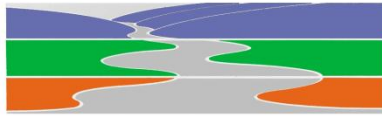


Noosa Integrated



Catchment Assn. Inc.

NICA NEWSLETTER

1st November 2011

What's on www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=events

Tue 29th Nov: NICA's AGM on the Noosa Ferry, see separate invite.

You are very welcome to join us for our end of year get together. This is our chance to thank all NICA's volunteers. There will be a short AGM which is limited to 15 minutes and lunch is provided. There are limited places available so please RSVP to reserve a place. Contact Gill by email or phone.

Sun 11th Dec: Tide time TBA: Underwater clean-up!

Time for all wetsuit inclined people to explore the Noosa River below the surface again. We want to see if our Fishing Line Recovery (Tangler) bins are working and see what other flotsam & jetsam we find along the shoreline.

WHERE: Rock wall end of the Noosa spit. Carpooling will need to be organised.

Contact Maree to sign up as a diver, shoreline clean-up or surface support!

NICA Networking

This year NICA has been at the forefront of award winning activity including

- Finalist in the Healthy Waterways Community Award.
- Finalist in Sunshine Coast Council Glossy Awards (Living Smart Solutions)
- Finalist / runner-up in the Qld Landcare Awards (Individual Volunteer)
- Active member of the Sunshine Coast Council Rivers Initiative, which was the Winner of the National River Prize.
- NICA members and staff have been busy networking and communicating our work during October. Stephanie has attended the Society for Growing Australian Native Plants (SGAP) conference in Adelaide.



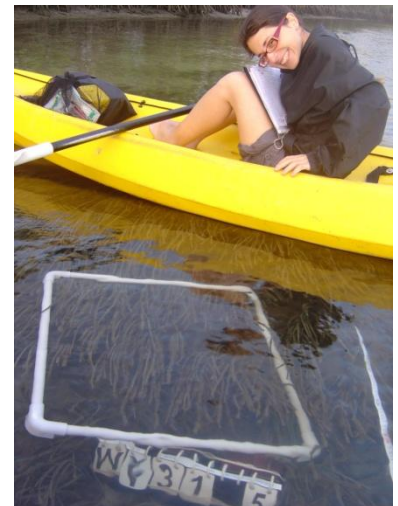
Carole Micallef at 2011 Report Card launch

- NICA's secretary Carole was an invited speaker at the launch of the 2011 SEQ Healthy Waterways Report Card at Murrumba Downs, north Brisbane.
- Maree was an invited keynote speaker at the 3rd Qld Coastal Conference in Cairns.

We will continue to build on new and existing partnerships with educational institutions in and near our catchment. Several project officers, with the aim of engaging Environmental Science and Teacher Trainees in catchment management, will hold a NICA presentation at USC on Wednesday 8th November at 10am.

Farewell Serena!

Congratulations to project officer Serena Lucrezi, who has been awarded a post doctorate in South Africa. Sadly she will be leaving NICA after getting our Noosa River Seagrass Monitoring program back on track and applying for grants to expand this project and initiate others. Her exuberance and enthusiasm will be hard to match!



Get Involved www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?category=20

- **River Watch onboard the NICA River Ranger boat**

The River Ranger October roster is on the website, if any volunteers are interested in going out on the river contact the office or David Lewis on 5474 2924.

www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=noosa_river_ranger_program

www.noosariver.com.au/index.php?article=noosa_river_mangrovewatch

- **NICA membership is free**, so join up, come along, get active, meet like minded people and have fun! Email admin@noosariver.com.au

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Stormwater Project

A BIG THANKYOU to the Volunteers- John, Nina, Bill & Bart who have joined this project!! John will be joining NICA for work placement, while Bill will be undertaking work placement with SEQC.

We have completed 2 monitoring rounds since the last newsletter and its great to build capacity within our community. We have mapped the extent of Singapore daisy and have established photo-point monitoring at the Rene St site.

It will be great to have some of these new volunteers helping and learning at the calibration sessions too. In September we joined the team at Maroochy Water Watch and in October we were at Noosa Water Watch up at Pomona with Anita. These sessions are informative and terrific networking opportunities for all involved.

The Noosa Tri happened recently and it was good talking to the set up crew while we monitored the Open Drain at Lions Park where they will be swimming by. Our presence at such high profile sites is worth so much, some people don't realise what we do and how important it is, I am sure the elite athletes are most appreciative of our eye (and probes) checking the water they swim in.

Noosa River Seagrass Monitoring Program

The latest seagrass monitoring session following the post-flood assessment is showing interesting results so far. *Halophila ovalis* has had a great comeback and has been found in shallow waters at Weyba Creek, Keyser Island, Lake Doonella and the back of Goat Island. Unfortunately, some of the seagrass meadows monitored at all locations appear to be quite patchy, with seagrass blades almost entirely covered in algae and epiphytes. An updated version of the Noosa River Seagrass Monitoring Report will be released by NICA in mid-November 2011 and will describe the results of the last two year's monitoring in much more detail.

Noosa Surface Design Project

What better way to showcase our wonderful local native plants than to surround ourselves with their imagery, which is the aim of this project. NICA has applied for

assistance from Arts Queensland to take this project to its next stage. We are also organising a community fabric printmaking workshop for 12-13th November. Places still available -contact Maree if you would like to participate.

Noosa River Mangrove Watch

The lower sections of the river were filmed on Friday 28th October. The electric pontoon was hired, and river ranger Geoff navigated safely all the way to Lake Weyba on the rising tide, returning to the marina at slack tide. Apart from a couple of the guys wanting to hop out for a swim in the shallows, the camera was rolling all the way. Noosa is fortunate to still have large tracts of mangroves in its upper reaches and tributaries, and perhaps explains our consistently high scoring Healthy Waterways Report Card. Thanks to all the team who participated on Friday, especially the 'swimmers'!



Mangrove Watch volunteers from left: Geoff at the helm, Bart on the video camera, Geoff on GPS, Pat recording notes, John on still camera.

Ecoflicks 2012

Ecoflicks is one of NICA's most original capacity building projects initiated by Project officer, Catherine Cheung, and has great community and council support. As we all know, these projects don't just happen. NICA is searching for sponsors and volunteers to "keep the show on the road". So if you are able to offer networking, capacity building (eg. Filmmaking experience to newbies), prizes or just truly want to

keep this project alive, please pledge your support with us now in whatever capacity. We are currently working with last year's sponsors, Qld School of Film and Television (QSFT) to partner with NICA in search of other sponsors to promote this project.

Fishing Line Recovery Bins

Hello everyone, Lidia here with the Fishing Line Recovery Bin Program - and some exciting news to report! Since last month's update we have received approval from Sunshine Coast Regional Council for the addition of 10 new bins in 10 brand-new sites within the Noosa area.

Unfortunately, these installations have been somewhat delayed due to unfavorable weather. However, I am very excited by the progress and positive growth that the Fishing Line Recovery Bin Program has seen, and am eager to see this continue - you can be sure that those new bins will be out there, ready for service as soon as possible! I have been getting requests from at least one business owner on Gympie Terrace, O-Boat Hire: "where's our new bin?" I am very happy to be able to deliver on this long-awaited promise!

Public awareness raising is ongoing, and with the expected warmer weather, and increased fishing activity, will also come this summer's line-up of fishing clinics, river and water festivals and increased fishing club activity.

NICA's Fishing Line Recovery Bin Program continues letting folks know about the bins, their purpose and importance, and to encourage their use. To date, public response to the bins continues to be very supportive and positive. While on my rounds, I routinely get told that they are "a great idea!" I also get told "they should be everywhere - not just in Noosa and on the Sunshine Coast, but right around Australia!" Hey, you never know; just because we're small now . . . To borrow a much-used phrase: "From little things, big things grow!"

Partner's Links

Sunshine Coast Regional Council; www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Noosa & District Landcare; www.noosalandcare.org

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

Maroochy Waterwatch; www.maroochycatchmentcentre.org.au

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee; www.mrccc.org.au/newsletters.html

Noosa Biosphere Ltd; www.noosabiosphere.org.au

Noosa Parks Association; www.noosaparks.org.au/html/calendarlist.php

Noosa Ratepayers Association; www.noosaratepayers.org.au

SEQ Catchments; www.seqcatchments.com.au

SEQ Healthy Waterways; www.healthywaterways.org

Sunshine Coast Environment Council; www.scec.org.au