



## FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

**NPA Environment Centre**

**18 November 2016**

**Sharks vital to Ocean Life**



### Concerns about sharks are running high

Looking at the number of shark attacks over time can be alarming as the total number of attacks has clearly risen in recent years. However, when adjusted to take into account the growing population, the trend is much less severe in historical terms, with only a small increase since the 1980s.

#### *Grey Nurse Shark*

*Despite all the interest surrounding sharks, there are many misconceptions about these predators and the important role they play in marine communities*

Our use of the beach and ocean has also changed dramatically. There are more people in the water, in new areas, and we're using the ocean for different activities. Even if you're a surfer a shark attack is still a rare occurrence.

This week at **Friday Environment Forum**, marine ecologist, director and co-founder of **Ocean Life Education Richard Coward** will share his in-depth knowledge about sharks.

Richard says, **"They're just animals, living in their environment — we're the invaders."**

Sharks are one of the most intelligent creatures in the ocean and they are key to maintaining the seas ecological balance and our own survival as a species. In fact, the biggest threat to sharks is from humans. The animals face extinction in every part of the ocean, predominately because of overfishing.



Come along to the **Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre** at **5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** on Friday morning to learn more. **The forum commences at 10.30am.** Coffee and friendly chat from 10am.

Those interested in bird interpretation in Wallace Park should join Valda in the Environment Centre car-park at 8.30am. All are welcome.