



gecko out&about

September 2025

Dear Gecko friends,

It has been another inspiring month at Gecko, and I am so proud of the work our team and community continue to achieve together. From standing strong against threats to our World Heritage areas, to shaping policy that protects koalas, waterways, and forests, Gecko is at the forefront of environmental action on the Gold Coast.

We are not only raising our voices, we are continually looking for new ways to empower people to care for our environment and to build a deep, lasting connection with it. From creative collaborations like Altered Tides at the SWELL Sculpture Festival, to grassroots campaigns such as Cableway No Way, and hands-on programs like EcoDiscoverers, we aim to inspiring action and foster connection.

But our strength lies in people like you. Whether it is volunteering your time, adding your name to a petition, joining us at a Gecko Talk, or simply making small changes in your everyday life, every action counts. Thank you for being part of Gecko. I encourage you to dive into this newsletter, discover what's happening, and find a way to get involved.

Warm regards,

Your Gecko President,
Anna

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Connecting people, art and place: Gecko @ SWELL Sculpture Festival

SWELL Sculpture Festival is Queensland's largest outdoor sculpture exhibition, with a vision of connecting people, art, and place. Each year as part of the festival, Griffith University, Gecko Environment Council and SWELL partner to create an event called 'Altered Tides'.

Altered Tides engages a variety of local storytellers, bringing together sciences, beach cultures, Indigenous knowledges, and the arts to support people and their communities in responding to climate changes.

This year we've created the Altered Tides audio trail: Our Living Shoreline. We invite you to stroll among the SWELL sculptures and pause at listening points on the trail, featuring local stories about the importance of our beaches to everyday life and what this can look like into the future.

The audio trail is open every day during SWELL Sculpture Festival 2025.

For more info visit the Gecko or SWELL websites:

www.gecko.org.au

www.swellsculpture.com.au

**JOIN US FOR A LIVE EVENT:
STORYTELLERS AND SCULPTURES
3PM, SATURDAY SEPT 13TH.**

[TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)

Altered Tides

Audio Trail: Our living shoreline at SWELL Sculpture Festival

Welcome to our audio trail...

Stroll among the SWELL sculptures and pause at listening points on this audio trail to hear local stories about the importance of our beaches to everyday life and what this can look like into the future.

Meet your local storytellers



1 Natasha Edwards
Artistic Director & Co-Founder
SWELL Sculpture Festival



2 Kerrie Foxwell-Norton
Assoc Prof. Environmental & Climate
Change Communication
Griffith University



3 Salvador Cantellano
Filmmaker, Educator
PhD Candidate, Griffith University



4 Lois Levy
Environmental advocate
Gecko Environment Council



4 Caitlin Mandrusiak
Marine and Wildlife Biologist
Turtle Watch, Watergum



5 Gerard McCormick
Landscape Architect 8LA, local

How to Listen

Bring your phone and headphones and scan the QRCode at each listening point.

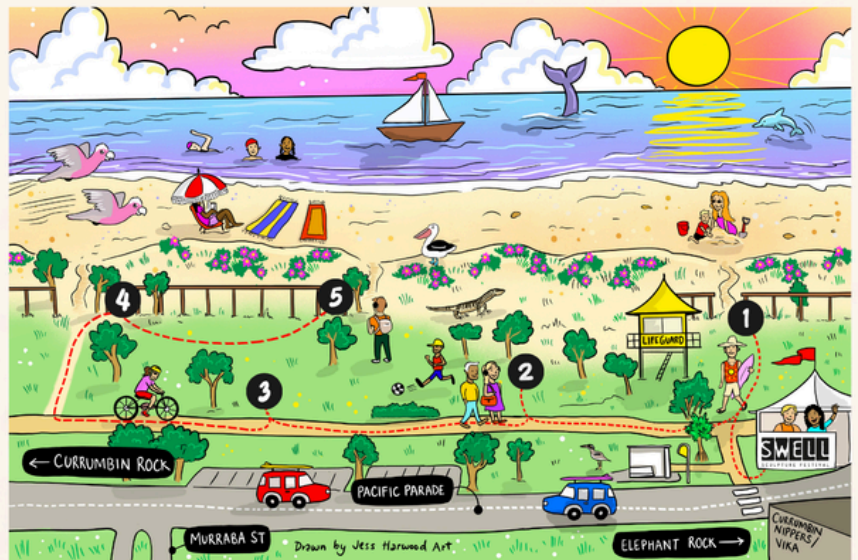
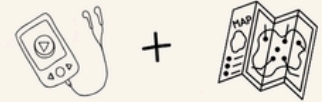
Loan a headset and pick up a map from the SWELL Central Info Hub opposite VIKA/Nippers.

Visit Soundcloud to hear all the stories:
www.soundcloud.com/altered-tides



Altered Tides: Creative coastal recreation in a climate changed future series are a partnership between Griffith University, Gecko Environment Council and SWELL Sculpture Festival.

Audio trail map



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, elders past and present, and their enduring connection with land, waters, sea and sky Country. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded and respectfully join the generous invitation to care for Country together.

We're Hiring

OPERATIONS & ADMIN COORDINATOR

Join Gecko as our new Operations & Admin

Coordinator in Currumbin!

- ✦ School-friendly hours (Tues–Fri)
- ✦ Variety: office ops, volunteers, venue, education, finance support
- ✦ Beautiful location by the creek

We're looking for someone with 5+ yrs admin experience, confidence juggling multiple priorities, and a love for the environment 🌿



Our wonderful administrator, Ingrid, is moving on to spend more time with her family and focus on her own business. Thank you for being the heart of the organisation, keeping Gecko hall running smoothly and for bringing your happy disposition to the office!

We are now looking for big shoes to fill. If you think you could be the next **Operations and Administration Coordinator** at Gecko, click the link below to see the job description.

[For more information and how to apply.](#)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 17 SEPTEMBER.

Cableway NO WAY vigil at Council Chambers

On 26th July, a good crowd of Gold Coasters who oppose a cableway being built through the World Heritage listed Springbrook National Park gathered at Council Chambers. The objective was to raise awareness among our Councillors as well as the residents of the Gold Coast of the problems associated with this proposed cableway.

It was an enthusiastic group that provided good media coverage on Channels 7 and 9, as well as for the Gold Coast Bulletin and The Independent Australian. Some wonderful photos showed just how destructive a cableway would be to Springbrook's natural assets and how its World Heritage status would be compromised or even lost.

Only Councillor Tozer came to speak to those assembled and mentioned the risk of pollution to our water supply as there is no town sewerage system at Springbrook. Councillor Tozer continues to provide support to the campaign in ways consistent with his role.

The Cableway NO WAY campaign is now gathering pace and the next event is being planned for early October. You can provide volunteer support by ringing 0412 724 222, you can sign the petition (See QR code) and asking others to sign as well. Our Springbrook National Park is under stress from high visitation, extreme weather events and potential bushfires. It does not need a cableway destroying the bushland and habitat of endangered species.



Gecko Talk – Community Recycling and Sustainability

Wednesday 1 October
7:00 pm
Currumbin RSL

Join us for an inspiring evening as we hear from Palm Beach Currumbin High School's teacher, Tom Pasley, who has been leading the change in creating a more sustainable future. From student-led projects to whole-school initiatives, Tom has helped spark exciting change that shows how young people are making a real difference in our community.


 [Book your free ticket here](#) 

Expression of Interest: Environmental Educators

Gecko Environment Education is seeking passionate EcoDiscoverers Educators to join our casual team! EcoDiscoverers is one of our most popular programs, inspiring young children and families through hands-on, play-based nature learning.

As an educator, you'll deliver fun school holiday programs, lead early learning incursions, and help design new activities. We're looking for people with experience working with children, confidence outdoors, and creativity in delivering nature-based experiences.

We offer: flexible casual work, supportive team culture, and the chance to inspire the next generation across the Gold Coast's natural spaces.

 Apply with a short cover letter and CV to education@gecko.org.au

 Applications welcome anytime.

Parents for Climate are thrilled to invite you to a special screening of the beautiful Corals' Last Stand short film on the Gold Coast.

What: Film screening, panel discussion and easy actions to help protect Country, culture and climate from a massive gas project!

Where: HOTA - Home of the Arts Cinema, Bundall

Date: Thursday, 11 September
Time: 6.15 pm sharp (arrive earlier for a drink and chat!)

11 SEPT, 6.15PM | HOTA GOLD COAST



Grab your discounted tickets here - they're selling fast!

The next 6–12 months are critical for Queensland's koalas.

Gecko is working with partners statewide to strengthen the koala conservation strategy, leading a policy working group and communications campaign with the QLD Conservation Council—get in touch to be part of it!



Join us in a community-wide campaign for koalas. Conservation groups and communities across QLD are collaborating to save our koalas.



On the Gold Coast, we're part of the Urban Koala Response Group, tackling the decline of koalas in Pimpama–East Coomera and Currumbin Waters–Elanora. This collaboration is developing solutions that can be applied more widely. You can help too—report sightings, learn to spot disease, slow down near dusk and dawn, train your dog in “Leave It,” or support habitat restoration on your property or with local bushcare groups.

Highlights & Headlines from Our Network

QLD's shocking State of the Environment report

The recent State of the Environment report exposes the shocking decline of the state's natural heritage over the past four years. 48 animal and 66 plant species have been added to the threatened species list. The SoE report demonstrates the devastating impact on Queensland wildlife and ecosystems from deforestation, native forest logging, and climate change. Over a fifth of habitat has been lost.

Protecting priority species and high value conservation areas has never been more important, with multiple actions needed to grow the protected area estate, recover species, decrease our shameful deforestation rate, ensure planning policy to benefit nature and people, and work together across sectors and with community to enable action.

Australia's 2035 climate targets

Gecko and our partners at the Gold Coast Climate Action Network sent off signatures of over 100 Gold Coasters, collected in only 14 hours, who all urge the Albanese government and our MPs to support a strong 2035 climate target that commits Australia to net zero emissions by 2035, aligned with the best available science, and the recent ICJ advisory opinion. This is a crucial decision that will shape the health, safety, and future of our children and our beautiful Gold Coast lifestyles and economy.

National conference exploring an economy for people and planet

The conference "Pathways to a Thriving World: Building Economies for People and Planet" is coming to the Gold Coast, hosted by the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) and partners including Gecko Environment Council. Save the Date: Friday 10 to Sunday 12 October. Join us in conversation with a national line-up of guest speakers. Information about the conference is available on the NENA website:

www.neweconomy.org.au



Volunteer

Our current volunteer opportunities include a **Gecko Talks coordinator** and **Gecko Walks coordinator**. Email office@gecko.org for these and other volunteering opportunities.



Donate

Make a one time donations or become a Gecko Friend and join our regular donors program. [Visit our website for more information.](#)



Become a member

By becoming a member you lend your voice for us to speak for the environment and you will get in-dept access to the work we do. Do it for our natural environment, rich biodiversity, and for the places we value and love! [Join on our website.](#)

DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT VENUE

Welcome to Gecko

Gecko
139 Duringan St.



ENQUIRE NOW

07 5534 1412

www.gecko.org.au

139 Duringan St, Currumbin

hallhire@gecko.org.au



With affordable rates, creek views, tables and chairs available as well as a well-equipped kitchen, Gecko Hall is the ideal space to host a wide range of events.

Get in touch today.

gecko | Environment
Council

~ working for the environment since 1989

Gecko House
139 Duringan Street
Currumbin Qld 4223

Ph. (07) 5534 1412
E. office@gecko.org.au

www.gecko.org.au

Office hours
Tue - Fri
10am - 2pm