

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 September 2016

Coastal Guardians celebrate conservation

**Photo opportunities available: 10-2.30, 8 September Grant Pavilion, Surfcoast Shire in Torquay.
Call David Petty on 0437 557 960**

Students from four local schools will celebrate their commitment to coastal conservation on the Surf Coast at the annual Coast Guardians Forum hosted by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC).

The year 9 students from Northern Bay College, Surf Coast Secondary College, Geelong Lutheran College and Lorne Aireys Inlet P-12 College, will be rewarded with a day of guest presenters, exciting activities and prizes as part of the GORCC Environmental Education Program.

The day will feature special presentations from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Eco Logic, Queenscliff Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Streamline Media and Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation with interactive sessions to promote and celebrate coastal conservation.

Students will also team up with local artist Lisa Hunter to create artwork from recycled marine debris collected from the coastal visits throughout the year.

GORCC CEO Richard Davies said the event is a great way to celebrate the achievements local schools have made over the year, and recognise their dedication to coastal conservation.

“These students are making a real contribution to our coastal landscape and support our conservation team, and the tireless efforts of local volunteers.

“Environmental education is an important aspect of encouraging environmental stewardship in the next generation, and the Coast Guardians program provides fantastic opportunities for local schools to enjoy and respect the iconic coastline,” he said.

The ongoing Coast Guardians program allows schools to participate and rehabilitate key coastal sites along the Great Ocean Road including Whites Gap, Erskine Paddock, North Lorne and Spring Creek.

GORCC Education Activity Leader Hilary Bouma said the forum will encourage students to reflect on their achievements throughout the year and share their unique experiences with other schools.

“Each school protects a different environment along the coast and has a different experience to share with the other schools.

“This forum celebrates the students’ personal development and their hands on contribution to the enhancement of these local coastal areas,” she said.

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GORCC offers free environmental education opportunities for schools and groups and promotes hands on learning that will equip students with the knowledge and skills to work with, understand, respect, protect and enhance their beautiful coastal surroundings.

To find out more about GORCC's free Environmental Education Programs and the Coast Guardians Program visit www.gorcc.com.au/education/.

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EVENT DETAILS

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Coast Guardians Forum 2016

Thursday 8 September 2016

10am – 2.30pm

Grant Pavilion (Kuwarrk Lane), Torquay

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Photo opportunities will be available all day.

At the beginning of the day (approx. 10am) the Welcome to Country ceremony will be performed.

Photos will also be taken at the event by GORCC. Please get in touch by emailing david.p@gorcc.com.au should you like a selection of images. Images will be made available at the conclusion of the forum.

CONTACT

For media enquiries please contact:

David Petty – 0437 557 960

BACKGROUND: COAST GUARDIANS PROGRAM

GORCC operates the Coast Guardians program as a free educational opportunity for year 9 students. Every year, the schools involved each take ownership of the rehabilitation and conservation of a coastal site. Schools involved are:

- Lorne Aireys P-12 College
- Geelong Lutheran College
- Northern Bay College
- Surf Coast Secondary College

The program is aimed at increasing awareness around environmental issues and encouraging social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Ultimately, it is hoped that participants will be able to walk along a protected coast in years to come and enjoy the benefits of their hard work. The program is also aimed at fostering partnerships between the schools, GORCC, local community organisations and local environmental volunteer groups.

For more information on the Coast Guardians Program visit www.gorcc.com.au.

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