



## NICA NEWSLETTER - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010

### What's on [www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=events](http://www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=events)

- Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Aug: SCRC Waterways Operations - NICA river cleanup. Bookings full.
- 14<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Aug: Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. Download program at [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/addfiles/events/wildflower\\_festival\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/addfiles/events/wildflower_festival_brochure.pdf) or call in at our office for a hard copy.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Aug: Noosa's Native Plants talk. 4-6 pm Noosa Library.

### Get Involved [www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?category=20](http://www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?category=20)

We welcome several new volunteers to NICA this month, Dianne, Rachael, Lidia and Ross. And there is always room for more volunteers! Here're just a few possibilities:

- River Watch onboard the NICA River Ranger boat
- 'Do the Right Thing' Ambassadors at Eumundi Market (Sats 10 am - 1 pm)
- Green Corner at Eumundi Market (Sats)

NICA membership is free, so join up, come along, get active, meet like minded people and have fun!

Email [admin@noosariver.com.au](mailto:admin@noosariver.com.au)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant and QLD Gambling Community Benefit Fund are both closing on 31<sup>st</sup> August and the local Council's Community Grants are open until 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Heritage Park Bushland Group at Tewantin and North Peregian Bushland Group are submitting applications to the Federal Govt's Caring for Our Country for continuation of their bushland regeneration projects.

New project concepts being developed include a waste minimisation project with Noosa Farmers Market (thanks for inputs from Carol, Dave & Graham) and Mangrove Watch with the University of Queensland.

If you have other project ideas or proposals that you want to put forward for consideration, or if you would like to assist in funding applications, please let us know.

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

### Approved Funding from Sunshine Coast Regional Council (2010/11 to 2012/13)

We have received a letter from Council confirming that we are to receive our Operating Grant and funding for Fishing Line Recovery Bins, Volunteer Riverwatch, Seagrass Monitoring and Keep Our Biosphere Beautiful programmes. This funding is for 3 years apart from KOB which is for 2 years. Big thanks to our Council for this funding which enables us to keep the doors open and manage our projects!

### EUMUNDI MARKETS - Waste Minimisation and Green Corner

Progress at the Eumundi Markets was made with the presentation to the stallholders of a more sustainable waste stream management direction. Wendy and Catherine, along with market manager and staff met at Joes Waterhole on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> July, introduced new coloured bins to promote recycling, composting and reducing landfill waste. Costumes are being designed at present by Nambour TAFE students and other local creatives to help promote the message on market days.

If anyone of you would like a lovely morning of culture and environment, why not try doing the Green Corner. Its a great morning out, you just have to have a green heart and conservation mind and love talking, and the food is fabulous. We would provide all you need, so grab a friend and get talking about our great environment, great biosphere, great sustainable region, at the Green Corner at Eumundi.

The **Eumundi State School Worm Farm Project** is going well and our very first 'Waste Stream' video was actually washed out, we will 'take two' on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. This is trailblazing at its best, even at worm pace, we are filming the entire process of organic waste management from the market stallholder, who we interview and take scraps from, to the worm farm up the road at school, where we feed the worms from our **green** scrap buckets, purchase worm juice, funding the P&C, in recycled containers, (students have made excellent stickers to promote their business). This will be the first entry into our EcoFlicks film fest for next year.

### Fishing Line Recovery Bins (FLRB)

The FLRBs have once again been the target of vandalism. We have seen one bin at the spit fishing platforms and boardwalk with its lid smashed and one at Tewantin boat ramp completely gone, ripped off its clamps and taken. It was great disappointment for FLRB project officer Wendy May and even more so for Catherine (not knowing of this recent finding) when she took Channel 7 news to that very location to show them the bin and it was not there! It was great to see Catherine later that evening on the local news showing them another bin and talking about the project and the impact of marine debris. We are collecting various rubbish in the FLRBs lately; two nice big rocks were interesting to come across in one, mostly they were line, bait bags, general tackle and plastic rubbish, i.e chip packets, drink bottles, plastic bags.



### Keep Our Biosphere Beautiful (KOBBS)

KOBBS Poem and Story Competition winners at Noosaville and Pomona State Schools were awarded their prizes last week, thanks to Wendy. Prizes included Berkelouw and Embiggen book vouchers, award certificate s and a set of books on water, climate, waste, worms and even "pooh". This week, Catherine talked to a year 12 marine studies class at St. Teresa's Catholic College on "how community groups like NICA could influence environmental health and the way people use the environment".

Also as part of KOBBS, Wendy has been spreading her concept of a '**compostable covenant**' and a massive composting facility and has received quite a positive response. Our local events could benefit from such a covenant, so would our environment. The idea was also passed onto Jan Maddin of the Council who came to meet us about the future of the **Sunshine Coast Litter Collective** (NICA is a member) that won the Minister's prize at the recent Healthy Waterways Award. We agreed to continue partnership with the collective and would support specifically its "no plastic bags" campaign trials.

### Riverwatch Volunteer program

The River Rangers will be out 'n about on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, all seats are booked. They will be meeting up with Josh Walton and Kane Ransom from Council's Waterways Operations division to do a river sweep near the frying pan and river entrance.

### River to Sea Initiative

We have struck up some great interest from Sunshine Beach High School! Head of Science Rob Armstrong has offered to host our upcoming River to Sea forum on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August** (end of Science Week) at their

Performing Arts Theatre (12:30-14:30). The talk titled **Coral Reefs in a Changing World – Mass Coral Bleaching and Ocean Acidification** will be delivered by coral ecologist Dr. Lyndon DeVantier who has dived and worked on coral reefs around the world in the last three decades. The talk will be followed by a short version of the documentary **The End of the Line** on global fishing. <http://endoftheline.com/>. A hundred high school students are expected to attend this forum.

### Seagrass Watch

A meeting was held at the University of Sunshine Coast with Simon Baltais of the QLD Preservation Society and Adrian O'Connor of USC GIS Department. Endorsement was obtained from QPS to develop mapping protocols which would enable production of accurate seagrass distribution maps of the Noosa River. The mapping will involve active community members interested in their waterways and eager to get out on the river.

We thank the Council for providing us with the latest (2008) aerial images of the entire Noosa River which will guide us through our mapping exercise. While the mapping protocols are being developed with USC, the winter round of seagrass monitoring continues this month. Watch out for more in the next newsletter.

### Sunshine Coast Marine Biodiversity Assessment

It is agreed that a public meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> September to present the scientific findings of the assessment. Details in the time and location will be announced in the next newsletter. For those who have not seen the Channel 7 news coverage of the survey, here is the link again [www.youtube.com/noosastreams](http://www.youtube.com/noosastreams) Just click on the "Marine" playlist.

### What LOCAL Native Plant is that? (WLNP) <http://www.noosariver.com.au/whatplant/>

As an extension of WLNP, NICA is supporting St. Andrew Anglican College's funding applications which would allow planting of 900 seedlings of native species and establishment of a veggie garden in the school ground. Wendy visited the Noosa Christian College last week taking a worm farm and showing the students how they operate and the importance of composting and recycling.

Stephanie is back and will deliver her Noosa's Native Plant talk at the Noosa Library on **Thur 19<sup>th</sup> August** (4-6 pm) which will guarantee to be delightful!

## Partner's Links

Coolum District Coast Care; <http://coolumcoastcare.org.au/>

Maroochy Waterwatch; [www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au](http://www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au)

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee; [www.mrccc.org.au/newsletters.html](http://www.mrccc.org.au/newsletters.html)

Noosa & District Landcare; [www.noosalandcare.org](http://www.noosalandcare.org)

Noosa Biosphere Ltd; [www.noosabiosphere.org.au/](http://www.noosabiosphere.org.au/)

Noosa Parks Association; [www.noosaparks.org.au/html/calendarlist.php](http://www.noosaparks.org.au/html/calendarlist.php)

Noosa Ratepayers Association; [www.noosaratepayers.org.au](http://www.noosaratepayers.org.au)

SEQ Catchments; [www.seqcatchments.com.au/](http://www.seqcatchments.com.au/)

SEQ Healthy Waterways; [www.healthywaterways.org](http://www.healthywaterways.org)

Sunshine Coast Environment Council; [www.scec.org.au](http://www.scec.org.au)

Sunshine Coast Regional Council; [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/)

For detailed information about all our projects see the full review at [www.noosariver.com.au](http://www.noosariver.com.au)  
NICA is now on YouTube [www.youtube.com/noosastreams](http://www.youtube.com/noosastreams) and  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/pages/Noosa-Integrated-Catchment-Assn-Inc/110995275604273](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Noosa-Integrated-Catchment-Assn-Inc/110995275604273),  
Both can be accessed directly from our website.