



NOOSA RIVER

Progress is continuing with the three main facets to 'Bring Back the Fish' in the Noosa River and lakes system. Landcare is leading the task of better managing upper river catchment, particularly the Kin Kin section, where Lidar research indicates a staggering 2.3 million cubic meters of soil has run into the Noosa system in the last 7 years.

The University of Queensland has signed a contract with the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, and is analysing previous data conducted by the University, to better understand the nature of prawns as a sentinel species which was once prolific but now is in decline.

Following on from the initial oyster work conducted by the Nature Conservancy in conjunction with The Thomas Foundation and Noosa Parks Association, the University of the Sunshine Coast has also signed a contract with the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, and is preparing to commence the restoration of oyster reefs in the lower system when the spat release season commences.

Bryan Walsh
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FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Friday Environment Forum forward program June – July 2017.

Date	Topic	Speaker:
June 02	“The curse of commonness and the invisible extinctions”	Dr Scott Burnett USC
June 09	'Guarding the Galilee' - a film about the Carmichael Coal Mine	Film
June 16	‘Clever Corvids: are they really that smart?’	Professor Darryl Jones
June 23	Asian House Geckos	Jay Turner Laguna Pest Control
June 30	Aboriginal Settlement and artifacts of SE Qld	Dr Ray Kerkhove Griffith University
July 07	Recognise and Reconciliation	Glenn Ferguson AM
July 14	The Intelligent Bee	Sandra Tuszynska
July 21	Polar perambulations and other adventures	Dr Adrian McCallum USC
July 28	Algal Bio-remediation of Water and Resource Recovery	Howard Rose

Up to date information of each Environment Forum is provided every Tuesday in the Noosa News. A visit to the NPA website www.noosaparks.org.au is also recommended to see the innovative approach taken by David Anderson in updating the site each week with the Friday Forum information.

Dianne Shun Wah
Friday Environment Forum Organiser
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GREENING NOOSA



Sunday 11th June:

All Noosa Parks Association members are invited to the Noosa Parks Association Park on Noosa Spit for a look around the park and possibly a bit of a clean-up from 8am onwards. Plus a cup of billy tea or coffee, and cake at around 10:15am.

The tail of Cyclone Debbie lashed out at our park on the Spit, and ripped down a few big trees, mostly old Banksias. These then fell on top of other trees. So we will have a look at the damage, and see what needs to be done.

If you haven't walked around the Noosa Parks Park before, you may be pleasantly surprised. It is in a delightful location, half way down Batten Drive at the end of Hastings Street. There are tracks through bush we have planted over the last 26 years, leading to waterfront lawns with picnic tables. On these lovely winter mornings it is a refreshing and peaceful place to be. Everybody is most welcome. Bring your pooches.

Glen Gloster

Greening Noosa

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The 2017 activity program is on the NPA website www.noosaparks.org.au and hard copies are available at the Environment Centre.

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BOTANY GROUP



The designated walks for March and November were swapped due to unforeseen circumstances, so in March we met at Yaroomba Bushland Park for a new walk for the Botany Group. This proved to be most interesting as there were four different vegetation communities to walk through. The optimum conditions for fruiting bodies of fungi to appear is after a wet autumn and, as March had been an extremely wet month (Tewantin had 599 ml. of rain), conditions were ideal for the many and varied fungi we came across.

Last year Mary Monteith visited the Kimberley and in April she regaled us with photos and tales about her trip. We were reminded of what an interesting area this north-west part of Australia is. It is a land of geological curiosities: fossil reefs, flat-topped mesas and ancient folded mountains and different vegetation such as Boab and Kapok trees and spectacular seasonal wildflowers.

Kylie Gordon is the Community Partnerships Officer for Noosa Council and she looks after the Bushcare Groups. In May she talked to us about Banksias, one of the country's most attractive genus of plants. They were named after Sir Joseph Banks, often called 'the father of Australian botany', and who collected the first Banksia specimen on Captain Cook's voyage in 1770. We were interested to learn that although we have six Banksia species on the Sunshine coast, the vast majority of species are to be found in Western Australia (over 100 species, excluding Dryandras, which have now been included in the genus).

In June our walk will be at Noosa Banks, along Cooroibah Creek, so don't forget the Aerogard!

Sonia MacDonald

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Co-coordinator, Botany Group.
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The 2017 activity program is on the NPA website www.noosaparks.org.au and hard copies are available at the Environment Centre.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

So we can keep in contact with you please let us know if you change your email or postal address...

Email: office@noosaparks.org.au or Post: PO Box 836, Noosa Heads, Q 4567

NOOSA TRAMPERS



Sunday 2nd April. The Tuchekoi Meander:

On a beautiful morning 17 walkers gathered for this relatively short outing (9kms). The forest was verdant, the sunshine pleasantly warming, with a refreshing gentle breeze. There were plenty of 'ups and downs', just enough to provide a fair workout. Several creek crossings, fortunately all negotiable. Striking views of Mt Cooroora in the clear air, amiable companions, what more could we wish for?

Saturday 8th April. Cudgeree Loop:

This being Noosa Trail No 6. This time ten "newbies" attended, along with fifteen members, taking the group total to 25. At the start we gave Louise Nedved a hearty round of applause, congratulating her on her 91st Birthday the day before. Towards the end of our walk, enjoyed in fine weather, there was a slight hold-up at the rear as Shirley Murray scrambled to find her mobile phone to discover that her first great-grandchild had arrived safely at 8.36 am at the new Sunshine Coast Hospital. Congratulations to baby Flora's family and friends!

Sunday 7th May. Kin Kin Pub Stop:

17 walkers set off on the Kin Kin loop, including several people new to the group. The cloudy sky ensured a pleasant temperature until after morning tea break, when drizzle turned to rain and the last half of the walk was rather wet. However, good Trampers' spirits remained, and a pub lunch was enjoyed by all.

Saturday 13th May. Emu Mountain & Surrounds:

18 keen walkers attended this Saturday Trampers walk. Whilst the early morning skies looked a bit doubtful, it remained fine except for a very light sprinkle part way through the walk. We met at Havana Street West in the new 'Ridges' section of Peregrine Springs and set off through a short part of the estate before heading along the footbridge over the Sunshine Motorway and into Noosa National Park. Taking the first Emu Mountain entrance southwards, we walked along the western access track until SW of the mount where we met the steepish track to the trig point. From the top, the views were quite spectacular and would have been more so, if there was less low cloud at the time. The return trip was via the northern access track to the Havana Street East entry opposite the Coolumb High School. From here it was a gentle walk westward to reach the cars in a little less than 2 hours of walking. Terry Knight ably led the walk which included 5 new trampers.

Tony King

NPA Trampers Coordinator

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The 2017 activity program is on the NPA website www.noosaparks.org.au and hard copies are available at the Environment Centre.

COOLOOLA BUSHWALKERS



Sunday 26th March - Bush walk from Elanda Point to the Kinaba information centre:

After a week of storms, high temperatures and tempest we anticipated a wet and muddy walk. However the bright sunny start to the walk continued throughout the day and the paths free from huge puddles. Eight of us met at 7.30 am at Wallace Park and were joined by three more walkers at Elanda Point.

The first sign we saw was a new one to the Mill Point Cemetery, so we made a detour from our planned route to see it. It was rather disappointing, just a flat open paddock of cut grass but featuring a large rock with the names of the dead, beautifully engraved into it.

We had our morning tea at historic Mill Point, sitting on the tangled roots of the paperbark trees that ring the fringes of the water. We walked on to the Kinaba information centre along a well formed track surrounded by cabbage tree palms groves, paperbark trees and mosquitos! Once at the centre we had lunch, dangling our feet in the clear cool water, while sitting on the steps of that iconic building.

We returned to the car park at 1.15 pm having had a relaxed and enjoyable walk of some 12 km in what was perfect conditions. Except for the mosquitos, which were soon forgotten by the time we reached the Apollonian Hotel for a cold drink and lots of chatting. – Richard.



April 29th - May 1st Fig Tree Point Camp:

After Cyclone Debbie made a mess of the Cooloola National Park trails, we had to have a quick change of plans (Wandi Waterhole was no longer an option). A small group of us made our own way over to Fig Tree Point for what turned out to be a very pleasurable couple of days. We were all most impressed with, and must commend the Park Rangers, for the improvements they have made to the camping area. The Parks team showed real flair in their design of the individual tent spaces connected to the large communal areas. The Rangers utilised fallen timber to make solid benches and tables and they planted native species throughout, creating a truly ambient camping area.

We did a little exploring of the tracks around Fig Tree Point, but the mosquitoes in the bush saw us retreating back to the surprisingly moderate number of biting insects at the camp ground. We did have a couple of little scampering visitors in the night to a couple of the tents which provided a bit of drama! We have reprogrammed Wandu Waterhole hike for October this year.

Marguerite Wickens
Cooloola Bushwalkers Coordinator
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COOLOOLA BUSHWALKERS (continued)

The Cooloola Bushwalking Program has undergone some revision for the second part of the year, so please check date and venue changes for each walk.

Date	Walk	Details	Leader
June 25	Gheerulla Valley Circuit walk 22kms	Meet at environment Centre (Wallace House car park) 7.30 AM. Car Pool. Some steep sections and creek hopping. Difficulty: moderate	Richard Newport http://richardnewport@gmail.com Tel. 07 5332 2608 0415 477 664
July 21 - 23	Brisbane Valley Rail Trail	Friday - camp at Benarkin near old railway station Saturday - car shuffle - walk 18 km downhill to Linville on old rail trail. Sunday – car shuffle - walk Linville to Moore 7 km	Roy & Raye Cairns Tel. 07 5474 8620 Mob 0404 078 620 http://rayeroy@bigpond.com
August 26th - 29th?	Cooloola Great Walk - Brahminy Section	TBA	Liz & Marguerite
September	Day walk – local beaches?	TBA	TBA
October 28th – 30th	Wandi Waterhole	Leave from Harrys Hut at approximately 8.30 AM for 10km walk in. Camp 2 nights.	Cheryl Bean 0407 749 658 bushcherylb@hotmail.com
December 9th - 11th	River camp	Own transport required	Marguerite Wickins 0754742854 0406347949 wickins63@dodo.com.au
December 17th	Christmas Party	TBA	Marguerite Wickins 0754742854 0406347949 wickins63@dodo.com.au

N.B. - Please note the changes to some walk dates on the Cooloola Bushwalkers Program. The 2017 activity program is on the NPA website www.noosaparks.org.au and hard copies are available at the Environment Centre.

BIRD OBSERVERS' GROUP



The first field outing for this year was a wet day at the Hazel and Don Ross property at Happy Jack Ck. where we observed 56 species and dodged heavy showers. The weather was fine for May's outing to Katia Lyon's property at Duke Rd. The group recorded 33 species there, and then moved on to Eumundi Conservation Park, where we walked the Geebung circuit and recorded 45 species.

On 21st April, at Friday Forum, Dr Anna Fearnley and Dr Mike Fitzgerald gave an interesting presentation about their work with the Albert Lyrebirds. They explained their use of audio and visual equipment in the field. Anna and Mike will continue to study and document this vulnerable species, and are looking for on ground, and funding help, to continue.

Professor Darryl Jones, our next speaker, with the subject 'Clever Corvids', will be very informative and entertaining. There have been some changes to the 2017 program. The updated version is on NPA website.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding day on 14th May was again very successful thanks to Noosa Council crew, and Bob Carey. His team of 8 observers found 3 pair feeding in different locations. All the teams later met at the Sunshine Beach State High School to compare notes and experiences.

Unusual sightings for April/ May include Superb Fruit-Dove at Ferntree Creek NP Nambour, Powerful Owl at Sheepstation Creek, Pink-eared Duck at North Arm Dam, and an elusive Freckled Duck on Lake Macdonald. The birds are out there. Good luck finding them.

Valda McLean

Bird Observers' Group

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EXTENDED OUTINGS

Cullendore High Country Campground April 2017: 20 hardy NPA members travelled to the mountains of the Great Divide on the border of NSW and Queensland to experience bush camping with a difference. The objective of the Extended Outings Group is to give members the chance to extend their knowledge and understanding of the flora and fauna of natural environments that differ from Noosa's coastal strip. Cullendore High Country Campground is located on a 1390 hectare working cattle property, half of which has been set aside for bush camping. The property also has access to thousands of acres of old growth forest in the adjoining Maryland National Park and serves as a classroom for academics and nature enthusiasts studying the coexistence of farming and natural environments.

Cullendore's forests are alive with native birds and animals and has a large population of the rare and elusive Spotted-tail Quoll together with betongs, wallabies, wallaroos, kangaroos and birdlife that it shares with the Maryland National park and neighbouring cattle stations. The management objectives for the Park include allowing the forest regrowth to continue by minimising threatening processes to regrowth such as fire and cattle grazing; to develop a cooperative working relationship with Park neighbours to reduce cattle incursions into the Park and encourage the conservation of adjoining natural areas thus enhancing the ecological viability of this small park.

The Park, created in 1999 from an amalgamation of old growth forests and redundant cattle runs, forms one of the boundaries of Cullendore and being on the granite belt the park contained huge boulders many of which were covered with rock ferns. Foxes, pigs and feral cats have been recorded in the Park and neighbours have also sighted deer but the camp grounds were relatively clear of these introduced pests but more of this later. So, what was NPA Extended Outings Group doing in the high country of Northern NSW? In this case we were discovering flora and fauna that was equally at home in temperate and subtropical Australia. In addition, the property includes 700 ha of forest corridors that linked the National Park to neighbouring areas of forest to the east not unlike Noosa's greenbelt strategy.

Although there was little evidence left of aboriginal habitation, research has shown that pioneer settlement had had minimum impact on the original landscape. The Park, and its neighbours, was relatively free of significant weed infestations. This was one of the many reasons that our hosts, Stuart and Wendy Bell, purchased the old cattle property, 'Mowamba', with the object of returning much of it to its near original state. To do this they generate revenue from low impact bush camping and sustainable cattle farming sufficient to fund their objectives.

We "outies" spent the week exploring Cullendore and Maryland National Park, recording bird lists for Valda Mclean and identifying plants for the botanists, most of which were discussed around Truda's campfire every evening. On the final night, our hosts gave a very informative talk on how they had discovered Cullendore and achieved much of their management plan objectives by working cooperatively with the NSW State Government and their neighbours. One effective method used to discourage pest animals from preying on the camp grounds was to take a liberal view of dingoes as pest controllers and, as a result, we understand that foxes, cats, rabbits and piglets have become an essential part of the local dingo diet. In summary, this was a rural example of what can be achieved by good environmental planning and a lesson learned in a very pleasant location. Brian Jones is to be thanked for researching and choosing Cullendore High Country for our autumn outing. - **Mike MacDonald**

Next Outing: Planning is well underway for the second Outing which is going to be to Bunya Mountains on the **14 September to 21 September**. I have booked the accommodation and numbers will be limited. This trip we will be self-catering however all details on this trip will be forecoming in due course. I am going bush for a while so will not be able to answer any questions until I return when I will be sending out an email with all the details of the trip.

Brian Jones - Extended Outing co-ordinator
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