

# SANDWATCH: Engaging Students in Coastal Education at a Local and Global Level.

## EDUCATION

Sandwatch was developed by UNESCO in 2001 to engage the youth of the globe in coastal based science, develop knowledge sets on coastal ecology that can be used to make better planning decisions, develop a global understanding of climate change and associated issues that affect coastal populations, and to help build resilience in coastal ecosystems to address habitat degradation and loss.

Perth Region NRM's Coastcare Program in association with City of Cockburn and Verve Energy have linked the South Coogee Primary School with Sandwatch through the Adopt a Beach Project. The students undertake a series of activities under the MAST format: Monitoring, Analysis of results, Sharing the findings and Taking action.



## ENVIRONMENT

Students have undertaken MAST activities at Coogee Beach including beach measurement on a seasonal basis and rehabilitation of the coastal dunes through the planting of over 1,000 coastal natives. The planting program has assisted in stabilising of the coastal dunes and reduced the impact of wind erosion. Establishing additional habitat has encouraged the recolonisation of small reptiles and insects attracting birds of prey including the Black Shouldered Kite. The nearby installation of an Osprey nesting pole is expected to enhance coastal biodiversity.



## CULTURE

A complimentary component of Sandwatch has been the linking of South Coogee Primary School with Moroni High School in the Pacific Island country of Kiribati. South Coogee students were addressed by a Perth based I-Kiribati student who described everyday life in Kiribati, outlined the issues that low lying atoll nations face under predicted climate change scenarios then treated the students to a traditional dance. Students from both countries are planning to exchange photos, stories and experiences of their respective Sandwatch activities to strengthen cross cultural experiences and foster a greater understanding of coastal based lifestyles on a global level.



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