

Coast's smallest club set to open up doors

ITHACA Caloundra City Life Saving Club will host an open day in conjunction with a sign-on at their clubhouse on Bulcock Beach from 10am-2pm on Saturday, October 16.

Club captain Lynda Barry said everyone was welcome to attend the event.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for people to see the gear that lifesavers use close up," Ms Barry said.

"And joining a life saving club is a fantastic way of being part of the beach culture.

"Bulcock Beach is a very popular family beach for swimmers and watercraft users and our lifesaving activities vary a great deal from those on a surf beach."

Ms Barry said the club, labelled "the smallest club on the Coast", welcomes enquiries from people aged over 14 years.

Volunteer roles are available including beach-based and non-swimming roles.

To find out more visit www.CaloundraCity.org.au or call Lynda on 0433 771 433 weekdays after 5.30pm.

Volunteers making a difference

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A GROUP of passionate environmentalists were rewarded at the Healthy Land and Water Awards.

The Friends of the Forest, formerly known as the Save Steve Irwin Way Forest group, was presented with the Community Environmental Stewardship in recognition of their efforts.

Over the past five years, the group and supporters were successful in helping to transition 744 hectare of state forest to national park status.

Spokesperson Carolita Fuentes said they were overjoyed with the accolade.

"This win would not have been possible without the contribution of many individuals and groups along the way who felt a calling to speak up in defence of nature under threat by overdevelopment here on the Sunshine Coast," she said.

"Many thanks to Jan Keshby, one of the core members, for having nominated the group.

"It was decided by the majority of members that the group name and associated Facebook pages and website be archived as a record of the history of how a passionate group of people achieved such positive outcomes for the environment.

"Since most of the outcomes have been achieved in relation to saving the forest, we are now transitioning into a conservation group with a new name and new aims...Friends of the Forest includes key members of the original campaign who wish to safeguard and continue to protect the forest."

The group will now focus on aims of assisting to manage the Mooloolah River National Park, Meridan Plains section, assisting with the memorial project at Jowarra Park, continuing to



HEALTHY LAND AND WATER: The Friends of the Forest group (formerly Save Steve Irwin Way Forest group) were presented with the Community Environmental Stewardship Award Healthy Land and Water. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTOR

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— Carolita Fuentes.

monitor wildlife protection, ensuring forest areas are protected, and collaborating with other individuals and environmental groups to help create a more sustainable future via education and mutual support.

The awards also recognised Joel Fostin as

volunteer of the year, Tony Isaacson as people's choice and lifetime achievement, USC with the Marine and Coastal Ecology Science Innovation Award and Stockland's Caloundra South Aura estate was awarded the Erosion and Sediment Control Leadership Award.