



NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION



GET TOGETHER

Date: Sunday 10 December 2016 Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Environment Centre, Wallace Park, Noosaville

NPA members are invited to our annual Christmas gathering at the Environment Centre Breezeway to enjoy some camaraderie and Christmas cheer

Please bring a plate of festive finger food to share
(complimentary tea and coffee)



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am pleased to advise members that after decades of NPA project work, Tewantin National Park is to be increased by 2,400 hectares, more than doubling its size. This will bring to fruition NPA's long term endeavours to have all of the former Tewantin, Ringtail and Yurol State Forests perpetually protected as National Park.

NPA's long term vision of achieving a continuous regional National Park estate, by expanding and connecting up Noosa National Park, Tewantin National Park, and the Cooloola section of Great Sandy National Park, is now well within reach. It is NPA's strategic assessment that in the Noosa-Cooloola region, achieving such a linked National Park estate is the most prudent way of facilitating long term biodiversity adaptation in the face of global climate change.

The breakthrough enabling the expansion of Tewantin National Park came some twelve months ago when NPA commenced commercial-in-confidence discussions with, and obtained agreement in principle from, global forestry management company HQPlantations that for \$3.5 million, it would be willing to relinquish its long term timber harvesting rights over approximately 1500 hectares of sections of Ringtail and Yurol State Forests, granted by the Queensland Government to HQP for 99 years in 2010. NPA then set about achieving a three way partnership between itself, Noosa Council, and the Government of Queensland, based on i) each party agreeing to contribute one third towards the \$3.5 million buy-out of HQPlantations, and ii) all of the areas of forest vacated by HQP (approx. 1500 hectares), and all of the remaining sections of Ringtail and Yurol State Forests (approx 900 hectares), being transferred to National Park over a five year period.

To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by three Queensland Government agencies (Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Agriculture and Fisheries), Noosa Council, HQPlantations and Noosa Parks Association. The MoU was signed on the 18th October 2017, and the Queensland's Environment Minister publicly announced this on the 1st of November 2017. The accompanying map (separate attachment) shows the approx. 1500 hectares of HQPlantation areas in diagonally hatched pink, and the balance approx. 900 hectares of State Forest in solid pink. The HQPlantations area consists of approx. 750 ha of hardwood forests and plantations, and approx. 750 hectares of softwood plantations. All will be added to Tewantin National Park within five years, following HQP harvesting of the softwood plantations. HQP is relinquishing the right to harvest any of the hardwood plantations. Both Noosa Council and NPA have committed to funding remediation of harvested plantation areas back to biodiverse native forest.

NPA wishes to acknowledge the outstanding co-operation and commitment shown by all parties in achieving this breakthrough agreement. HQPlantations has acted as an exemplary corporate citizen and demonstrated its sustainability values under the leadership of CEO Brian Farmer. Noosa Council has played a pivotal role in facilitating detailed negotiations between all parties, under the political leadership of Tony Wellington and the professional leadership of CEO Brett de Chastel. Dedicated public servants from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (in particular Jim Reeves, Nick Weinert, Robert Hughes, and Lisa Watts), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (in particular Ben Klassen, Geoff Brittingham and Steve Price), and Agriculture and Fisheries (in particular Scott Spencer and Barry Underhill) went above and beyond the call of duty to help make this agreement possible.

NPA was able to conceive and successfully prosecute this National Park extension because it was able to commit to funding one third of the \$3.5 million buy-out of HQPlantations logging licences. This was made possible by the small army of NPA volunteers who selflessly give of their time and talents at NPA's ventures at Noosa National Park Visitor Information Centre, and Double Island Point Lightstation. Each project generates funds that are then used to leverage the perpetual protection of environmentally significant land. From NPA's perspective, its volunteers at NNP VIC and Double Island Point are genuine conservation heroes and heroines.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (continued)

NPA wishes to acknowledge and thank Dr Aila Keto and Keith Scott of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society for first prosecuting the case for the protection of all of Tewantin, Ringtail and Yurol State Forests as National Park in the 1990s; David Thomas and Rowland Hill of The Thomas Foundation, and Rich Gilmore and Andrew Ingles of The Nature Conservancy, for facilitating initial discussions between HQPlantations and NPA; and former Noosa Mayor Noel Playford for facilitating initial discussions between Queensland Government agencies and NPA.

Break out box - quotes in media release from Noosa Mayor Tony Wellington:

“The Yurol and Ringtail Koala Corridor Project will eventually provide almost 2,400 hectares of habitat for koalas and other species, connecting the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park with the Noosa hinterland.”

“This is the biggest conservation project that Noosa Shire has seen in more than 20 years. Initiated by Noosa Parks Association, this ground-breaking initiative pulls together two levels of government plus a community environment association as well as HQPlantations, a global forestry company.”

“That’s an unprecedented level of cooperation for a great environmental outcome that will continue to play out over the next half decade and more. Not only is prime koala habitat being converted to national park, but close to one and a half thousand hectares of plantation land is being restored to biodiverse native forest. “

“Costs are being shared by Council, the State Government and Noosa Parks Association, with HQPlantations showing their sustainability credentials by agreeing to surrender their plantation rights.”

“This has been made possible by Noosa Council and The Queensland government agreeing to join Noosa Parks Association in partnership to buy out the logging licences held by HQPlantations.”

Dr Michael Gloster OAM
President
Noosa Parks Association.

NOOSA NATIONAL PARK

The end of an era takes place at the NPA on 30 November 2017 when Kay Cartwright and Valerie Williams step down as project officers for the Information Hut at Noosa National Park after many, many years. In that time they have recruited, trained and supported dozens of volunteers and leave behind a legacy of enthusiastic and committed volunteering at the Park. Our thanks and good wishes for the future go out to Kay and Valerie, and we hope it will not be long before we see them both at the Hut again.

The time volunteered by all the NNP project officers and the many volunteers is generating funds for the NPA Land Acquisition Fund, which enables the Association to initiate and financially lever national park extension projects like the recently concluded agreement between NPA, Noosa Council and the Queensland Government to significantly expand Tewantin National Park. This project requires financial contributions into the future, so it is important that the new NNP project officers be supported so the successful project can continue to generate Land Fund moneys.

The committee thanks all those of you who have acted as project officers as well as each volunteer who has ever done a shift at the Information Hut. Your support is invaluable. Thanks again to those of you who already volunteer, but if you don’t, please consider giving up 4 hours, as often as you are able, to do a shift at the Information Hut. Not only will you assist the Association in funding the Land Fund you will meet other members and get to interact with national and international visitors while enjoying the magnificent view and a coffee if that is your wish. If you would like to volunteer or find out more please contact the new project officers, Mercedes do Campo, John Stainbridge and Liz Smits by email to nnp@noosaparks.org.au.

Liz Smits

FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

2017 has been a successful year for Friday Environment Forum with 36 guest speaker talks and two films. Two forums were cancelled owing to extreme weather events. Attendance has averaged more than 50 throughout the year.

A new projector was installed and used for the first time on Friday November 10, 2017. All went well and the audience appreciated the brilliant presentation under the new setup. With the ceiling mounted projector we've been able to accommodate about fifteen more people comfortably in the room and the viewing conditions are such that those in the "overflow" outside at the back can see the screen and the speaker easily under the improved conditions.

Planning for 2018 has begun and February's talks are detailed below:

Date	Topic	Speaker:
Feb 2	The role of farmers as part of the solution for climate change	Verity Morgan-Schmidt CEO of Farmers for Climate Action
Feb 9	Noosa Climate Change Adaptation Plan	Grant Hinner Noosa Council
Feb 16	'Pelagic Seabirds of the Sunshine Coast's Offshore Waters'	Greg Roberts
Feb 23	Carp update	Matt Barwick

Filming Friday Environment Forum

A 5 minute video that helps members access the Friday Forum videos can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVDAKMmHF3E>

Please remember to to 'Like' the videos (using the thumbs up symbol on each YouTube video page) and add constructive comments.

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

fridayforum@noosaparks.org.au

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 NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE

NOOSA TO BECOME A WORLD SURFING RESERVE

Noosa will become the tenth World Surfing Reserve, following a vote last week by World Surfing Reserves, a division of the US-based 'Save The Waves Coalition'.

Following a two-year campaign by local surfers since the dedication of the Noosa National Surfing Reserve in March, 2015, the WSR's 19-member Vision Council voted overwhelmingly for the Noosa submission, which was accompanied by a book and video documenting Noosa's 60-year battle to protect its coastline from pollution and over-development, and its evolution as a world-class surfing destination.

Announcing the result, Nik Strong-Cvetich, Executive Director of Save The Waves Coalition, said: "Noosa more than deserves this honour of becoming the 10th World Surfing Reserve. The combination of diverse point breaks within a protected natural area, and the importance of surfing in the cultural fabric of the town made it an outstanding candidate as a WSR."

When the Noosa World Surfing Reserve is dedicated next March, it will become the third Australian WSR, following in the footsteps of Sydney's Manly Beach (2012) and the southern Gold Coast (2015). But unlike many of its predecessors, Noosa has been selected for the decades of best practice in coastal management and protection that have resulted in its international reputation as one of surfing's natural wonders. On the same day of this announcement of the Noosa World Surfing Reserve, Punta de Lobos in Chile, an iconic surf break approved in 2013, was finally dedicated following a four-year campaign by World Surfing Reserves and its partners to buy back the coast from developers.

Said Noosa National Surfing Reserve chairperson Phil Jarratt: "While the main idea behind a World Surfing Reserve is to identify and help preserve iconic surf breaks around the world, many of the places in this small, select club have been chosen to draw attention to the underlying environmental and development threats that surround them. The classic example of this is the fight to preserve Punta de Lobos, and our joy at becoming a World Surfing Reserve today is shared with our surfing brothers in Chile.

"Our submission put forward the argument of best practice in these regards over generations of responsible management. For that we have to thank people like Dr Arthur Harrold and friends who put the first protective layers in place almost 60 years ago. Now the Noosa World Surfing Reserve has the responsibility of helping to continue that protection into future generations."

Noosa Mayor Tony Wellington, a founding member of the Noosa National Surfing Reserve committee, said: "This accreditation represents another feather in Noosa's considerable cap. It is both a tribute to Noosa's iconic status as a surfing mecca and also an acknowledgement of our modern history of pioneering environmental activism. Being a World Surfing Reserve will help maintain focus on protection of our coastline as well as care for marine biodiversity."

Tourism Noosa CEO Damien Massingham said that it was a wonderful accolade for Noosa to be recognised as a World Surfing Reserve: "We are thrilled that Noosa has become the newest World Surfing Reserve and credit must be given to the Noosa National Surfing Reserve committee for their commitment to achieving this status."

Chair of the Gold Coast World Surfing Reserve, Andrew McKinnon, said: "We're stoked that Noosa is joining Gold Coast and Manly Freshwater as the third World Surfing Reserve in Australia. A WSR gives both recognition and preservation value as a glowing example of how the community appreciates the beach and surf community."

NOOSA NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE (continued)

A WORLD SURFING RESERVE identifies, designates and preserves outstanding waves, surf zones and surrounding environments around the world, serving as a global model for preserving wave breaks and their surrounding areas by recognizing and protecting the key environmental, cultural, economic and community attributes.

WORLD CHAMPIONS TO BECOME NOOSA WSR AMBASSADORS

World champion ironwoman and paddler Jordan Mercer and former world longboard champion Josh Constable are to become the official Ambassadors for the Noosa World Surfing Reserve, it was announced today. Mercer, 23, is 6 x winner of the Molakai to Oahu Paddle Race, and the reigning world paddleboard champion following her victory at the International Surfing Association World Paddle Championships in Denmark earlier this year. Constable, a multiple Australian longboard champion, was world professional longboard champion in 2006.

Phil Jarratt



ENVIRONMENT CENTRE



Hoping to meet up with many at our Christmas Gathering at the Environment Centre Sunday 10th December. If you are unable to make it, very best wishes for Christmas, the holiday season, and a rewarding new year.

Don't forget, until holiday closing on 8 December, on sale at the Environment Centre, the beautifully illustrated "Cuddles the Koala" booklet produced by three of our members. A great Christmas gift for the kids. On behalf of Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, we are again selling 2018 Calendars full of local photography - \$10 each. Tony Wellington's excellent publication celebrating NPA's 50 years + is also available for sale.

Many thanks to all volunteers who care for our Environment Centre, particularly on Fridays at our wonderful Friday Environment Forum event which attracts bigger and bigger numbers.

The Environment Centre will be closed from Friday 8 December until Monday 29 January 2018, with Friday Environment Forum commencing Friday 2 February.

Sandra Lilley
Environment Centre Coordinator
mslilley@westnet.com.au or 0448 985 033

BIRD OBSERVERS' GROUP



Following recent good rain, birds are nesting everywhere. At Wallace Park, the resident Tawny Frogmouth is still sitting, with no sign of chicks at our end of year walk on 17th November. Several Noisy Friarbird nests have been observed, magpies and currawong have reared young, and an Olive-backed Oriole is currently building. In her presentation on nests, our October speaker, Robyn Howard, covered a variety of building styles. Some birds build no nest, where others create very elaborate 'work of art' structures. She reiterated, several times, the importance of not disturbing nesting birds for fear of them abandoning the nest – 'cold chicks die!' Michael Morcombe's field guide has an excellent section on nests.

Rain is predicted for the final outing of 2017 to Peregrine Springs. Plans for 2018 are well under way. I will get the program on to the Noosa Parks Bird Observers page, as soon as I can. Also, look there for the revised list of Noosa Shire birds, thanks to Russ Lamb, who spent considerable research time to reach that result. I encourage observers to look at eBird hotspots for lists of individual sites – and record your own sightings. It is not difficult to do.

The rare sighting of a male Australian Painted Snipe, near the drain behind Noosa's Resource Centre, has caused much excitement. He seems content to tolerate mowers, observers, and photographers there for now. It is a good time to be a bird observer. I am sure there are many more exciting 'finds' out there waiting for us. Happy Christmas to everyone. I hope you have an enjoyable holiday.

Valda McLean
Bird Observers' Group
Ph: 5476 2123 or braelochan@bigpond.com

GREENING NOOSA



The Noosa Parks Association Park on Noosa Spit is a special park that we look after. It is a public bushy area for animals, birds and people next to the shopping/resort strip of Hastings Street - rare today to find an unmanicured park so close in a resort town. Plus the NPA Park is on land which has for decades been eyed off for development and car parking. NPA formed Greening Noosa 27 years ago and we have been looking after the NPA Park ever since. Next year we will continue to look after our park. Extra hands are always made welcome.

Glen Gloster
Greening Noosa
Email: ggnoosa@westnet.com.au

BOTANY GROUP

Janet Whish-Wilson loves trees and this was quite evident in the talk she gave us entitled "Some useful Australian trees". In the Noosa area we are surrounded by trees and I'm sure we appreciate their beauty but they also have many uses that we tend to take for granted.



Linda and Robert Price visited Sri Lanka in March 2013 and of course they concentrated on the plant life as well as the human and cultural aspects. Sri Lanka lies just north of the equator and plant life is lush and tropical so we had a most interesting slide show of local and exotic plants with a running commentary from Robert.

I can't say too much about the **September** walk up Emu Mountain, as owing to the lack of rain, the wildflowers were not up to their usual standard. However, despite the dry conditions, it is still a most enjoyable walk and the summit is a good place to do a bit of whale spotting!

The month of **October** brought forth some very heavy, unseasonable rain, and this was a welcome relief after the long dry summer and winter. Our botany walk took place in Symplocos Nature Refuge, Pomona. This area of 37.6 hectares was acquired by Council in 2010 through an Environmental Levy and was added to the Symplocos Environmental Reserve, to create a reserve of 93 hectares. The forest is designated 'wet sclerophyll', which includes eucalypts and rainforest species and many of these were sprouting new growth. Plant species were so diverse that we only covered a short distance in our walk, but we intend returning there next year. The area contains some rare animals, such as the Golden-tipped bat and the masked owl, and some vulnerable plant species such as *Symplocos harroldii* – (discovered by Dr. Arthur Harrold) and the Southern Penda (*Xanthostemon oppositifolius*).

We will end the year with a visit to Peter and Liz's place at Main Camp Road, Eerwah Vale. This is a change in the programme so please don't turn up at Yaroomba!

Thank you to those who have given us talks during the year. We appreciate the time and effort in preparing for the presentations. Joan and I would like to wish you all a Happy Festive Season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Sonia MacDonald

Joan Heavey
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Botany Group
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NOOSA TRAMPERS



1st October: Trachyte and Tibrogargan Circuit via Soldier Settler Road:

A fantastic day out in many ways. The unseasonal heat of the previous days, gave way to an ideal temperature for tramping. The threatened rain, held off. 16 people attended. Despite provocation and delaying tactics, by Botanist and Geologists, together with a compass malfunction, the walk was patiently led, by our amiable Gunter.

This 13km walk started in Beerburum, on the Old Soldiers Road, before veering off for 3ks to join the traditional T/T Circuit. At Ferris Lookout, an impromptu talk on Geology was given by Bob. Instead of completing the figure of eight circuit, we returned to Beerburum by The Old North Road, now a cycle track, passing the huge, and now redundant Forestry Nursery.

Seen: a couple of orchids, Native Rosella flowers, Glass House Mt Tea Trees. Most impressive were the views of Mt's Beerwah, Tibrogargan, Tibberoowuccum, Coonowrin, Ngungun and Cooee.

5th November: Public transport to Mt Coolum NP, beach and boardwalk return to Coolum Beach:

A substitute for the planned Full Moon Dance on the summit of Mt Coolum. A very poor turn out, only 5 attended. A big thank you to Judy, who stepped in to 'recce' and led this walk at the last minute. Despite not being too well on the day, she still managed to lead the walk, albeit in a novel manner. Met at Coolum Beach, caught bus to Mt Coolum. Climbed said Mt, then accessed beach for 2km sand walk, north to Point Arkwright. Then the pleasant coastal path/boardwalk back to the start. Distance 7.5 kms, 4 hrs duration.



Wrong way Stuart!

Tony King
NPA Trampers Coordinator
Email: tkraf22@hotmail.co.uk or Ph: 54122824

SATURDAY SHORT WALKS

7th October 2017.

Noosa Trail #5. Cooran to Pomona, using public transport.

18 attended this walk, led by Stuart, in perfect, warm weather. Three walkers- from the Pinbarren and Cooran Tablelands area- were undertaking their first taste of a Trampers walk whilst a fourth 'new' walker has several Trampers walks under her belt. She has now officially joined the NPA.

This 9.5 kms covers a range of habitat as it skirts Mount Cooran, semi-rural properties and the Tuckeko National Park before heading around the base of Mt Cooroora and going downhill into Pomona. One member had some difficulty coping with the walk and required assistance to reach the Mt Cooroora Mountain Park from where she could get vehicular support. Thanks to the walk members who gave this valuable assistance. Whilst some walkers had organised their vehicles spread between Cooran and Pomona to give themselves the convenience of travelling back home the rest of the group waited for the 1pm bus to return them to Cooran and their parked cars. For some it was their first experience riding on Public Transport here or anywhere. We hope that small taste will be the catalyst to use it again!

11th November 2017.

Boreen Point:

Again 18 walkers attended the final 2017 Saturday short walk led by Stuart. Whilst overcast and breezy the weather stayed dry and pleasant. We had one new member undertaking her second walk with this group who now intends to join up with the NPA.

We met at the western entrance of the Boreen Point Sports and Recreation Ground through which we walked before heading through the Council camping ground. From here we skirted the Lake Cootharaba foreshore beside Boreen Parade taking in the panorama, stopping at the Eliza Fraser monument and adjacent viewing shelter. Excellent views of Lake Cootharaba's Eastern shore, Mt Seawah and the Cooloola Sandblow are seen from here. Following the foreshore we next stopped near Ron's jetty and the resident pelicans – always a treat to see. Many photos were taken of these magnificent birds during a morning tea break. From here we backtracked to Orchard Avenue before heading uphill into Woongar Street. Many comments made about the heavily flowering frangipani, Brunfelsia and other plants as they appear more advanced than those around Noosa. We stopped for a minute's silence at the corner of Hector St at 11am to remember the fallen from WW1, and more recent conflicts. From here we made our way to the Apollonian Hotel for early refreshment prior to enjoying good food and company as a pleasant wind-up to our year's activities.

Di Shun Wah spoke to the group and thanked Stuart and Shirley for their 3-years' Co-ordination of the Short Walk group activities, to which Stuart responded briefly. Discussions are under way with potential offers for future voluntary co-ordination of the group.

Finally, we would like to thank ALL Short Walk leaders for accepting their leadership roles and capably carrying out the planned walks during 2017. Thanks also to all walkers who made this year's walks such a success.

Stuart

COOLOOLA BUSHWALKERS



Cooloola bushwalkers

Wandi Waterhole Walk and Camp Saturday 28 October to Monday 30 October

Saturday: We were all pleased that the road in to Harry's Hut was dry and not the worse for wear following the earlier heavy rain. Nine walkers left Harry's Hut at 8.45 am on a perfect day. The 11km track in to Wandu was also very dry except for the usual small swampy patches that could be negotiated without getting wet boots. About 2.5km into the walk the group stopped for a swim in the river before the track diverted away. After regular short drink breaks and a longer break for morning tea, we all arrived at the camp site hot and eager to unfasten our packs and swim in the waterhole. It was about a 4 hour trip in through the woodlands of banksia, scribbly gum, blackout, casuarina and grass trees.

Sunday: A few drops of rain in the night, but a beautiful morning, with early dips and many more of the same as the day progressed. Fresh drinking water is available about 10 minutes away either side of the waterhole at small clear streams. This site is very special, a favourite of the group, a magical waterhole in the middle of the coastal heathland, and on this occasion no other visitors on day walks.

Monday: An early swim then all packed up and departed by 7.30am on the return trip to avoid the heat of the day. With lighter packs and no lengthy breaks we made good time back to Harry's Hut in about 3.5 hours. Along the way the group repeated the swim in the river prior to arriving back at Harry's Hut and a further swim to cool down before departing. It had been a wonderful experience of shared appreciation of the bush, our stories, food, and friendship.



Cooloola Bushwalkers Christmas get together this year will be on Gympie Terrace, Tewantin, near the Big Pelican at **11 AM on Sunday 17th December**. All are welcome (even if you haven't made any of the bush walks this year!). Please bring some food to share and if you have a small table and chairs we will be able to set them all together for lunch. Can you also write down any walks/camps you would like the Cooloola Bushwalkers to do next year and the time of year you think would be best? If you can lead any walks/camps can you please put that on the list too?

I am happy to coordinate next year but I may not be able to participate in as many walks as my daughter heads into Year 12, I have to be mindful of her schedule of learning.

Many thanks for a great year of bushwalking with the Cooloola walkers and a special thankyou to all you wonderful walk leaders

Best wishes for a safe and merry festive season

Marguerite Wickens

Cooloola Bushwalkers Coordinator

Email: wickins63@dodo.com.au

NOOSA RIVER

Prawn project: After extensive historic data research and planning, a "Milestone Report" was presented to the NBRF and partners by Professor Greg Schilleter (UQ). In brief the report sets out the process by which an "Assessment of status and options for the recovery of prawns and estuarine biodiversity in the Noosa River" will be achieved.

There are four main aspects:

1. Assessing the threats and impact of land use change on biodiversity in the Noosa River system.
2. Using citizen science to determine the size and scope of recreational fishing in the Noosa River.
3. Assessing the impact of human activities on food web dynamics in Noosa River using prawns as a sentinel species.
4. Meta-analysis and literature synthesis of available research on the impacts of fisheries and coastal development for data-poor versus data rich estuaries.

Oysters: All bureaucratic requirements have been met in relation to signage, insurance, permits etc. and it was planned for the USC to commence installation of the Oyster reefs in October. This exercise was postponed due to high winds and will now take place hopefully on the 20th of November.

Keep it in Kin: Two large scientific assessments have been completed.

1. A LIDAR Change Analysis Report has been undertaken. This basically detects how much run off silt has occurred in the catchment using satellite imagery.
2. The Noosa Waterways Assessment and Prioritization Report has just been completed. This will help in the process of assisting to prioritizing remediation efforts in the catchment.

A Ground-Truthing Field Day and Prioritization Workshop is planned for the 22nd of November. This will further sharpen focus on remediation in what is the last stage of this project.

River Management Plan: A new River Management Plan is in the final stages of development by Council. A presentation was made at FEF on the 13th of October by Jan Madden who was looking for feedback and comment.

Bryan Walsh

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COLTON COAL MINE

Noosa Parks Association are concerned about the potential environment impacts of the Colton Coal mine. In response to a presentation by the Great Sandy Strait Saviours group, the management committee has appointed a project officer, James Anderson. James will provide information regarding the proposed mine to the association's members and advise the committee regarding the status of the mine. James is currently studying Environmental Science at USC and has provided the following overview of the threat posed by the New Hope Coal Group and the development of the Colton Coal mine:

NPA project: The New Hope Group's Colton Coalmine

K'gari (Fraser Island) is the largest sand island in the world and is a site of national significance for many people and has priceless environmental value. This is why all of us should try and defend it against the effects of the Colton Coal mine. For seven years the local community groups surrounding the great Sandy Strait, along with groups from around Queensland and Australia, have been fighting The New Hope Coal Group against their proposed Colton Coal mine. Despite arguments that the small mine may be economically beneficial, there is no doubt it will leave a disastrous environmental footprint on the Sandy Straits and the water around K'gari. The battle against the Colton Coal mine has been underway for over seven years now and the fight continues.

The Colton Coal mine was approved without an Environmental Impact Statement due to its small size. The current EA permit allows the mine to release as much uncontrolled water as needed. The approval of the mine has caused controversy on all fronts due to the environmental concerns. Minister Frydenberg, who is currently the only person who can revoke the approval for the Colton Coal mine, has recently rejected a request for reconsideration.



The proposed New Hope Colton Coal mine will be built within the Susan River Catchment just two kilometres from Aldershot (see photo). The mine will have a direct effect on the Susan River, Mary River, the Great Sandy Strait Ramsar wetlands, as well as the water off K'gari. These areas are described as 'Matters of National Environmental Significance' under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999). The Colton Coal mine could be the biggest threat to K'gari's world heritage declaration and action must be taken to ensure K'gari and the Great Sandy Straits are not irreversibly damaged like so much of our beautiful country has already been.

COLTON COAL MINE (continued)

This proposed mine currently has a license as an uncontrolled action. It has been granted environmental authority from the Queensland Government, which allows it to unleash pollutants into the surrounding areas without external monitoring. The Colton Coal Mine is anticipated to release 985 million litres of untreated wastewater into the Mary River, which will take up about 6.8% of the daily flow. This may not seem like much, but within this water there will be more than nine heavy metals, which exceeds the proposed guidelines. The Colton mine owners plan to manage this discharge by relying on dilution as a method of dealing with the pollution. This will prove ineffective because the Mary River does not constantly flow and these pollutants will not flush properly, resulting in a range of environmental impacts. Without an environmental impact study and no rehabilitation plans it is very hard to believe the mine will not cause long term environmental damage.

The discharge from the Colton Coal mine will have an adverse effect on the waters flowing into the Great Sandy Straits. This will have a substantial effect on the surrounding ecosystems and their corresponding biodiversity. The mine will have a range of effects on rare species of dolphins, migrating whales, countless migratory birds, dugong habitats and countless fish and flora throughout the area. The Mary River is already home to 150 threatened species. The Mary River may not be the biggest or longest river in Australia but it is arguably one of the most important due to the concentration of biodiversity. Along with this diversification of environmental impacts, the coal is not even economically viable. The first stage of the mine will only produce 0.5MTPA and the mine will only generate 120 initial construction jobs and claims another 100 jobs will be created following completion. The mine owners will be able to apply to expand mine production without further environmental assessment taking place.

The Great Sandy Strait Saviours have been working with numerous other environmental associations against this mine. Their action plan is heavily reliant upon raising awareness, encouraging volunteers to help with stopping the mine, and disseminating information about the potential environmental damage. They meet every two weeks in Noosa and welcome new members.

To learn more you can find them on Facebook by searching for the group 'Great Sandy Strait Saviours'.

James Anderson

NPA Project Officer: Colton Coal Mine

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