

10. COMMUNITY GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

The following information has been developed from information supplied by community groups in response to a standard survey format sent to groups involved with environmental issues.

10.1 SUNSHINE COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Description and Purpose	The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) is a non-government, non-profit, apolitical organisation dedicated to the preservation of the Sunshine Coast's unique environment and quality of life.
Key Achievements	<p>SCEC are involved in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting rivers, estuaries and oceans by: opposing creek, river and ocean sewage outfall; using alternative domestic sewage systems (composting toilets, recycling waste water and grey water); ecologically sustainable techniques of sewage treatment, eg recycling of water after advanced treatment or land disposal; conserving water; no more water storage dams; reducing fertilizer and chemical runoff; 2. Ecological sustainability in planning for all Shires by: preservation of primary industries including sugar, dairy, grazing, and small crops; protection and regeneration of bushland, including wildlife corridors; consolidation of urban development to conserve open space and to facilitate public transport; 3. Continue to fight against toxic waste and chemicals by: lobbying for a register for handling hazardous chemicals and deposit sites at local dumps; increasing public awareness of appropriate use of chemicals and alternatives. 4. Increase public awareness of environmental issues by: maintaining a resource library at our centre in Howard Street, Nambour; interaction with schools and community groups; regular meetings and dinners; organising festivals, forums and conferences; providing regular media releases and articles; publication of SCEC magazine Eco Echo and regular newsletters; Habitat 2000 – a corridor mapping project; and interaction of the 60 members of the group.

10.2 NOOSA & DISTRICT LANDCARE GROUP

Description and Purpose	Noosa Landcare has been carrying out community based environmental activities in Noosa Shire for a decade. The underlying ethic of the activities has been to raise community awareness of environmental issues through community involvement in the identification, prioritisation and implementation of the issues and the actions to address them.
Key Achievements	<p>Hence, the focus issues of the Group have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The restoration of environmentally degraded riparian areas through the planting and regeneration of local native species. The issues of weed control and the increasing of wildlife habitat are also addressed through these projects. 2. Farm forestry. 3. Propagation of nursery stock to supply plants and trees for the above activities. 4. Monitoring water quality. 5. Information, education and training services. 6. The restoration of environmentally degraded riparian areas through the planting and regeneration of local native species. Including weed control and wildlife habitat

replacement.

Explanation of Activities

The activities to address these issues have been:

- Restoration and revegetation.

Noosa Landcare facilitates or carries out revegetation works on privately and publicly owned lands through a range of projects.

For privately owned lands we manage projects based upon the two main waterway catchments of the Shire, the Six Mile Creek Catchment and the Noosa River Catchment. Landholders in the Six Mile Creek Catchment may receive free trees, fencing materials and advice. Landholders in the Noosa River Catchment may receive free trees and advice.

A focus of these projects has been the establishment of demonstration sites to highlight a wide range of vegetation communities and the impacts of differing adjacent land uses. So far sites on four properties have been established.

The works on publicly owned lands have all been on Noosa Council sites. The works have involved weed removal and control, and revegetation. Noosa Landcare currently manage four of these sites. In addition, the Group has established the Kin Kin Arboretum as a demonstration of local native rainforest flora species on a Noosa Council owned site. The Group also established a site at Kin Kin to demonstrate the removal of the woody weed Camphor Laurel, and replacement with native species. This site was publicly owned but has since been sold to a private owner.

The replacement of wildlife habitat has been a focus of all of the above projects. A mapping project was carried out to identify strategic areas for such works, and the information gained was used as a criteria in selecting the sites outlined above.

- Farm forestry

In order to provide forest cover in non-riparian areas and to help meet the future demand for native timber, Noosa Landcare established a Farm Forestry Project. The project provides free trees and advice for private landholders that are interested.

- Propagation of nursery stock to supply plants and trees for the above activities

Noosa Landcare operates a native plant propagation nursery on a Noosa Council owned site near Pomona. NSC provides a yearly grant to propagate timber species for the Farm Forestry Project, while the Natural Heritage Trust provides funds for the propagation of riparian restoration species.

- Monitoring water quality

Noosa Landcare has run a Waterwatch program since 1992 to provide a community water quality watchdog service. Over 30 volunteers monitor over 60 sites in the Six Mile Creek and Noosa River Catchments. Noosa Council provides a yearly grant for materials, while the Natural Heritage Trust has funded a Co-ordinator.

- Information, Education And Training Services

Noosa Landcare runs an environmental information service from a Resource Centre located on Noosa Council owned land in Pomona. On offer is a wide variety of information and resources, including a Natural Heritage Trust funded Information Officer and a 1200-plus volume reference library.

The Group also runs a range of educational activities, including:

- School student activities: includes classroom and field activities with local primary and secondary schools;

- Work placement activities: includes revegetation and nursery training for TAFE and university students;
- Work For The Dole: participants are provided training in revegetation and nursery activities; and
- Workshops, Bus Trips and Field Days: includes rainforest identification, property planning, native flower and bush food production, forestry, revegetation.

Contact Colin Hastie

10.3 NOOSA INTEGRATED CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Description and Purpose The Noosa River Integrated Catchment Association Inc. (NICA) was formed in 1996.

The committee represents 22 sectors of the community. Its role will become more proactive as it moves towards implementation of the Noosa River Catchment Management Strategy.

Key Achievements As a result of three years of consultation with a broad cross-section of the local community, a Strategy has been produced, with the leading agenda the protection, if not improvement, of the Noosa River's A- water quality rating via various collaborative on-ground projects.

We have an Office, situated within walking distance from the Noosa River, thanks to the strong support of the Noosa Council. We aim to maintain and build upon this relationship so that a collaborative approach to natural resource issues within the Shire and catchment boundaries can be applied.

The NICA set about conducting a series of "community consultation workshops", "Information gathering field days", "Strategy development workshops", along with various media releases.

The culmination of this process has seen the collation of a truly representative draft document. As well, a series of cooperative on-ground projects have been undertaken which have included "Boatwash Awareness Signs", Catchment Road Signs, a "Stormwater Runoff Trial", Stormwater Awareness Signage, mangrove restoration and a Riparian Revegetation Demonstration Project as part of the SEQRWQMS process.

10.4 MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Description and Purpose The Mary Catchment was chosen for inclusion as one of five pilot areas for the State Integrated Catchment Management program. This was due to flooding, severe stream bank erosion, land degradation and rapid land use changes within the catchment.

MRCCC is presently comprised of community and industry memberships including: grazing/beef; landcare, irrigation, dairying, horticulture, environment, sugar, timber, education, extractive industry, the general community, farm forestry, and commercial fishing. Government membership are: Cooloola Shire Council, Tiaro City Council, Maroochy Shire Council, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources.

Key Achievements The MRCCC has developed a Catchment Management Strategy for the whole catchment. Key issues by the Strategy were developed through community and committee workshops. The Catchment Management Strategy includes Implementation Plans so that at an early stage people will be able to see how the possible actions might work. Meaningful consultation will continue to shape the Strategy.

10.5 GREENING NOOSA

Description and Purpose Greening Noosa, is the planting arm of Noosa Parks Association. From establishment in 1990 it has undertaken:

- Extensive dunal planting from Peregian to Sunshine Beach
- Park and roadside plantings
- Reinforcement plantings at Noosa Woods and the old caravan park
- Establishment of a littoral rainforest on Noosa Spit as an extension of Noosa Woods.

It is Greening Noosa's intention to continue with these activities, with a greater emphasis on weed control.

10.6 NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION

Description and Purpose Noosa Parks Association's objectives are the protection of Noosa's natural environment, and the promotion of excellence in Noosa's social and urban environments.

Founded in 1962, and Queensland's oldest local conservation organisation, the Association has a membership of approximately 1500. The Association offers members a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities, including nature walks, bird observing, Greening Noosa plantings, bushwalks, visits to National Parks, and botany studies. Members receive regular Newsletters on social, recreational and educational activities, and on issues being addressed by the Association, while News Bulletins report on the Association's national park extension work.

A small team of voluntary project officers work to achieve further extensions of Cooloola and Noosa National Parks, effective management of the Noosa River and Lakes, and conservation of Noosa's native forests. At the same time, this team monitors all significant development in the Noosa area, and where necessary, lodges objection with Noosa Council.

www.noosaparks.org.au

10.7 QUEENSLAND BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

Description and Purpose QBN is the only QLD group involved solely in biodiversity issues, and Marcus Beach is our home base. We have, in the past been funded to some extent by NHT...(although our main funding is via a private trust)...mostly for environmental education programs. We have three full time staff and volunteers. Our staff have worked as reps for environment/Landcare/educators sectors on the Mary and Noosa ICM. We are generally regarded as state lobbyists on water issues and are founding members of the Ecological Water Alliance of QLD as well as coordinating the Mary River Community Alliance. We are currently preparing a resource package called WampWorks which will be funded for printing by DNR for the use of people involved in the CRPs on WAMPS..particularly the Mary. Our staff also build economic computer models which receive production stats and are able to deliver submissions on dam proposals, and we have had considerable input to the proposals regarding the Comet/Nathan and others.

We have until recently, had a rural coordinator based in Yeppoon, and also until recently have been full voting members of the Qld Conservation Council. QBN's main aims are to raise awareness of biodiversity in QLD and to act as a catalyst for involving the broader general community in protection/restoration/ maintainance of biodiversity by assisting to design on ground biodiversity projects for Landcare/ICM groups.

We also provide free information (non scientific) on rare and threatened flora and fauna species (according to WCU/ANZECC/CITES/Federal and State legislation, the latter being taken from the *Nature Conservation Act* (1992) and the *Regulations (Wildlife)* 1994 pursuant to the ACT. We have mini versions of this data base (QLD Vanishing Species Database) currently on public access computers in Noosa Library. We also designed and operate a community wildlife monitoring program Rhythms of Life which is similar to NatureSearch and was launched by Minister Welford in 1998. This was also funded with Maroochy Council as BioMap project under the NHT scheme and we now have a public access database of RoL with a GIS format which is used by officers assessing development applications in Maroochy.

QBN recently hosted the secretariat in our office for the QLD Landcare and Catchment Management Groups annual state conference. We are group members of Maroochy Landcare (the hosting group for Conference 2000)

Mates of Marcus Creek is a Waterwatch QLD group and is registered as such under the name of Waterwatch Marcus Creek hosted by the QLD Biodiversity Network with DNR Brisbane. We coordinate with others in the Sunshine Coast Waterwatch Group, including Maroochy/Mooloolah/Noosa and Mary groups.

Our staff also assist the Marcus/Peregian Neighbourhood Watch to 'log' their koalas by taking their phone calls re the grey furries and we assist them with other wildlife inquiries. We are currently preparing (under the Mates of Marcus creek banner) to log the 'K's into a tiny GIS system.....small but rather appealing for the general community....We are also involved in the SEQ Moreton Integrated Natural Resource Consortium of Landcare/ICM groups working in a regional context. We work closely with agencies, particularly DNR, and our bylines through our years of operation have proceeded from 'conservation through communication' 'conservation through awareness' and we now run under 'conservation through negotiation'.

Contact If you would like to know more about this group please feel welcome
www.spiderweb.com.au/~qbn/discus Sandra Griffith State Coordinator QBN Inc.

10.8 FALLS CREEK / PINBARREN CATCHMENT CARE & WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

Description and Purpose The Falls Creek / Pinbarren Catchment Care and Wildlife Corridor Association brings together a groups of local land holders in the Noosa Hinterlan who, with assistance of a National Heritage Trust grant, are extending high value remnant revegetation corridors in their catchment. The group has planted over 5000 native trees since January 2000 and has a goal of planting 20 000 trees over the next two years.

10.9 AUSTRALIAN SEABIRD RESCUE INC - NOOSA

Description and Purpose Seabird Rescue Noosa is continually faced with environmental clean ups particularly following fishing competitions, holiday periods, and party-goer's celebrations. In particular, fishing competitions have resulted in a number of native Australian water birds being seriously harmed. Two white-faced herons required surgery following the Noosa Family Fishing Competition.

'Fish species' are the only creatures and aspects of the aquatic environment which are considered as a management issue by organisers of fish events. Reasons for this is due to fishing being a commercial resource. It is suggested that water birds and other aquatic wildlife are just as commercial important as 'Birding' in the USA is worth \$5million annually through tourism.

Contact Australian Seabird Rescue – Seabird Rescue Noosa is Wendy Gillespie, Coordinator on ph: 5485 3543, mobile:0418 758 822 or email: agathis@gympie.big.net.au.

10.10 SAVE TODAY OUR PARKLAND

Description and Purpose "Save Today Our Parkland" was formed in 1988 to fight the Sunshine Motorway being taken up the eastern side of Lake Weyba in what is now the Lake Weyba section of Noosa National Park. The group was disbanded and deregistered in 1996. A group using the same name was then formed in 1996. Since then, the new group - STOP have worked on numerous issues in Noosa including Noosa River problems and the Tewanin-Tin Can Bay Road, and made a submission and petition to the Queensland State Government regarding National Park status for Tewanin State Forest.

In addition to environmental activities, STOP also organises a program of educational bushwalks, held monthly, and work days for weed eradication. A quarterly newsletter to members covers local issues as well as broader environmental education. In addition to these tasks, STOP has also undertaken the role of watchdog on larger 'environmental' groups whose activities on occasions give rise to doubt regarding their environmental credentials.

10.11 NOOSA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC

Description and Purpose To be perfectly honest the NSRRAI is not an environmentally based Community group. We are a community based group and all Residents and Ratepayers can join.

The aim of the organisation is to monitor council expenditure, which is just dead boring, but obviously the concerns of members centre round issues relating to the environment, and how Council deals with those issues and how we can influence the outcome.

Key Achievements Our most recent activity was taking up cudgels to the Premier about the Lack of action on the Noosa River Plan and we are working with Council on that issue.

We have also made representation on Noosa Banks development and the Noosa Hill project. We have a rep on the proposed Shire business centre Reference group, and a rep on the rural futures centre and the NICA.

Everything in Noosa centres around the environment and the people who live here would not be here if it wasn't as good as it is, and we have a responsibility to make sure it stays as good as that.

10.12 SUNSHINE COAST RURAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION

Description and Purpose The Sunshine Coast Rural Futures Centre Association project is a community based initiative with regional aspirations. It is a joint venture between the Noosa and District Landcare Group Inc., Education Queensland and Noosa Council.

The main objectives of the project are to 'facilitate environmental protection and restoration in the Sunshine Coast Region and beyond' and 'to link the education system with community organisations, industry and the wider community'.

The whole focus of the project is upon Ecologically Sustainable Development – the environmental, economic social and community development of the Region. Although Noosa Landcare is the principal community group involved, a number of other community organisations are now actively participating in the project. These include the "Youth Sector Training Council" (developing an Information Technology Web Portal as part of the 'Networking the Nation' concept); a 'Digital Media Incubator Group' (digital film technology) and Noosa Youth Service (caring for young people).

The new Rural Futures Centre will provide all the administrative facilities required by Noosa Landcare and the other participating organisations mentioned above. The Centre will also feature a lecture theatre which will also be used as a sound studio; a library; 'waterwatch' laboratory; a "Bushtucker Café"; reception and display areas with computer facilities for the IT Group.

The project is emerging as one of local and regional importance. The Education Department sees it as a pilot project, which when proved successful, can be duplicated elsewhere.

Contact

Barrie Craig

Chairman – S. C.Rural Futures Centre Association Inc. Steering Committee, PO Box 168, Pomona Qld 4568; email: bcraig@safeweb.com.au.

