

# **Annual Report 2020**



# Contents

President's Report	3		
Treasurer's Report	4		
NICA PROJECTS	5		
Monday with NICA	5		
River Education Programme	5		
1. Volunteer River Watch	5		
2. NICA Waterwatch Report	6		
3. Wader and Tern Bird Counts in the Noosa River Estuary	7		
4. Shorebird Report	7		
5. Sand Island Weeding	8		
Urban Wildlife Gardens			
Girraween Bushcare Group	9		
Noosa Bush Beach and Creek Care1	0		
Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival1	0		
NICA Publications	1		
Noosa's Native Plants Website12			
Clean Up Australia Day 20201	2		
Thanks to our Sponsors	3		

# **President's Report**

By Bruce Hallett

NICA's programs have continued this year, with support from Noosa Council and some successful grant applications

There are separate reports from:

Bruce McConkey and his Waterwatch team, who are now gathering samples for Council for nutrient testing as well as their normal testing of physical water properties.

Jill Dening and Allen Brigg's group, who continue their monthly count of shorebirds and waders (hopefully many of you may have read the report compiled by Richard Howard giving a comprehensive summary of their observations over the last 14 years)

The NICA Girraween Bushcare Group who continue to do some great work along Cooyar St and Sunshine Beach Road, removing invasive weeds and planting native vegetation.

Our River Rangers who go out weekly to collect rubbish from the banks of the Noosa River, creeks and islands.

The Urban Wildlife Garden program (UWG). This is continuing to prove very popular, and is a great way to get some valuable advice on how to make your suburban garden a bit more wildlife friendly.

The Sand Island Weeding Group has continued this year, although trips have been limited because of COVID restrictions.

Thanks to some extra income from the Federal Government supporting small business during the COVID pandemic, NICA has managed to have a healthier bottom line than previous years. We are also happy to report that no WH&S incidents or COVID-19 contacts across our projects.

Next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NICA (unfortunately, there will be no gifts of silver for members). We have a portfolio of interesting projects under development that will engage the membership and volunteer base. We hope to rebuild the membership and financial standing of the organisation.

NICA continues our auspicing program, and this year has seen a successful grant application to Noosa Council from the Eastern Beaches Bushcare Collaborative. This project is an innovative collaboration of bushcare groups from Peregian to Sunshine Beach. It aims to transition the current local activities into a strategic district level program of rehabilitation and will be undertaken over 3 financial years until June 2023.

After much hard work by Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald, a new edition of Weeds of the Sunshine Coast has recently been published. Stephanie Haslam is also working on the new updated edition of Noosa's Native Plants, so if you are after a gift idea, it will be out by Christmas.

We are also upgrading our digital presence, so our website will be easier to navigate. For those who haven't seen it, we did a little promotional video for NICA a few months ago. You can check it out on the NICA website if you are interested. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped put this together.

Our committee of Dalia Mikhail, Kay Southam, Tony Haslam, Richard Howard, Desire Gralton and Jan Green has continued to give up their valuable time and help steer NICA through 2020. Thanks also to our hard working office manager/secretary Gillian Studdock.

A very big thank you to everyone who has volunteered at NICA this year! Volunteers have contributed in so many ways, being involved in projects and programs that make NICA the unique organisation that it is today. Also thanks to Noosa Ferry who has supported us so we can hold our AGM on our beautiful river.

We look forward to continued success in 2021.

# **Treasurer's Report**

By Tony Haslam

This report covers the 2019/20 Financial Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

NICA finished the financial year without needing to draw down on our cash reserves, the first time this has happened for several years. This is due in part to Federal economic stimulus payments to offset Covid 19 impacts.

Income for the year was \$159,526.31 (Excluding GST), not including carried forward amounts.

Noosa Council contributed \$55,193.64 including our 3 year Alliance Grant, River Watch & Bird Counts, Urban Wildlife Gardens, NBBCC Morning Glory, and Clean Up Australia Day.

The QLD State Government provided project funding totalling \$27,400 through their "Community Sustainability Action Grants" programs which funds Noosa Bushland Beach and Creek Care (NBBCC) Group work at Cooloosa Stage 2, the *Eucalyptus conglomerata* strengthening and establishment of new sites, and NICA's Girraween project.

The Federal Government Community Environment Program provided \$13,000 to NBBCC for their Wallum, Woodland and Wetland Rehabilitation project.

Sunshine Coast Council made a Grant of \$10,000 towards the Edition 2 reprint of 'Weeds of the Sunshine Coast'.

NICA received \$16,000 from the COVID-19 Pandemic economic stimulus measures implemented by the Federal Government.

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund provided \$6,530.00 to purchase new water testing equipment.

Donations, Memberships, Interest, and a Bendigo Bank Grant for a new boat trailer contributed \$14,493.68 in total.

Income 2019/2020			
Item	Amount	Percentage	
Noosa Council Grants	\$55,193.64	34.60%	
QLD State Government Grants	\$27,400.00	17.18%	
Merchandise and Books	\$16,908.99	10.60%	
Covid Support	\$16,000.00	10.03%	
Federal Government Grants	\$13,000.00	8.15%	
Sunshine Coast Council Grant	\$10,000.00	6.27%	
Gambling Community Benefit	\$6,530.00	4.09%	
Fund			
Donations	\$6,478.49	4.06%	
Memberships (NICA & UWG)	\$3,190.93	2.00%	
Interest	\$2,551.53	1.60%	
Bendigo Bank Grant	\$2,272.73	1.42%	
TOTAL INCOME	\$159,526.31		

For expenditure, refer to the audited Financial Report which is available on request.

## **NICA PROJECTS**

## **Monday with NICA**

By Kay Southam

NICA had just one formal Monday with NICA session this year on 17 February. We were lucky to engage Joel Fostin to talk about his continuing fight against the native leaf hopper (*Jamella australiae*) which has been a problem for pandanus palms for decades, but experts have noticed a surge in numbers in recent years. On 16 March with new warnings of the Covid Pandemic we made the decision to postpone the proposed session with Matt Hansen from Noosa Council Parks and Gardens.



With easing of restrictions we were able to conduct an event on Wednesday 19th August at the Noosa Tewantin Golf Club. Members and guests were invited to the launch of our promotional video "We are NICA" Klaus Horner produced this video and has done a professional piece of work, giving a quick grab of NICA activities and involvement in the Catchment. Richard Howard presented a report on Noosa Shorebirds compiled from 14 years of volunteer bird counts. Also we heard from Jill Campbell about the Coastal Connect program, an ambitious three year Program funded by Noosa Council.

In October Desire Gralton organised a tour of the Noosa Wastewater Treatment Plant and supplied us with a Guide on Water Quality Star Rating written by Jennifer Simpson. We were escorted about the site to view the various processes and were chuffed to see a couple of Burdekin Ducks swimming and sunning themselves on one of the ponds!

We look forward to 2021 and future sessions of Mondays with NICA or a variation of the same and welcome some fresh ideas so as we may continue to attract our NICA audience.

## **River Education Programme**

This NICA Program was funded by Noosa Council for the amount of \$2,850 for 2019-20 year until June 2020. The program covers WaterWatch, River Watch, Sand Island Weeding and Bird Counts.

The estimated dollar value of the volunteers' time over the four streams amounts to approx \$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

#### **Volunteer River Watch**

By Roger Kelly and Allen Briggs

Despite a short hiatus between March 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup> during the Covid 19 lockdown, this program continued with 25 trips in 2020 to November, mostly inspecting the shoreline of the lower part of the Noosa River and the Weyba Creek estuary, with occasional sorties upstream as far as Lake Cootharaba. As in previous years, the aims of the program include recording natural and anthropogenic threats to the environment; supporting/advising visitors in their use of facilities; removal of rubbish where practicable, and liaison with appropriate authorities in maintaining the integrity of the Noosa River Catchment. The program is supported partially by grants from Noosa Council, and Bendigo Bank provided funding for a replacement boat trailer.



There are now 19 Riverwatch volunteers on the roster list, so numbers are no problem, but Allen has lost some sleep trying to ensure that there is a boat licence, a key and a towbar for each crew. Support is being sought for a bulk training session so there'll be more licences to go around.

The amount of rubbish collected per trip has been less than in previous years. Some of the reduction may be due to exclusion of people from interstate, but it is tempting to think that the regular Riverwatch patrols are beginning to catch up with the accumulations.

Abandoned/unlabeled crab pots continue to be a problem. Boating and Fisheries want us to leave all pots (except for the completely degenerate ones) and note their location so B&F can retrieve them. But phone location apps have proven wildly inaccurate and it is an inefficient process that needs rationalisation.

Decommissioning the Johns Landing campsite left a lot of bulky debris and shoreline degradation. Volunteers have managed to remove most of an array of plastic tubes that had been placed to help establish seedling mangroves, but a proper plan for coordinated work at that site is needed.

#### **NICA Waterwatch Report**

By Bruce McConkey



NICA has continued its water testing program, testing at twenty nine river, lake, and creek sites along the Noosa River catchment from below Lake Weyba up to the Upper Noosa River, on a regular monthly basis. We measure water temperature, pH, conductivity, salinity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen content, while general visual observations e.g. water appearance or floating matter are also noted.

This is a volunteer citizen science activity and we estimate that the volunteer input for the program has amounted to over 400 hours for the year. NICA administers the program, the work covering all aspects of coordination of volunteers, instrument calibration, data collection, data recording and analysis, and finally reporting. The measurements are now all held centrally on a new data base called Swimlocal.

The Noosa River has again received an A- grading from the Healthy Land & Water Report Card 2020 which is very pleasing. Water Quality Guidelines are set by DES for all waterways. In the past year averages of all tested parameters have been recorded as falling within those guidelines. The data obtained from the tributary creeks however shows lower water quality than the main river, which confirms that more detailed investigation and greater control of those streams is desirable. This difference is amplified following significant rain events, information which can then be applied to developing management programs to achieve river improvement.

In a new development NICA now also collects water samples for chemical testing by Noosa Council to measure nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants in the water in efforts to discover sources and causes of algal growths which, if left unchecked, can create serious contamination of the river and beaches. In 2017 such an outbreak cost thousands of dollars to clean away from Noosa Main Beach and caused major disruption to the plans of many holidaymakers.

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

By Allen Briggs

Wader and Tern counts in the Noosa River Estuary continued this year with an interruption in April and May due to Covid safe precautions as determined locally.

The diversity and abundance of species observed during this monthly exercise were duly reported to the SE Qld wader study group as part of the wider monitoring of resident and migratory species. These birds use the estuary for roosting and feeding.

This activity is supported by Noosa Council, O boats, Laguna Boats and Bendigo Bank which is appreciated.

The continued decline in diversity of Migratory waders is apparent as is the falling number of local Crested Terns.



One unusual visitor the Kentish Plover (pictured) arrived last summer attracting observers from near and far. One was observed on beaches near Sydney before this one appeared here. It may have been the same bird, as these are the only 2 sightings of this Northern Hemisphere bird in Australia. The nearest it had reached before this was to Indonesia.

Two other events this year make it special in another way.

First the Pied oyster catchers made a nest on the sand Island. This did not last but then a chick was observed in a different area on the same island and the parents' subsequent behaviour confirmed it had survived for some time. This is a first for more than 10 years in spite of many nesting attempts.

The second is equally rare – the Beach stone curlews nested again on the sand Island, one egg was laid and a fiercely guarded chick is hiding in thick scrub out of sight.

Written by Allen Briggs for and on behalf of the observer group; Judy Coles, Jill Dening, Russel Lamb, John Bloomfield, Geoff Gettons and Richard Howard

### **Shorebird Report**

By Richard Howard



In September NICA published its long awaited shorebird survey report; "An analysis of migratory and resident shorebird diversity and abundance in the Noosa River estuary", which collated the findings of over 150 surveys conducted of the Noosa River estuary during a 14 year period from 2005-2019. The report highlighted the rich but threatened biodiversity and declining abundance of the shorebirds visiting and residing in the estuary. In total 59 species of waterbirds were sighted, including 27 shorebird species, 18 of which are EAAF (East Asian–Australasian Flyway) migrants. Notably eight threatened

species including 3 critically endangered species were recorded. Overall abundance declined by 34% with migratory species declining 45%, a trend witnessed elsewhere across the EAAF.

Despite Covid restrictions limiting its launch, the report was well received in the community with over 1,000 engagements recorded and the report now widely distributed. The report and accompanying brochure were prepared with the thoughtful input and generous financial assistance of Noosa Shire Council under the Community Grants Program. Importantly, NICA has planned several shorebird conservation initiatives in the period ahead and surveys continue.

The report can be downloaded on the NICA website; www.noosariver.com.au/resources

#### **Sand Island Weeding**

By Bruce Hallett

For a number of years NICA has taken a team of dedicated weeders to a sand island near the mouth of the Noosa River to help rid the island of invasive species, and allow the native flora to recover. As the area is a resting/nesting site for shore birds and waders (both resident and migratory) the island is closed between October and March.

Because of Covid -19 restrictions this year, we managed to have trips in August and September. We also had special permission for a weeding trip in November.

We had 44 volunteers on the 3 trips, with a total of 172 hours of weeding and monitoring of bird life.

With continued support from Council and O Boats, we plan to make another 3 trips next year. Members are notified beforehand, so if you wish to help remove a few weeds (and perhaps spot some birds) then you are most welcome.



#### **Urban Wildlife Gardens**

By Tony Haslam



'Urban Wildlife Gardens' (UWG) is a community engagement program providing a resource and service for urban landowners wishing to enhance urban ecology by using native plants, and increasing understanding of biodiversity values on their property, and promoting enjoyment, raising awareness and facilitating citizen science.

This program aligns with the objectives 'Support Community Environmental and Sustainable Development networks and forums to build partnerships to drive implementation of the Environment Strategy. It also supports Noosa Council objective to 'Undertake an urban environmental education program to improve environmental outcomes for urban wildlife in strategic locations, and developing and fostering partnerships with the community to achieve biodiversity outcomes'.

Urban Wildlife Gardens has continued on into 2020 despite COVID-19, but not without some impacts. The pilot program which had been due to run to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 was most affected with activities in the early part of the year being curtailed, site visits cancelled, and workshops put on hold. Council extended to completion date to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, while opening applications for new grants, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Given the success of the pilot program NICA decided to apply for a continuation. This was successful with \$5,323.00 granted by Noosa Council.

UWG continues to be well received and membership has continued to grow and now stands at 94. We fully expect to reach 100 in the not too distant future.

While COVID-19 restrictions stopped us doing many things, by July we were able to restart with restrictions.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July, Urban Wildlife Garden members were treated to a highly informative propagation workshop in the sublime propagation shed of knowledgeable presenter Robert Price in Old Tewantin. Robert's detailed explanations showed members how to successfully propagate a range of native species, preparing the best

soil mix and how to identify and treat differing seed pods of our local region. He also provided a guided tour of his own magnificent Urban Wildlife Garden



August saw us in a landscape workshop delivered by prominent Landscape Architect Shaun Walsh. It was a totally engaging day that suggested different ways of looking at the design inputs and influences that could be incorporated into urban wildlife gardens. The breadth of Shaun's knowledge and his willingness to share his expertise was heartily appreciated by all who took part. Once again the workshop concluded with a guided walk around Shaun's acreage garden at Cooran with afternoon tea in one of his garden rooms.

From Tuesday 8th September to early October, photographs and artwork caught the eye of library-goers at Wallace Park, Noosaville as a new exhibition focussed on the delights of gardening with local native plants and the wildlife that visits them. The theme was "Begin with a Birdbath" and Urban Wildlife Gardeners were encouranged to visit the library to have a look, and to help promote the program to the wider community.

### **Girraween Bushcare Group**

By Bruce Hallett and Roger Kelly

The activities of all volunteer groups have been limited this year, and the NICA Girraween Bushcare Group was no exception.

Our monthly (last Tuesday of the month) working bees were OK in January and February, but then we had to stop our group gatherings because of COVID-19. A couple of people continued for exercise purposes, ensuring they kept socially distanced. Like all other Bushland Care Groups, we commenced again in July, making sure we complied with Council's COVID-19 WHS guidelines.

The group works along Cooyar St north from Ozcare past the Bio-basin, and continues along Sunshine Beach Road (David Low Way if you prefer) up to Bicentennial Drive, removing invasive weeds and planting native species. We managed to plant 327 native tubestock in January and February, hoping to restore some of the areas that were destroyed by the controlled burn/bushfire towards the end of 2019.



Our 3 year Community Sustainability Action grant from the State Govt Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection ends in April 2021, so we are keen to apply for another suitable grant to continue this work.

We had 7 proper weeding/planting days this year, but if we add onto that the numerous hours that individuals have done on random days (weeding, planting and watering), we achieved a combined total of 456 volunteer hours.

Please contact the NICA office if you want any more information on Bushcare in the Noosa Shire

#### Noosa Bush Beach and Creek Care

By Jill Campbell

For the past 12 years, NICA has been NBBCC's auspicing partner. This enables us to apply for grants and efficiently carry out the works. For those of you unfamiliar with the term auspice, it means that NICA manages the funds, administration, record keeping and helps us with reporting. The assistance we get from NICA's Gill is invaluable.

We are approaching the pointy end of 3 rehabilitation grants, all in different areas of Cooloosa Wetland. It has 5 distinct vegetation types and ecosystems.

Our 3 year project to "Strengthen Existing & Establish Additional Populations of Endangered *Eucalypt conglomerata* – Swamp Stringybark" is on target. 12 of our volunteers have successfully propagated plants from seed. It is tricky, but we are, by trial and error, having more successes than failures.

We have 300 young plants which is staggering seeing only about 1000 still exist in the wild. They take about a year to reach 30cm high. We have tested the soil at parent sites and have begun planting small numbers in compatible situations. Earlier in spring, the "Controlled Burns' by Park rangers, which got out of control – devastatingly burnt the largest stand of existing trees, when they were flowering. This also burnt all the tiny clumps of gumnuts.

The few seeds we still have access to, are very, very special.



There were COVID-19 restrictions on group activities for 20 weeks this year, however from the Cooloosa project area alone, our volunteers have removed 40 tonnes of accumulated rubbish, 10 tonnes of weed, left mountains of overburden to sweat down on site and moved tonnes of mulch.

This year despite COVID-19, NBBCC volunteers worked for 2100 hours -valued by the government at \$88,200.

Our group is one of 6 coastal bushcare groups involved in a Noosa Council 3 year collaborative project, called Coastal Connect which has

just begun. The major focus of the project is to strengthen the resilience of vegetation at the mouths of coastal peat creeks where they cut through the dunes to the beach, and ephemeral wetlands - to better resist erosion along the 11km length of the Eastern Beaches. The groups are South Peregian, North Peregian, Peregian Creek, Castaways Creek, Marcus Beach, NBBCC.

This great project is also auspiced by NICA.

#### **Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival**

By Gillian Studdock



NICA hosted four walks as part of the 2020 Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival, held during August. It was a fantastic year this year with the wildflowers putting on an amazing display.

Walks were held at Girraween Nature Reserve, Noosa National Park – Headland Section, Arthur Harrold Nature Reserve at North Shore and the Mangrove Boardwalk at Noosaville

All walks were fully booked, the Arthur Harrold walk (pictured) being in the greatest demand. Total number of participants was 125.

Feedback was very positive and particularly recognised the inputs of the volunteer guides – Sonia MacDonald, Robert Price, Stephanie Haslam, Joan Heavey, Trevor Hatfield (QPWS) and Dave Burrows (Noosa Council) who were enthusiastic, committed and well prepared.

Weather was dry, sunny, with light winds, all of which provided perfect walking conditions.

#### **NICA Publications**

By Gillian Studdock

All our field guides 'Noosa's Native Plants', 'Weeds of the Sunshine Coast', 'Grasses' and 'Sedges' 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.

'Fussy Glossies' sales have been boosted by the recent fundraising/awareness raising event for the Glossy black cockatoos held by NBRF during November 2020.

The books continue to be sought out by members of the public, local bookshops, environmental consultants and Councils from all over SEQ. For the 2019-20 year total sales were \$16,908.



This year Weeds of the Sunshine Coast 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald (*pictured*) was published in September 2020. This 330 page book displays full size images of 272 weeds and 21 of the most invasive weed grasses of the Sunshine Coast. Many are common to Cooloola, Fraser Island and South-East Qld. Methods of weed control and disposal are described. We thank Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald for the countless hours they have devoted to producing this important botanical resource.

The fourth edition of Noosa's Native Plants is in the process of being printed as this report is written. First published in 2004, this book is as relevant now as it was then, but as expected it has been updated and added to, expanding from 392 pages to 420.

Much of this expansion is due to the inclusion of a section on Orchids led by Joan Heavey with contributions from Moira Maclachlan. This new section provides authoritative information about Orchids that can be found in areas covered by the book.

Botanists are never happy to leave things as they are, so botanical scientific name changes are frequent and this edition has been updated with the help of Botanist Dr Tanya Scharaschkin, who gave her professional help while undertaking an 'Artist in Residence' at the Cooroy Butter Factory.



Graphic artwork was not left out either, and designer Steve Cook revisited all photographs and colour pages in the book to tweak colour saturation and sharpen everything and the result is exceptional. The contribution of NICA volunteers, Stephanie Haslam and Joan Heavey has been monumental, working for hundreds of hours, researching and refining, editing, and proof reading. Joan also prepared orchid sketches for the new section.

#### **Noosa's Native Plants Website**

By Stephanie Haslam



The first iteration of Noosa's Native Plants website came on the scene around 15 years ago, sometime after the book launch in 2004. It met the basic awareness raising and community education aspects identified in the Noosa River Catchment Management Strategy

Since that time it had one major upgrade, but over time technology has overtaken it. So NICA applied to Noosa Council for a grant to migrate the data and functionality of the existing Noosa's Native Plants website onto a modern platform with improved access via smart phones, tablets and personal computers, and in the process of migration incorporate up to date search capacity.

The application was successful and Noosa Council provided \$6,818 for the work to be carried out. This was done by Pomona website developers, Acura Multimedia.

The website is an important resource used frequently and freely by members of the public and NRM practitioners throughout South East Qld. A primary purpose is to demystify and raise awareness of local native plants with colour photographs and basic botanical information on over 1,300 plant species in Noosa Shire. It also includes traditional and cultural uses of the plants by aboriginal people and early European settlers. There is landscaping advice, and species lists for many localities within the Noosa Shire and the facility to scroll through these and select plants to obtain information about them. The website is an excellent reference and freely available on the internet.

The site's data base was created and has been regularly updated by NICA volunteer Stephanie Haslam, and Joan Heavey has now joined her.

www.noosasnativeplants.com.au

## Clean Up Australia Day 2020

By Joe Jurisevic



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 Cleanup Noosa.

An amazing job yet again from our team of volunteer coordinator Joe Jurisevic, NICA's Gill Studdock and the dedicated NICA site supervisors who co-ordinated volunteers that turned up across the region.

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 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.'

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 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, these can all be recycled.

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.

Joe would welcome a volunteer offsider to learn the ropes of running the event, if you know anyone who might be interested please ask them to contact us?

#### **Thanks to our Sponsors**

Noosa Council, Qld Govt Community Sustainability Action Grants, Aust Govt Communities Environment Program, Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Bendigo Bank, Sunshine Coast Council and Healthy Land & Water.