



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

22 November 2019

Science supports heathland conservation

Heathland at Brahminy
campsite on the
Cooloola Great Walk



Sunshine Coast heathlands are spectacular and unique. However, despite the efforts of local conservation groups, much local heathland has already been lost to development, and several types of heathlands are now classified “of concern” or “endangered”.

Hilary Pearl, this week’s guest speaker at the Noosa Parks Association Friday Environment Forum, is half way through her PhD project, which has surveyed 67 heathland sites across the

Sunshine Coast and developed a heath DNA barcode library to explore biodiversity, community composition and conservation values of local heathlands.

Using consistent genetic distance measures enables comparisons of different heath communities for species richness and “phylogenetic diversity”. The barcode library also enables identification from plant fragments for concurrent studies at USC of plant-animal relationships and pollination networks.

Join the audience on **Friday November 22** at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville, from 10.30am to 12.15pm, where Hilary will explain her fascinating project, share some of her earlier findings and discuss the implications for future conservation efforts. Morning tea will be available to buy from 10.00am.



**Investigate the birds of
Wallace Park with Valda and
the Interpretive Birding Group.
Meet at 8.30am in the car park.
All welcome**