Garbage clogging Lota wharf mangroves

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A LOTA man who claims to have spent $3000 cleaning up the area around the Lota wharf has called on Brisbane 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've consistently 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, little fishers, 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 wasshowcased.

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

"We believe we are about 10% of 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 36 volunteers and staff will gather at Manly's Bayside Park at 7am on August 16 and head out to Green Island.

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

2.4 tonnes of mess removed in a few hours

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

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 revellers 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 2006, it was very hard to find any support."

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 backpack full of necessities which Night Ninjas provided would have helped her cope.

"I had no family and hardly any friends," she said.

"I wasn't thinking about anything... if I didn't work, I didn't have any money."

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

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