

Notes and maps from this excursion can be found on the NICA webpage [www.noosariver.com.au](http://www.noosariver.com.au)

drive \* talk \* walk \* drive

drive \* talk \* walk \*

NICA  
20TH ANNIVERSARY


# CATCHMENT EXCURSION

## No. 1

2 pm 5th March 2016  
LAKE COOROIBAH

MEET AT  
CNR. LAKE COOROIBAH RD  
AND JIRRIMA CRES.  
COOROIBAH

BYO AFTERNOON TEA  
AND CHAIR

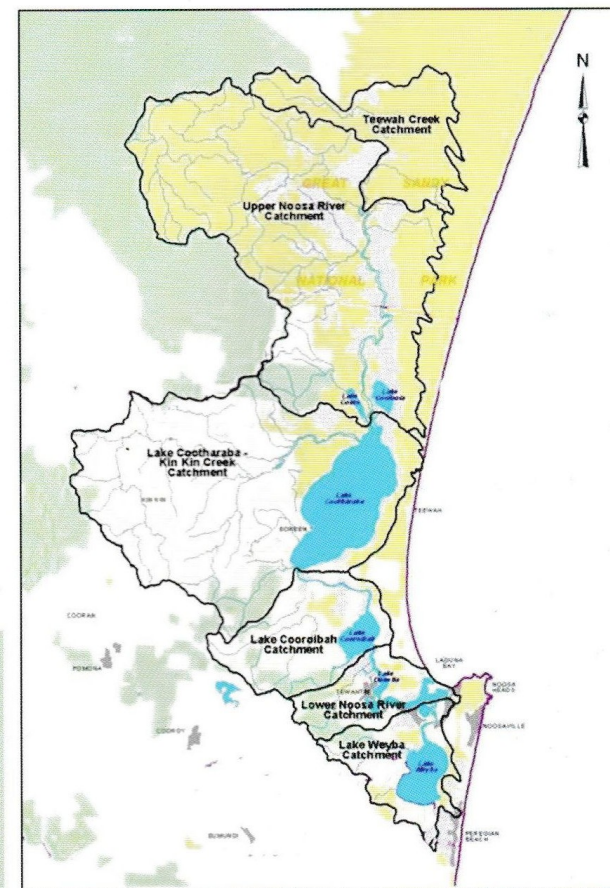


drive \* talk \* walk \* drive

drive \* talk \* walk \*

Leaders: Tony and Stephanie Haslam and Lidia Smith

## Noosa River Catchment



### What is a catchment?

A catchment is the land area from which rainwater drains to a river. Some water remains underground, slowly feeding the river between rainfall events.

# Press release February 2016

## NICA CATCHMENT EXCURSIONS 2016 CELEBRATE YOUR CATCHMENT

On Saturday 5th March the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association will launch a series of monthly excursions to celebrate 20 years of catchment care. The excursions will take a closer look at man and the biosphere in the Noosa River catchment.

The community is invited to come along and learn more about where they live. With a catchment that stretches from Teewah in the North, Kin Kin in the west and Lake Weyba in the south, these excursions will target a different area each month and include walks, talks, bus trips, car pooling, boat trips, etc and will be free unless buses or boats are hired.

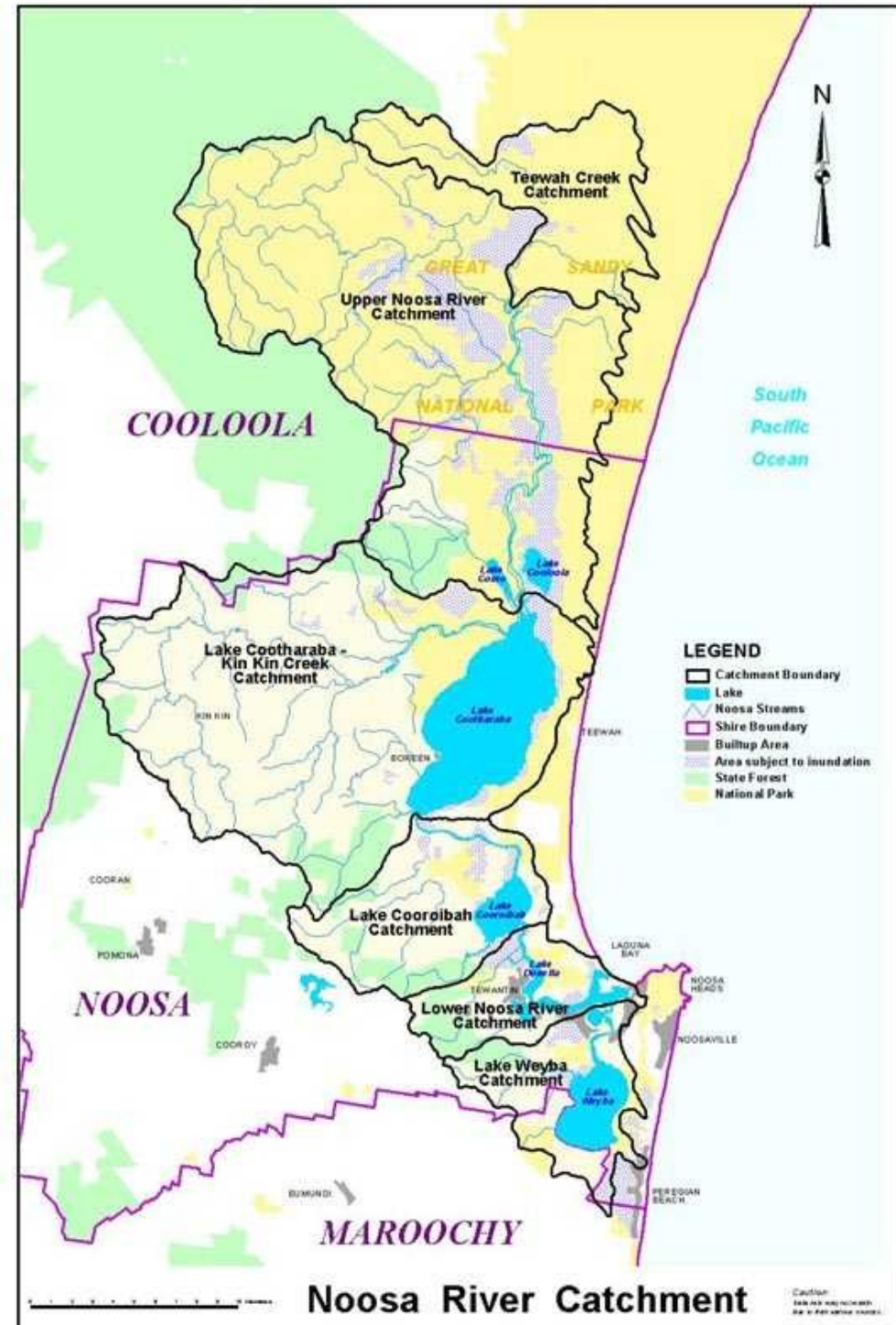
Learn about the history of the Noosa River Catchment, how we interact with our environment and plan for the future.

The first event on 5 March 2016 WILL LOOK at the western side of Lake Cooroibah. Cars should meet at the corner of Lake Cooroibah Road and Jirrima Crescent at 2 pm for a drive, informative talk about local history over afternoon tea, followed by an easy walk along the foreshore of the Lake. This excursion will be led by local residents Tony and Stephanie Haslam and Lidia Smith from NICA. Bring your own afternoon tea and a folding chair.

"NICA HAS decided to celebrate its 20th anniversary by introducing people to aspects of the Noosa River catchment they may not know", said Stephanie Haslam who is organising the program. Stephanie is well known as author of "Noosa Native Plants" and promotion of local design through NICA'S "LOOK LIKE NOOSA" project.

"Increasing local knowledge of our environment and how we interact with it, is a wonderful way to celebrate our twentieth anniversary year", said Stephanie. "People can come along - the events are free and no bookings are required", Stephanie added. Each event will be advertised in the local press, on the NICA website [www.noosariver.com.au](http://www.noosariver.com.au) and on Facebook.

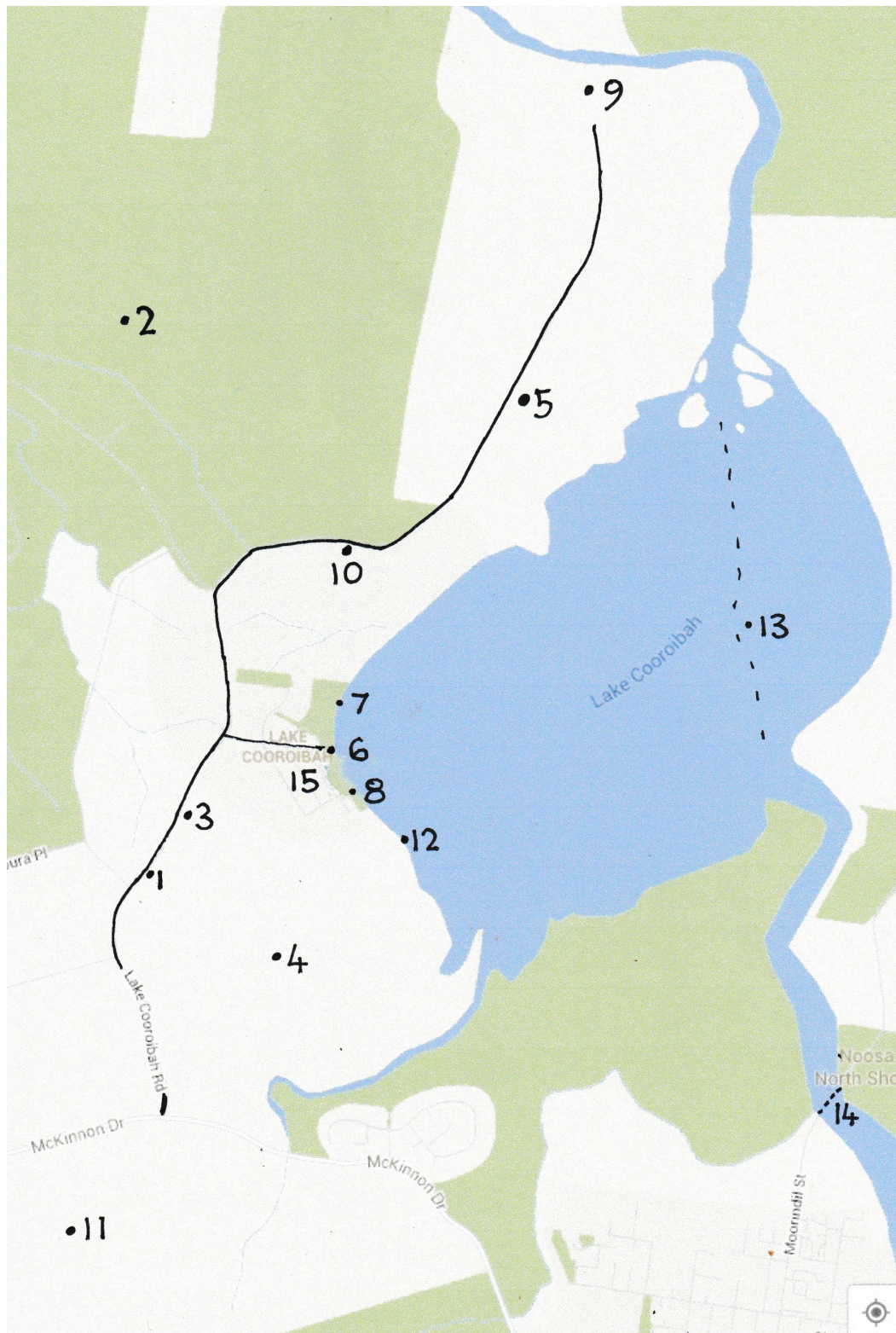
For more information call Stephanie on 5449 8118.











## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Meeting Point
- 2 Great Sandy National Park
- 3 Old Airstrip
- 4 Riley Land
- 5 Old Quarry
- 6 Meet for talk and tea
- 7 Beach walk
- 8 Track behind Morning Glory  
Drive houses
- 9 Johns Landing Camp Ground
- 10 Bora Ring
- 11 Tewantin National Park
- 12 Mangroves
- 13 Noosa River Channel
- 14 Ferry
- 15 Lake Cooroibah Heights







# TEWANTIN TO COOROIBAH

The land from Tewanin to Cooroibah, bounded by Wooroi Creek, McKinnon Drive, Lake Cooroibah Road, and Lakeway Drive is largely in conservation tenure. It is part of the Lake Cooroibah Sub-catchment and having it in its natural vegetated condition helps contribute good quality runoff entering the Noosa River System. There are some exclusions which include a few isolated residential blocks, and larger collections of residences at Noosa Banks and Cooroibah Heights.

## THE RILEY LAND

Contained within this wider area is the 'Riley Land', an area separated off by Cooroibah Creek. This land had been owned by a Sydney based land owner, Mr Riley. It comprised several parcels (as many as 4).

The Riley Land was the subject of a long standing compensation claim on Noosa Council of around \$4 Million resulting from planning decisions which saw the land lose its development potential. However Mr Riley was prepared to negotiate with Council over the potential purchase of the land, and in 2007 using Environment Levy money and \$1.5 Million from the Federal National Reserve System program, Council purchased the land for around \$4.5 Million, settling the compensation claim and protecting the land in public ownership. The airstrip, which wasn't part of the Riley Land, was subsequently purchased with Environment Levy funds by the Sunshine Coast Council during the amalgamated period.

The Riley land is almost totally endangered ecosystem, and contains 6 different Regional Ecosystems, including a rare patch of rainforest and scrub.

When the land was purchased in 2007, Mayor Bob Abbot said, "This is such a special stretch of land, spreading from the wetland shallows of Cooroibah Lake and Cooroibah Creek to the edges of the Great Sandy National Park".

"Riley's is a patchwork of rare and threatened eucalypt woodland, safeguarding habitat for threatened birds and animals like the red goshawk, water mouse and wallum sedge frog."

## COOROIBAH HEIGHTS

The term 'Cooroibah Heights' isn't used much by locals but an article in "The Noosa Advertiser" of April 14, 1960 told "The STORY of LAKE COOROIBAH HEIGHTS ESTATE". Owned by NSW businessman, Mr B R Watson of Mt Kuring-Gai, the land was developed into 119 small lots priced at \$390, \$600, \$800, and \$1,100. The sub headlines to the story described the area in the following terms. "The lake country in the Tewanin-Noosa area is one of the most beautiful in Australia. It is a natural heritage, and the lakes themselves need little enhancement by the hand of man."

However this didn't prevent some enhancement and the article told us – "Before this development project was put into operation, the Estate was covered by a heavy forest of bloodwood, stringy bark and bluegum; but man and machinery have moved forward to carve these gently sloping lakeside sites."

"The purchaser of land on this Estate will have practically no work to do on his block . . . . . in so much as every large tree was removed, so, too; were the roots and stumps removed from their precious foundation."

Tony Haslam







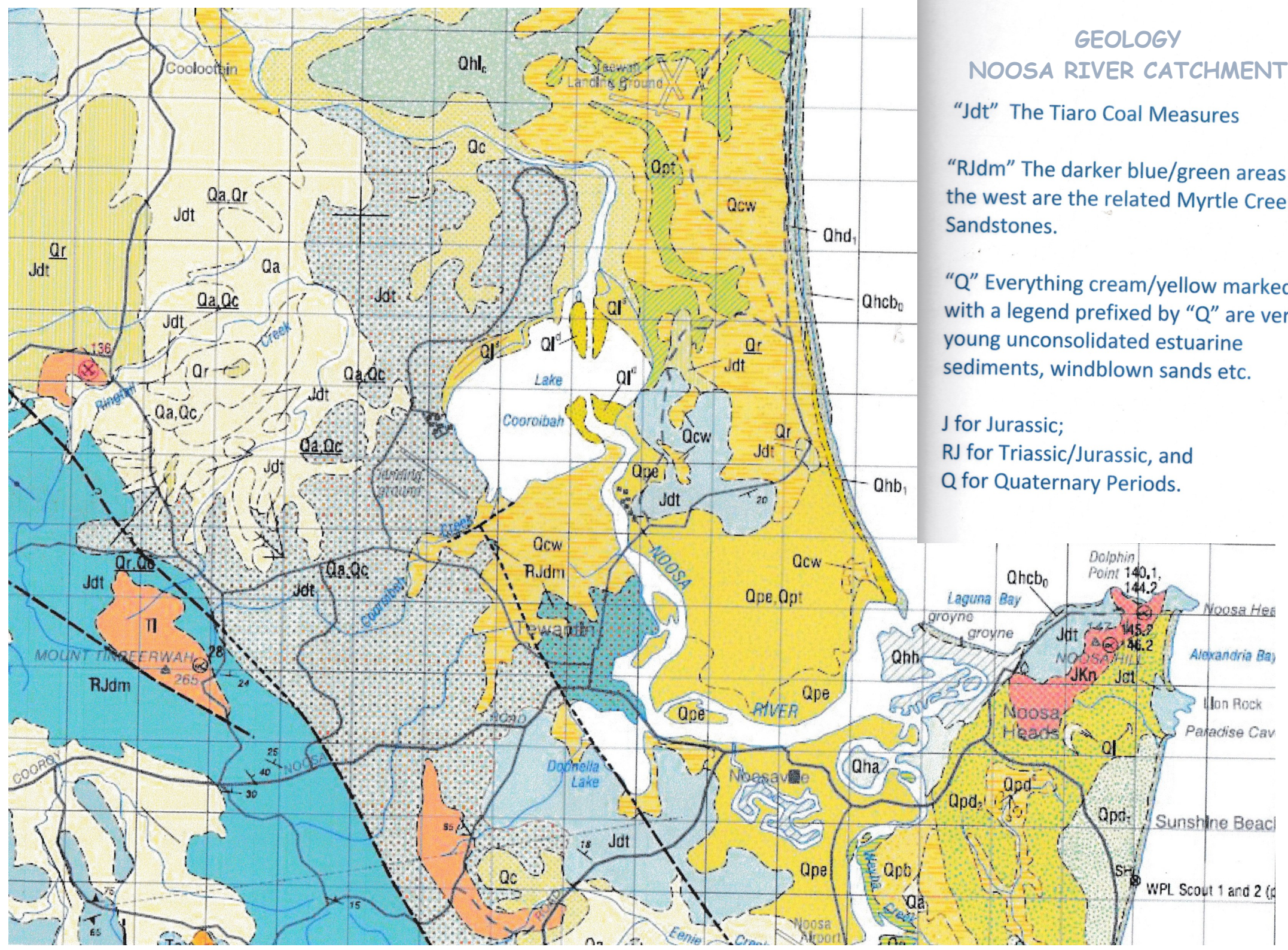
# GEOLOGY NOOSA RIVER CATCHMENT

“Jdt” The Tiaro Coal Measures

“RJdm” The darker blue/green areas to the west are the related Myrtle Creek Sandstones.

“Q” Everything cream/yellow marked with a legend prefixed by “Q” are very young unconsolidated estuarine sediments, windblown sands etc.

J for Jurassic;  
RJ for Triassic/Jurassic, and  
Q for Quaternary Periods.







# GEOLOGY – LAKE COOROIBAH

The principal rock formation in the Cooroibah area is known as the Tiaro Coal Measures. It consists primarily of ferruginous sandstones (meaning the particles are chemically bound by oxides of iron), shales, siltstones, and even coal.

In places the sandstone may exhibit oolite markers, being small spherical shapes which we know are associated with past shallow marine environments.

The Tiaro Coal Measures are commonly seen at the surface in a band bearing south from Johns Landing to Cooroibah Creek, then SE towards Coolum. They are seen on the lower parts of Ringtail Forest, the lower sections of Tewartin NP, and around the western and southern shores of Lake Weyba. In the north, they are extensively visible through the Western Catchment. The Tiaro Coal Measures are closely associated with the Myrtle Creek Sandstone and the Landsborough Sandstone to the south; collectively comprising the extensive sandstone coastal plains of the Sunshine Coast.



They are all of late Triassic to Jurassic age i.e. about 200 million years ago, and originated as a result of the sinking of the continental margin at that time, allowing material eroding from mountains to the west to accumulate in broad basins.



For more information about local species  
visit [www.noosasnativeplants.com.au](http://www.noosasnativeplants.com.au) and look for  
Plant Lists

## Some Local Birds

Brown Cuckoo-Dove  
Fig Bird  
Torresian Crow  
Magpie Lark (Peewit)  
Laughing Kookaburra  
Whistling Kite  
Rainbow Lorikeet  
Brahminy Kite  
Brown Honeyeater  
White-Bellied Sea Eagle  
Koel  
Scrub Turkey  
Lewin Honeyeater  
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet  
Noisy Miner  
Dollar Bird  
Little Friar Bird  
Pale-headed Rosella  
King Parrot  
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike  
Blue-faced Honeyeater  
Tawny Frogmouth  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Noisy Friar Bird  
Currawong  
Wren  
White-faced Heron  
Scarlet Honeyeater  
Fantail  
Forest Kingfisher  
Red-winged Parrot

Feeding native birds can harm them.

Put a birdbath in your garden near an overhanging  
tree where they can perch,  
and enjoy their company.

## Some local native plants

*Keep a few in your garden to ensure Lake Cooroibah  
retains its pleasant lakeside character*

### Trees

Allocasuarina littoralis (black she oak)  
Casuarina glauca (coastal she oak)  
Angophora leiocarpa (Smooth-barked apple, Rusty gum)  
Callitris columellaris (White cypress pine)  
Eucalyptus umbra (Bastard Stringybark)  
Lophostemon suaveolens (Swamp box)  
Melaleuca quinquenervia (Paperbark)  
Eucalyptus racemosa (Scribbly gum)  
Eucalyptus tereticornis (Qld. Blue gum)  
Corymbia intermedia (Pink bloodwood)  
Glochidion sumatranum (Cheese tree)  
Acacia sp. And, of course, the mangroves.

### Shrubs

Leucopogon pedicellatus (Whitebeard)  
Melastoma malabathricum (Blue tongue)  
Petrophile shirleyae (Cone sticks)  
Banksia integrifolia (Coast banksia)  
Banksia robur (Swamp banksia)  
Hakea spp.  
Persoonia virgata (Geebung)  
Pultenea sp. (Eggs and bacon, yellow pea flower)

### Understorey

Blechnum indicum (Bungwall fern)  
Crinum angustifolium (Swamp lily)  
Cryptostylis erecta (Bonnet orchid)  
Cryptostylis subulata (Tongue orchid)  
Dianella sp. (Flax lily)  
Hibiscus diversifolius (Swamp hibiscus)  
Geodorum densiflorum (Shepherd's crook orchid)  
Caustis blakei  
Eriocaulon sp. (Pipewort)  
Lomandra sp. (  
Pimelea linifolia (Rice flower)

### Creepers

Hardenbergia violaceae (Native sarsaparilla)  
Lygodium microphyllum (Climbing maidenhair)  
Parsonsia straminea (Monkey vine)

## Lake Cooroibah Weeds

These are ones that get into the bush to choke and smother native species. Here are some of the weeds we have targeted at Lake Cooroibah. Often attractive in their own right, when left to their own devices in the bush, they will smother native species.

### Singapore Daisy

### Blue Morning Glory

### White Morning Glory

### Mile a minute

### Setaria (South African Pigeon Grass)

### Mother of Millions

### Fishbone Fern

### Umbrella Tree

### Cocos Palm (Queen Palm)

### Black-eyed Susan

### Basket Asparagus

### Slash pine

### Groundsel Bush

### Privet

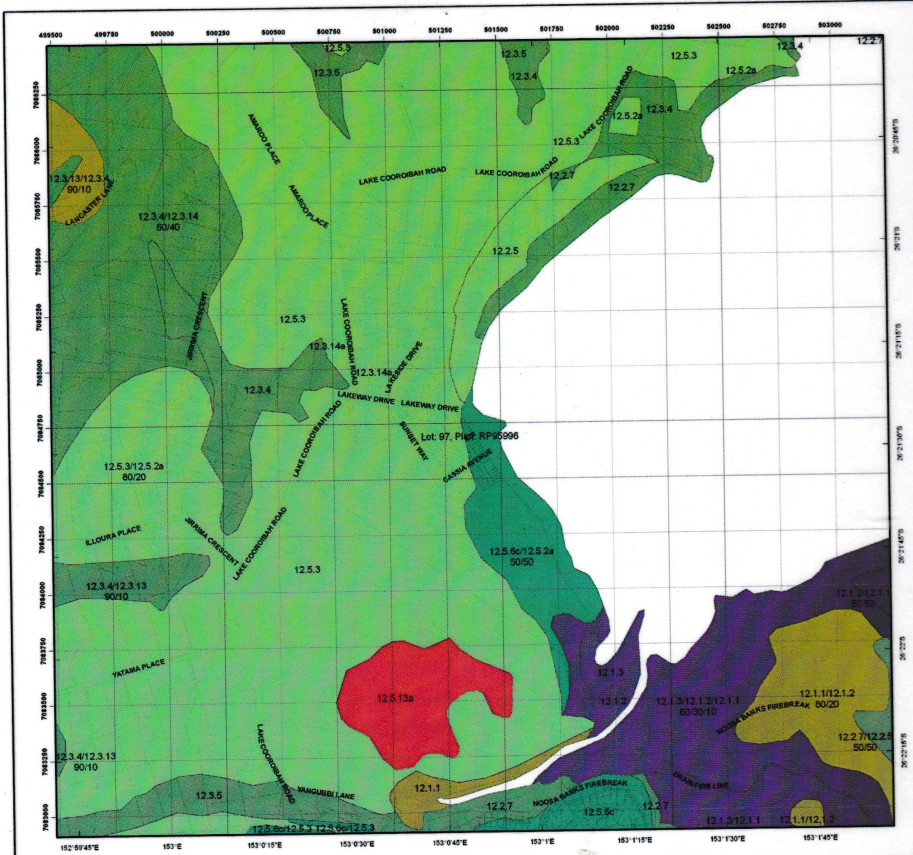
### Pasture legumes such as Archer axillaris, Siratro, Glycine, Silver-leaved Desmodium

Everyone can help by not throwing garden rubbish into the bushland areas. This is how the invasion began!

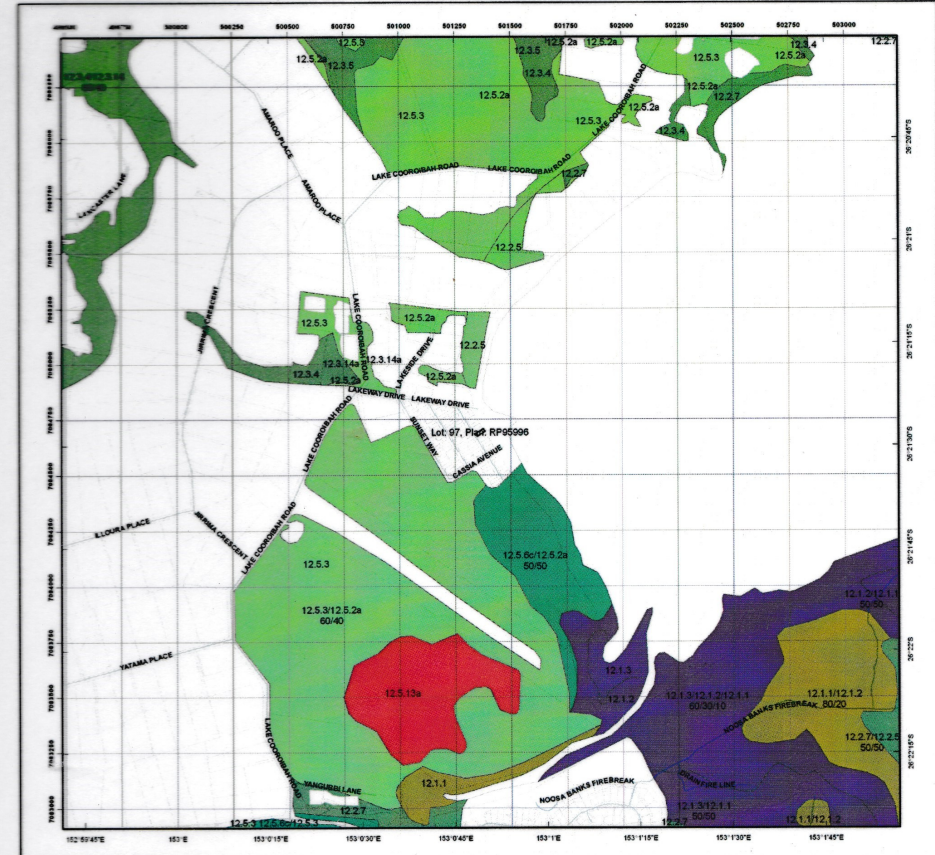
If you have these weeds in your garden, please remove the flower heads before they go to seed and re-invade the bush.

**We're very lucky to have natural bushland here on our doorstep at Lake Cooroibah. Let's look after it !**





**Pre-clearing Regional Ecosystems coloured by Broad Vegetation Groups**



**Remnant 2013 Regional Ecosystems coloured by Broad Vegetation Groups**

**Broad Vegetation Groups  
 BVG5M Description (BVG1M codes)**

- Lot and Plan
- DRAFT data applicable
- 1. Rainforests and scrubs (1-7b)
- 2. Wet eucalypt open forests (8-8b)
- 3. Eucalypt woodlands to open forests (mainly eastern Old) (9-15b)
- 4. Eucalypt open forests to woodlands on floodplains (16-16d)
- 5. Eucalypt dry woodlands on inland depositional plains (17-18d)
- 6. Eucalypt low open woodlands usually with spinifex understorey (19-19d)
- 7. Callitris woodland - open forests (20a)
- 8. Melaleuca open woodlands on depositional plains (21-22c)
- 9. Acacia aneura (mulga) dominated open forests, woodlands and shrublands (23-23b)
- 10. Other acacia dominated open forests, woodlands and shrublands (24-26a)
- 11. Mixed species woodlands, open woodland - (inland bioregions) includes wooded downs (27-27c)
- 12. Other coastal communities or heaths (28-29b)
- 13. Tussock grasslands, forblands (30-32b)
- 14. Hummock grasslands (33-33b)
- 15. Wetlands (swamps and lakes) (34-34g)
- 16. Mangroves and saltmarshes (35-35b)
- Water
- Cadastral Boundaries



This product is projected into GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Broad Vegetation Groups (BVG) of Queensland are applied by look up table to the regional ecosystem vegetation communities. Each polygon is coloured by the dominant BVG5M and the component regional ecosystems labelled. Where more than one regional ecosystem occurs, the percentage of each is labelled.

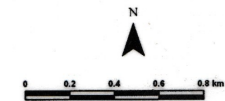
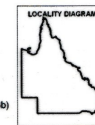
Regional ecosystem mapping over the majority of Queensland is produced at a scale of 1:100,000. At this scale, the minimum remnant polygon area is 5 hectares or minimum remnant width of 75 metres. Regional ecosystem linework reproduced at a scale greater than 1:100,000, except in designated areas, should be used as a guide only. The precision of polygon boundaries or positional accuracy of linework is 100 metres.

Regional ecosystems are defined as vegetation communities in a bioregion that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil. The label consists of 3 components: bioregion, land zone, and vegetation community - the dominant canopy species, e.g.: RE 12.3.3. Descriptions of REs are found online. Use the search term "Regional Ecosystem Framework".

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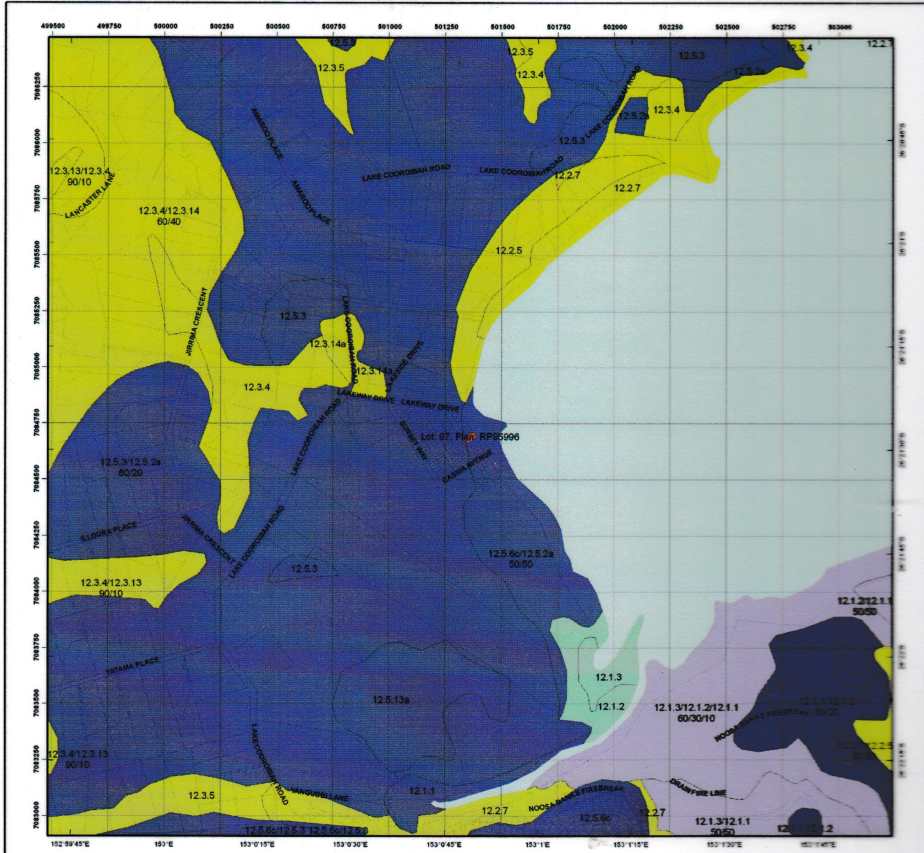
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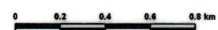




**Pre-clearing Regional Ecosystems**

**Biodiversity Status**

- Lot and Plan
- No data areas
- Endangered - Dominant vegetation
- Endangered - Sub-dominant
- Of Concern - Dominant
- Of Concern - Sub-dominant
- No concern at present
- Water
- Cadastral Boundaries

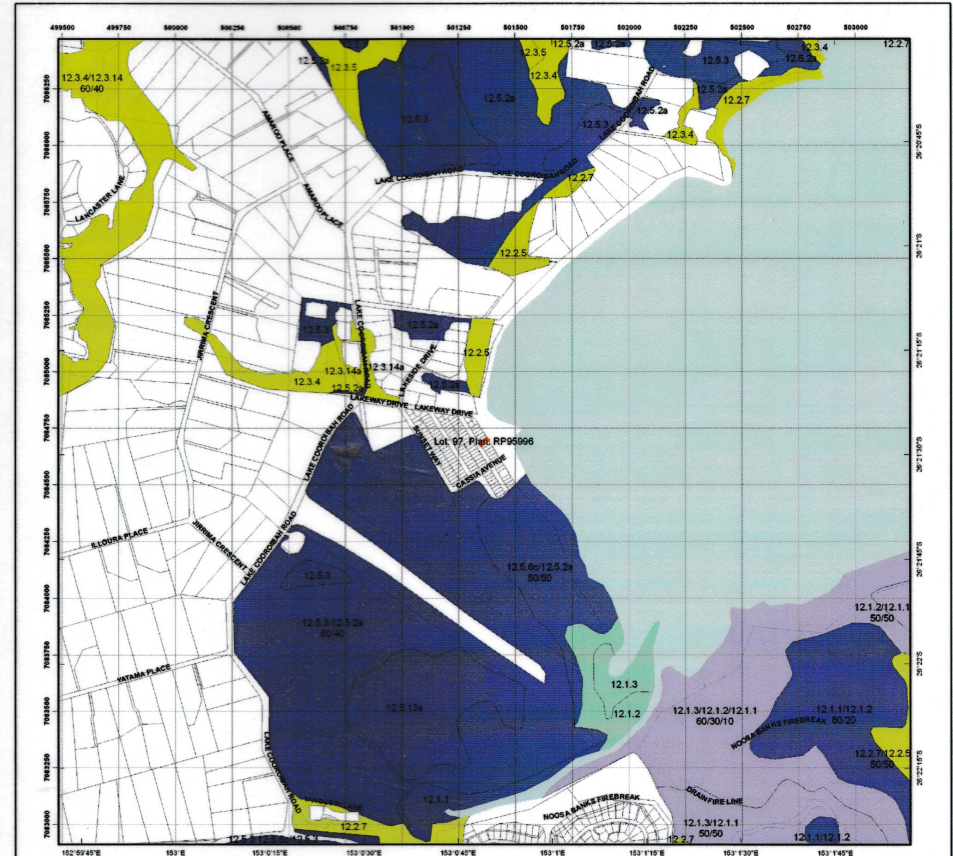


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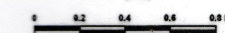
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**Remnant 2013 Regional Ecosystems**

**Biodiversity Status**

- Lot and Plan
- No data areas
- Endangered - Dominant vegetation
- Endangered - Sub-dominant
- Of Concern - Dominant
- Of Concern - Sub-dominant
- No concern at present
- Non-remnant vegetation, cultivated or built environment
- Plantation
- Water
- Cadastral Boundaries



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# The STORY of LAKE COOROIBAH HEIGHTS ESTATE

It has been noticed that in summer the temperature on the Estate is at least ten degrees cooler than any other holiday resort near at hand, and there are no

bothering mosquitoes or sandflies. Lake Cooroibah is one of the favoured fishing spots in the area, and the angler will find little difficulty in

filling his creel. A sandy beach provides a safe swimming place for the youngsters, making it an ideal one for the family man.

This first section of the sub-division has been divided into 119 allotments, each having an area of 24 perches.

The land has been cleared, but sufficient trees have been left to give a park-like effect. Soil is good and the streets which have been cut through in subdividing are suitably well drained, with kerbing and pipes, so that any storm

water will be carried away swiftly, leaving the allotments free from any soakage.

Before this development project was put into operation, the Estate was covered by a heavy forest of bloodwood, stringy bark and bluegum; but man and machinery have moved forward to carve these gently-sloping lakeside sites.

The purchaser of land on this Estate will have practically no work to do on his block, such a conscientious job has been carried out by Messrs. Alex and Ralph Gillingwater in the preliminary

work.

The arable soil of each site was taken into consideration as the developing project moved under way, in so much that as every large tree was removed, so, too, were the roots and stumps removed from their precious foundation.

The buyer of land on this Estate can build without being handicapped by these underground hindrances.

Allotments nearest the lake shore are some feet above the shore proper, and this space between the foot of the rise and the

water's edge will be developed as an Esplanade and also as a picnic area with barbecues, seats and other amenities. Just imagine delectable freshly-caught fish straight from the water to the grill over the open fire!

Mr. Watson's personal faith in his project is revealed in every facet of the development. He is a proud family man himself, and his thoughts have been to provide a leisure retreat for many family folk; for he feels—and rightly so—that this type of settlement is the backbone of any country.

For the businessman it

offers many advantages. The whole atmosphere is one to induce complete relaxation. Whilst only four miles from Tewantin township, there is an air of perfect peace.

With settlement will come a shopping area—a space has been set aside which will be available only for this purpose and will make a compact business centre. Electric light will be available and land-holders will be able to have every modern convenience.

Certain portions of this vast Estate will be available for small farm buyers,

and the fertile soil should enable the small crop farmer to gain a lucrative return.

The property is bounded by the Two-mile Creek.

To assess to the full the unique setting and advantages of this beautiful Estate, it is necessary to make an inspection, and to see for oneself the truth of the foregoing statements, which are merely statements of fact and in no way exaggerated.

Sites may be purchased for cash or on the easiest terms, and are within the reach of all income brackets at £195, £300, £400 and £550.

## LOCAL AGENTS:

**E. B. Marshall**  
Munna Point, Noosaville  
Telephone Tewantin 52

**W. H. Walker & Co.**  
Read's Arcade, Tewantin  
Telephone Tewantin 90

Quality land at a sensible price . . .

## Lake Cooroibah Heights Estate

The Estate is only four miles from Tewantin Post Office.

There are 119 choice, elevated well drained holiday sites, comprising waterfront and hillside lots overlooking the lake.

The Estate has a north east aspect.

The ground is of good arable soil — not sand.

Enough trees have been left to give a parklike effect.

Prices:— £195, £300, £400, £550. Numerous blocks at each price quoted.

An open invitation is extended to you—

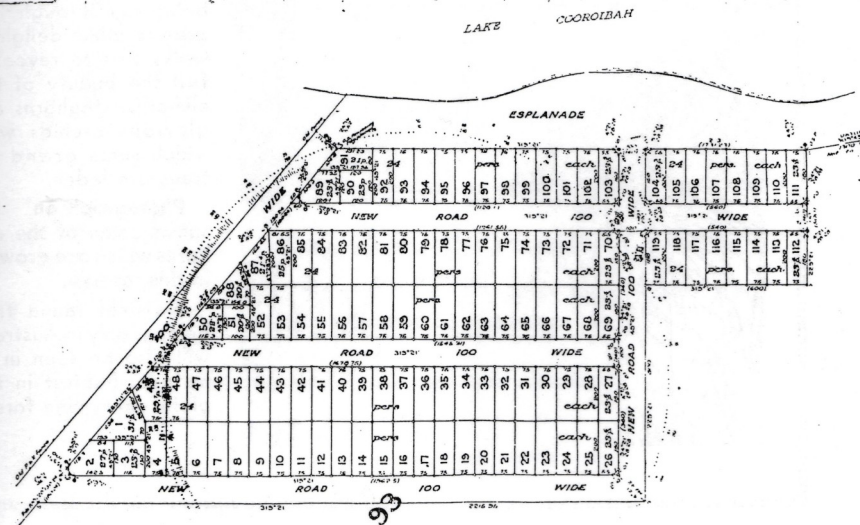
Inspect this Estate!

You will find the above statements to be correct.

Owner:

**B. R. WATSON**

12 HIGH STREET, MOUNT KURING-GAI, SYDNEY, N.S.W. — Telephone JU9079







**The Estate is four miles from Tewantin Post Office and 10 miles from Cooroy.**

The scenic drive from Cooroy through the beautiful cooling forestry reserve brings you by an all-weather road to the Estate.

To preserve the natural fauna and flora, 100 acres of forest has been left which will be turned into parkland and a reserve. Bridle tracks are being cut through this area to make delightful walks and to reveal in full the beauty of the elkhorns, staghorns and glorious orchids with which some grand old trees are laden.

**Photograph on left shows some of the elkhorns which are growing in this reserve.**

Natural fauna that belongs only in Australia will also be seen in its natural habitat in this picturesque vine forest.

## The STORY of

# LAKE COOROIBAH HEIGHTS ESTATE

Supplement to  
The Noosa Advertiser  
Thursday, April 14, 1960.

**The lake country in the Tewantin-Noosa area is one of the most beautiful in Australia.**

**It is a natural heritage, and the lakes themselves need little enhancement by the hand of man.**

*It is by one of these lakes Lake Cooroibah (commonly known as "Little Lake") that New South Wales businessman, Mr. B. R. Watson, has commenced to develop 540 acres of land.*

Mr. Watson spent many months on a quiet inspection of available land from Northern New South Wales right up the Queensland coastline. Eventually he

found this estate of 540 acres where he has proceeded to make his dream of a holiday spot which would have all the features he, himself, would desire.

come true. Standing forty feet above the large placid Lake Cooroibah at its foreshore and receding back to rise gently to approximately eighty feet in height above the lake, the Lake Cooroibah Heights Estate commands a picturesque view over the lake to the Noosa Hills, which are seen to the

South-East.

The aspect is to the North-East, an ideal one from all points of view. The undulating land assures that each and every block will have the gentle breezes from the lake, which make it a cool haven even on the hottest day.

*continued on page 2*



Photograph of Estate, taken from Lake Cooroibah, showing Cooroy Mountain (left) and Tinbergh Mountain in the background.



# Report by LIDIA SMITH

In celebration of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA) has launched a series of free-to-the-public guided excursions into the Noosa Catchment.

The first of these excursions took place on Saturday, 5 March, and certainly hit the mark of its aim: To introduce and share with locals (and visitors!) this place we all call home – because the best surprises can sometimes be found right in our own backyards!

Saturday's excursion began with a gathering of approximately 30 participants, a brief introduction and a short walk up a bush track with points of interest. We then returned to our vehicles for a short drive up to the John's Landing campground entrance and back. This short drive had a few surprises in store for us.

We witnessed evidence of lightning's unstoppable force: a large \_\_\_\_\_ tree, struck down in what could only have been a violent, spectacular event. Once a tall proud sentinel, likely approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years old, it now stands in silent, shattered testimony to the awesome power of the spectacle we've all borne witness to many times in the night sky. A little further up the road, I dare say more than one jaw dropped at seeing a spectacle of quite a different type: the utter transformation of the old quarry site – I for one, anticipate exciting, interesting times ahead for this area!

Our convoy continued to the lakeside meeting place where afternoon tea and the informal talks commenced. Delivered in a casual, personable 'chat' atmosphere, participants were invited to ask questions, and to contribute information within the scope of topics discussed. Information covered ranged from local history, to geology, indigenous cultural notes, local vegetation and changes to the area over time.

Stephanie Haslam had listeners chuckling and engaged right from the start as she led us through a variety of topics. Tony Haslam shared his local knowledge of the area, not only of its current state, but also of its history, giving a glimpse into influences, both natural and human, that have worked to create the landscape, and continue to shape the beautiful area he calls home. He led us on a short walk through the Riley Land; a nature reserve he and Stephanie, along with a small community of neighbours are lucky enough to call "our backyard." We saw yet another tree recently lightning-struck. A splintered stump, shattered trunk and timber shards strewn over the ground again bearing silent witness to nature's awesome power. Lidia Smith shared her knowledge of Landcare's Land for Wildlife Program. This program illustrates how we – people – are part of this beautiful biosphere we call home. It shows that we can work and live sustainably within and with natural spaces; celebrating and supporting the Unesco-awarded 'Man and the Biosphere' status given to the area in (year).

Excursion 2 will be at Laguna Lookout and Noosa Woods, where we will hear about past, present, and future relationships between people and this dynamic river, and the diverse livelihoods it supports; human and wildlife alike. Everyone is invited to come along to learn something new and to share some of your own stories and surprises about our shared backyard. Rekindle the spark of discovery, reawaken the sense of wonder of our lil' slice of paradise!

These Noosa Catchment Excursions are open to any and all interested, are "bring your own afternoon tea and folding chair" events, and offered free of charge unless a bus, or boat is booked. Stay tuned for meeting places, dates, and times.



Thanks Lidia for the photos.