



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

31 August 2018

'Bring Back the Fish'

Noosa Parks Association has spent more than 50 years focusing on the terrestrial side of our wonderful environment with considerable achievements in the protection, enhancement, and acquisition of forests and connecting protected areas.



In 2014, attention was turned to the heart of the region, the **Noosa River and lakes**. An historical examination of the system, revealed how exceptional it had been in the past, teeming with fish, prawns, oysters, mega fauna, and other aquatic life, but highlighted that the system had declined.

With the generous support of the Thomas Foundation and a contribution by the Noosa Parks Association, a work shop of eminent aquatic marine scientists both national and international

was conducted by The Nature Conservancy, to determine the most appropriate steps to remedy the decline and enhance life in the river and lakes.

Three key priorities stood out from the eleven that were identified. 1. Bring back oyster reefs (which were harvested in the past in their millions along with the structure they grow on). 2. Providing a current threat assessment and baseline change in estuarine species, and testing if species such as prawns can be used as a sentinel species to determine what changes may have occurred to benthic habitats. 3. Identifying erosion hotspots in the Kin Kin catchment, which has resulted in millions of tons of sediment being washed into Lake Cootharaba and the river system since European settlement.



These three projects are part of an overarching program called "Bring Back the Fish" aimed at enhancing biodiversity in the river and lakes.

Do not miss this opportunity on **Friday August 31** to learn more about this program with Dr. Simon Walker, Ecological Service Professionals and Bryan Walsh, NPA Hon Project Officer, both have been involved since the projects were initiated. The forum at the **Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** starts at 10.30am and ends at 12.15pm. Coffee is available from 10am. To learn about the local Wallace Park bird population meet the Interpretive Birders in the car park at 8.30am.