Newsletter 2012

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care

Celebrate Green June in the **Noosa Biosphere** at the 8th Annual **Noosa Festival of Water**

Sunday 24th June 2012 ~ *10 am to 3 pm*

Showcasing some of our region's beautiful and unique assets and helping people understand how to care for the local ecology is the main aim of the Noosa Festival of Water. All the activities on offer at the Festival give an insight into the diversity of the adjacent Noosa and Great Sandy Biospheres and confirm that we live in a very special part of Australia which is worth conserving for future generations.

Taking place at the Botanic Gardens and Lake Macdonald Amphitheatre, the 2012 Festival of Water offers activities and entertainment for all age groups. Some of the special attractions at the 2012 Festival include:

- **Noosa Stand up paddle boarding** will be at the Festival for the first time, offering opportunities to learn this very popular sport on the calm waters of Lake Macdonald. NB Bring your bathers if you would like to have a go.
- **Weed Weaving workshops** with the Weaving Wizard, Kris Masters, who will teach participants to weave functional items using Cat's Claw creeper vine. Cost is $20 per person and bookings are essential as numbers are limited.
- This year's Festival will also feature demonstrations from accredited Permaculture Trainer and founder of **"Dinner Garden", Tim Lang**. Tim will be creating a fruit tree circle in the Gardens and providing information about growing healthy organic food in the back yard.
- Top entertainment in the Amphitheatre including music from award winning young local group **Caitlyn Shadbolt and Aiming High**, the **Gubbi Gubbi Dance troupe**, Rock and Roll outfit Monkey Dog, the Tapper Girls and more.
- A display and presentation from members of **Save the Fraser Island Dingo** (SFID), who are raising awareness of the plight of the Dingo on Fraser Island, which is believed to be the only refuge of pure blood dingoes in Australia. In a first for Queensland, SFID have been provided with a permit to bring two dingoes to the Festival

The Festival will also offer free boat trips across the Lake to the Hatchery and the Water Treatment Plant, free sailing and canoeing tuition, **Arting About** for kids, **Take a Kid fishing**, **Reptiles of Australia** displays, free face painting and jumping castle, and a whole lot more! **Read on for all the 2012 Festival of Water information!**

Save the Fraser Island Dingo

For the first time in Queensland, Ray Revill, Manager of the TESS (Training and Employment Support Service) Sanctuary in Maryborough has been given permission to have two dingoes on display at the Noosa Festival of Water. By introducing people to Ray's gentle dingoes, the Save the Fraser Island Dingo group aims to educate people and help remove the fear that has been perpetrated about these interesting animals.

Save the Fraser Island Dingo (SFID) and the National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program have been working tirelessly with their volunteers, who have a passion to save the dingoes on Fraser Island from extinction. Most locals and Australians know that Fraser Island is home to these unique animals. However, most people are not aware that the Fraser Island dingo is the last of a pure strain of Australian dingo and is considered to be at high risk of extinction in the wild where their numbers have declined dangerously. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Fraser Island dingoes have gone from being 'Lower risk/Least concern' to 'Vulnerable', and are now on the Red List of Threatened Species.

Healthy dingoes are attractive creatures which were revered by aboriginals as a protector spirit animal and much loved and respected by many. By nature dingoes are gregarious, affectionate and playful. Descending from the Asian wolf, it has been proven that they have been around in Australia for over 18,000 years.

SFID are encouraging people to visit their display at the Noosa Festival of Water, where there will be books, pamphlets and wonderful photos to show and give out, as well as the opportunity to see live dingoes.

Image top left courtesy of Nicole Roberts and below courtesy of Luke Barrowcliffe

NICA at the Water Festival

Come and visit our stall at the Festival of Water, and we will be happy to discuss NICA's projects and volunteering opportunities. We have 3 publications for sale; 'Noosa's Native Plants', 'Grasses of the Noosa Biosphere' and just released 'Fussy Glossies' children's book.

About Us - As a not-for-profit, natural resource management organisation, we work with our community to protect the natural environment and achieve a sustainable future for everyone.

Our Mission is to foster responsible land and water management in the Noosa River Catchment, resulting in a clean and healthy river system which benefits the whole community.

Our Projects reflect the aims of the Noosa River Catchment Management Strategy, which was developed with input from 22 sectors of the Noosa community to manage the health of the Noosa River catchment. Current projects include Eco Flicks, Noosa Native Plants book and website and Mangrove and Seagrass monitoring.

Our Members work cooperatively towards a sustainable catchment, assist NICA project officers as volunteers, fill executive positions within the organisation and receive regular activity updates

Noosa Integrated Catchment Assn. Inc.

We work closely with a number of organisations including Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Biosphere Limited, SEQ Catchments and community groups.

Join us - It's free to join NICA; you will receive our Newsletters and information on local environmental events. Contact us on 5449 9650 or go to our website www.noosariver.com.au for further information.

Dinner Garden demo at the Noosa Festival of Water

Located in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, *Dinner Garden* offers learning opportunities for people interested in sustainability through the development of vegetable gardens, orchards, food forests, native gardens, cabinet timber plantings and natural area restoration. *Dinner Garden* founder Tim Lang shares his extensive experience whilst working alongside people in their own gardens, educating and supporting them to grow healthy, organic food using locally available resources whilst limiting expensive inputs.

Tim Lang at the Dinner Garden training centre in Cooran with veggies in the foreground and grey water recycling area behind.

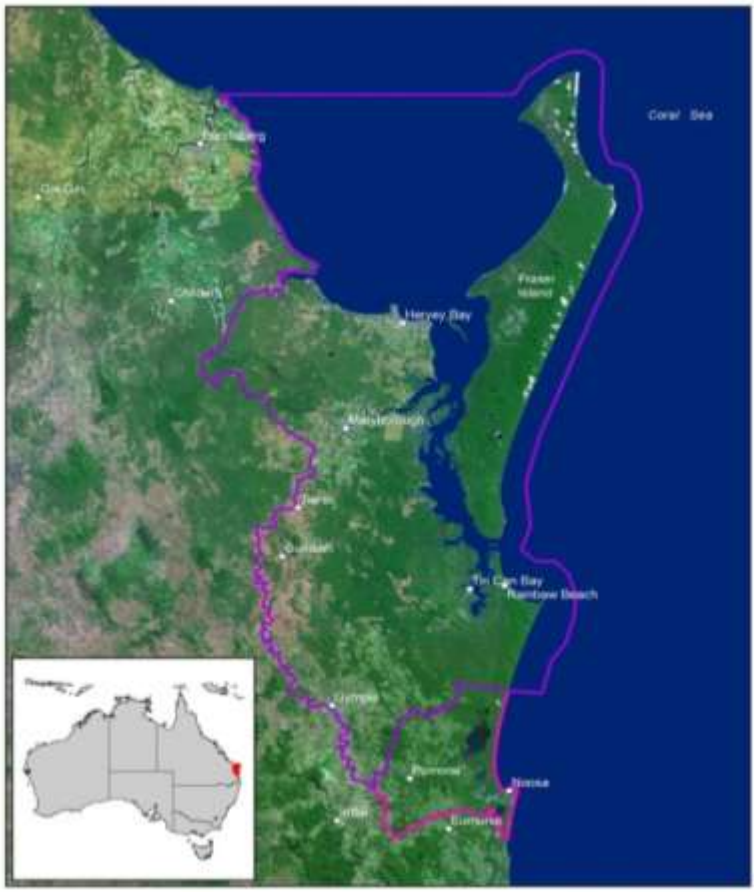
As principal gardener at *Dinner Garden*, **Tim is transforming the yard around a semi-urban Queenslander to include garden beds with veggies and herbs, bush foods, grey water recycling, training areas, chook pen, and much more**; all of which helps to demonstrate the concepts Tim is promoting. A nationally accredited Permaculture Trainer, Tim has worked for over two decades in permaculture, horticulture, land management, landscaping and community development. Taking his design cues from nature's ecological processes and patterns, Tim empowers people to design, cultivate and maintain their own beautiful, functional and abundant gardens and landscapes. Tim will be establishing a working fruit tree circle at the Noosa Festival of Water starting at 10.45 am then hourly until 1.45 pm. If you would like help creating your own Dinner Garden, **speak to Tim at the Festival or give him a call on 0429 631 900, send an email to timcityfarm@gmail.com or visit www.dinnergarden.tumblr.com**

The Sunshine Coast Camphor Laurel Timber Initiative

When the Cooroy Mill closed, Stan Ryan and Col Gunson took a proposal to the Lower Mill Task Force and Sunshine Coast Council. All parties were interested in having a timber related industry in Cooroy, as opposed to general wood working. The idea was to have a Community venture run and operated by volunteers.

The proposal was to get Camphor Laurel, which is a Class 3 declared weed in Queensland, and make it into value added items by milling the timber into suitable lengths to produce a large assortment of goods including tables, cutting boards, roll holders, bowls, spatulas and any other useful items. The group has now been operating for about 6 years and currently has 35 members who donate their time making and or learning to make items for sale.

A wide range of camphor laurel products can be seen at the library and the shop at our building located on the corner of the lower mill site in Cooroy. **There will also be a selection of items for sale at our display at the Noosa Festival of Water**. We are always looking for new members, experienced or beginner, to take part in this worthwhile cause. So **if you are looking for something to do any morning Mon-Fri, 8.00 am to noon, come down to the Shed on the corner of Lower Mill Rd (opposite ATV Solutions), or contact Stan Ryan on Mobile: 0428 384 012.**



The Great Sandy Biosphere – *A Unique Place to Keep Special for Future Generations*

Designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program in 2009, the Great Sandy Biosphere region includes World Heritage listed Fraser Island, the Ramsar listed Great Sandy Strait and Cooloola Coast region.

The Great Sandy Biosphere borders the Noosa Biosphere in the only example of adjoining Biospheres out of 580 worldwide and has three main functions.

- **Conservation -** Promoting and contributing to the protection of landscapes and habitats within the region
- **Sustainable Economic development** Ensuring that economic development is socially responsible and ecologically sustainable
- **Knowledge and Education** – Adding to a global knowledge base through research and education into sustainable best practice

The Great Sandy Biosphere and its association with UNESCO provide an international stage for highlighting sustainable actions within the region. It has been integral in attracting funding for projects and the creation of partnerships with leading world wide environmental organisations such as Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

The key to the Great Sandy Biosphere designation is in recognising the human component within our region and to mitigating negative impacts of human populations on a region's environment. Ensuring that the way people work, live and play is sustainable, both in terms of protecting a region's natural assets and in the way economic and social development is planned and executed, are important ideas in guaranteeing our way of life for future generations.

Conservation principles and economic development are not mutually exclusive and can operate in a sustainable and coordinated way. Providing guidance and empowerment for people to progress sustainable themes in terms of the use, protection and enhancement of our region's natural resources is the overarching principle of the Great Sandy Biosphere. For more information, please visit www.greatsandybiosphere.org

THE FOREST STAR INC.
BUILDING A COMMUNITY

The Forest Star Inc. is a monthly newsletter that commenced life as a 4 page publication in an effort to foster community spirit. Today, 5 years later, it is a 10 page newsletter that deals with issues that are specific to the area around Lake Macdonald. It is incorporated as a Not for Profit Association and therefore owned by the whole community, and is for everyone to contribute to in the form of articles about anything of interest that pertains to our area.

The Forest Star also disseminates information about significant issues that may impact on the community which emanate from the 3 levels of government. Advertising revenue covers the cost of printing, the major and only expense, as the rest of **the newsletter is put together entirely by volunteers**, including delivering it to 210 letterboxes locally. Forest Star advertisers say they receive a lot of enquiries from their advertisements in the newsletter and the advertising rates are very reasonable. Copies of the newsletter can also be emailed. For more information, contact Jennifer Saddler on 5442 5585 or email theforeststar@yahoo.com.au

Land for Wildlife on the Sunshine Coast

Land for Wildlife is a free, voluntary conservation program that supports participants in protecting, enhancing and rehabilitating native flora and fauna on their property.

The Land for Wildlife program offers free land management advice, workshops, field days, regular newsletters and opportunities to meet other like-minded landholders.

Benefits and assistance to Land for Wildlife participants include:

- free onsite land management advice tailored to your property;
- property revisits and ongoing property-specific advice;
- free workshops and field days;
- access to technical advice and resources, including environment grants and other incentives
- opportunities to network with like-minded landholders ;
- free Land for Wildlife sign for registered properties acknowledging the commitment made to nature conservation.

For more information, please **contact your local Council Conservation Partnerships Officer on (07) 5475 7272.**

Birding around Lake Macdonald – Help needed!

The view from the Jabiru Bird Hide

Water birds generally seem to have dispersed around the countryside with all the rain we have had lately. From my fleeting glimpses, Lake Macdonald is no exception to the rule, having few species visible. Surveying an area, in good times and bad, is an interesting exercise. There may be bird observers who live around or near the dam who would like to survey the area. Any survey would be appreciated although the following three areas are the usual sites; Grange Road to the bird hide, the gardens off Lake Macdonald Drive and the playground area to the spillway.

The date, time, species and number need to be recorded, preferably once a month, with mornings the best time of day. The results of each survey are passed on to Faunawatch where they are entered into their database. Who is up for the challenge? It can be an extremely enjoyable and rewarding exercise. Interested people can phone or email me 07 5476 2123 or braelochen@bigpond.com. *Valda McLean*

Gerry Cook Hatchery update

The Mary River Cod is a top order aquatic predator and one of a suite of threatened species responsible for stopping the Traveston Dam. Image courtesy of Gunther Schmida

The breeding program for the endangered Mary River Cod will continue at the Gerry Cook Hatchery at Lake Macdonald this year. The Hatchery will be open for self guided tours during the Noosa Festival of Water, although most of the broodstock will be in the outdoor ponds where it is hoped they will spawn naturally.

Visitors to the Hatchery will be able to **watch a DVD about the life cycle and habitat requirements for Mary River Cod** which was recently produced by Luke Barrowcliffe of Goorie Vision with support from Sunshine Coast Council.

Since 1998 the hatchery has produced over half a million fingerlings which have been released into the Mary River and its tributaries, and into impoundments in south east Queensland.

Female Tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus*

Yabba Creek threatened by Tilapia – the cane toad of our waterways

The recent discovery of a Tilapia in Yabba Creek near Imbil has many people concerned about the imminent danger this pest fish, often referred to as the cane toad of our waterways, may be placing on the Mary River system and our unique fish species. An angler recently handed in a single Tilapia caught in the Borumba Dam plunge pool.

Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), also known as the Mozambique mouth-brooder, can quickly dominate a water body, outcompeting native fish for habitat and food. Its feeding and nesting habits are also known to degrade water quality. Tilapia reproduce year round, and can hold eggs and larvae in the mouth, which can then survive even after the fish has been killed. They are deep-bodied with a thin profile, have long pointed fins and are usually dark grey, but can be silver with 2-5 dark blotches/spots on the side. However the real key to spotting one is the single long continuous dorsal fin.

Once established in a flowing river or creek, Tilapia are almost impossible to eradicate. This fish is declared noxious in Queensland. It is unlawful to possess noxious fish alive or dead or to use them as bait. Penalties of up to $200,000 apply. Tilapia are mainly spread by people moving them between waterways. If you catch one, do not release it. Instead kill it humanely and dispose of it away from the water body. **The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) is urging everyone to be on the lookout for these pests, especially those fishing or enjoying the waters of Borumba Dam and Yabba Creek.** Report any sightings or catches of pest fish to the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766 or the 24-hour Fishwatch hotline on **1800 017 166**.

Learn to weave with weeds

Renown Sunshine Coast **fibre artist, Kris Martin** will be at the 2012 Noosa Festival of Water to teach the art of weaving using environmental weeds such as the Cat's Claw Creeper vine. Kris is a master of the art of weaving, having spent more than 20 years fine tuning his skills and producing an amazing array of woven artworks using environmental weeds and recycled materials wherever possible in his creations. Kris's use of Cat's Claw vine as a weaving material not only produces durable long lasting artworks and basketry, but also helps to educate people about the very serious threat that Cat's Claw poses to our local ecology. A native of central and southern America, Cat's Claw is a perennial vine which is well suited to our local climate. As well as carpeting the ground preventing regeneration of native species, it also climbs up into trees eventually smothering and killing canopy vegetation. Kris encourages people to harvest Cat's Claw for use in weaving projects. Cost of the workshop is $20 per person which includes all materials. Call 07 5482 4766 to book.

Catch the courtesy bus to the Festival of Water

TravelSmart Sunshine Coast is an initiative of the Sunshine Coast Council that promotes the benefits of sustainable transport including walking, cycling, scooters, public transport, and carpooling. TravelSmart encourages residents and visitors to change a few of their weekly solo car journeys to sustainable forms of transport to have a significant positive impact on their health, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

TravelSmart are supporting the Noosa Festival of Water by providing a Carbon Smart bus to the Festival from Opal St Cooroy. The bus connects with Sunbus Service 631 which departs Noosa Junction at 10.20 am arriving Cooroy at 10.50 am. The return service leaves the Festival at 2.45 pm to connect with the 3.15 pm Sunbus back to Noosa. There will also be a smaller courtesy bus operating from the parking areas along Lake Macdonald Drive.

Noosa Festival of Water 2012 – Activities listing and program

On the Lake

Free boat trips across Lake Macdonald to tour the **Noosa Cod Hatchery** and **Noosa Water Treatment Plant**

Free **Kids' Fishing Clinic** with Volunteers from the Lake Borumba Fishing Stocking Association. All gear supplied

Noosa Stand Up Paddle (SUP) Lake Mac is the perfect location to learn to SUP. Bring your boardies/bathers and towel

Queensland Canoeing Qualified instructors will teach you to paddle a canoe

Take a Kid Sailing with the experts from Noosa Yacht Club.

Noosa Boat Club – rowing demos and club info

Enter the draw to win $450 of interior coatings from local multi - award winning company ROCKCOTE

In the Amphitheatre

10.00am	**Noosa Pipe Band**
10.20 am	**The Tapper Girls** –acoustic/soft rock and pop
11.00 am	**Official opening** with Sunshine Coast Cr Tony Wellington
11.05 am	Welcome to Country with the **Gubbi Gubbi dance troupe**
11.35 am	**Ray Reville with Didge** from Save the Fraser Island Dingo
11.45 am	**Caitlyn Shadbolt & Aiming High** – award winning up and coming country rockers
12.30 pm	Martin Fingland - **Geckoes Wildlife**. Meet the friendly natives
1.20 pm	**Monkey Dog** rock and roll
2.00 pm	Draw for the **Winner of the RockCote Voucher**
2.05 pm	**Blue Monday** - modern music outfit from Brisvegas
2.50 pm	Close

In the Gardens

Reptile Awareness displays

10.15 am then hourly to 2.15pm

Dinner Garden demo – Learn to grow your own fruit, veges and herbs with permaculture trainer Tim Lang

10.45 am then hourly to 1.45 pm.

Weed Weaving workshops with the weaving wizard Kris Martin - **10 am and 1 pm**. Bookings essential $20 per person includes materials. Phone 5482 4766 to book

Arting About children's art activities in the big marquee on the biosphere mural with Lyn McCrea

Free trees from Landcare for Noosa Biosphere residents with a rate notice

Mary River Catchment Committee – Free water testing. Bring a 500 ml sample of your bore, creek or dam water for water quality testing

Sales & community displays including the **Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network**, Save the Fraser Island Dingo, Land for Wildlife, Wilvos & Wildcare, **Noosa & Great Sandy Biospheres**, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Kin Kin Naturals, Beyond Zero Emissions, NICA, and more

Lions van, Tapas, Nutrifruit, Mr Whippy, German Sausages, Coffee Xpress, Gilles Laborie, Spanish Donuts

Where: Lake Macdonald Drive, Cooroy. **Free CarbonSmart bus** from Opal St Cooroy courtesy of TravelSmart Sunshine Coast connects with Sunbus Service 631 departing Noosa Junction at 10.20 am arriving Cooroy 10.50 am. Leaves the Festival at 2.45 pm to connect with the 3.15 pm Sunbus back to Noosa.

Courtesy bus also operating from parking areas along Lake Macdonald Drive.

Wheelchair accessible

For more information and **to book for the Weaving Workshops**, contact the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group on

07 5482 4766, send an email to lakemacgroup@ozwide.net.au, get Festival info on Facebook at www.facebook.com/noosafestivalofwater or visit www.mrccc.org.au

The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group appreciates the support of the following organisations who support the Noosa Festival of Water including:

Sunshine Coast Regional Council, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Noosa Biosphere Ltd, the Great Sandy Biosphere, Noosa Landcare, TravelSmart Sunshine Coast, Rockcote, the Noosa & District Hatchery Association, the Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association, Arting About, Noosa Pipe Band, Cooroy IGA, Cooroy SES, the Noosa Water Treatment Plant, the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, the Noosa Boat Club, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Noosa Yacht Club, Noosa Bat Rescue, Wilvos, the Mary Valley Wrigglers, Sunshine Coast Wildlife Preservation Society, the Sunshine Coast Camphor Laurel timber initiative, the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network, the staff at the Noosa Botanic Gardens and Council's Bushland crew!

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group
c/o PO Box 1027,
Gympie, 4570

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group Newsletter 2012

Noosa Festival of Water – Sunday 24th June 2012 10 am to 3 pm

View a colour copy of the Lake Mac newsletter online at www.mrccc.org.au