



Townsville-Thuringowa
SeagrassWatch

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SEAGRASS FLOWERING AT BUSHLAND BEACH!

By Catherine Walsh

The Bushland Beach monitoring on Saturday was once again a beautiful day, with an extremely good turnout from the community.

A slight wind kept the volunteers cool; however, it was nowhere near as gusty as the July monitoring.

There were a few new recruits from James Cook University whom learnt about SeagrassWatch through a seminar by Dr Jane Mellors (DPI&F), and of course we had the site co-ordinator Lux Foot and the other members from the Northern Beaches Rotary.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries had their sampling team at Bushland Beach (BB1) collecting for the Great Barrier Reef - Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (RWQPP), and they lent assistance with the seed counting once they finished their task. Cairns based DPI&F scientist, Dr Rob Coles and his family, helped with both the RWQPP and SeagrassWatch.

Along with the lush seagrass beds, we also saw some extraordinary fauna including crabs, snail-egg masses, sea cucumbers, an eel and a small brown sea snake!

The Bushland Beach seagrass meadow looked extremely healthy and there were a number of flowers noted for both *Halodule uninervis* and *Halophila ovalis*, indicating that this time of year is very productive.

A large number of dugong feeding trails were also obvious, winding through the thick seagrass beds.

Big thanks to Lux for the wonderful BBQ organised for the team after the monitoring, and to the head chef John - great snags!

The lush
seagrass
meadows of
Bushland Beach

Photo credit:
Flora Akwilapo



John the head-chef
giving his best
seagrass-smile, as
two volunteers look
on!

Photo credit: Flora
Akwilapo