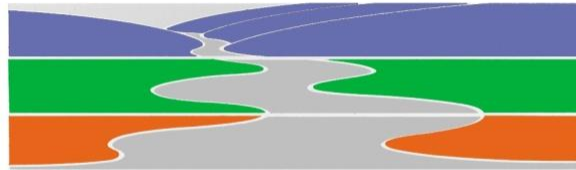


**Noosa Integrated**



**Catchment Assn. Inc.**

# **Annual Report 2021**



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# President's Report

By Bruce Hallett

NICA has had another productive year, with increased membership, alliances with other organisations such as Ozfish and TNC, and some successful grant applications.

With continued support from Noosa Council, we look forward to a great 2022.

This year we have made our voice heard in the community when we have identified proposals (such as the Great Cooloola Walk and the destruction of the Glossy Black cockatoo habitat at Sunrise Beach) that don't fit with our vision of an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable Noosa Catchment.

As some will know, we acquired a drone earlier this year, partly with grant money through our local member Sandy Bolton. Our qualified pilots, Richard, Alex and Klaus, have captured some useful footage to support some ongoing projects.

We were also pleased to be announced as the winners of the Water category at the recent Biosphere Awards. The application was put together by Jan and Ellie, and featured both the Wetlands project and the Oyster Gardens.

We hope our members have enjoyed the editions of the NICA Newsletter that have been published during the year. Please let Gillian in the office know if you have anything of interest to include, or if you would like to hear more about any particular projects.

There are separate reports from:

- Bruce McConkey's Waterwatch team.

- Jill and Allen's group recording the shorebirds and waders.

- The NICA Girraween Bushcare group.

- Our River Rangers who now have the support of Jarrah and Melanie to itemise and catalogue the rubbish that is collected on each trip.

- The Urban Wildlife Garden program (UWG).

- The Sand Island Weeders

We are also happy to report that there have been no WH&S or COVID -19 incidents on our projects during the year.

We hope to upgrade the NICA website in the coming year, making it easier to navigate (particularly for those in the over 75 year demographic, like myself).

Our committee of Jan Green, Ellie Sherrard-Smith, Tony Haslam, Richard Howard, and Bruce Hallett have continued to give up their valuable time and help steer NICA safely through 2021. Thanks also to our hard working office manager Gillian Studdock and all the other volunteers that help make NICA the unique organisation that it is.

Also thanks to Noosa Ferry who have again supplied a great venue for the AGM on our beautiful Noosa River.

I trust you all have a Merry Christmas, and may I be the first to wish you a Happy Easter for 2022.

# Treasurer's Report

By Richard Howard

This report covers the 2020/21 Financial Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 to our people, programs and funding arrangements, 2021 marked a turnaround in NICA's financial performance and position. Overall, net income, inclusive of grants, rose 48% to \$209,928, a particularly pleasing result. The uplift in net income was due in large part to a 44% lift in grant and sponsorship income to \$138,588 led by the Coastal Connect program. Notably both the cadence and quality of our funding applications has improved, and we continued to diversify our key funding relationships and sources.

Excluding grant and sponsorship funds received, merchandise income rose 133% to \$39,443 driven by the much-anticipated release of new editions of both Noosa's Native Plants (4th edition) and Weeds of the Sunshine Coast (2nd edition). Testament to NICA's robust financial position, both publications were funded largely from internal resources. A strong rise in member numbers, underpinned a 58% rise in membership fees to \$1,677 as NICA's profile increased and community members expressed greater interest in experience-based volunteering during the pandemic. Donations fell marginally to \$4,846 as the re-launch of the Noosa River Catchment Fund gathered momentum. A decline in market deposit rates and shift in our investment mix led to a 65% decline in interest income to \$889 despite increased cash balances. Overall, we were pleased with the progress made to strengthen and diversify our funding sources as we position NICA for further growth.

## NICA Income – by source

| Income - by item                       | 2021 FY        | 2020 FY        | % Change   |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Grants and sponsorship                 | 138,588        | 96,279         | 44%        |
| Merchandise (book) sales               | 39,443         | 16,909         | 133%       |
| Donations                              | 4,846          | 6,416          | -24%       |
| Membership subscriptions               | 1,677          | 1,064          | 58%        |
| Interest received                      | 889            | 2,552          | -65%       |
| ATO cash flow and Jobkeeper assistance | 23,500         | 16,000         | -          |
| UWG memberships and sales              | 836            | 2,127          | -60%       |
| Other income                           | 148            | 62             | 139%       |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>209,928</b> | <b>141,409</b> | <b>48%</b> |

Total expenditure rose 38% year-on-year to \$162,357 driven by increased project activity across our programs including expenditure on sub-contractors of \$79,992 (2020: \$39,548) and a systematic program of investment in NICA's fixed equipment and capabilities. Nevertheless, NICA continues to maintain strong cost-discipline and we captured cost efficiencies where possible, leading to a rise in Profit from Ordinary Activities of \$47,571 (2020: \$24,564).

### Income and expenditure - overview

| Total Income and expenditure             | 2021 FY       | 2020 FY       | % Change   |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Total income                             | 209,928       | 141,409       | 48%        |
| Total expenditure                        | 162,357       | 116,845       | 39%        |
| Profit from ordinary activities          | 47,571        | 24,564        | 94%        |
| <b>Operating profit after income tax</b> | <b>47,571</b> | <b>24,564</b> | <b>94%</b> |

The improvement in NICA's financial performance contributed to a robust improvement in our financial position. NICA's total assets increased 64% to \$336,891 inclusive of committed grant funds. Our net cash position inclusive of committed grant funds totalled \$256,441, and we recognised inventory held for sale of \$68,625. Overall, net assets of the Association, inclusive of the Noosa River Catchment Fund, rose 29% to \$212,209.

### Balance sheet – overview

|                   | 2021 FY        | 2020 FY        | % Change   |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Total assets      | 336,891        | 205,936        | 64%        |
| Total liabilities | 124,682        | 41,298         | 202%       |
| <b>Net assets</b> | <b>212,209</b> | <b>164,638</b> | <b>29%</b> |

Having enhanced our governance processes, policies and structures, reviewed our insurance arrangements, upgraded our online capabilities, re-aligned our banking arrangements and account segregation, replaced our IT suite and software and begun a process to renew our fixed equipment, we look forward to 2022 to further expand NICA's programs and community engagement around the catchment. These financial foundations, coupled with NICA's most valued asset – our members and volunteers - provide a sound basis for continuing to do so.

## Noosa River Catchment Fund relaunched

2021 marked an important year for the Noosa River Catchment Fund ("NRCF"), NICA's tax deductible gift recipient, in its 15th year in existence. In addition to reviewing its strategy, administration, governance and reporting requirements, the NRCF welcomed the appointment of Dr Jan Green and Prof Emeritus John Martin to the Committee of the NRCF, joining Phil Moran who continues in his current capacity.

The NRCF warmly thanks the contribution of Bruce Hallett and Tony Haslam for their recent stewardship. The NRCF closed the year with cash assets of \$9,137. With a pipeline of engaging new programs and initiatives under development by NICA, the NRCF is looking forward to attracting and delivering tax efficient funding solutions aligned to the Association's aims.

# NICA PROJECTS

## New Projects

By Richard Howard

### From above, a new aerial perspective

NICA continued to build on its technical capabilities during the year with the addition of a commercial-grade drone, the Mavic Air-2.

The drone, funded with the assistance of the State Member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton's Community Connect grant program, has been registered with CASA and several NICA volunteers, led by chief pilot Klaus Horner, have received CASA accreditation. The drone has already been deployed to capture high resolution images and aerial footage of key NICA priorities including the Get Your Wetland program and Girraween Bushcare surveys. NICA is currently refining its capture and software capabilities to create high definition orthomosaic imagery across the catchment.



*A recent flight of the NICA drone to create a photogrammetrically orthorectified high definition image of an area of Noosa wetland.*

### Noosa River Oyster Gardening coming soon



During the year, NICA was engaged by a world-leading environmental not-for-profit organisation, The Nature Conservancy, to design and coordinate an Oyster Gardening program for the Noosa River. Aligned to the Noosa River Oyster Ecosystem Restoration Project, the Oyster Gardening program will provide a unique opportunity for households, groups and schools to participate in the ecosystem recovery by hosting oyster baskets containing juvenile rock oysters suspended from jetties in the river. Over time as the oysters grow, the baskets of oysters will be released onto the main reef sites once installed to kick start ecosystem recovery. NICA's program coordinator Alex Western has been actively engaging with households, groups and schools from along the river and canals to host baskets. We look forward to shortly seeding and placing the oyster baskets with our gardeners in the river. The project has been made possible by the generous support of the Nature Conservancy, The Thomas Foundation, Noosa Shire Council and the Australian Government.

The NICA oyster gardening team Alex and Richard with TNC Oceans Project Officer, Helen Bowyer, at the Noosa Resource Recovery Centre inspecting piles of recycled rock oyster shell prior to cleaning and deployment with oyster gardeners.

## A Line in the Sand

Renewing Noosa's fishing line bin network

By Richard Howard



Credit: Swan River Trust (WA).

In July this year, NICA and its project partner, OzFish Unlimited (Noosa), a recreational fishing restoration organisation, were awarded a grant of \$11,670 by Noosa Shire Council under the Environmental Grants Program to renew the fishing line bin infrastructure around the Noosa River under the "A Line in the Sand" initiative. First installed by NICA in 2004, the fishing line bin network has since prevented over 7 cubic metres of fishing waste, kilometres of monofilament line and thousands of hooks, sinkers and other snags from entering the environment and impacting our native wildlife each year. The new network will comprise over 30 purpose-built fully recycled bins and a targeted marketing campaign to influence recreational fishers on the river in managing their fishing tackle and waste. NICA and OzFish look forward to installing the new bin network shortly.

*A working example of the fully recycled and purpose built bins that NICA and project partner, OzFish, will shortly deploy in the Noosa River to recover fishing waste and protect our iconic wildlife.*

## Enter the Flyosphere

By Richard Howard

Following on from NICA's concerted efforts to document Noosa's migratory shorebird biodiversity via our 2020 Shorebird Report and to restore critical shorebird habitat in the Noosa River estuary (via the Healthy Land & Water-sponsored Sand Island Stopover initiative), NICA was pleased to launch the third stage of our shorebird conservation work this year via the "Enter the Flyosphere" initiative.



*A warty Beach Stone Curlew (Esacus magnirostris) pictured at the Sand Island with NICA volunteers quietly restoring habitat at rear. Credit: Bob Walpole.*

Supported by a grant of \$14,977 from Noosa Shire Council under the Environmental Grants Program, NICA has commenced monitoring shorebird disturbances in the Noosa River estuary to provide input into innovative awareness products, including tailored film content that will be released in 2022. The initiative will also renew critical shorebird viewing and awareness infrastructure including the community telescope at the river mouth to create a highly visible focal point for the program.

## River Education Programme

This NICA Program is funded by Noosa Council under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The program covers WaterWatch, RiverWatch, Sand Island Weeding and Bird Counts.

The estimated dollar value of the volunteers' time over the four streams is in excess of \$20,000 representing a large return on funding. 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 Tony Haslam

Volunteer RiverWatch patrols recommenced on February 4<sup>th</sup> after the end-of-year break. Twenty eight patrols were mostly run, as usual on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays. However since Tony Haslam took over organising the roster these have been rationalised to either Monday or Tuesday.

The aim of the patrols is to monitor the general well-being of the waterway from the river mouth upstream to Lake Cootharaba. Harmful effects of natural events and of inappropriate activity by river users is noted and recorded, and rubbish is collected, recorded, and removed unless it is too bulky or dangerous for volunteers to handle.

Policing of rules related to river usage is not a role for RiverWatch, but informative conversations with river users and visitors – with hand-outs of appropriate flyers – is encouraged. Common problems include the abandonment of fishing tackle, crab-pots, and derelict vessels.

The patrols are crewed entirely by volunteers, with the usual challenge of ensuring that crews with appropriate licences, launch vehicles, etc, are available for each patrol. Fortunately during the latter half of 2021 we have had some new recruits join us, and we have even picked up a new tow vehicle operator.

During the year, NICA was awarded \$6,679 by the Community Gambling Benefit Fund (Queensland) to purchase new PPE and equipment for our volunteers. Funding was also used to provide recreational marine license and trailer handling training to eight volunteers, greatly expanding the capacity of the RiverWatch program to conduct its on-river operations. The RiverWatch component is also supported financially by NSC from an umbrella grant which is the subject of an MOU.

The NICA powerboat used for our patrols has some shortcomings, but NICA has been generously supported in outboard maintenance by Laguna Marine, and renewing its equipment by Bendigo Bank.



*Management of abandoned derelict vessels is an expensive nightmare for everyone (except the owners...)*



## Stream to Source plastics auditing initiative

By Richard Howard

NICA was pleased to launch its Stream to Source plastics auditing initiative during the year sponsored by Unitywater under its community grants program.

The program is designed to identify and tabulate rubbish accumulations and help identify point sources of rubbish entering the river by systematically auditing all of NICA's hard-won river watch rubbish collections using the Australian Marine Debris Initiative's (AMDID) reporting standards. To date,



NICA's hard working team of Resource Recovery Auditors Melanie and Jarrah have conducted over 25 audits to AMDID's standard, identified and categorised over 5,000 collected items weighing almost 2 tonnes.

This invaluable data set will shortly be augmented by collections from other NICA programs including Get Your Wetlands program, fishing line bins, stormwater outlet points, Clean Up Australia Day, and other community group collections to deliver a system wide perspective on rubbish loads and sources toward a Zero Litter Noosa River by 2030.

*Riverwatch rubbish collection ready for auditing*

## NICA Waterwatch Report 2021

By Bruce McConkey



NICA has continued its water testing program at 29 river, lake, and creek sites along the Noosa River catchment from below Lake Weyba upstream 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.

The measurements have remained consistent with those of previous years, and variations are largely observed in association with significant rains. In the later months of the year, which have been relatively dry, the river has become much clearer and so much more attractive to all users.

Following NICA's purchase of a Mavic air drone we have been able to conduct some preliminary scans along the river banks. Some interesting observations have resulted, showing possible pathways of more or less turbid water flows, which after more detailed investigation could indicate potential sources of polluted water entering the river.

NICA's Waterwatch 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, which may also be requested as an Excel spreadsheet direct from NICA.

Sampling of river water has continued for Noosa Council to test for nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants, which are generally residues from agricultural and domestic runoff. These residues have remained at very low levels, well within state government guidelines, with only a couple of exceptions following heavy rain when it is expected that some runoff of all kinds will enter the river. No increase in associated algal growths has been observed during the year.

## Wader Study Group on the Bird Species of the Noosa River Estuary

By Allen Briggs and Richard Howard



Despite disruptions from Covid-related travel restrictions and social distancing, NICA's monthly surveys of the waders (shorebirds), terns and other species, which use the Noosa River estuary for foraging, resting or roosting continued again this year - our 16th since surveys began. Overall, 9 of our 11 typical monthly surveys were conducted (December survey is excluded due to holidays) and all observations were once again provided to Queensland Wader Studies Group. NICA also participated in HLW's Baywide Shorebird census in February 2021.

The biodiversity and abundance trends detailed in NICA's Shorebird Report completed in 2020 (available on the NICA website), were once again evident in 2021 with modestly declining abundance across migratory wader and tern species, offset somewhat by rising numbers in resident species. Species counts generally ranged from 16 to 22 with a high of 30 species recorded at the peak of summer migration, including the Pacific Golden Plover, Bar Tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Double-Banded Plover, Little Tern and Common Tern. Few migratory species over-wintered in Noosa, a trend evident in prior years as numbers have declined. While most shorebird species were observed within the survey area adjacent to the rivermouth, sporadic sightings further upstream, particularly around Lake Weyba, were reported.

Visits by the Kentish Plover, Lesser Sand Plover and Red Knot were highlights as was the successful breeding season of three resident shorebird species including the Beach Stone Curlew and Pied Oystercatcher. Once again, the Far Eastern Curlew passed our shores, a specimen last being observed in Noosa in 2017.

NICA was particularly pleased with Noosa Council's efforts to restore signage approaching the restricted area on Noosa North Shore and around the Sand Island within the estuary. NICA looks forward to progressing its 'Enter the Flyosphere' program with Noosa Council to raise awareness for our iconic species in 2022.

The NICA shorebird team is once again grateful for the ongoing support of Noosa Council and to O Boat Hire for the generous use of their vessel to conduct surveys.

This report is written for and on behalf of the observer group; Jill Denning, Allen Briggs, Judy Coles, Russ Lamb, John Bloomfield, Geoff Gettons and Richard Howard.

## 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 weed 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. This year we had trips in June and August. The trip we had planned for the end of September was rained out.

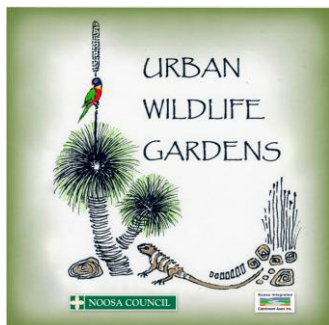
We had 14 volunteers in June, and another 14 in August. We also had a second pontoon of 14 people for the August trip, consisting of 12 students and 2 teachers from the

Montessori school at Sunshine Beach. We gave them some information about the birds that use this area of the river, plus the sort of weeds we find on the island.

With continued support from Council and O Boats, we plan to have 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 2021

By Tony Haslam



Urban Wildlife Gardens is a community engagement program providing a resource and service for urban landowners wishing to create native gardens to increase biodiversity values on their property, promote enjoyment, awareness, and provide opportunities for citizen science monitoring. It also provides an opportunity to contribute to NICA's key objective – best practice Catchment Management

Catchment Management involves good Land Management within the catchment of a waterway. Of course, the management measures applied will depend on land use and size.

The Urban Wildlife Gardens (UWG) program is designed to operate in land areas designated for residential purposes, to provide an excellent opportunity to urban dwellers to be good land managers on their own land.

UWG has been running for almost 3 years now, and, significantly, this year has seen the program funded outside of Council's Grants Program under an MOU, which will potentially see it funded for the next 3 years. NICA is most appreciative of Council providing us with that facility.

One of the things offered to participants through their membership is the free workshop program, organised by the UWG Working Group.

So far we have presented workshops on;

- Native Bees
- Horticulture and Propagation
- Insects in your garden and the Pandanus leafhopper pest
- Landscaping with Native plants
- Attracting birds to your garden
- Miniature Lives – Insects and their amazing lifecycles
- Biodiversity resilience
- Pruning native plants



The working group includes Michelle Newall who is also responsible for liaising with members, and carrying out property visits, and Council representative Ryan Heeney. Volunteer members are Desire Galton, Kay Southam, Suzanne Bloomfield (who designed our property sign), Stephanie Haslam, and Tony Haslam, and just recently we have been joined by Keron Hilton. During the year Jan Green had to resign from the WG because of pressure of work and time demands and former Council rep Jan Maddin took long leave from Council and was replaced by Ryan. The contribution that WG members make to the success of the program should not be underestimated and they deserve our heartfelt appreciation.

Another key driver of UWG is the desire to attract and engage with those people who are not the converted. People who may be newcomers and may never have thought about what they could do. So, it has been gratifying to see the numbers involved in the program steadily increase standing now at 113.

We are fortunate to have people like Stephanie who uses arts and crafts to attract people's interest, and Desire Galton who put together welcome kits, which a Real Estate Agent purchased to present to their clients who are moving into Noosa, and we will continue to do this.

Member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton, was so taken by the program that she offered to include our brochure in her mail outs to new constituents, and we are seeing this bear fruit.

In the coming year we will increase our efforts to engage with members and residents through Citizen Science and help meet some of Noosa Council's environment strategies through targeted recruitment efforts in specific areas to improve green corridors between conservation areas.

## Girraween Bushcare Group

By Bruce Hallett and Roger Kelly

The activities of 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) 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 a 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 NICA if you want more information on Bushcare in the Noosa Shire

## Noosa Bush Beach and Creek Care

By Jill Campbell

CSAT087 - A Project to Strengthen Existing & Establish Additional Populations of Endangered *Eucalyptus conglomerate*

Supported by a QLD Government Threatened Species grant, and auspiced by NICA.



Tree number 100

Noosa Bush Beach & Creek Care volunteers have over 2 years:

worked for 1265 hours weeding, removing rubbish, testing soil conditions, propagating and growing.

planted 100 plants at 7 sites & 120 ready to plant.

18 months are required from seed to planting.



Tree number 1 - now 3 Mt. tall.

# Coastal Connect

MECR1007 – Noosa Council

By Jill Campbell

## The different community groups involved in this project

Auspicing partner:

1. **Noosa Integrated Catchment Assn Inc** –  
Financial Management; Record Keeping; publicity; promotion; Promotional Event
  2. **Group A:**  
Peregian Beach South Bushcare  
Peregian Beach North Bushcare
  3. **Group B:**  
Peregian Creek Bushcare  
Castaways Creek Bushcare  
Marcus Beach Bushcare Assn Inc
  4. **Group C:**  
Noosa Bush Beach & Creek Care
- Each Bushcare group was responsible for their specific sites regarding Project Management, Risk Mitigation, Coordinating Volunteers working bees & ensuring procedures, protocols for best practice on-ground management are implemented; Establishing Scope of Works for contractors, coordinating & supervising those works, Research, Validating accounts for NICA; Management of budget & financial probity.
  - Members of Groups A, B, C were all involved variously, in on-ground weeding, rehabilitation, revegetation, rubbish removal, monitoring, flora/fauna monitoring/recording, water testing, event organizing/coordination, talking to school children, and talking to residents/ tourists/visitors about weeds and endemic native plants.
  - Groups focused on invasive weed removal & revegetation with multi strata appropriate deep rooted stabilising endemic plants, to help build future resilience to the embankments of the peat creeks as they cut through the dunes. Similar activities occurred at beach showers & storm water outfalls minimising potential for washouts.

With the seriously degraded dunal areas – high dunes, frontal swale, strand lines – groups have rehabilitated with the aim to re-establish resilience, increasing their biodiversity (from the predominant mono-culture of invasive weeds which currently stop natural regeneration because of their mass.)

We have been involved in community events to raise awareness about protecting the Coastal vegetation and environment.

| Statistics   | Gr A | Gr B     | Gr C    | Total               |
|--|------|----------|---------|---------------------|
| Number of volunteers   | 404  | 413      | 331     | 1148                |
| Number of Vol hours  | 709  | 804      | 666     | 2179                |
| Number of major working bees   | 40   | 36       | 20      | 96                  |
| Number of small group activities   | 6    |          | 10      | 16                  |
| Area under rehabilitation  | 2.5  | 2.5      | 1.5     | 6.5                 |
| Vol of weeds removed:<br>Compacted large bags<br>Pink skips                  | 110  | 130<br>3 | 95<br>4 | 335 bags<br>7 skips |
| Quantity of weed left to mulch:<br>Woody trees<br>Mounds sweating in plastic | 5    | 95       |         |                     |
| Number of plants - planted   | 1000 | 625      | 25      | 1650                |
| Number of plants - propagated  |      |          | 450     |                     |
| Number of promotional events   | 3    | 4        | 1       | 8                   |

## In Kind Value

| Item      | Supplied      | Value \$   |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Vol hours | 2179          | 93,697.00  |
| Other     |               | 16,361.00  |
|           | Total In Kind | 110,058.00 |

## Value for Money

| Source  | Value \$   |
|---|------------|
| Volunteer In Kind   | 110,058.00 |
| Noosa Council MECR1007 Grant Labour Component = \$52,669.00 | 76,182.00  |

## Photos MECR 1007



Morning tea is important time for a chat.



"We got you this time", he said to the Pepper!



Old gnarly 'layer on layer'



How many bags can we fit in?

# Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival

By Valerie Hunnam

NICA hosted 4 walks in the 2021 Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival:

- Girraween Nature Refuge from Dame Patti Drive, Sunrise Beach
- Noosa National Park, Headland Section, from Parkedge Road, Sunshine Beach
- Arthur Harold Nature Refuge, Noosa North Shore, and
- Mangrove Boardwalk on Weyba Creek

All walks have featured in previous years although the Arthur Harold walk on North Shore this year was started from the western (Lake Cooroibah) end; the mangrove boardwalk is accessible for people in wheelchairs.



An online booking system, Eventbrite, was used for the first time. We found that, after the initial set up of the Eventbrite platform, this resulted in much more efficient management of bookings.

All walks were fully booked (25 participants); total number of attendances was 85. Some people participated in more than one walk.

All the guides were 'new' to the role although Dave Burrows played a supporting role last year.

Feedback observed was very positive and particularly recognised the inputs of the guides.

NICA books (for sale) and brochures were displayed prior to each walk. Guide Sue Davis displayed and sold Wild/flower Women merchandise prior to the Girraween walk; 10% sales income donated to NICA.

Volunteer guides - Sue Davis, Michelle Newell, Dave Burrows and Bruce Hallett - were all knowledgeable, enthusiastic and well prepared. Although not wildflower specialists (their own opinion), they performed the role excellently and added elements of their areas of speciality and interest, which was appreciated by participants. In addition, guides from previous years, Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald both attended one walk and shared their knowledge, as did Ryan Schimke (colleague of Michelle's) and NICA volunteers Bob Carey and Spencer Hitchen.

Promotion was successful (measured by number of bookings). This was largely through social media - NICA website & Facebook, Sunshine Coast Council and Tourism Noosa websites, distribution of printed programs through Noosa Tourism Information Centre, Noosa Council and an article in the Noosa Today newspaper.

An online booking system was used, with a cap of 25 participants for each walk and a waiting list of 8. Three of the four walks were filled within three weeks of opening of the bookings.

The presentation was professional and management of bookings significantly less time-consuming, particularly automation of cancellations and notification of the next person on the waiting list. All participants surveyed found the system easy to use and there was an average of 1 person attending without a booking per walk (less than previous years).

Feedback from participants was positive and particularly recognised the inputs of the guides and the species lists. We did note some minor issues and areas for improvement to be put into effect next year.

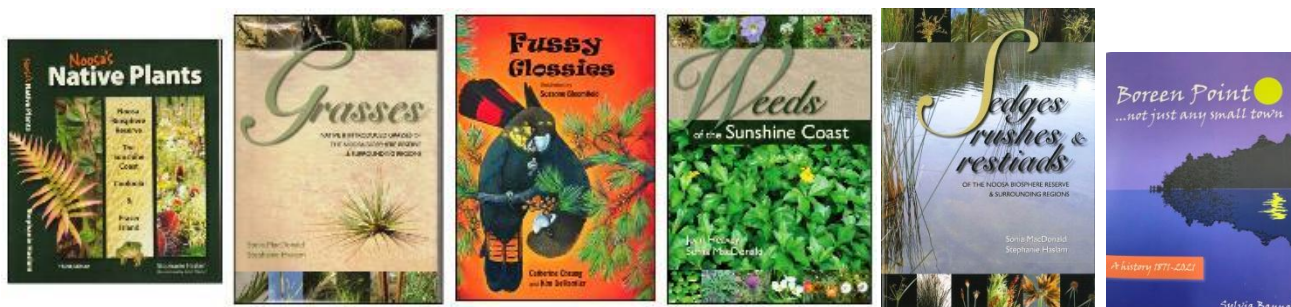
## NICA Publications

By Gillian Studdock

The 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.

This year we have added the 'Boreen Point' book written by Sylvia Bannah, this is an illustrated history of Boreen Point and nearby landmarks on the Noosa River system. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Friends of Kinaba.

The books continue to be sought out by members of the public, local bookshops, environmental consultants and practitioners, and Councils from all over SEQ.



## 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. It met the basic awareness raising and community education aspects identified in the Noosa River Catchment Management Strategy

During that time it had one major upgrade, but technology had overtaken it. A grant from Noosa Council facilitated data migration and functionality of the existing website onto a modern platform with improved access via smart phones, tablets and personal computers, thus incorporating an up to date search capacity.

The website remains 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 includes traditional and cultural uses of the plants by aboriginal people and early European settlers. Also included are landscaping advice, and species lists for many localities within the Noosa Shire and the facility to select plants to obtain information about them. The website is an excellent reference and freely available on the internet.

[www.noosasnativeplants.com.au](http://www.noosasnativeplants.com.au)



# Clean Up Australia Day 2021

By Joe Jurisevic - NICA Volunteer Coordinator

The Noosa community was engaged in Clean Up Australia Day with sites at Kin Kin, Cooroy, Cooran, Federal, Pomona, Tinbeerwah, in the hinterland along with sites at Boreen Point, Noosa North Shore, Peregian, Sunrise, and Sunshine Beaches, Tewantin, and Gympie Tce with volunteers keen to keep their towns and surrounds clean. Community groups and volunteers searched the length and breadth of Noosa's bushland, parklands, roadsides, beaches, creeks and rivers to Clean Up their patch of Noosa at 20 sites.

The feeling was that there was less rubbish than in previous years at some locations, but the overall volume and weight collected remained fairly consistent within the same areas from previous years. Plastic and cardboard food packaging was prolific in the rubbish collected, cigarette butts, other hard plastic items and numerous other household items continue to be discarded rather than binned. Glass and plastic bottles were still abundant at some sites despite the introduction of the container deposit scheme in Qld.



NICA volunteer Peter Hunnam was joined by 70 volunteers to undertake an audit of rubbish collected from a 4km stretch of the Noosa River carried out by teams of local volunteers on foot, in boats, kayaks and divers, including Tewantin State School students, parents and staff, and a group of community organisations including NICA, North Tewantin BushCare, OzFish Noosa, Tangaroo Blue and Unity Water community program.

Roughly 30 sacks plus a number of bulky items were collected from sections of the river, riverfront and islands. The rubbish was sorted by hand into 7 major categories and then into 53 sub-categories for counting. A total of 3,340 separate items was sorted and counted with nearly half of the rubbish being plastic, with soft plastics and packaging being most prominent.

The situation was similar at Boreen Pt, with domestic rubbish making up most of the collection, although a few bulky items like carpet, tyres and wheel rims were found dumped, along with a couple of illegal dump sites identified off Louis Bazzo Dr.

Volunteers were ably supported as always by Noosa Council, as well as local businesses Cleanaway and Allcott Hire to help dispose of all the rubbish collected. Peppers Noosa Resort and The Sofitel resorts once again generously donated vouchers for a prize draw for volunteers taking part.

Some of the bulkier items collected included several mattresses, around 20 tyres, carpet, bike, boat and car parts, electrical cable, plastic chairs, bongos, shopping trolleys, sofa cushions, a mirror, metal drums, crab pots and a portable marquis, which have no place being dumped in our environment.

An audit of some representative litter collected around Noosaville was also carried out by Jarrah in Gympie Terrace near Thomas Street. This work has led to Jarrah being engaged to carry out regular audits on litter collected by NICA's weekly RiverWatch expeditions in the Noosa River estuary.

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported our community in Cleaning up Noosa.

## Thanks to our Sponsors

NICA would like to thank our sponsors and partners

