

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 October 2014

Conservation celebration to feature reptilian guests

120 students are set to celebrate a year of coastal conservation at the annual Coast Guardian Forum at the Quiksilver Auditorium in Torquay on Wednesday, with this year's line up to include some very scaly guests.

The year 9 students, who hail from four regional schools, will enjoy a Black Snake Productions presentation complete with live reptilian wildlife.

The day also includes a Welcome to Country ceremony and bush tucker activity led by Elder Bryon Powell of the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation and an interactive marine 'touch tank' provided by the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre.

Prizes and giveaways for the 2014 event have been generously provided by Quiksilver, SeaEarth Adventures, Eco-Logic Education and Environment Services, SurfWorld Museum and the Deck Café Anglesea.

GORCC Community Liaison Manager Jane Lovejoy said the forum celebrates the significant contribution the students have made over the past year to the local coastal environment.

"Each school looks after their own patch of coast and every year the students contribute to its rehabilitation.

"This end of year event is an opportunity to celebrate their hard work and achievements and touch on what they have learned and gained over the past twelve months," she said.

The day has been designed to increase and extend understanding on topics students have covered over the last twelve months including aboriginal culture, coastal animals and plants and threats to and management of, the natural coastal environment.

"These schools and their students are making a very real difference to their coast.

The aim of the program is to build future generations of environmentally aware individuals who proactively care for the coast they love," said Ms. Lovejoy.

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EVENT DETAILS

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Coast Guardians Forum 2014

Wednesday 22 October 2014

9am – 2.30pm

Quiksilver Auditorium (27 Baines Crescent), Torquay

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Photo opportunities will be available all day.

At the beginning of the day (approx. 9.30am) the Welcome to Country ceremony will be performed.

The wildlife presentation will take place at 12 noon.

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

CONTACT

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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.

BACKGROUND: COAST GUARDIANS ANNUAL FORUM

Every year, Coast Guardian participants from the 4 schools come together for an end of year forum, where they celebrate their achievements and participate in fun, educational

activities. The forum is held in Torquay at the Quiksilver Auditorium which is kindly donated to GORCC for the event each year.

This year, 120 students will be attending the forum. Guest speakers attending will include Michael Alexander from Black Snake Productions who will be bringing real live animals along for the kids to interact with. There will also be a 'touch tank' with sea creatures on offer thanks to the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre.

Local businesses have also got on board, donating prizes for the students. Sponsors include Quiksilver, Surfworld Museum and Sea and Earth Adventures.

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

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