

Garbage clogging Lota wharf mangroves

MICHAEL CORMACK
michael.cormack@news.com.au

A LOTA man who claims to have spent \$3000 cleaning up the area around the Lota wharf has called on bayside residents to show more care for the area.

Darren Lockwood said old sunken boats, discarded crab pots, bags of dog poo and other rubbish were clogging the mangroves and dragging the area down.

"There are engine boxes, dilapidated boats, bags of dog poo thrown in the mangroves," Mr Lockwood said.

"I'm constantly cleaning up around the area and then all the mess comes back again.

"It's a shame because it's a jewel - it's one of the nicest places I've been.

"There are pelicans, kingfishers, it's paradise to me.

"We've got to look after our backyard and ensure it is looked after for future generations to enjoy as well."

Mr Lockwood also called on the State Government to do more to ensure the area's full glory was showcased.



Darren Lockwood lives near the Lota wharf and claims to have spent \$3000 of his own money cleaning up rubbish including discarded crab pots and bags of dog poo.

PICTURE: AAP/RENAE DROOP

Jose's got the city's homeless at heart

WHEN the masks come off at the Dress Up For Charity masquerade ball on August 31, you can bet Jose Tous-saint is smiling.

That's because she knows every cent raised by revelers is going to a cause that's close to her heart.

Jose is the driving force behind the charity event at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in Manly and hopes to raise thousands of dollars for the Night Ninjas - an organisation that helps the city's homeless.

It's her way of celebrating her personal victory over homelessness 10 years ago.

"I chose Night Ninjas because when I unexpectedly became homeless after a relationship breakdown in 2008, it was very hard to find any support," Ms Tous-saint said.

"Night Ninjas wasn't here then but it is what was missing when I needed help. So I decided I would fundraise for them."

Jose spent several months living in her car with her four-year-old daughter after moving to Australia from Holland.

She says the bedding, clothing and backpacks full of necessities which Night Ninjas provides would have helped her cope.

"I had no family and hardly any friends," she said. "I wasn't entitled to anything ... if I didn't work, I didn't have any money.

"This is why I want to raise money for Night Ninjas because there was nowhere for me to go.

"This is my way of helping people who are in the situation that I was in."

Special guest at the ball will be Julia Baker, "the Snake Boss", who will bring a few of her reptilian friends to meet guests.

Tickets are \$29 or \$49 a couple and available from Eventbrite-DressUpForCharity or by texting José on 0434626307.

Island rubbish shame

MORE than two tonnes of rubbish, including vessels that had been washed out of the Brisbane River during the 2011 floods, were removed from Mud Island during a recent Ocean Crusaders clean-up.

A team of 14 volunteers gathered 2.4 tonnes of debris, which Ocean Crusaders founder Ian Thomson said was choking the small Moreton Bay island.

Included were bottles and cans dating back to the 1960s.

"It was way too much debris for a little island so close to dolphin breeding and feeding grounds," Mr Thomson said.

"Whilst the debris removed was staggering, we

2.4 tonnes of mess removed in a few hours

believe we are about 10% done with the job as the mangroves are full of debris."

The clean-up was part of a three-island clean-up campaign which moves onto Green Island on August 26 as Ocean Crusaders members fight to save Moreton Bay from being choked with garbage.

More than 200 volunteers and staff will gather at Manly's Bayside Park at 7am on August 26 and head out to Green Island.

Once on the island, clean-up participants will be supplied protective gear and equipment before begin-



Ocean Crusaders volunteers removed more than two tonnes of debris and rubbish from Mud Island, including vessels washed out of the Brisbane River during the 2011 floods.

ning to remove garbage along the island's shoreline.

All debris collected will be sorted and weighed and

the data stored in the Marine Debris Australia data base.

Ocean Crusaders Foun-

dation is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2010 by Mr Thomson to make a positive change to the mounting plastic problem affecting oceans and waterways. It provides free online educational programs as well as running community clean-up events along the Queensland coastline and its islands.

"We will not rest until our waterways are clean and safe for marine life to do what they do best - enjoy the waters rather than eating plastic," Mr Thomson said.

"We ask everyone to do their part by using less plastic and the plastic they do use, to dispose of correctly and safely."

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