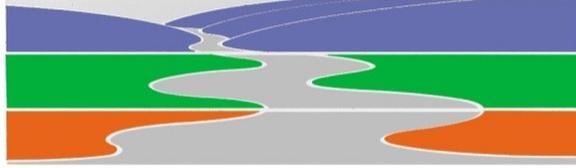


# Noosa Integrated



# Catchment Assn. Inc.

## Annual Report 2017



# Contents

President’s Report .....	3
Treasurer’s Report.....	4
NICA Strategic Review 2017 .....	5
NICA PROJECTS .....	6
Monday with NICA.....	6
River Education Programme.....	7
Volunteer River Watch.....	7
NICA Waterwatch.....	7
Sand Island Weeding .....	8
Wader and Tern Bird Counts in the Noosa River Estuary .....	8
Noosa River Seagrass Monitoring.....	9
Noosa Wallum Festival .....	9
Garden for Wildlife (Scoping Study) .....	11
Heritage Park Bushland Care Group .....	12
Girraween Bushland Care Group.....	13
NICA Publications .....	13
Look Like Noosa .....	14
Clean Up Aust Day – 2017.....	14
Sea World Marine Debris Grant 2017 .....	15
Noosa Civic Sustainability Campaign.....	16
Thanks to our Sponsors .....	16

# President's Report

By Tony Haslam

The Noosa Integrated Catchment Association celebrated 21 Years of operation this year, and it is pleasing to know that we have fared better financially in 2017 due largely to our move to Doonella House for a peppercorn rental at the end of January. To help plan a way forward for NICA, a Strategic Working Group comprising Phil Moran, Peter Hunnam, John Martin and Brian Stockwell was established in 2017 and they met several times during the year to look deeply into NICA's operating model. A copy of their findings and recommendations are included in this annual report. Their contribution is deeply appreciated.

However, the lack of sufficient funding to meet the cost of employing qualified project staff has meant that our capacity to provide some of the services that we have previously remains low.

Fortunately some of our members continue to come up with innovative ideas for projects that meet our strategy and provide increased exposure and community interest.

Last year it was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Excursions (10 during the year), and this year it has been the Noosa Wallum Festival which was a great success, led by Stephanie Haslam with a working group including Sonia MacDonald, Moira Maclachlan, Margaret King, Joan Heavey and Robert Price.

In association with the Noosa Wallum Festival, amazing displays of Arts and Crafts were mounted in the Cooroy and Noosaville Library during August and September.

The natural area regeneration projects continue to be the mainstay of our funded on ground work. This year they have been through grants obtained by Joan Heavey at Heritage Park, and Jill Campbell at diverse coastal localities and later in the year at Cooloosa St and Girraween Nature Refuge.

All our field guides '*Weeds of the Sunshine Coast*', '*Grasses Edition 2*', and '*Noosa's Native Plants*' continue to sell well, demonstrating the need for these important resources to aid in best practice land management, an important function which NICA facilitates well.

The field guide on Sedges, Reeds and Restiads funded by the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd. was released in March 2017 and has received favourable critiques and sells steadily.

Monday with NICA (MwN) has continued during 2017 with a range of topics (listed in separate report), and it is hoped this important engagement and information exchange sessions will continue in 2018.

Healthy Land and Water released their Report Card 2017 which showed the Noosa River with a Condition score of A-, the same as last year. New for this year was a Waterway Benefits Rating (Noosa was 4 stars out of 5) in the Report Card which is to help better understand how social and economic benefits will be affected by changing environmental conditions. The following components are measured:

- community values and satisfaction with waterways
- appropriate access to local waterways
- economic benefits generated through recreation
- economic benefits provided through recreational fishing

During the year we continue to be interested in the Kin Kin Creek sub catchment and have contributed some funding to assist with an updated assessment of the catchment with a view to finding problematic areas and identifying cost effect projects. This work is managed by Noosa and District Landcare in partnership with others.

NICA acknowledges the assistance of Noosa Council who support us through their Community Alliance program for our overheads, and also indirectly via NBRF by providing rent free office space.

I need also to recognise the effort from our committee during the year; Secretary Barry Sinclair, Treasurer Roger Kelly, Joan Heavey, John Martin, and Bruce Hallett. Thanks also to staff member Gillian Studdock our Administration Officer who looks after all of our office and financial management functions and provides a direct contact with members and volunteer project officers.

Without our volunteers, both out there on the ground (or often on the river), serving on the committee and as members NICA could not function, nor could our projects be as successful as they are. This includes the efforts of our volunteer river rangers, our bushland care groups and seagrass watchers.

Thank you all.

# Treasurer's Report

By Roger Kelly

Since last financial year the situation has been relieved a little by an increase in State Govt funding, by acquiring rent-free office space, by steady merchandise sales and by donations and by the introduction of the membership fee.

Since the reduction of the operating grant in the 2014/15 year NICA has had to use accumulated savings to enable the organisation to continue to meet its operating costs, including office overheads and a paid part time bookkeeper and administration officer.

It is apparent that we continue to sail too close to financial weather with rather too much canvas abroad, and (to press on with the nautical analogy) have shoal water to leeward. For members who would prefer a less romantic representation of our situation, a properly-audited version of NICA's financial statements is available for viewing at the NICA office.

Income & Expenditure 2016-17		
	Income	
	2016/17	2015/16
Noosa Council Operating Grant	15,500	15,000
Grants Other	102,227	108,655
Merchandise	22,307	17,560
Donations	4,311	3,391
Membership	1,770	0
Interest	2,712	4,228
Total Income	148,827	148,834
	Expenses	
Total Expenses	144,445	163,783
Operating Profit/(Loss)	\$4,382	(\$14,949)

# **NICA Strategic Review 2017**

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR NICA'S FUTURE ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

In April 2017, NICA Management Committee asked three members/ local experts, Brian Stockwell, Phil Moran and Peter Hunnam, to form a Strategic Working Group and, in liaison with Committee member John Martin, to provide some suggestions for the future organisation and development of NICA. The initiative arose because of uncertainties over NICA's long-term direction and financing opportunities.

In the April-June period, the SWG had a number of discussions to review NICA's history, organisation and achievements, and to consider issues and opportunities for continuation and development of its work. From its discussion notes, the SWG has compiled the following summary of suggestions for NICA's future, to be considered by the Management Committee and broader membership. Depending on what is decided, the SWG members could assist NICA further, to develop specific plans and actions.

### **Main Suggestions**

- 1. Continue and build on the good work**
- 2. Develop a clear strategic Program and strengthened project management**
- 3. Strengthen the organisation**

These three Suggestions are outlined in full in a written report which is available through NICA's Office on request.

# NICA PROJECTS

## Monday with NICA

By Gillian Studdock

There have been a series of informative and interesting talks at Monday with NICA during 2017, thanks to all of our speakers;

- On 13th February Joan Dillon came to talk to us about Burung Landcare's project 'Garden for Wildlife', which has prompted NICA to apply for and receive a grant from Noosa Council for a feasibility study to introduce this project to Noosa Shire.
- On 20th March Phil Moran from Noosa and District Landcare launched NICA's new botanical reference publication 'Sedges, Rushes and Restiads' by Sonia MacDonal and Stephanie Haslam, with funding from NBRF.
- 'Institutional Arrangements for Natural Resource Management' was the subject of a talk by John Martin on 24th April.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> May Jan Maddin from Noosa Council talked about the Noosa River Management Plan.
- Phil Moran presented 'NICA Going Forward' on the progress NICA's Strategic Working Group on 19<sup>th</sup> June.



- On 17<sup>th</sup> July Roger Kelly talked about his eco tourism adventure visiting The Kimberleys, how does Noosa enhance the Noosa tourism options for those who want more than jet-ski excitement?
- On 20<sup>th</sup> August Dr. Stephen Boyd led a discussion on the viability of an electrical linear passenger service for the Noosa River.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> September Nicloe Galea, a USC student, presented a talk on the 'The Catbib' as part of her honours research project. The project was to develop a data base to prove the theory that the CatBib, when worn by domestic cats would reduce the kill rates on native wildlife species by 81%
- On 16<sup>th</sup> October 'A NICA Retrospective' Tony Haslam talked about some of NICA's successful projects over the last 20 years or so. There's no doubt that NICA's secret to surviving in these tough times is down to our amazing volunteers. They work on the Committee, write funding applications, publish botanical reference books and do the hard yards on the ground, weeding, tree planting and removing litter.



# River Education Programme

This NICA Program is funded by Noosa Council in an amount of \$3,515. The program covers WaterWatch, River Watch, Sand Island Weeding and Bird Counts.

It is estimated that the dollar value of the volunteer's time over the four streams amounts to \$22,300 or 534% return on the grant. This doesn't include the social capital of having this work carried out by a community based organisation

We are negotiating with Noosa Council with a view to having the program funded on a 3 year alliance basis.

## Volunteer River Watch

By Bruce Hallett and Allen Briggs

Volunteers go out in the NICA boat weekly (instead of fortnightly in the past) to collect rubbish both in the Noosa River and on the banks. There are currently 11 people, but we could do with a few more. We keep thinking that the amount we collect each week will diminish, but we continue to get plastic, abandoned crab pots, bottles, drink cans and other flotsam and jetsam.



The financial implications for Council of this NICA programme are quite significant. On the basis of at least 40 trips in the year and a minimum of 10 man/ woman hrs of volunteer time this equates to 400 hrs volunteered equivalent to \$12,000.

It should be noted that the Sunshine Coast Council employs Ocean Crusaders as their waterway cleaning contractors, and the Moreton Council also gives a grant to Ocean Crusaders so they can do work in their Shire.

Thanks to all the volunteers throughout the year, and Merry Christmas!

## NICA Waterwatch

By Bruce McConkey



Water testing has been conducted at eight sites along the Noosa River from Weyba Creek up to Tronsons Canal to gather historic data and raise awareness about water quality issues. Testing is monthly throughout the year, using three volunteers per trip. Interested volunteers nominate for this service and are coordinated by a volunteer.

Parameters monitored are water temperature, pH, conductivity, salinity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen content, while general visual observations e.g. water appearance or floating matter are also noted. The measurements are uploaded onto a central data base maintained by SEQC and NDLCG

WaterWatch program which provides baseline data to enable investigation and remediation if any deterioration in water quality is observed.

During 2017 these organisations have attempted to introduce an improved and more comprehensive program, 'Envirocoms', intended for volunteers to be able to record their observations and access all past historical data. To date this program has not been successful for user recording.

The observations during 2017 have remained consistent throughout the year, with no particular deteriorations noted, and indicating that the Noosa River has continued to maintain its quality rating.

In addition visible rubbish has been collected from the river banks during the monthly trips. The amount of this rubbish has been less than in previous years, particularly along the banks above Lake Cooroibah. These have not been exhaustive rubbish collections, nevertheless they have contributed to the effort to keep the river and foreshores free of litter and reduce the impact of plastics on marine life seabirds via ingestion & entanglement.

## Sand Island Weeding

By Tony Haslam

This work continues as core activity for NICA as part of the RiverWatch program funded by Noosa Council. In 2017 there were weeding visits in April, July and August, with 15 weeders per visit. This translates into a contribution to the Noosa environment with a value in excess of \$4,000.

O Boats provide a party pontoon at concessional rates which is much appreciated

A result of the estuarine forces and sand movement in the Noosa River estuary has been the connection of the 'Sand Island' to the Noosa North Shore and sadly this is facilitating 4WD's being driven illegally onto the 'island'.



Nearly Finished (for today) 2017



Where it began 2010

## Wader and Tern Bird Counts in the Noosa River Estuary

By Allen Briggs



Each month a group of volunteers venture to the river mouth to record the number and species of birds seen there at high tide. At high tide the waders are resting as they come to these estuaries to feed on the intertidal zone at low tides. The terns are also counted then and also sometimes in the evening as they return from their off shore feeding grounds.

The waders are generally migrant summer visitors who come from northern breeding grounds in the northern summer. Australia is signatory to international treaties acknowledging the importance of the East Asia Australian fly path of these birds.



Unusual sightings of birds, tagged birds as well as numbers and species are reported to the Queensland Wader Study Group, relevant Canberra authorities and the Noosa Council. Terns are made up of local birds who stay all year breeding here and migratory terns travelling the same pathway to their northern breeding grounds.

General trends here are that the local birds (red capped plovers, Crested, Gull-billed and Caspian Terns) are maintaining numbers thanks in part to the ban on dogs and 4Wheeled drives on the northern spit.

The migratory birds are falling in numbers as a result of issues mostly beyond Australia's control: developments in the wetlands between the Korean Peninsula and mainland China to the south.

More detailed analysis of the data which has been done in the past requires sophisticated statistical analysis (time, effort and financial support).

Thanks to NICA, Noosa Council and O-boats for supporting the project with the provision of the boat.

## Noosa River Seagrass Monitoring

By Roger Kelly



The former seagrass monitoring program in the Noosa estuary, based on replicated quadrat assessments as originally set up by Seagrass Watch, has been discontinued due to failure to gain adequate funding and to concerns about the reliability of the fine detail required of the method of GPS location that had been used.

However, this year NICA received a Norman Wettenhall environmental grant to study the potential of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles, drones) to assess the status of seagrass beds in the Noosa estuary. We have been fortunate to be able to team up with Dr Javier Leon of the

Department of Sciences and Engineering, USC, who has long experience of the use of this technology in his physical geography research and who is supervising the pilot study, which will form the basis of a geographical course being undertaken by Leanne Talbot, who ran the former Seagrass Watch program. Preliminary imaging done over the Weyba seagrass beds is very encouraging (see figure).

## Noosa Wallum Festival

By Tony Haslam



In the months leading up to Noosa Wallum Festival a working group of six people met monthly to plan the activities and logistics involved. In addition there were many hours spent outside of meetings in planning, venue inspections, preparing press releases and printed material, and contacting participating community organisations.

The working group responsible for the festival's successful implementation consisted of Stephanie Haslam, Sonia MacDonald, Joan Heavey, Tony Haslam, Robert Price, Moira Mclachlan, and Margaret King. Roger Kelly was of great assistance before and during the event, while

Karen and Barry Sinclair, Annie Guthrie, John Martin, Michelle Newall, Linda Price, Dennis Heavey, Tony King, and others also assisted during the festival.

The festival included a wide range of speakers, displays, walks and entertainment, with a free community event on Friday afternoon 25th August which included a Welcome to Country in the Wallum, a demonstration botanical transect, a performance by Sunshine Beach High School Junior Choir, a wildflower walk and a lone piper (Mike MacDonald) from the Noosa and Districts Pipes and Drums.

On Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th there were six speakers on each morning with guided Wallum walks in the afternoon. Morning tea and lunch was prepared by Joan Heavey over several weeks and acclaimed by all participants. Speakers donated their time and are allowing the use of their material in a new NICA publication "Inspired by the wallum ". The book will contain a précis of their presentations, plus photographs of artworks and other displays.

The speakers and topics were;

1. Welcome to the Wallum – Stephanie Haslam of NICA
2. Geology of the Wallum – Phillip Moran of Noosa Landcare
3. Weeding the Wallum – Jill Campbell of Noosa Bush Beach and Creekkare
4. Art in the Wallum – Dr Susan Davis of University of Central Coast
5. Wallum Wildlife – Valda McLean of NPA Bird Observers and Peter Milne of Noosa Council
6. Marketing the Wallum – Dr Steven Boyd of USC and Chair of Noosa Chamber of Commerce
7. Researching the Wallum – Ms Hilary Pearl Phd candidate
8. Architecture in the Wallum – Lindy Atkin and Steven Guthrie of Bark Design
9. At home in the Wallum – Dianne Shun Wah of NPA Friday Forum and resident in the Wallum
10. Burning The Wallum – Dr Samantha Lloyd of SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium
11. The Changing Face of Citizen Science – Susie Chapman of Healthy Land and Water
12. Fighting for the Wallum – Vivien Griffin, of Sunshine Coast Environment Council and Zero Emissions Noosa.



Sam Lloyd, Stephanie Haslam and Susie Chapman.

On Saturday evening there was a dinner with keynote speaker Landscape Architect Lawrie Smith OAM, addressing 'Design with Nature', at The River Deck Restaurant at Noosa Marina, Tewantin.

In addition to all this, a large number of community based groups mounted displays and exhibitions over the 3 days of the Festival, as well as in Noosa Libraries in Noosaville and Cooroy.

More than 100 people paid to attend specialist presentations and the Saturday evening dinner. The free community event on Friday afternoon attracted over 100 people. Artists displayed wallum-inspired items. Some of these artworks remained on exhibition at the Noosa Regional gallery, and the Cooroy and Noosaville

Libraries for 3 weeks after the Festival to continue spreading the Wallum message.

The community based groups that mounted displays and exhibitions included;

1. Noosa Museum Pomona
2. Robert Price – Propagated and donated Native Plants for sale
3. Native Plants Sunshine Coast
4. Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group – Barbara Henderson
5. Wallace House Press Gang
6. Wallace House Book Artists
7. QLD Mycological Society
8. Coolum Community Native Nursery
9. Glossy Black Conservancy
10. Noosa Council – Peter Milne
11. NICA – Group Information
12. Patches Cooroy – Wallum Quilt

13. NICA – Look Like Noosa Fabric Panels
14. NPA Botany Group
15. Boreen Point Artworkers
16. Michelle Knightley
17. Wallace House Botanical Artists

A valuable resource about Noosa’s Wallum vegetation will be produced using the materials, PowerPoints and photographs from the specialist presenters.

Knowledge of the Wallum vegetation was elevated through engagement with a wide range of contributing bodies including local schools, arts and craft groups, and regional environment and ecological organisations.

The success of the Noosa Wallum Festival demonstrated that it was a very good idea. It was well organised and received good support from diverse community organisations.

In summary the Noosa Wallum Festival was well structured and organised with good forward planning and this resulted in producing an excellent event. Getting promotion and publicity was difficult despite preparation of, and well timed consistent release of publicity material and press releases, and this could be improved if there were dedicated publicity people within the NICA organisation. Coverage in local press meant that the general message about Noosa’s vegetation communities reached the broader community.

## Garden for Wildlife (Scoping Study)

By Tony Haslam



Following a ‘Monday With NICA’ presentation by Joan Dillon from Barung Landcare about a ‘Garden for Wildlife’ program that they had implemented, NICA determined to explore the possibility of introducing and managing a similar program in Noosa Shire.

Noosa Council agreed to provide NICA with Grant funding to carry out a scoping study to better understand how the program could be implemented in Noosa Shire, and what resources and organisational structures needed to put in place.

Funding from Noosa Council enabled NICA to engage Dave Burrows to carry out the study and prepare the report detailing his findings and recommendations.

The program will be targeted at urban areas within Noosa Shire,

Noosa’s Biodiversity Conservation Plan has an action plan section. A primary objective is that “participation, cooperation, partnerships and collaborations underpin all biodiversity conservation actions in Noosa Shire”. Noosa Council has a track record of developing and fostering partnerships with the community to achieve biodiversity outcomes. A Gardens for Wildlife program if done well has the potential to address some of the threats to biodiversity indicated above by:

- Engaging with the wider urban community to raise awareness of the natural environment, and provide an opportunity for the community to contribute and be involved in a welcoming and low key way.
- Creating/enhancing urban wildlife corridors to assist wildlife movement in response to climatic change;
- Reducing the impact of invasive species;
- Reducing human/wildlife conflict.

The primary objective of the Gardens for Wildlife program is to provide a resource and service for urban landowners wishing to enhance urban ecology. This will be achieved by increasing the landowner’s understanding of the biodiversity values present on their property and adjacent areas, and what they can do to improve/ protect these values.

The significant recommendation is that the program should be delivered by Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA) either alone or in partnership with Noosa and District Landcare with Council/external grant funding to cover program costs. The program should also have strong linkages with Noosa Council, Garden clubs, community groups such as Men's Sheds, Glossy Black Conservancy, and the Wildflower Festival. It is recommended that a part time project officer be employed to develop, promote, deliver and administer the program.

The next step is to engage with Noosa Council to see if there is a funding model that could be developed with them, and failing this canvass other sources of funding with a view to launching the program in 2018.

## Heritage Park Bushland Care Group

By Joan Heavey

Heritage Park Bushland Care group are currently working on two State Government grants sites in the Park.

The first is an **Everyone's' Environment Grant – Urban Wild Spaces Pilot Project** which was for a period of three years and is due to finish in March 2018. The project has been relatively problem free, and all reporting milestones have been met or have exceeded requirements. One of the initiatives of this grant was to trial two different planting techniques to see if planting Lomandra and native trees at the same time is of more benefit than planting Lomandra first and allowing them to establish before planting the trees. This trial is to record which technique best protects the trees when inundation occurs in the park. The sites are still being monitored and a report from the contractor will be submitted at the conclusion of the grant period.



The second is a **Community Sustainability Action grant** which was sought to remove Singapore Daisy from one of the last major infestation sites in Heritage Park. The grant also enabled our Bushland Care group to purchase a purpose built worm farm from 'Worms Downunder' at Palmwoods to process the removed weed mass.

Contractors are also using the rolling method in some areas which is working well and surprisingly did not float away during our last big rain event.

This grant commenced in June this year and is due to be completed by May 2018. Work to date has seen a quarter hectare of Singapore removed and 50 metres of creek bank restored and around 450 tubestock planted to date.

Unfortunately the recent rain has set us back with water through the grant area flowing at almost a metre high which caused masses of debris to be dumped on the newly planted tubestock. It was a while before work could be done to uncover the tubestock and so far, 30 have been replaced with more to come. It is also apparent, some species will not survive due to having wet feet for too long, even though they are endemic to this particular site. These plants will also need to be replaced.



# Girraween Bushland Care Group

By Bruce Hallett

This group was officially named in December 2016 and came under the umbrella of the Noosa Council's Community Bushland Care programme. The coordinators are Roger Kelly and Bruce Hallett. The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month, and have been steadily removing weeds and planting native flora along Cooyar St from the Ozcare building to the Bio retention basin.

The site is part road reserve, and part Girraween Nature Refuge, which abuts the Noosa National Park. In 2008, the State of Qld and the Noosa Council signed a Conservation Agreement with the aim of protecting the biological diversity in the Girraween Nature Refuge, so it has quite high ecological importance. With the help of Jill Campbell, NICA has recently been successful in applying for a State Government Grant of \$30,000 for this area. Among other things this means we can get some assistance from contractors to do some of the heavier work that the aging volunteers can't manage.

The bushland group also do 3 weeding days per year that we do on the pontoon boat to the island at the mouth of the river. There is still corky passion vine, gloriosa lily and cobblers pegs, so we will be continuing those trips next year.

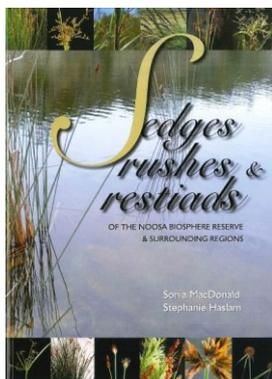


# NICA Publications

By Gillian Studdock

All our field guides '*Weeds of the Sunshine Coast*', '*Grasses*', and '*Noosa's Native Plants*' continue to sell well, demonstrating the need for these important resources to aid in best practice land management, an important function which NICA facilitates well.

The books continue to be sought out by members of the public, local bookshops, environmental consultant and Councils from all over SEQ. For the 2016-17 year a total of 4,128 were sold at either retail or wholesale price.



Publication of our new field guide on '*Sedges, Rushes and Restiads*' was supported by a Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd. grant and was launched on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 by Phil Moran. NICA would like to thank to the book's volunteer authors Sonia MacDonald and Stephanie Haslam.

## Look Like Noosa

By Stephanie Haslam



During the year I have continued to create designs from my photographs of Noosa's Native Plants.

Spoonflower in the United States has printed the fabrics and I have produced cushions, bags and, more recently, teatowels that can also be used as wall hangings. This has been an exercise in using images of Noosa's local flora when designing for place.

Since moving to Doonella Street marketing has become problematic as we are not allowed to retail. However the craft items are used as gifts for guest speakers and made available for sale at community events where NICA has a presence.

The project was conceived as an awareness-raising exercise to inspire other designers to use Noosa's native vegetation leading to an increased appreciation.

Although LOOK LIKE NOOSA was never intended as a serious fund-raiser, financially it has covered expenditure with NICA meeting the cost of supplying and printing the fabric.

## Clean Up Aust Day – 2017

By Joe Jurisevic

Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> was Clean Up Australia Day and once again NICA volunteers manned the 28 registration sites to sign up over 400 people willing to grab a bag and take to the streets, parks, creeks and bushland to Clean Up Noosa and surrounds.

This year volunteers collected over 7.2 tonnes of discarded items with around 300 bags of litter collected from our local environment across the region. A great effort with a number of sites commenting that the volume of litter was again showing signs of a decrease, but sadly around 5 tonnes of illegal dumping was cleaned up from Yurol Forest and Tewantin National Park bushland reserves yet again.

The hinterland was once again fully behind Clean Up Australia Day with sites in Kin Kin, Cooran, Cooroy, Eumundi, Boreen Point, Federal, Tinbeerwah and the usual big turn out in Pomona. There was a flotilla of watercraft on Noosa River led by the NICA River Rangers, Kayak Noosa and a crew of divers and snorkelers supported by the Coast Guard collecting fishing line, lures, sinkers and litter that has found its way into the river.



Noosa Sea Scouts and Noosa Rotary Club were involved once again, and the Sunshine Coast 4WD Club got stuck in tackling illegal dumping sites in Yurol Forest near Pomona. Illegal dump sites were once again a major focus this year with the bushland still being used by some as a 'free' alternative to Council facilities where regularly dumped items such as whitegoods can be disposed of at no cost or saleable items donated to Brideside's recycled goods shop supporting a local not for profit organisation. It was disappointing to see the number of tyres being dumped in our bushland with almost 100 tyres collected for proper disposal.



Clean Up Australia Day in Noosa would not be a success without the work of the volunteers at NICA who organise all of the logistics for the day and also the support of the Noosa Council and local businesses. All volunteers registered at Noosa sites once again went into a draw for prizes generously donated by The Sofitel Noosa Pacific and Peppers Noosa Resort.

We would also like to thank Allcott Hire and the team from Cleanaway that always put in a major effort to facilitate us with skip bins and make sure that all of the waste collected is weighed and major items recycled where possible at Eumundi Rd. A special thank you once again to all of the NICA volunteer supervisors that gave up their time to co-ordinate sites again this year, with many having been a part of Clean Up Day for over 10 years. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped clean up of our beautiful part of Australia.

## Sea World Marine Debris Grant 2017

By Joe Jurisevic

NICA with the support of a grant from Sea World and Healthy Land and Water, organised a cleanup of the Noosa River as part of Noosa Biosphere Day on the Monday of the long weekend. Around 30 volunteers from NICA, Noosa Community Biosphere Association and the Surfrider's Sunshine Coast ventured out and along the Noosa River and collected over 1.5 tonnes of litter and other rubbish in just 3 hours filling 2 skip bins, with a further 0.5 tonne removed from the Noosaville foreshore and Chaplin Park.



The litter included 192.5kg of marine debris, 8kg clothing, 13 thongs (no pairs) 38 slurpee cups, 13kg of hard plastics including food containers and straws, 3kg foil packaging, 1.5 bags of soft plastics including many single use plastic bags, 60 kg of recyclable bottles and cans (5 bags full), 5 foam fishing floats, a sports bag with over 10 packets of unopened fishing lures, a large plastic barrel, several rusted out crab pots, 3 tyres and a boat.

