

# Geoffrey Bay natural values interpretation planning

Draft report prepared by Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare

May 2016

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents and discusses the results of two Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare activities:

- On Sunday afternoon 24 April 2016, the Coastcare group held a “Geoffrey Bay natural values interpretation planning workshop” at the bowls club, Arcadia, Magnetic Island. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for the local community to identify the following about Geoffrey Bay: important natural values, important audiences, preferred communication methods, one immediate interpretation action, and a longer term plan for communicating values.
- On 26 April 2016, Coastcare representatives met with Wulgurukaba traditional owner representatives to receive Wulgurukaba advice on interpreting Geoffrey Bay’s natural values.

The goal of these activities and this report is to facilitate the preparation and implementation of a natural values interpretation plan for Geoffrey Bay.

Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare is a volunteer community group that works to protect and restore natural values on public land at Arcadia. Activities include weed control, assisted natural regeneration, tree planting, habitat protection, interpretive signage and natural asset management workshops. Activities are planned and implemented with approval from the relevant authorities (Council and National Parks). Some activities are supported by funding; e.g. State and federal government/NQ Dry Tropics grants. The group has been active for more than a decade.

## PRE-WORKSHOP

At a Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare meeting on 4 October 2015, members identified a need for promoting Geoffrey Bay foreshore habitat protection through awareness-raising interpretation. Subsequently, the group submitted a Community Landcare Grant application to NQ Dry Tropics for the following: \$100 to hire a workshop venue, \$550 for Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners to contribute knowledge, and \$634 to produce and install one interpretive sign (500 x 300mm) agreed at the workshop. NQ Dry Tropics kindly approved the application.

At a Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare meeting on 28 February 2016, a working group of three was formed to organise the interpretation workshop. Preparation for the workshop included defining “natural values” and the study area, deciding on a workshop purpose and format, and inviting participants.

People on the Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare email group (about 60 people, mainly Arcadia residents plus representatives from relevant government, tourism, traditional owner and community groups) were invited to the workshop via three emails. The workshop was also advertised through posters around the island and on the “What’s on Magnetic Island” webpage.

Figure 1 shows the agreed study area which includes foreshore parkland, the beach, bay (intertidal and marine environment) and Petersen Creek mouth. These are all public areas.

“Natural values” were defined as the native plants and animals, and the natural landscape, events and processes that stakeholders value.

The working group and Wulgurukaba Aboriginal Corporation agreed to have a special meeting after the workshop to maximise opportunities for TO input. This was in addition to Wulgurukaba people being invited to the workshop.

The working group had discussions with Townsville City Council and National Parks about their Magnetic Island Signage project to ensure the Coastcare project was complementary.

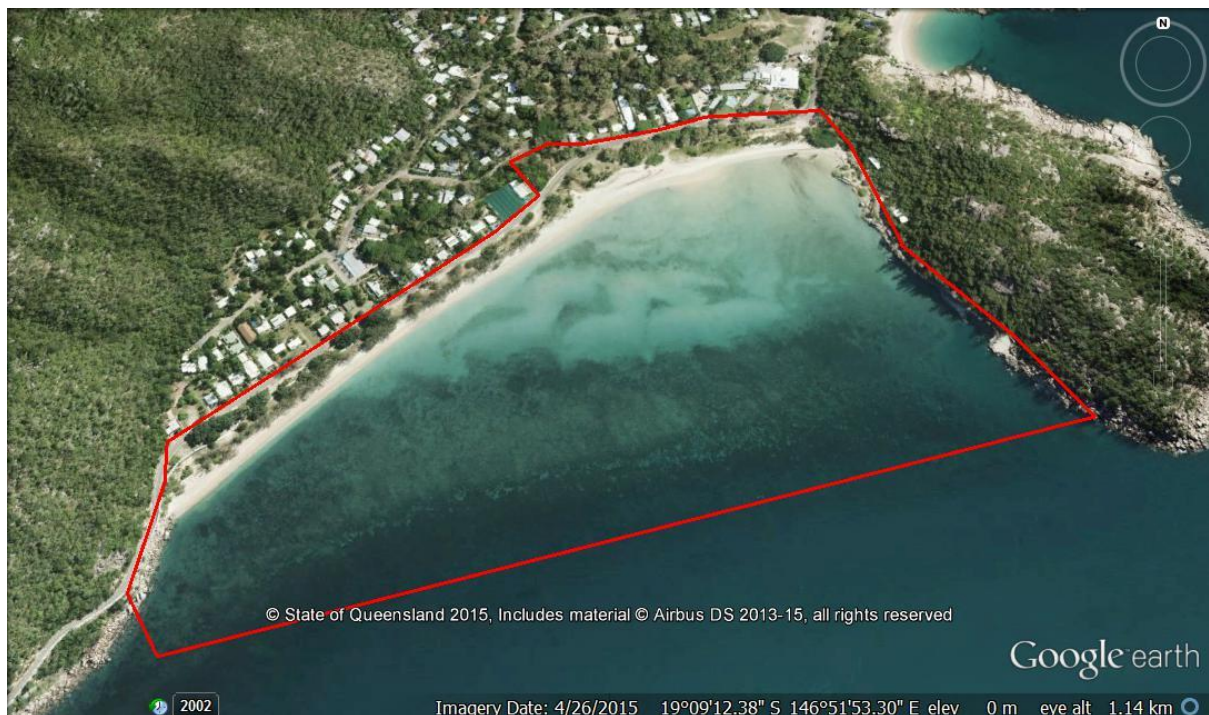


Figure 1: Geoffrey Bay study area (red line shows approx. boundary)

## THE WORKSHOP

Nine people attended the two-hour workshop. This included six Arcadia residents/ratepayers plus a representative from National Parks, TOBMI (tourism) and NQ Dry Tropics. There were six apologies.

The working group provided participants with the following introduction:

- study area boundary (see Figure 1)

- workshop purpose (see Introduction).
- an overview of existing Geoffrey Bay natural values interpretation (e.g. turtle nesting, wallaby feeding and Gabul Way signs; snorkel trail; mention in tourism publications)
- our budget (\$634 from NQ Dry Tropics to produce and install one sign)
- posters on the walls with draft lists of natural values, audiences and communication methods (collated by the working group with some input from the email group)

National Parks gave an overview of the current Magnetic Island signage review by Council and National Parks.

The workshop was interactive, with attendees asked to answer the following questions:

- What are the natural values of Geoffrey Bay? Participants' ideas were added to the draft list already prepared by the working group.
- What are your favourite natural values of Geoffrey Bay? Participants got five sticky dots each to vote on their favourite. People could put all their dots on one value or spread them across a number of values.
- What are the unique natural values of Geoffrey Bay? Participants got two sticky dots each to vote.
- Who should we communicate these values to? Participants' ideas were added to the draft list already prepared by the working group.
- Who is the most important audience to communicate these values to? Participants got three sticky dots each to vote.
- What are the methods for communicating important natural values to important audiences? Participants' ideas were added to the draft list already prepared by the working group.
- What is your recommended method for communicating important natural values? Participants got two sticky dots each to vote.

The working group then proposed the following next steps:

- write up the results of the workshop (this document)
- meet with Wulgurukaba TOs and include their advice (see later in this document)
- draft a Geoffrey Bay foreshore natural values interpretation plan, including identifying priority actions
- send draft plan to workshop participants and other stakeholders (e.g. Council) for feedback
- finalise the plan, informed by feedback
- implement one priority action from the plan with the \$634 budget
- continue working with partners to seek approval and funding for implementing other actions identified in the plan (e.g. apply for grants with assistance from NQDT)

Participants discussed the proposed next steps and provided feedback on the workshop process. The workshop results are provided in the next section.



Figure 2: Participants voting at the workshop

## WORKSHOP RESULTS

### What are the natural values of Geoffrey Bay?

Natural value	Favourite	Unique
<b>LAND</b>		
<b>Landforms</b>		
Sand dunes		
Headlands: Bremner Point, Bright Point, rocks and boulders		
Petersen Creek		
Beach/Shoreline		
<b>Birds</b>		
Rainbow Bee-eater (nesting in dunes)	<b>1</b>	
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (eating almond and sheoak seeds)	<b>2</b>	
Bush Stone-Curlew		
Figbird, Masked Lapwing, Welcome Swallow, Varied Triller, Spangled Drongo, Dollarbird, Rainbow Lorikeet, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Torres Strait Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Torresian Crow.		
Blue-winged Kookaburra, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher		
<b>Mammals</b>		
Rock wallaby (at old jetty)		
Echidna		
Koala (rarely in sheoaks)		
Black Flying Fox		
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Skink, Tree-Snake, Green Tree Frog		

Carpet snake		
<b>Insects</b>		
Butterflies: Ulysses, Cairns Birdwing, Blue Tiger, Wanderer		
<b>Plants</b>	<b>1</b>	
Paperbark		
Casuarina/sheoak	<b>1</b>	
Scrub trees: Burdekin plum, peanut, mimusops, damson		
Bush tucker: Burdekin plum, peanut, mimusops, damson		
Beach plants: beach spinifex grass, goat's foot morning glory, native hibiscus		
Exotic trees: coconut, tamarind, banyan, sea almond		
Other trees: pandanus, sandpaper fig, white cedar, Moreton Bay ash, kapok.		
<b>Land management</b>		
Council and National Parks		
Geoffrey Bay Coastcare – active community	<b>2</b>	
Removing weeds and planting natives		
<b>SEA</b>		
<b>Coral reef</b>	<b>1</b>	
Fringing reef		
Reef flat		
Marine National Park (Green zone) – research tells good story	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
World's first record of mass coral spawning	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Intertidal	<b>3</b>	
The only green zone/urban interface	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Marine plants</b>	<b>1</b>	
Mangroves: Red, Grey, Yellow		
Seagrass		
<b>Shorebirds</b>		
Great Egret		
Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis		
Sooty Oystercatcher, Pied Oystercatcher	<b>1</b>	
Grey-tailed Tattler, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit		
Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern		
Osprey, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle		
<b>Marine animals</b>	<b>1</b>	
Turtles (nesting in dunes and swimming)		
Sharks: reef shark, wobbegong		
Stingrays		
Sea snakes		
Mammals: dugong, dolphin, whales	<b>2</b>	
Crabs: soldier, swimmer, hermit, red-claw		
Fish: mullet		
Shells		
Reef fish		
Clams		
Remora		
<b>WULGURUKABA TRADITIONAL OWNER VALUES</b>		
Gabul creation story for Bremner Point	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OTHER VALUES</b>		

World Heritage values connected to GBR	<b>1</b>	
Aesthetic values (scenery)		
Sea level rise		
Cyclones		
Erosion and deposition		
Moltke/shipwrecks	<b>2</b>	
Diversity and connectivity of habitat - interconnectedness	<b>4</b>	
Migratory birds, whales, butterflies and turtles - visitors	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

#### Who should we communicate these values to?

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Score</b>
Pre arrival visitors	<b>1</b>
Post arrival visitors	<b>3</b>
Visitors generally	<b>5</b>
Tourism businesses	<b>3</b>
Council	
State and federal government	
Politicians	
Island residents	<b>5</b>
Townsville residents	<b>3</b>
Developers	
Birdwatchers	<b>2</b>
Teachers and educators	<b>2</b>
Education tourism	<b>2</b>
Divers/snorkelling	<b>1</b>
People on ferry	
Backpackers	
Tourism niches: local, state, national, international	

#### What is your recommended method for communicating values?

<b>Method</b>	<b>Score</b>
Signage	<b>5</b>
Public art/sculpture	
Brochure	
Pocket guide	
Maps	<b>1</b>
Guided tour	
Interpretive trail: land and/or water	
Word of mouth	
Mail-out	
Webpage	
Phone app	
Open air lectures	
Stories round the fireplace	
Swim cards	

Video - short	<b>7</b>
Streaming webcam	
TCC digital info kiosk (VIS) – island wide	
Trip advisor	
You tube	
What's on Magnetic Island link	
Interpretive shelter	
Interpretation/communication plan	<b>3</b>

### Other matters raised

- Dog impacts on shorebirds. Avenues include legislation, education, a dog park.
- Certain people on the island have valuable expertise, e.g. bird expertise, video expertise.
- Keep \$s on the island (re spending grant money on consultants).
- Stories should be coming from islanders' perspective; it should be the voices of the locals that you see/hear in the sign/video, rather than officials.
- Audience can be a conduit or target for messages.
- Do we include a call to action?
- Alma Bay also has a green zone/urban interface.

### Feedback on working group's process and product to date

- strong themes have emerged – there is consensus
- good ideas and direction
- very productive
- congratulations
- we are volunteers with limited resources and timelines
- look at existing information out there already, e.g. for video
- consider our project in the wider context of how other bays and the whole island might interpret and communicate natural values
- not be run by 1 or 2 people; get buy-in.

### DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP RESULTS

The workshop process identified more than 60 natural values for Geoffrey Bay. These can be categorised as follows: land (landforms, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, plants, land management); sea (coral reef, marine plants, shorebirds, marine animals); Wulgurukaba traditional owner values; and other values.

Favourite natural values (in order) included:

1. the only green zone (Marine National Park)/urban interface on the island
2. migratory species/visitors (birds, whales, butterflies and turtles)
3. world's first record of mass coral spawning; Gabul creation story for Bremner Point; diversity and connectivity of habitat – interconnectedness (these three values had equal scores)

4. intertidal
5. red-tailed black cockatoo; Geoffrey Bay Coastcare – active community; marine mammals (dugong, dolphin, whales); Moltke/shipwrecks (these four values had equal scores).

Unique natural values (in order) included:

1. world's first record of mass coral spawning; Gabul creation story for Bremner Point (these two values had equal scores)
2. migratory species/"visitors" (birds, whales, butterflies and turtles)
3. the only green marine zone/urban interface.

All "unique" values were also "favourite" values. "Unique" value voting helped tease out the special "stories" of Geoffrey Bay.

The workshop process identified 17 audiences to communicate these natural values to. Priority audiences (in order) included:

1. visitors generally; island residents (these two audiences had equal scores)
2. post arrival visitors; tourism businesses; Townsville residents (these three audiences had equal scores)
3. birdwatchers; teachers and educators; education tourism (these three audiences had equal scores).

The preferred methods (in order) for communicating natural values included:

1. video (short)
2. signage
3. interpretation/communication plan.

Participants generally agreed that strong themes and consensus had emerged, making progress easier.

## **CONSULTATION WITH WULGURUKABA TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

On 26 April 2016, the Geoffrey Bay Coastcare working group met with two Wulgurukaba people nominated by Wulgurukaba Aboriginal Corporation. The meeting was at Nelly Bay and the purpose was to interview Wulgurukaba people about Geoffrey Bay values. The working group took notes and subsequently wrote them up as follows. A copy of the notes was sent to the Wulgurukaba representatives.

### **Bremner Point**

Remove Yellow oleander/Captain Cook weed; there are waterholes and other artefacts there. Get together with National Parks and Coastcare to get rid of weeds and fix up the track, using material from the hill.

There's an old walking track structure in there going up to top to native waterholes on big rocks. Clean up the track. First part of track has got to point people in the right direction (so keep to track).

Petersen Creek to Bremner Point is a particular site to us. Bremner Point is more significant to us than Bright Point.

At Bremner Point, people have seen rock art.

Our (creation) story all matches up with Palm Island, Stuart, The Range, Manbarra mob, Girringun; all matches to Ross River. Stories are recorded through Native Title; once published, they become public. Re Bremner Point and Gabul creation story, don't talk about that story yet. We need to talk about it with other elders.

## **Marine**

Everyone has GPS to know whether they're in a green zone. In other countries, they have a big sign on the rock saying you're entering a green zone, so if GPS is out, you have no excuse for fishing in green zone.

Dogs in the Marine Park/on beach/tidal flats: there's a legal loophole. It could be reviewed, but then resident dog owners would be angry.

Info on rare birds (shorebirds).

When whales come in there, they're very close at Geoffrey Bay on a big tide. Provide info that whale season is on; promote as a viewing area.

Manage the reef a bit better. Stop feeding the fish.

Dugongs. Seagrass is coming back. Ask people to not walk in certain areas to keep seagrass for dugongs; i.e. Bremner Point/old jetty end of Geoffrey Bay (more so than Bright Point end). You can see dugong from sitting on a rock near old jetty.

Snorkel trail does very little damage and we need it for tourism, scientific research, education.

Coral: try and keep it intact and protect it.

Understand about the whole environment, how it became a green zone. What prompted them? Get that story across about coral spawning.

## **Foreshore parkland**

There's erosion at Geoffrey Bay. Lots of casuarinas have been planted to help and they are doing the job to a point. Plant more species, e.g. native beach vines. Some of these vines were used to poison fish and for stingers (see bush walk at Bushland Beach).

A bush garden trail, featuring native plants used by Aboriginal people and with signage about use.

Where Gabul Way starts (Nelly Bay end of Geoffrey Bay), get rid of weeds and plant more native shrubs.

Small signs like at Jezzine Barracks that tell you about plant species and Aboriginal use. Geoffrey Bay plants with Aboriginal use are beach vine, paperbark, Burdekin plum, peanut tree, beach cherry, pandanus. Attach tags to plants.

Weed signage: weeds that invade our country.

Info on invasive weeds and that a lot of volunteers and people are trying to keep it intact, so please be courteous and if you have an hour, jump in and give a hand.

You don't want any weeds down there.

There are a lot of black cockatoos there for casuarinas.

It's a turtle nesting area; that already has signage.

Keep paperbarks intact. Paperbark usage for Aboriginal people includes worms in tree, bark used for a lot of things from weaving to cooking to storage of other foods, twine. We'll give more on that as we go along. Paperbarks (between Petersen Ck and Bremner Point) have been there a long time, showing the longevity of them there.

Gabul walk has been a good thing.

Middens where Gabul way comes down (Nelly Bay end of Geoffrey).

On Gabul Way, grab their attention before they get to bottom of track or maybe grab attention (about what's ahead in Geoffrey Bay) at end of track (near Bright Avenue).

Provide better seating; with shade.

### **Petersen Creek**

It would be good if saltwater could come into the creek all the time on high tide, because mangroves are a big source of breeding ground for fish.

Keep mangroves intact.

People in Petersen Creek catchment are stopping sand coming down the creek to beach, causing beach erosion.

### **Signage/interpretation**

How can we incorporate new messages so there aren't 50 signs; one sign that incorporates.

Signage should look like it's part of the natural landscape.

If doing signage, do turtle nesting and whale watching.

In interpretation, we would like to use language names for plants and animals. We will give the names to you.

Have old photos of Geoffrey Bay (on a sign) so people can see what it was like before. Photo of vegetation and landform before it was cleared.

Have info where people congregate, e.g. at BBQ.

Streaming of Aboriginal history; link in with tourism board and National Parks; before visitors come to island. Jezzine Barracks has outside videos that tell military and Aboriginal history. It's free.

Audio of bird calls.

Get logs of observations from ships that sailed past many years ago.

### **Audience**

Need to educate local people who live on the shoreline. Tourists have got more of an idea. Tourists can be chucking cans. If at a BBQ, dispose of your rubbish properly.

Primary school kids are important. Have a school walk at low tide. Invite kids at school camp at Picnic Bay.

Local residents are important audience too.

A lot of birdwatchers come from overseas.

### **What's most important/unique about Geoffrey Bay:**

- It's scientifically been researched and proven about the reef and scientists finding out (about mass coral spawning).
- You can't separate land from sea
- Significant breeding area for reef species
- White bellied sea eagle; there's one there constantly; there are big nests at each point; it covers a lot of Geoffrey Bay; they have "zones" themselves; there's another one at Bright Point
- Whales and dugongs and turtles
- Stingrays on full moon/full tide

### **INTEGRATING WULGURUKABA ADVICE**

To help integrate the above Wulgurukaba advice with the workshop results, the Wulgurukaba advice was sorted into "values, audiences and methods" categories similar to those used in the workshop. Geoffrey Bay values that Wulgurukaba people considered the most important/unique are underlined.

#### **Values**

- mass coral spawning story
- interconnectedness of land and sea

- breeding area for reef species
- white bellied sea eagles and their “zones”/territories
- whales, dugongs (eating seagrass) and turtles (nesting)
- stingrays
- Bremner Point Gabul creation story (but don’t talk about that story yet)
- cultural sites (waterholes, artefacts, rock art, middens)
- plants used by aboriginal people
- language names for plants and animals
- Aboriginal history
- European historical accounts
- marine green zone (including how it became a green zone)
- foreshore parkland native plants
- volunteers removing weeds to keep it intact
- black cockatoos in casuarinas
- paperbarks have been there a long time
- rare shorebirds
- bird calls
- mangroves
- fish
- Petersen Creek

### **Audiences**

- people who live on Marine Parade
- local residents
- tourists
- kids and schools
- birdwatchers

### **Methods**

- weed removal and tree planting
- Bremner Point walking track
- signage (but not 50 signs; signage that looks like it’s part of the natural landscape)
- dugong and whale viewing area (and restricted areas)
- bush garden trail with tagged plants
- seating
- old photos of landscape pre-clearing
- interpretation where people congregate, e.g. BBQ
- video
- audio

## **COMPARING WULGURUKABA AND WORKSHOP RESULTS**

Wulgurukaba and workshop participants both considered the following Geoffrey Bay natural values as particularly important and/or unique:

- mass coral spawning discovery
- interconnectedness of land and sea
- whales and turtles

Wulgurukaba advice to “don’t talk about” the Bremner Point Gabul creation story yet should be respected.

Wulgurukaba and workshop participants both considered the following audiences as important:

- local residents
- tourists
- schools
- birdwatchers

Wulgurukaba and workshop participants both considered the following communication/interpretation methods as important:

- video
- signage

## **NEXT STEPS**

Key next steps for Geoffrey Bay/Olympus Crescent Coastcare are:

- send this draft report to workshop participants, Wulgurukaba and other stakeholders for feedback
- informed by feedback, refine this report and identify priority actions
- implement one priority action from the refined report, within the \$634 budget (subject to approval from relevant authorities)
- work with partners to seek approval and resources for implementing other priority actions identified in the refined report (e.g. apply for grants with assistance from NQDT).

## **DRAFT REPORT FEEDBACK**

June 2016

### **Jo Petersen, QPWS**

Well done, you have comprehensively covered everything discussed – looks all good to me

### **Rick Braley, TOBMI**

The report on your workshop looks good and it covered a wide variety of issues and components. The only thing I would add more about Geoffrey Bay is that the variety of coral species there and coral cover is probably the highest of all the fringing reefs around Magnetic Island. Florence Bay may have been better before some bleaching years and before Cyclone Yasi but currently some of the best coral is in Geoffrey Bay. I have also seen relatively minor bleaching between the reef edge and the Moltke wreck in March. In May many of those bleached coral colonies were coming back with zooxanthelli .

Signs on the Moltke wreck mooring float should show a No Fishing sign. Many of us have seen illegal fishing in that green zone, and I have told Fisheries before about the need for a sign of this type to make it clear to speedboats from Townsville that come and just want to throw down a line to catch a fish without looking at maps.

You may find something about the coral spawning at <http://magnetictimes.com/article-1650.html>

### **Vandhana, Geoffrey Bay Coastcare**

Am still not sure about what should be done after the workshop and consultation

My thoughts are that we look at investing that money from NQ Dry Tropics into a sign about the coral spawning and a video with a new grant? We don't know what signage is planned by Parks/ Tobmi/ Council for Geoffrey Bay. If we could have some input there it would be good

Perc Tucker (Amber Church) has expertise in outdoor art.

### **Zanita Davies, MIH&C**

You are already aware that I believe Geoffrey Bay should be left 'as is' without any additional infrastructure – toilet blocks, BBQs, playgrounds, concrete footpaths, et al. One of the last remaining natural beaches easily accessible to all! I hate to see the creeping sanitization of Magnetic Island's beaches!!!!

The draft plan covers the values of the place very well but I did make the following notes:

- Consider the sea view of Geoffrey Bay as one of its natural values. This is something that should not be impacted by tall buildings or 'loud' colours on buildings, commercial signage, etc. The visual aspect of the hills should remain – no structure on beach/sand dunes (toilet blocks, 'colourful' children's playgrounds, etc.) to impact on that view.

- Minimal signage – perhaps tree identification plaques only. Interpretive signage could be centralized (1) at the seat location on Gabul Way, and/or (2) at the entrance to GW on the Geoffrey Bay end and (3) at the old jetty landing site beside Bremner Point.
- Removals rather than additions. The removal of introduced plant species and nasty weeds/burrs should be prioritized. Hopefully the beautiful black cockatoos can do their bit by spreading seed.

Reef scientists in early 1980s (mass coral spawning discovery time) stayed in Marine Parade duplex Nelly-side of Claremont/Bright Avenue; consider the context of Theo Brown and other earlier marine biologists on the island.

### **Kirrilee Donovan, NQDT**

I have read through the report in more detail (sorry for the delay) and I support the recommendations/actions moving forward.

Considering the outcomes, particularly preferred communication methods (video vs signage etc), I'm unsure how the next phase will play out. I do agree, any ideas should be incorporated (as best as possible) into plans that Council/Parks have for the island though the timeframes of this may not align neatly with the current funding.

On a separate note - One thing that got me thinking, something that was not mentioned at the workshop but came from discussions with Traditional Owners, is the idea of 'tree tagging'. Maybe this is something to consider as an 'interim' step - something achievable with the funding. If done well it would not be as 'invasive' as a sign / would not conflict with any future plans for broader interps across the Island and could incorporate facts like traditional names, traditional uses and functions (e.g: food trees for cockatoos) of unique plants.

I realise this idea does not cover some of the values/unique assets identified at the workshop but it might be yet another angle to consider and something a little more achievable with the current funds.

Food for thought...

### **Jill Dolphin, TCC**

Prefer not an additional sign at this stage as TCC are currently doing a signage overhaul.

### **Tony O'Malley, Geoffrey Bay Coastcare**

Consider spending the money getting the people involved in the mass coral spawning discovery to come to Geoffrey Bay where we interview them on site and get it professionally filmed by an islander. Do it in October (actual time of mass coral spawning). Maybe we could ask other organisations (e.g. GBRMPA, TOBMI) or apply for a gambling grant to contribute \$s or in-kind, if cost was higher than our \$634 (e.g. filming, travel, accommodation, meals).

Peter Harrison sent Tony scientific articles from 1984 and 1986 about the discovery.

Carden Wallace sent Vandhana a short documentary filmed at Geoffrey Bay celebrating the mass coral spawning discovery.

### **Meredyth Woodward, Geoffrey Bay Coastcare**

The main aim of the workshop was to facilitate the 'interpretation of the natural values' of Geoffrey Bay, to ensure their 'protection and restoration'. (By raising awareness)

Ideas/ opinions etc at the workshop seemed to coalesce into some strong 'themes'. These 'themes' also seem to be identified in the conversations with the Wulgurukaba traditional owners. The 2 main themes appear to be:

1. The idea of the unique green zone/urban community '**interface**'. Aligned with the idea of the interface, is the idea of 'interconnectedness'- between the land and sea, between the diverse habitats (intertidal etc) and between the past (traditional usages/ meanings and the coral spawning discovery) and the present
2. '**visitors**'- human (tourists & locals) and non-human (migrating/moving species like birds, whales, butterflies and turtles)- these different 'users' of Geoffrey Bay reflect the nature of green zone/ urban interface

The task seems to be to give the human 'visitors' some sense of the uniqueness of the 'interface', in a way that encourages its protection.

But how to communicate this? Again there seems to be some underlying agreement here.

- There should be a sense of locals (human and non-human?) '*speaking to*' the tourists and other users of Geoffrey Bay
- The best option in the long term is thought to be a video (preferably locally produced) which could be accessed through different media
- In the short term, the best option is thought to be a sign – understanding that the sign will only be of limited size. The general feeling seems to be that any sign should not be intrusive or detract from the natural values of the Bay. There seems to be some agreement that the sign should be at a strategic point (end of Gabul Way?)

My suggestion would be that a sign should be designed ASAP. The sign should welcome people to Geoffrey Bay on behalf of the 'locals'. It should very briefly (in words and/or illustrations) point out the uniqueness/ broad special features of the 'interface' and invite people to enjoy Geoffrey Bay, while respecting its values. I agree that the best location for the sign would be at the end of Gabul Way.

## ADDENDUM 2017



Geoffrey Bay Coastcare sign installed at Geoffrey Bay (Gabul Way end) in 2017.