenders.



Left:
Telstra



Right:
Dimension
Data

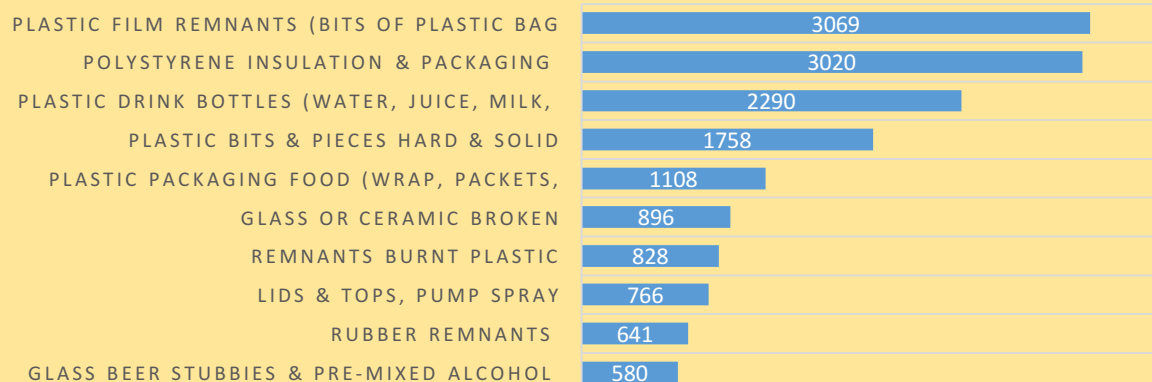
The positive note from 2017 is the reduction of small litter items on the immediate foreshores of the Hawkesbury and tributaries, attributed to clean ups over the past six years, and improved boating practices with litter. Roadside litter has declined, which may be due to the EPA’s “dob in a dumper” campaign and with no significant flooding rain, nor the release of bulk water from Warragamba Dam, the river presents in great condition to the recreational user.

Barge subcontractors, Rob Moxham and his team are outstanding in mentoring students, corporates and adult volunteers, on all issues involving the oyster industry and local maritime history. They continue to provide essential equipment and service to Clean4shore. Reports from all volunteers complemented Mitchell, Lee, Brett and of course Rob on their program efforts and information on the highly volatile oyster industry.

Local MacMasters Beach surf club members, Bill, Amanda and Tim supported Clean4shore on many surveys and larger removal projects as part of the club adventure volunteering.

2018 will see challenges in the complete pontoon removal, surveying further up the Hawkesbury River Estuary to Spencer, and deeper into Mooney and Mullet Creeks. Hornsby Council and Greater Sydney Local Land Services will seek additional funding to maintain clean –ups on the Hawkesbury South foreshores and tributaries.

HAWKESBURY TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED



Issues of Concern

23 Concrete covered polystyrene pontoons, were removed in 2017, possibly the same are still hidden in the mangroves, waiting for a storm, flood or large tide to move them downstream. The source is unknown, but the seriousness to boating and navigation safety is very real. Stakeholder intervention is required to assist Clean4shore in their complete removal.



This house was demolished in 2016, pushed down to the foreshore, and left. Council compliance inspected this site and at the end of 2017 the rubbish is still present, much to the disgust of local neighboring residents in Cogra Bay



Hawkesbury River Estuary – Summary 2017							
Trip	Date	Group	Area	Grant Provider	Disposal Weight	Volunteer	Volunteer Hours
1	30/01/17	Clean4shore Survey	Bar Point Cogra Bay	Clean4shore JD Family Auto	Nil	1	2.5
2	24/02/17	BWSC Work Experience	Bar Island Bar Point	Bar Point Macs PA	380	3	12
3	25/02/17	Bar Point & MacMasters	Bar Point	Bar Point Macs PA	1.500	17	51
4	27/02/17	The Glen	Cogra Bay	Cogra Bay & Macs PA	2.500	9	27
5	28/02/17	MacMasters Beach SLSC	Cogra Bay	Cogra Bay & Macs PA	1.380	2	11
6	02/03/17	Clean4shore Moxham	Bar Point	Bar Point & Macs PA	600 recycled	1	3
7	04/05/17	Clean4shore Survey	Gentlemans Halt	Clean4shore	Nil	0	0
8	22/05/17	Clean4shore Macs & Survey	Peats Bite Bar Point	Clean4shore	180	1	3.5
9	23/05/17	Dimension Data	Gentlemans Halt	Dimension Data Bar Point PA	1.380	12	50
10	25/05/17	Dimension Data	Sandbrook Inlet	Dimension Data Clean4shore	1.200	9	42
11	13/05/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Cogra Bay	Gosford Council POET	300	2	9
12	19/06/17	BWSC Work Experience	Milson Island Survey	Gosford Council POET	Nil	3	13.5
13	28/06/17	Cherrybrook High School	Long Island Sandbrook	Greater Sydney Land Services	560	11	65

14	16/08/17	Rolland Hassall School	Bar Point	Gosford Council POET	320	5	12.5
15	30/08/17	Rolland Hassall School	Mullet Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	140	5	15
16	06/9/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Cogra Pontoons	Federal Gov ILP&E	300 recycled	1	4
17	11/09/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Bar Point Pontoon	Federal Gov ILP&E	1.280	1	4
18	12/09/17	The Glen	Sandbrook Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	500	10	40
19	22/09/17	Clean4shore Paint delivery	Sandbrook Cogra	Federal Gov ILP&E	120	0	0
20	02/10/17	Clean4shore Tyres/Pontoon	Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	1.200	0	0
21	10/10/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	480	1	5
22	18/10/17	Rolland Hassall School	Milson's Passage	Federal Gov ILP&E	220	4	12
23	30/10/17	Central Coast Council Survey	Bar Point Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	80	3	2.5
24	01/11/17	Asquith Girls High	Gunyah Eleanor	Greater Sydney Land Services	250	12	36
25	06/11/17	The Glen	Bar Point pontoon	Federal Gov ILP&E	320	10	35
26	07/11/17	BWSC The Croft	Bar Point boat/pontoon	Federal Gov ILP&E	600	4	14
27	09/11/17	Clean4shore tyres	Bar Point pontoons	Federal Gov ILP&E	2.800	0	0
28	12/11/17	Frank Baxter JJC	Big Jims Bar Island	Federal Gov ILP&E	240	5	25
29	16/11/17	BWSC Work experience	Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	800	3	30
30	22/11/17	Telstra Corporation	Gentlemen's Halt	Corp Landcare Clan4shore	280	9	45
31	29/11/17	Rolland Hassall	Long Island Little Wobby	Federal Gov ILP&E	60	5	12
32	04/12/17 05/12/17	The Glen	Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	2.120	10	30
33	06/12/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Olga Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	2.000	2	10
34	08/12/17	BWSC Support	Kangaroo & Fishermans Point	Federal Gov ILP&E	260	6	21
35	11/12/17 Survey	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Mooney Bay Cogra Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	0	1	3.5
36	15/12/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Mooney Bay Boat	Federal Gov ILP&E	460	1	3.5
37	19/12/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Mooney Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	860	2	15
38	20/12/17	Clean4shore	Pontoon Removal	Federal Gov ILP&E	16.340	1	8
39	28/12/17	MacMasters Beach Boaties	Pontoon	Federal Gov ILP&E	1.780	10	35
40	29/12/17	Clean4shore Macs SLSC	Bar Point	Federal Gov ILP&E	140	4	12
40 Field Trips Completed Totals					43.640	185	720

Hawkesbury River Groups



Left:
Dimension
Data



Right:
Cherrybrook
Technology
High School



Left:
Rowland
Hassell
School



Right:
Telstra



Left:
Frank
Baxter JJC
Luke and
Seonie



Right:
Asquith
Girls High
School



Left:
The Glen –
Tough job
with boats



Right:
Polystyrene
Sandbrook
Inlet

Cool Shots



BRISBANE WATERS SUMMARY



Surveys commenced the Brisbane Waters annual program, funded from local donations and Clean4shore funds. Brisbane Waters Secondary College monitored and cleaned the local “hot spots” of Pelican Island, Paddy’s Channel and Woy Woy Bay prior to May, removing 1.5 tonne from four completed field trips.

The reintroduction of Central Coast Council’s Protecting of the Environment Trust (PoET) Grant and Greater Sydney Local Landcare Services’ “Floating Landcare” program funded Clean4shore for the next three months, allowing access into the tributaries of Erina, Kincumber and Narara Creeks, by the local schools.

The Federal Governments Improving Your Local Parks and Environment (IYLPE) Grant commenced in August, following strong program promotion within local schools and youth agencies, increasing participation levels occurred, as the statistics demonstrate, towards the latter end of the year. Narara Valley High school, Youth Connections commenced the program, and negotiations with St Edwards College and Erina High confirmed their intentions for 2018.

Clean4shore frustration with derelict oyster product, washing up on the foreshores, continues without an apparent end in sight. The local oyster industry works closely in conjunction with our volunteers, providing additional site location and barges when required. Derelict or

deserted leases, which continually “fall apart” requiring industry intervention and compliance, or at least financial support to Clean4shore for the expenditure involved in collection, transport and disposal of this product. Sections of Brisbane Waters cannot be navigated by recreational craft, due to these protruding structures, together with posing an “ugly” visual sight during low tide.

The litter “hot spots” within Erina Bay and Creek, Narara and Kincumber Creek continue to receive residential roadside and industrial litter directly into the waterways, and although statistics suggest a decline in volume, from the “plague” proportions of 2016, collection is still staggering. Improved Council management strategies are required, to ‘trap’ the litter prior to entry into the feeder Creeks, and further expand community education regarding the impact of littering.

Improved educational emphasis, during the clean ups, has occurred in 2017 as barge operators, the coordinator and supervising teachers strive to encourage improved litter management within their community, especially after “hands on” participation in the Clean4shore program.



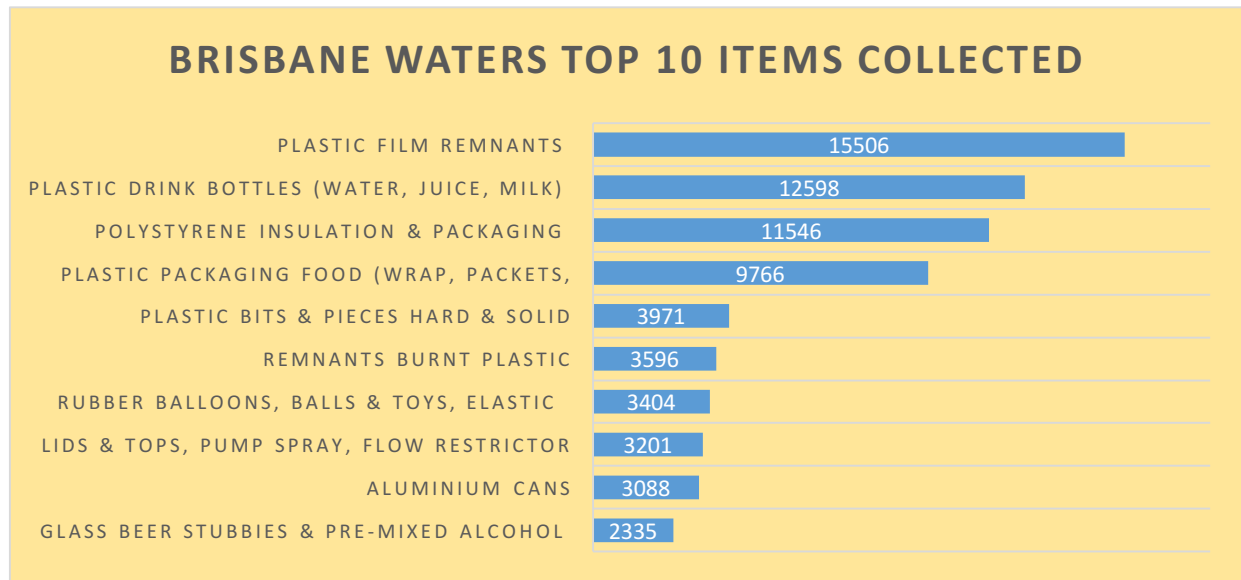
Floating Landcare

Brisbane Waters Secondary College utilized the Clean4shore program to their support unit, as a “work experience” option. Students joined local senior Bushcare volunteers through the GSSLs “Floating Landcare” program. Under the guidance of the Bushcare volunteers, the students recognized and removed invasive weeds on Pelican Island, then encouraged and guided the Bushcare volunteer’s on Clean4shore litter removal. The balance of young and senior volunteers working together, on an achievable target was certainly a success, building confidence, communication and employment skills within the students. Youthful intervention into the Landcare program was indeed a positive experience for all those involved.



Narara Valley High School

The injection of capital from the IYLPE grant enabled the expansion, stability and further promotion of the Clean4shore program within Brisbane Waters. Negative obstacles and road blocks in stakeholder compliance, especially industry litter management, and derelict oyster product removal require improvement, however these negatives are overwhelmed by the positive response from the community, media, students and volunteers involved in Clean4shore on Brisbane Waters.



Note: The vast majority of litter, included in the top 10, is generated from Erina, Narara and Kincumber Creeks. Roadside industrial and residential litter is the source of this litter.

Issues of Concern

Derelict oyster infrastructure, abandoned by the owner, wash off the lease by storms, or simply neglected, is a major issue for Clean4shore, through our volunteer's efforts and the financial burden of disposing of the product. All field trips in Brisbane Waters return with oyster product, and the amount of abandoned leases is increasing, as the industry struggles with virus's and a lack of operating space.



BRISBANE WATER SUMMARY 2017

Trip	Date	Group	Area	Grant Provider	Weight	Volunteer Number	Total Hours
1	06/02/17	Clean4shore Survey	Woy Woy Riley's20	Clean4shore JD Family Auto	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	20/02/17	Clean4shore Survey	Erina Creek	Clean4shore JD Family Auto	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	03/03/17	BWSC Support	Woy Woy Channel	Macs Progress JD Family Auto	300	10	30
4	10/03/17	BWSC Bushcraft	Riley's Island Paddy's	Clean4shore JD Family Auto	380	5	22
5	11/05/17	BWSC Umina	Pelican Tascott	Council POET	460	10	45
6	17/05/17	The Glen	Fagan's Bay	Council Poet	240	10	33
7	26/05/17	BWSC Support	Woy Woy Bay	Council Poet	340	9	30
8	14/06/17	BWSC Work Experience	Narara Creek	Council Poet	5	2	7
9	20/06/17	MacMasters SLSC	Erina Creek	Council Poet	160	1	3.5
10	21/06/17	Kincumber High	Kincumber Broadwater	Council Poet	580	16	72
11	22/06/17	BWSC Umina	Erina Creek	Council Poet	260	7	21
12	03/07/17	MacMasters SLSC	Empire Bay	Council Poet	2.300	3	13.5
13	05/07/17	Green Army Gosford	Rip Bridge	GSLLS Floating L/C	1.020	8	43
14	31/07/17	Youth Connections	Green Point	Council Poet	180	3	7.5
15	07/08/17	BWSC Marine Studies	Wagstaff	Council Poet	480	8	36
14	14/08/17	BWSC Work Experience	Davistown	Council Poet	380	3	10.5
15	15/08/17	Clean4shore Survey	Brisbane Waters	Clean4shore	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	18/08/17	BWSC Support Survey	Woy Woy Channel	Federal Gov ILP&E	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	28/08/17	Youth Connections	Erina Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	360	8	20
18	04/09/17	Kincumber High School	Kincumber Broadwater	Federal Gov ILP&E	340	13	54
19	05/09/17	Green Army Gosford	Fagan's Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	300	7	42
20	08/09/17	BWSC Bushcraft	Erina Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	200	9	30
21	15/09/17	BWSC Support	Carrea Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	180	3	6
22	18/09/17	Youth Connections	Woy Woy Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	580	6	15
22	25/09/17	Green Army	Erina Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	300	6	21
23	05/10/17	Green Army	Fagan's Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	420	14	42

24	17/10/17	Narara Valley High	Fagan's Bay Narara Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	480	12	54
25	19/10/17	MacMasters SLSC	Tascott	Federal Gov ILP&E	280	1	3.5
26	25/10/17	BWSC The Croft	Riley's Island	Federal Gov ILP&E	240	6	21
27	08/11/17	Floating Landcare	Pelican Island	GSLLS Floating L/C	220	10	30
28	14/11/17	North Gosford Learning Centre	Pelican Island	Federal Gov ILP&E	140	8	20
29	15/11/17	Narara Valley High School	Narara Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	720	12	54
30	17/11/17	Clean4shore Survey	Woy Woy Channel	Federal Gov ILP&E	120	1	3.5
31	20/11/17	Clean4shore Survey	Pelican Island	Federal Gov ILP&E	180	1	3.5
32	23/11/17	BWSC The Croft	Phegan's Bay	Federal Gov ILP&E	260	7	24
33	27/11/17	Clen4shore Survey	Narara Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	60	1	3.5
34	07/12/17	BWSC Umina	Erina Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	140	8	28
35	12/12/17	Green Army	Erina Bay Erina Creek	Federal Gov ILP&E	380	7	28
36	13/12/17	Floating Landcare	Pelican Island Riley's Island	Federal Gov ILP&E	280	4	7
Total - 36 Field Trips					13.265	239	883



**A lounge in Erina Creek Mangroves?
Green Army Program**

Brisbane Waters Groups



Green Army Gosford



BWSC Bushcraft



Youth Connections



Kincumber High



Narara Valley High School

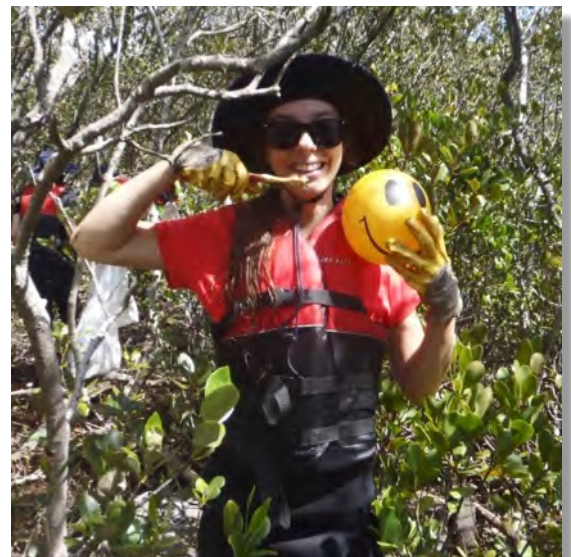


Kincumber High School Girls

Big Loads – Brisbane Waters



Cool Shots



Regional Landcare Award Winners Recognised Achievements

Brisbane Waters Secondary College's efforts in reducing marine litter, through the Clean4shore program, was announced as the Regional Landcare, "schools" category winner, at Greater Sydney Local Landcare presentation. Clean4shore was also announced as the "Coastcare" winner at the same presentation. The school's efforts in completing 34 field trips during 2016/17 in Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Waters and the Hawkesbury River and removing 18.5 tonne of litter over the two years.

Educational learning outcome surpassed water and catchment management, with teamwork, self-confidence, challenges and boating awareness all part of the Clean4shore program.



Brisbane Waters Secondary College

Clean4shore State Landcare Award

Clean4shore was awarded a State Landcare title, winning the 2017 "Coastcare category" for successfully engaging communities in a local environmental project. "Jono" attended the Albury presentation and was humbled by the quality of tasks undertaken by Landcare volunteers throughout the State. Clean4shore will now represent NSW at the National Landcare Awards in October 2018.



Graham Johnston from Clean4Shore with Regional Landcare Facilitator, Vanessa Keyzer and Rebecca Mooy, Senior Land Services Officer with GSLLS at the NSW

Clean4shore's Mapoon Gulf Trip

Clean4shore, in conjunction with Tangaroa Blue, sponsored three young MacMasters Beach Surf Life Savers, involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program, on a ten-day safari to Cape York Peninsular. Their task was to join other volunteers in cleaning a large section of Mapoon Beach, North of Weipa. Amie, Taylor and Alex, fundraised for the trip, receiving local donations, and are active members of the Clean4shore team. Camping with the local indigenous villages, they retrieved fishing nets, thousands of plastic bottles, and plenty of "thongs". Great effort by the team and their supervisor Jan Sillato.



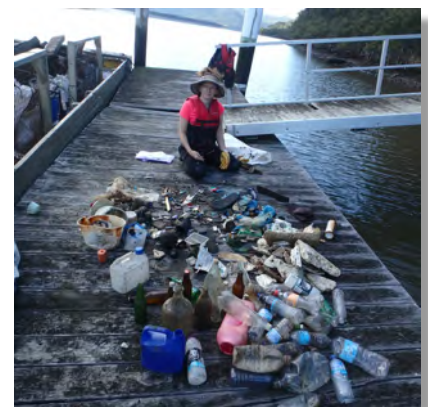
Alex McMartin, Taylor Crowther and Amie Cooper

Statistics

The gathering of statistics is a vital part of clean4shore's operation. Number, type, weight and volume of litter collected is forwarded to Tangaroa Blue for compiling in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative data log.

Averaging our bags out at the end of a difficult field trip is tedious, however the evidence collected is vital for stakeholders and governing regulators to amend policies that will help to reduce these numbers from returning

Statistics from Bar Point being recorded.



Special Mention

Financial support from James Crowther of JD's Family Auto, Bar Point and MacMasters Beach Progress Association, allowed the 2017 Clean4shore to proceed.



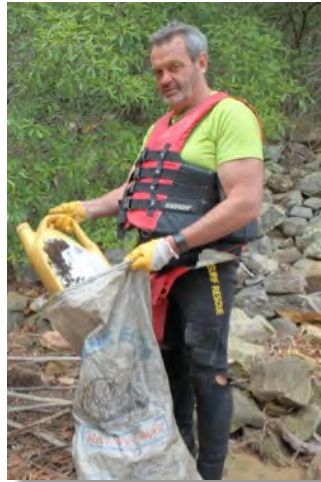
Left: James Crowther and Jono.

Right: Rob Moxham centre with progress association members



Key Supporters

The drive and motivation to get our volunteers involved in Clean4shore starts with the key supervisors and teachers at the schools, community and youth organisations. Our task is often very difficult, in challenging terrain and weather conditions. Some of these key people include:



Left:
Jim Myers



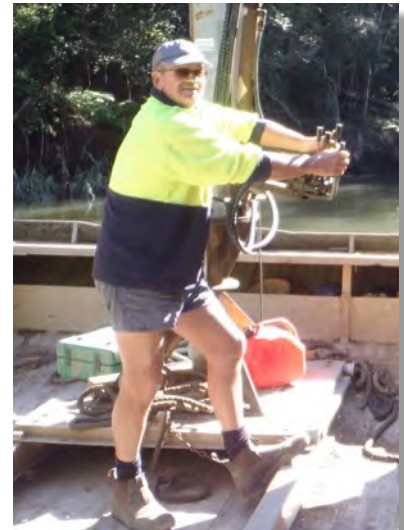
Right:
Mat Simms,
The Glen



Far Right:
Marnie, BWSC
The Croft



Left to right:
Mitchell, Simon, Lee



Left:
Louise &
Maxine, Woy
Woy BWSC
support



Right:
John Cobham

Combined Statistics Hawkesbury River & Brisbane Waters 2017

Combined Statistics Hawkesbury River & Brisbane Waters 2017			
Small Collected Items	Hawkesbury	Brisbane Water	Total
Cigarette butts & filters	46	0	46
Cigarette lighters	247	1481	1,728
Pens, markers & other plastic stationary	125	643	768
Straws, confection sticks, cups, plates	206	1667	1,873
Toothbrushes, brushes & combs,	23	103	126
Toys, party poppers, ribbons, clips	452	1836	2,288
Bleach & cleaner bottles	180	559	739
Lids & tops, pump spray, flow restrictor	766	3201	3,967
Personal care & pharmaceutical	6	19	25
Plastic bags supermarket, garbage,	137	3	140
Plastic containers non food (oil,	112	630	742
Plastic drink bottles (water, juice, milk,	2290	12598	14,888
Plastic packaging food (wrap, packets,	1108	9766	10,874
Plastic wrap non food (bubble wrap etc)	94	294	388
Strapping band scraps	43	230	273
Strapping band whole (record as single	5	31	36
Bait & tackle bags & packaging	248	523	771
Bait containers & lids, bait savers	134	341	475
Commercial fishing remnants (float, pot,	4	15	19
Cylume glow sticks	0	3	3
Fishing line in metres (recreational)	161	94	255
Recreational fishing items (lures, float	63	143	206
Rope & net scraps less than 1 metre	59	146	205
Rope (estimated length in metres)	21	61	82
Plastic bits & pieces hard & solid	1758	3971	5,729
Plastic film remnants (bits of plastic bag	3069	15506	18,575
Remnants burnt plastic	828	3596	4,397
Foamed Plastic (Polystyrene) Items			
Foam buoys	38	76	114
Foam cups, food packs & trays	495	902	1,397
Foam insulation & packaging (whole a	3020	11546	14,566
Other Materials			
Oil globules & tar-balls	0	0	0
Sanitary (tissues, nappies, Condoms,	2	7	9
Shoes leather & fabric	75	160	235
Glass & Ceramic Items			
Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs	3	1	4
Glass beer stubbies & pre-mixed alcohol	580	2335	2,915
Glass jars & sauce bottles	10	42	52
Glass or ceramic broken	896	853	1,749
Glass wine, spirit and similar bottles	181	545	726
Cloth Items			
Binding, thread, string & cord natural	45	130	175
Cloth, clothing, hats & towels	73	243	316

Metal Items			
Aerosol cans	39	179	218
Aluminium cans	411	3088	3,499
Foil wrappers, packets, bladders &	25	46	71
Metal bottle caps, lids & pull tabs	9	7	16
Metal fishing items (sinkers, lures,	13	17	30
Tins under 4 litres (food, drink tins and	16	43	59
Paper & Cardboard Items			
Newspaper, magazines & brochures	20	50	70
Paper & cardboard packaging	59	202	261
Tetra packs & drink cartons	12	92	104
Rubber Items			
Rubber balloons, balls & toys, elastic	577	3404	3,981
Rubber footwear & thongs	273	642	915
Rubber remnants	641	2000	2,461
Wood Items			
Brooms, brushes & paint brushes	21	37	58
Processed timber, pallets & other wood	260	141	401
Wooden confection sticks, pencils,	0	0	0
Total Combined Small Items Collected	19,983	83,938	103,921

Combined Statistics Hawkesbury River & Brisbane Waters 2017

Additional Larger Items Collected

Collected Items	H/R	BW	Collected Items	H/R	BW
Concrete/polystyrene pontoons	23		Metal maritime signage	3	
Hardwood oyster trays	52	110	Metal shopping trolleys		3
Hardwood oyster infrastructure		105	Metal crab pots		3
Plastic oyster "slats" trays		1250	Metal gas bottles		1
Plastic oyster trays/baskets/cone	6	261	Marine boating ply		8
Plastic oyster polypipe 2 m		129	Polystyrene boxes		13
Plastic drum/buckets (large)	5	11	Corflex advertising signage		2
Plastic buckets/drums small	44	5	Aluminium boat complete		3
Plastic wheelie bins/maritime markers	6	8	Timber/Ply boats complete	2	1
Poly pipe pieces plus two metres	8	21	Fibreglass boats complete	7	3
Hardwood pallet	1	3	Fibreglass boating hull pieces	7	4
Plastic pools/inflatables		3	Boating parts	23	1
Plastic outdoor chairs/tables	9	18	Surfboard/Boogie Board	4	3
Milk crate	5	7	Large foam floatation pieces		5
Hardwood large pieces		8	Canoe paddle		1
Black plastic sheeting plus three metre		1	Camping tent/sleeping bags	15	1
Lounge	3	4	Tarpaulin	10	4
Foam sponge/mattress/boat seats	9	12	Household furniture		16
Car tyres	21	57	Conveyor belt matt 2 metre		2
Electrical goods, TV computers	8	7	Carpet two square metres	7	5
Whitegoods metal fridge etc.	16	3	Plasterboard pieces	7	3
Metal large pieces	66	5	Household insulation	1	2
Metal outdoor chairs		5	Motel Linen towels, sheets etc.	1	53
Metal bikes & bike parts	1	4	Car/boat battery	12	1
Metal boating parts	8	1	Polystyrene filled "bean bags"	3	
Metal household (mowers, BBQ)	5		Aluminium yacht mast	1	
Metal fencing/roof sheeting	18	9	Fibreglass canoes	2	
Metal Plumbing items	8		Paint tins (full & part full)	44	
Nylon oyster shade cloth 25 metres	1		Solar household panels	2	
TOTAL LARGER ITEMS				2127	585
TOTAL COMBINED LARGE ITEMS					2712
TOTAL COMBINED SMALL AND LARGE ITEMS					106,636

Moving Forward 2018

The removal of the concrete covered polystyrene pontoons, plus those still unsighted, in the Hawkesbury River, is the focus of January 2018. Property owners who are utilising these pontoons can only be advised to repair exposed pieces of polystyrene, emphasising the dangers of polystyrene entering the waterway. With zero regulation, or intention to enforce compliance on these pontoons, Clean4shore can only offer property owners the opportunity to assist in their removal.

Surveys in Brisbane Waters will again start the year, through the secured IYLPE, and the balance of the GSLLS grant. Schools and youth organisations will be engaged early for 2018 enabling the “hot spots” of Pelican Island, Fagan’s Bay, Narara, Erina and Kincumber Creek to be cleaned following the busy Christmas period. Negotiations with Erina High school and St Edwards Christian College will enhance the local school participation levels.

Our disposal fee, although EPA exempt, are still expensive and continued efforts through Central Coast Council, for “charity” status will continue.

The valued clean up tasks completed during 2016 in Tuggerah Lakes needs repeating, and with the amalgamation of the two local Councils, funding for this task on a limited basis could occur, further engaging the local schools.

Additional funding grants for clean ups on the Southern foreshore of the Hawkesbury River, engaging Hornsby Shire schools is required. The promotion completed by Hornsby Shire Council, during 2017 generated interest and participation, however more schools are needed to take part of this program. Encouraged attendance of “stakeholders” on these field trips will provide valuable mentoring, compliance information and marine education to the participating volunteers and subcontractors

Clean4shores PPE equipment (wetsuits, booties, socks etc.) is heavily utilised in often extreme conditions including muddy mangroves, thick bush and slippery rock shelf’s. The wear and tear on this gear together with the washing and repairing is constant, yet highly important in keep the volunteers safe, in line with our WHS management. Clean4shores budget of \$2K is warranted, and applied in most grants.

The Clean4shore Facebook page, plus our regular media commitments, field trips and media reports provides data and information to all supporters and stakeholders. Improvements are needed to implement and manage our “webpage”, and utilise additional media’s including Instagram, snap chat and tweet.

Clean4shore partners Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Hornsby Shire and Central Coast Councils, Tangaroa Blue plus Brisbane Water National Parks will continue to provide essential support and guidance to the program that is continually “on the go”.

The momentum, education, safety and enthusiasm that Clean4shore generated on individual field trips, reflects directly on the “army” of schools, youth, corporate and community organisation involved. Their smiling faces, during and on completion of a difficult task keeps our barge operators and myself motivated to keep the program functioning.

Graham Johnston



The Coalition Government delivered funding for Clean4Shore’s important work as part of our \$2.2 million Local Environment Plan for the Central Coast. This was an 2016 election commitment to help improve the region’s local parks and community facilities and develop more accessible green spaces.

Clean4Shore is a fantastic organisation that partners with local schools, youth and social services as well as commercial businesses to assist with clean-up activities.

The project also funds educational events with local schools to improve student understanding about the impact of litter and debris on local waterways and natural ecosystems across the Central Coast.

Jono and his team do extraordinary work removing rubbish – often illegally dumped – in our pristine foreshores, mangroves and estuaries. I’m pleased that Federal Funding has helped Clean4Shore continue their amazing work for our community and our environment



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