

Clean Up Australia Day in Noosa 2020 – Wrap up

By Joe Jurisevic – Volunteer Coordinator

‘Step Up to Clean Up’

Step Up to Clean Up was the call and around 350 volunteers signed up on Sunday March 1st across the Noosa region to pick up over 6.5 tonnes of other people’s rubbish as part of Clean Up Australia Day, organised once again by the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA). There were 22 sites where volunteers searched the lengths and breadths of Noosa’s bushland, parklands, roadsides, creeks and river to Clean Up Noosa.



An amazing job yet again from our team of volunteer co-ordinator Joe Jurisevic, NICA manager Gill Studdock and the dedicated NICA site supervisors who co-ordinated volunteers that turned up across the region. It was a heartening example of the community turning out to make a difference and pick up the rubbish that is dropped or dumped in our environment.

The volunteers were ably supported by Noosa Council, as well as local businesses Cleanaway and Allcott Hire to help dispose of the rubbish. Peppers Noosa Resort once again generously donated a Dinner for 2 for one lucky volunteer, which was won this year by Robyn from Noosa Heads.

NICA President Chair Bruce Hallett praised the volunteers who made the effort to help Clean Up Noosa. ‘The data collected from all the Noosa CUAD groups recorded over 6 tonnes of rubbish removed from our environment. But the most significant change this year was the reduction in litter collected, with most sites recording a decrease in glass and plastic drink containers, which may be due to the introduction of the container deposit scheme.’

NICA volunteer Peter Hunnam once again joined volunteers from the Tewantin BushCare Group, Tewantin State School students and NICA River Rangers at the Tewantin boat ramp to undertake an audit of their findings. Items were sorted from 15 bags collected and the waste was described as ‘Death by Plastic’. ‘Nearly 60% of all the rubbish items were made of plastic, a total of 1,376 items. Most of the plastic items were small, very easily transported by water or blown, very easily ingested by aquatic animals, and difficult to collect and clean up from the river. The most abundant category (32% of all items) included all sorts of soft plastic bags.’



The Noosa Hinterland was once again fully behind Clean Up Australia Day with sites in Kin Kin, Cooroy, Cooran, Federal, Pomona and Boreen Point well supported by volunteers keen to Clean Up around their towns.

The Sunshine Coast 4WD Club were largely responsible for the large volume of rubbish cleaning up illegal dumping sites in Yurol Forest near Pomona again this year. Tyres were the most significant item collected with around 60 tyres removed from our bushland, but pleasing to see a significant reduction in whitegoods, eWaste and mattresses being dumped this year that can all be recycled.