



SCAT Newsletter

Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania Inc.

Winners of the 2008 Australian Government Coastcare Award



Newsletter 55

May 2009

SCAT meeting

Thursday
4th June
4:00 pm

Ground Floor

Aust. Services Union
265 Macquarie St

All Welcome

Hello everyone,

Lots of great local activities in this months newsletter. Please send through your stories and photos, we would love to publish them.

SCAT is looking forward to World Environment Day on the 5th June and the Treadlightly Envirofest on 7th June. Remember to get your working bee dates to me to promote at Treadlightly. Hope to see you there.

Leah

Sommers Bay access management

By David Rayner, SCAT President & Sommers Bay Coastcare member

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It was previously reported in the SCAT Newsletter that Sommers Bay was opened up as a beach holiday site in the 1960s and slowly developed as a 'week-end destination' until the early 90s. The 'sea change' movement impacted on the beach as it was the most easily accessed beach south of Dunalley. Some 80 shacks have been built and new subdivisions developed.

Recently the 'Sommers' has come under increasing pressure from day use groups and overnight parking by grey nomads. During the Christmas and Easter holiday period it is safe anchorage for non local cruising yachts.

As a result pressure on the beach and its surrounds continued to rise. Traffic issues, beach access and weed growth were identified as major problems affecting the Bay.

Five steep tracks lead from the road to the beach. Due to the site topography and resultant microclimate the tracks pass through flora unusual on the western coast of the Forestier peninsula.

In August 2008 a stakeholder group comprising the Tasman Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service, SCAT and Sommers Bay Coastcare reviewed the problems. It was agreed to upgrade the most commonly used track at the head of the Bay. A Conservation Volunteers Australia team repaired the existing steps and added twelve more.

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SCAT Marquee

SCAT will soon have a new marquee branded with both the SCAT and Coastcare logos. The marquee will be available from early June for use by SCAT member groups at events.

Come and check it out at the Treadlightly Envirofest. Please contact Leah if you would like more information or to book it for your next event.



Australian Government

Project Update for Envirofund 10

By Sally Johns, Project Officer, SCAT)

Shelly Beach – HST are going to begin Pine Tree removal in May, once the trees are out we will assess the extent of re-vegetation required.

Rose Bay –Regnans enviro contracting P/L are well underway with the construction of the steps. I will order plants in the next week for re-vegetation of the site.

Lauderdale – I met with Phil Watson (Clarence City Council) about future plans for the site (Council has a plan to dress the dunes with sand – see their website 'Coastal Sea Change') and what this means for the project as far as re-vegetation goes. We also discussed the timing of a community event and what structure it would take.

Clarence Plains Saltmarsh - Plants have been ordered for delivery in August, a CVA team has been booked 3rd – 7th August, the project has funding for four days, CVA are providing the fifth day; thankyou Steve Bailey and CVA.

Changes to SCAT meetings

We have moved our monthly meetings to the ground floor of the Australian Services Union building at 265 Macquarie St. This is the South Hobart end of Macquarie St near NRM South.

We hope that parking will be easier and that the ground floor will enable participation by everyone.

Meeting times have also changed to take into consideration the shorter days during winter. Meetings will now commence at 4pm. The earlier start time will probably remain in place until daylight savings commences again.

Everyone is welcome to meetings. In recent months we have fine tuned our meeting process to keep them from going over time and to ensure there is enough time to hear everyone's ideas.

Hope to see you there!

Quick News

Ralph's Bay public hearings coming up

The Panel appointed by the Commission to conduct the integrated assessment of Walker Corporation's development proposal for Ralph's Bay has determined that hearings will be held to consider specific public representations on the Draft Integrated Impact Statement (IIS). The hearings will be held between 10 June to 3 July 2009.

Those groups and individuals that made written submissions to the RPDC have been invited to appear at the hearings and expand on the issues raised in their representations.

Copies of representations received are available for public inspection at the Commission's office and on the Commission's website: www.rpdc.tas.gov.au

Prior to the public hearing in June/July, a Directions Hearing will be held to assist the Commission to prepare for the public hearing into Walker Corporation's proposal. The Directions Hearing will commence at 10:00am on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 at Rydges Hobart, Argyle Street, North Hobart, and will be open to the public.

Cultivating Sustainability Workshop

Behaviour Change Training for Sustainability Advocates

Cultivating Sustainability is a 1-day workshop which provides environmental sustainability advocates with insights, models and tools to trigger the psychological drivers of environmentally sustainable behaviour. Among other things, this workshop will assist you to: Identify the specific needs of your target audience in order to embrace sustainability; and communicate about sustainability more effectively.

Anybody who has taken on the challenge of influencing others to live and work more sustainably will find this workshop a valuable addition to their skills.

When: Tuesday, June 2, Hobart.
Cost: Individuals/Community Groups \$120

Presented by Tim Cotter, a psychologist specialising in behaviour change.
For more info and registration, see <http://www.awake.com.au/cultivating.html>
To discuss this workshop further, email timc@awake.com.au

For more events and dates log on to the Australian Government Events calendar at <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/media/events/index.html> or follow the links from the SCAT website.

What swims up rivers and climbs ladders?

By Elizabeth Hodson, member of Swansea Tidy Towns

You probably know the answer but I didn't. It was news to me that fish require a ladder to assist them to move up streams wherever there was a structure in the stream that could interrupt their migration. Most Tasmanian fresh water fish have a fresh and salt-water component in their life cycle. Local farmer, John Cotton, noticed that in times of low flow, the fish in the Swan River were collecting in pools below the weir (from where the Swansea township source their water) in their effort to find their way up stream. John contacted the Council / NRM South Catchments To Coasts Coordinator: Mary Whitaker about the need to build a fish ladder.

Mary got in touch with the Department Primary Industry and Water's (DPIW) Water Assessment Officer Russel Goodwin and Inland Fisheries (IFS), Principle Fisheries Manager Stuart Chillcott to help with the design and construction.

Mary also arranged for electro fishing to take place to establish what fish were presently above and below the weir. Electrofishing is a common method used to monitor or sample fish populations in fresh water. By this method electricity is used to stun fish before they are caught, identified, measured and then released. This process does not harm the fish.

The diversity and abundance of native fish found indicated that the fish had successfully negotiated the weir area in times of flood "which might make it difficult to prove the effectiveness of the ladder" said Kevin McFarlane, Senior Environmental Consultant, Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) who undertook the electro fishing with colleague Gareth Humphreys. 'Nevertheless' Kevin said, 'the ladder will, I'm sure, aid fish passage upstream allowing for a constant connectivity with the sea, something that at present appears to only occur during flood events.'

Inland Fisheries carried out the fish monitoring and will provide a report at no cost to the Catchments To Coasts program. They were so enthusiastic about the results that they have accepted responsibility for future monitoring in spring and autumn. One of the reasons for their enthusiasm, apart from the diversity of fish, was the discovery of an Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) in the upper reaches. The Australian Grayling is listed in both state and commonwealth legislation as vulnerable so great that we have it here in the Swan.

Murdo Dan Smith (Glamorgan Spring Bay Council), John Cotton (local land owner) and Mary Whitaker (Coordinator, Catchments To Coasts) assisted Kevin McFarlane and Gareth Humphreys (Inland Fisheries) in electrofishing the upper reaches of the river in the afternoon. During the course of the day they caught lots of eels and jollytails (*Galaxias maculatus*), Tasmanian smelt (*Retropinna tasmanica*), sandys, (*Pseudaphritis urvillii*), native mountain trout (*Galaxias truttaceus*), lampreys and a couple of brown trout.

Kevin will provide a report on what was found and will recommend an on-going monitoring program to both establish the effectiveness of the ladder and provide recommendations for maintaining and enhancing habitat.

This project is a combined effort of a local land owner, the Department of Primary Industries and Water, Hobart Water, Inland Fisheries Service, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and NRM South and proves what good things can happen when groups work together.

Coastcare Tip #4 Monitoring and Reporting

It is important to consider how you will undertake monitoring and maintenance before you embark on a project or activity.

Review your progress regularly and again after a major storm or other unexpected event.

Take lots of photos from designated photo-points to review progress and to provide evidence of progress to partners, sponsors and funding bodies.

For more information consult your Community Coastcare Handbook.



Gareth Humphreys, Inland Fisheries Service, measuring a *Galaxias maculatus*, or native jollytail the most common fish found above and below the weir.

Overwhelming demand for Caring for our Country funding

The Rudd Government has received an overwhelming response from environmental, farming, Landcare, indigenous and community groups under the latest Caring for our Country funding round.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Peter Garrett and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke said more than 1,300 applications had been received for 2009-10 under the inaugural Business Plan.

Around \$450 million is available to be committed in 2009-10 to support projects which help to ensure the environment is better protected and more resilient in a changing climate. This will include two, three and four-year projects.

However, applications received are worth a total of more than \$3.4 billion, including one project which would require the entire year's funding.

Applications will be assessed by a range of panels including community members and scientific experts.

Mr Garrett said the response showed the commitment of local groups to achieving key national environmental targets in six national priority areas under Caring for our Country.

The Business Plan sets out a range of targets, including protecting important wetlands and improving soil condition on farming land.

"These targets are ambitious but achievable and I welcome the ongoing support of environmental and farming groups," Mr Garrett said.

"All applications will be assessed carefully, although this will be a very difficult task given the incredible volume of requests."

Mr Burke urged groups to continue their invaluable work, including farmers working in partnership with Landcare groups and other local networks.

"The Government absolutely recognises the fantastic work by farmers and Landcare groups in managing weeds, erosion, water quality and biodiversity," Mr Burke said.

"We will continue working hard to ensure we get the best possible outcome for the environment under Caring for our Country, which is more transparent and accountable."

Funding announcements are expected by in the next couple of months. For more information visit www.nrm.gov.au

Action against Coastal vegetation vandalism

Media release from Michelle O'Byrne's office

The Minister for the Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne today said action was being taken to deter vandalism being caused to coastal vegetation.

Ms O'Byrne said a large sign was being erected in the Kingborough municipality where coastal vegetation has been illegally cleared, and will remain in place until the vegetation grows back to its original condition.

Ms O'Byrne, and Kingborough Council Mayor Graham Bury said that the initiative is one of a number of strategies aimed at combating recurring incidents of vegetation vandalism in the Coningham Coastal Public Reserve.

"The Parks and Wildlife Service and Kingborough Council have been working closely with the Department of Primary Industry and Water, Crown Land Services, and local community groups in an effort to halt the vandalism," Ms O'Byrne said.

"Deterrent signs will be placed where trees were illegally removed or poisoned, and not be removed until the natural vegetation grows back.

"The sign at Coningham will act as a screen that denies any visual benefit that may have been sought by removing the vegetation.

"It has been designed not to interrupt the views for other members of the public walking along the reserve," Ms O'Byrne said.

Mayor Bury said: "The Coningham reserve, is there for all Tasmanians and visitors to enjoy, and no-one has the right to damage or remove vegetation within it. Kingborough Council supports the use of such signs in locations where they will act as a deterrent to further illegal clearing."

Ms O'Byrne said that other land managers on the mainland, such as Byron Bay and Sydney Harbour councils, had successfully used such methods to discourage people from damaging coastal vegetation or illegally clearing trees to enhance their views.

Natural Resource Management Forum

Media release from David Llewellyn's office

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, today addressed the National Resource Management (NRM) Regional Bodies Chairs Forum in Hobart.

"Tasmania has been at the forefront of developing policies and legislation that promote natural resource management and ensure its prominent role in this State," Mr Llewellyn said.

"It is important to acknowledge that Australia's indigenous people have undertaken natural resource management for many thousands of years.

"A key challenge today is to engage the broad community, especially in the face of the global financial crisis and the recent environmental disasters: fire, flood and drought, as well as the potential impact of climate change.

"There have been a number of outstanding achievements in NRM in Tasmania. A common feature of these is that they have brought people together to solve problems."

Mr Llewellyn said that an example was the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, which was nationally recognised for its role in bringing together 30 community groups to organise projects in coastal resource management.

Last year a review into NRM in Tasmania concluded that, while there is always room for improvement, the model established in this State has been successful in engaging the community, gaining consensus and driving change.

"The Government has committed \$480,000 per year to each of the three State NRM regional bodies for the next five years," Mr Llewellyn said.

"We are committed to supporting regional NRM, because this works in bringing about better management of our state's natural assets, and because it guarantees that local knowledge and expertise can be utilised to meet the many challenges that face us.

"It is my view that NRM is ultimately about people.

"We must acknowledge that natural resource management is inextricably linked to social and economic well-being, and we must strive to engage the broader community so that we develop real understanding of the issues."

Veronica Thorp Coastcare memorial grant now open

As part of our small grants initiative, SCAT would like to announce that we are offering for the first time a SCAT small grant in honour of Veronica Thorp.

The recipient of the 'Veronica Thorp Coastcare memorial grant' will undertake a project or activity to educate or raise awareness of coastal issues or Coastcare activities.

SCAT members are invited to apply for funds up to \$500. You have until 30th July to apply. More information and application forms can be found on the SCAT website or please contact Leah Page.



Seeking dune photos for Marram Grass study

By Monica Hayes, SCAT member & UTAS student

I am undertaking an honours project as a part of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies.

My study involves comparing Marram invaded beaches with Marram-free coastlines to assess the impact of Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) on native vegetation and dune morphology.

The grass was introduced in Tasmania from Europe in the 1950s and has since established on many coastlines around the state.



Pre-1960 Photographs of the dunes at my study sites would greatly assist the accuracy of my assessment on the extent that Marram Grass has transformed Tasmania's coastline.

My study sites include the coastlines of Scamander; Friendly Beaches; North Abbotsbury; Maurourd Beach (Perons Dunes); Kelvedon; and possibly other beaches on the east coast of Tasmania.

If anyone has pre-1960 photographs of such coastlines or may know of any records I could access, please make contact. Any photos will be appreciated and returned in perfect condition.

Monica Hayes
5 Wynyard Street
South Hobart, TAS, 7004

Email: mlhayes@utas.edu.au
Phone: 0407 561 376

Sommers Bay

From page 1

They then moved to the weed problem. Spanish Heath and Broom outbreaks had been identified on the western side of the Bay. The CVA troops eliminated two major infestations of Spanish Heath. Outliers were removed and Sommers Bay groupers cut, pasted and either burnt or bagged and removed the remainder.

Then the Tasman Council road crew stepped in. Sommers Beach Road was upgraded from a sand track to a 3.0m gravel road servicing both a working farm, three isolated shacks and several boat sheds at the road's end.

Access and parking signage was to be placed along the rebuilt road but the project budget did not include funds for critical signage at the preferred access track. Additional 'no through road' signs were also required.

An application for a SCAT Small Grant was successful enabling the Sommers Bay group to install 'beach access and no through road' signs at the junction of Sommers Bay and Sommers Beach roads.

So successful has the sign been that the development of a new parking area (stage 2 for the Tasman Council) is now necessary and traffic flow to the farm 'dead end' has almost ceased.

A final note on track rehabilitation. It was proposed to block access to two 'informal' tracks to the beach with vegetation - tree branches from the road building and new plantings. This has become an on-going arm wrestle as the blocking barricades are continually removed by 'unknown' users.

Sommers Bay wishes to thank SCAT for the small grant which has enabled the completion of a worthwhile community project.

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge the support of the Tasman Council, CVA and the Parks and Wildlife Service for their contributions to various stages of the project.



Tinderbox Marine Treasure Trip a Stunning Success

By Rebecca Hubbard, Marine Coordinator, Environment Tasmania

Environment Tasmania and Friends of Tinderbox Marine Reserve hosted an activity day for the whole family at Hobart's closest protected marine national park, the Tinderbox Marine Reserve, on Sunday 3rd May.

About 40 people attended the event, including many families interested in enjoying and caring for this beautiful and accessible playground. The sun was shining and the channel was calm, making for a perfect dive and snorkel for those courageous enough to brave the chilly waters.

The rockpool ramble enabled everyone, from toddlers to grandparents, to see and touch the incredible diversity that is living and interacting on the edge of the rocks.

Some starfish and New Zealand screwshells were identified as invasive species, next to other native starfish, red and green algae, bright red anemones and more.

Following a delicious barbecue feast, there were a number of talks including the Marine Police who discussed the challenges we face from poachers and ill-informed fishers in maintaining the health of the marine reserve and it's wildlife.



Environment Tasmania explained the benefits of fully protected marine national parks, such as re-building populations of heavily fished species, protecting the full range plants and animals, and building the health and resilience of ecosystems to withstand impacts such as pollution, climate change and invasive species.

Sue Wragge of Underwater Adventures Tasmania described the types of habitats such as spectacular soft corals, sponges and kelp forests and the various wildlife, such as seahorses, that can be found in the area.

Friends of Tinderbox Marine Reserve were officially launched with a dozen people signing up to get involved at a local level helping to improve management of the area, information signage, monitoring and awareness raising.

For more information contact Rebecca Hubbard at Environment Tasmania on 6224 6319 or marine@et.org.au

For Your Diary:

This year's SCAT Annual General Meeting will be held on
Saturday 29th August

Location and time to be confirmed soon

News from the Tasmanian Landcare Assoc.

From the TLCA Autumn Newsletter

Landcare in a changing climate

LANDCARE
CONFERENCE 8-9
NOVEMBER 2009,
SWANSEA



Two years goes by pretty quickly – it's nearly time for the next Tasmanian Landcare Conference. The TLCA Committee has agreed to hold this year's Conference in beautiful Swansea on the 8th and 9th of November.

Mark it in your diaries now – don't miss out!

Early planning is well underway for the Conference. We have convened a Steering Committee and have approached some exciting speakers to make presentations at the Conference. Giselle and Emma have met up with Mel Kelly at the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and some locals to plan some exciting ways to link the Conference to the local community.

As always, this will be a premier event on the landcare calendar. The theme of this year's Conference will be **landcare in a changing climate**. With the economic crisis, climate change, the new era of Caring for our Country and fresh challenges for volunteerism at a time when jobs are threatened, there will be plenty to talk about.

We want to hear from you – what would you like on the agenda? What would you like to talk about?

We also want to showcase some of the great things that are happening across Tasmania on the ground – has your group found new ways to tackle the perennial challenges of 'care' groups – let us know!

The TLCA AGM is also coming up and will be held in Ross on the 21st September 2009.

For more information contact the TLCA at executive.officer@taslandcare.org.au or on 6234 7117

INSURANCE MATTERS

Insurance costs have risen again for those groups taking out insurance cover with Austover (formerly Altiora). This is likely to be consistent across the board, no matter who your insurer is. We are determined to find the cheapest way for groups to get appropriate insurance cover for the great work you're doing.

Many groups identify this cost as the make or break issue for them. Accordingly, we're working with a local insurance broker to look at a 'buying' scheme using economies of scale (at least 100 groups) to secure a cheaper premium for participating groups.

At this early stage, costs for such a bulk insurance approach would be \$250/group for a \$10 million public liability policy with appropriate coverage.

We are currently working out the detail of the accompanying volunteer workers' insurance. By current estimates, even with this additional insurance premium, this bulk deal should come in cheaper than the \$350 premium we currently advise as the cheapest option for groups.

Many groups will have just renewed their insurance cover for another year.

Please let Emma (TLCA) know if you are potentially interested in participating in such a scheme this time next year when next you are updating your insurance coverage.

The insurance company our broker is recommending is an Australian company with all the appropriate endorsements, with a strong focus in providing insurance for the not-for-profit sector. We will also be meeting with the State Government in the coming weeks, where we will again press the issue of increasing the monies to be granted through the Landcare Assistance Program (LAP) funding round.

National Coastcare Award finalist

Taken from the Landcare Australia website



Reef Watch Program Conservation Council of South Australia

The city of Adelaide is unique in having coastal reefs with a multitude of species found nowhere else on earth. The pressure of the city environment on the reef took its toll, and two separate scientific studies carried out by local universities found a substantial decline in plant life on the reef over the previous decade.

Reef Watch was then established to find out what was living on the reefs and start an observing program by training recreational divers to use scientific monitoring techniques, collect data on the health of the reefs and identify common fish, invertebrates and algae.



Reef Watch carries out regular dives through the year. By monitoring the reefs, divers are adding to a growing understanding of reef ecosystems and helping to promote the protection of Adelaide's coastal environment.

Annually, Reef Watch does a marathon dive, introduced to promote awareness of the marine environment, where up to 80 divers and snorkelers are involved each year to gather important information on the health of the Noarlunga Aquatic Reserve among others.

The annual dive enables scientists to get data on the whole reef in one day and make comparisons with previous years. It has enabled the refining of monitoring techniques and the consistency of results has led to an increased confidence in community monitoring activities.

In 2003, the 'Feral or In Peril' program was developed to train recreational divers to monitor introduced pest species and gather more detailed information about local species. The inter-tidal program is the most recent of the Reef Watch series, enabling non-divers to engage in scientific monitoring of the inter-tidal zone.

Reef Watch has now expanded its sphere of influence and more than 400 volunteers are involved across South Australia, from Port Lincoln to Whyalla in the south east. On the Yorke Peninsula, Reef Watch works with members of the Indigenous community, who are using local knowledge to monitor their temperate reefs.

Reef Watch produces a regular magazine to keep volunteers in touch and raise important environmental issues, and regular slide nights help divers learn more about marine life and hear findings on the 'state of the reef' in a fun and sociable atmosphere.

The volunteers involved in the monitoring programs have developed a strong sense of stewardship over the reefs. Reef Watch believes this will have a positive impact on the health of South Australia's marine environment into the future.



Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities and resources for residents, volunteers, business and interest groups to participate in coastal management; including - The protection, management and sustainable use and enhancement of the natural environment of the coastal zone in Southern Tasmania.

Your SCAT Committee members:

For your calendar...	
World Environment Day	5 Jun
Treadlightly Envirofest	7 Jun
Ralphs Bay directions hearing	19 May
Ralphs Bay hearings	10 Jun-3 Jul
SCAT AGM	29 Aug
TLCA AGM	21 Sep

Past newsletters are available on our website

Position	Name	Affiliation	Contact	Email
President	David Rayner	Sommers Bay		
Vice Pres.	Chris Johns	Southern Beaches		
Secretary	Kristy Blackburn	individual		
Treasurer	Sally Johns	Southern Beaches		
Committee	Jill Pearson	NRM South		
Committee	Leah Page	individual		
Committee	Andrew Drenen	Tasman Council		
Committee	Jackie Bice	PWS		
Committee	Susan Westcott	Port Esperance		
Committee	vacant			
Committee	Fran Rankin	South Arm		
Committee	Michael Swanton	New Town		



Planting Time

Hi Coastcarers

We have finally had a good start to the season and I guess we are all thinking about getting this years planting program going.

Here's a few tips to help get a good result:

Water your plants a few hours before planting to keep them hydrated, also helps to keep the potting mix together and reduce transplant shock.

Check the site or a planting guide to help you decide where to plant what.

Planting hole should be twice as deep and wide as the pot the plant is in. I find a garden fork useful in sandy soils to create a good hole (it also reduces the tendency of spades to 'seal off' clay textured soils that prevents free root growth). It has the added advantage of loosening compacted soils to allow for strong root growth and effective water infiltration.

Plants should be planted slightly deeper than what they were in the pot. This is important because the extra soil acts as 'mulch' and prevents the root ball from drying from capillary action by water evaporating from the exposed potting mix.

Firm the soil gently around the plant. We just spent all that energy loosening the soil to provide the plant roots air, so avoid compacting it again.

Create a small saucer shaped depression around the plant to collect any surface rain water runoff. Important for longer term survival.

Give them a small drink after planting, one litre or more. Helps to even out soil moisture around the plant and its potting mix as well as helping to 'firm' the plant in.

Replace any natural mulch or supplied mulch to reduce weed competition and conserve water. Be careful that plants are not 'swamped' by mulch or that it's not hard up against their stems to help prevent stem rot. Supplied mulch should be well rotted to prevent 'nitrogen drawdown' (where soil microbes 'rob' the soil of nitrogen in order to break down high carbon based organic matter).

Bag and stake if required. I have explored some options about this subject in a previous Coastal Corner article. It may be worth a read.

Have fun in the sun!