

NICA NEWS – JULY 20

Events

Monday 27th July 1pm ‘NICA’s Future Direction’

The NICA committee invite you to join them in a round table discussion on ideas for NICA’s future direction. The meeting to be held at [52 Doonella Street, Tewantin](#). Please RSVP as the numbers will be strictly limited to 15 due to social distancing restrictions.

A Moment with NICA

We are planning an event to be held during August to launch a NICA Promotional Video. As well as the launch of the video we are inviting 2 guest speakers; Jill Campbell (volunteer bushland group coordinator) to talk about 'Coastal Connect' a new project funded by Noosa Council over 3 years and a presentation of the Report on Shorebirds of the Noosa River estuary, which has been compiled following an analysis of the historic data collected by experienced volunteer bird observers (Citizen Scientists) over a period of around 12 years. Details of date, time and place will be sent in a flyer soon.

Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival in Noosa

The Wildflower Festival provides free public guided walks across the Sunshine Coast. NICA is involved with organising 4 of the walks in the Noosa area.

- Girraween Nature Reserve - Saturday 15th August, 2pm to 4pm.
- Noosa National Park Headland Section - Thursday 20th August, 9am to 11am
- Arthur Harrold Nature Reserve at North Shore - Thursday 27th August, 9am to 12pm
- Mangrove Boardwalk - Friday 28th August, 2pm to 4pm

These 4 walks are possible thanks to our volunteer guides Stephanie, Sonia, Moira, Robert and Joan.

9th September to 10th October ‘Urban Wildlife Garden Program’ at Noosa Library

There will be a display at the Noosaville Library featuring the work being done in the Urban Wildlife Gardens program. It will feature a slide show, photographs, and artwork focussed on the urban and local ecology.

Grants News

Weeds of the Sunshine Coast Book – 2nd Edition

We are very pleased to announce that we have received a grant for \$10,000 from the Sunshine Coast Council's major grants towards the cost of publishing 'Weeds of the Sunshine Coast - 2nd Edition'. This book is a very useful field guide on the ID of weeds throughout SEQ and will be available in a few weeks. Many thanks to authors Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald who have put in hundreds of volunteer hours to update the book to include 32 new weed species. This publication is *Proudly Supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's grants program*

Noosa's Native Plants Website - Rebuild

Fantastic news that Noosa Council has approved a Community and Environment grant for \$6,818 to re-build the Noosa's Native Plants website. The work will be done by a local website builder, who will migrate the data and functionality of the Noosa's Native Plants website onto a modern platform with improved access via smart phones, tablets and personal computers. In the process of migration they will incorporate up to date search capacity. The current website was launched over 10 years ago to complement and supplement the information contained in NICA's botanical publications including Noosa's Native Plants book. The website is an important resource used frequently and freely by members of the public and NRM practitioners throughout South East Qld, and incorporates powerful search facilities. Thanks to volunteer Stephanie Haslam for this fantastic resource.

<http://www.noosanativeplants.com.au/articles/happening-now/>

Noosa's Native Plants - Edition 4

First published in 2004 the book, Noosa's Native Plants is heading for a 4th Edition, and we are waiting on news about an application for funding to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. But work on the alterations and additions, that will include scientific name changes and the inclusion of a separate section on orchids is progressing well, and Stephanie has enlisted Joan Heavey and Moira MacLachlan to help in this section. This update and additions will extend the life and reach of this amazing resource. In addition, the value of this volunteer research, added to that involved in the Weeds reprint, would easily exceed \$10,000.

Urban Wildlife Gardens – Continuation

A Noosa Council Community and Environment grant of \$5,323 will enable the continuation of the Urban Wildlife Gardens Program into 2021. It is a community engagement program providing a resource and service for urban landowners wishing to enhance urban ecology by using native plants in their gardens. The program increases member's understanding of biodiversity values on their property, and promotes enjoyment, raising awareness and facilitating citizen science. The continuation of the "Urban Wildlife Gardens" program, implemented and managed by NICA, will engage the urban community living within the Noosa Biosphere Reserve, helping them undertake actions to enhance wildlife habitats in their back yards.

Auspicing News

NBCC

Jill Campbell's group NBCC (Noosa Bush Beach and Creek Care) continues to be very successful in obtaining grants to do on ground bushland regeneration projects. Currently they have 4 projects underway, 'Cooloosa Stage 2' funded by Qld Govt, 'Morning Glory –Going Going' funded by Noosa Council, 'Strengthen Existing and Establish Eucalyptus Conglomerata' funded by Qld Govt and 'Wallum Woodland and Wetland' funded by Federal Govt.

Eastern Beaches Bushcare Collaborative

'Coastal Connect 2' will be funded by Noosa Council over 3 years, starting from July 2020 (Multi-year Environment Collaborative Grant). The project is an innovative collaboration of 6 Bushcare groups from Peregian to Noosa Heads. NICA is the auspice partner and responsible for project administration, Noosa and District Landcare will assist with Project Management of on-ground activities, while Coolum Coastcare will contribute their expertise in turtles. It is envisaged that the broader community and local marine science and geography students from local schools will also be involved in on-ground activities.

Ongoing Projects

- Sunshine Coast Council's Wildflower Walks will be held from 15th to 30th August, NICA will coordinate 4 walks around Noosa, thanks to our dedicated volunteers who will be guides.
- Volunteer River Ranger Programme funded by Noosa Council continues to be an important volunteer presence on the river, undertaking water monitoring, weeding, rubbish removal and shorebird counts. New volunteers welcome.
- Clean up Australia Day is coordinated by NICA in March each year at around 30 sites in the Noosa Shire.
- Girraween Bushcare Group currently has a Qld Govt grant 'A New Battlefield at Girraween' and meets monthly for weeding bees, new volunteers welcome.
- NICA Publications; Noosa's Native Plants, Weeds of the Sunshine Coast, Grasses of the Noosa Biosphere, Sedges of the Noosa Biosphere and Fussy Glossies.
- Surface Design; items design inspired by Noosa's native plants such as tea towels and bags. All surface design items and books are available on NICA website; <https://noosariver.com.au/shop/>
- Mondays with NICA; monthly speakers on local environmental topics, suggestions welcome.