

OzFish Unlimited

Continued ...

well as crabs, prawns and Southern Calamari. OzFish Unlimited has partnered with numerous organisations to help restore these meadows including University of Western Australia (UWA), [Recfishwest](#) and City of Cockburn with support from BCF – Boating, Camping, Fishing to deliver a community-driven restoration program for the past two years.

While out boating, volunteers have been using hand nets to collect the fruit pods in the Cockburn Sound. Flower pods or fruit containing the seed float to the water's surface before being driven by wind and collected by currents forming floating wracks.

This year's weather conditions didn't help the collection of the planned one million seeds but volunteers still made a great effort collecting as many as possible.

Marine Ecologist, Dr John [Statton](#) from UWA has been working on seagrass restoration for several years and said that predicting flowering from previous seasons is getting harder but with more regular monitoring it's expected that forecasting fruit ripening and seed collection will improve.

During the month-long Seagrass restoration program, three public events were held, including a Family Seeding day on the 24th November which despite the windy weather conditions, families with young enthusiastic children helped disperse thousands of seed into the restoration site south of Henderson Marina.

Pumicestone Passage

Shellfish Restoration

On 6 December, the third infill stage of The Pumicestone Shellfish Habitat Restoration Project will further enhance marine biodiversity and fish stocks and ultimately improve water quality in the Moreton Bay Region. This sub-tidal shellfish habitat project is the first of its kind approved in Queensland, and Healthy Land and Water is in negotiation with Marine Parks to extend the life of the project beyond three years. Three different types of artificial shellfish reefs were initially installed in a one-hectare location of Kakadu Beach, including a biodegradable potato starch matrix known as BESE-Elements that was developed in the Netherlands and used for the first time in Australia. This year, two more larger patch reefs of fifty cubic metres of oyster shell recycled by OzFish volunteers at the [Ningi Transfer Station](#) and the Port of Brisbane will be added to the array. Sponsored by BCF, OzFish volunteers have also built 160 block fence units to securely contain the patch reefs. The project is being monitored by the University of the Sunshine Coast marine science team for three years and the results halfway through the project are very promising, showing a tripling of fish abundance and diversity. Invertebrate monitoring by OzFish is equally promising, demonstrating clearly that oysters and other invertebrates can recruit and survive sub tidally, with an

average of 76 spat/100 shell sampled in September 2019.

Working on a chapter model, OzFish is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping the millions of Aussie recreational fishers to take control of the health of their rivers, bays and estuaries and shore up the future of the sport they love. OzFish Unlimited partners with fishers and the broader community to invest time and money into the protection and restoration of our waterways, counteracting decades of degradation.

There are currently 31 chapters of passionate fishers nationally, and APYAC has a chapter of its own. But we need you! OzFish APYAC is an excellent opportunity for APYAC to continue to lead by example, showing the community the positive impacts fishers can have on their local waters. Additional to the great fundraising work already undertaken for the shellfish reef project, there are new opportunities for APYAC club members to get involved, including helping to monitor the progress to the current shellfish reefs at Margaret's Reef, and also get a fish-eye view of their other favourite fishing spots. The club currently has a BRUV unit available for use downstairs, including logbook and equipment.

If you would like to know more about OzFish Unlimited, head to www.ozfish.org.au and members who would like to be involved can contact Ben Cleveland at benclleveland@ozfish.org.au or at a club meeting.

It's A Club ... Not The Hilton.

We keep prices low because **YOU** are clearing the tables! After dining, please clean your plates and place them in the area provided. Glasses go back to the bar. Please clear your table for the next members.