

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group

Celebrate Green June in the Noosa Biosphere

at the 7th Annual Noosa Festival of Water

~~ Sunday 26th June 2011 ~ 10 am to 3 pm~~

Its Festival time again and this year promises to be the biggest and best Festival yet. The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group hosts this event each year during Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Green June to showcase our unique local environment, improve community awareness about our local ecological attributes and provide rural and urban landholders with information and avenues for assistance with ecological repair and sustainability.

The Noosa Festival of Water has an impressive list of supporters who share these aims, and collectively contribute many hundreds of volunteer hours to the success of the Festival each year. You will be able to meet many of them on Sunday 26th at the Festival.

New to 2011 - In the Amphitheatre this year you can enjoy watching **top local Chef Dale Chapman** prepare and cook traditional **bush tucker**. Not only is Dale a widely travelled professional chef, she is also the creator of the "The Dilly Bag – Bush Tucker products and learning programs". Dale's company provides a national and international outlet for bush tucker products as well as the opportunity to pass on her vast knowledge to others. At the Festival, Dale will talk about the foods she is using as well as traditional cooking techniques. There will be samples to taste, copies of the recipes and sales of bush tucker available at the Dilly Bag display.

On the self sufficiency front, we welcome **Veggie Village** to the Festival. This highly successful local group boasts a community garden at Di Hurst oval in Peregian where fruit and veggies are grown in community and individual patches using permaculture techniques. Veggie Village has multiple aims targeting environmental sustainability, social equity, cultural diversity and community participation through growing fruit and vegetables in a friendly and fun environment. Talk to them about your own back yard veggie garden!

We also welcome the **Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network** to the Festival. Over the last 20+ years, a collaboration of community and government organisations has contributed countless hours to ensure the survival of the vulnerable Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (RBB) and encourage rehabilitation of its habitat which previously extended north to the mouth of the Mary River near Hervey Bay. This multi-faceted program has involved research, surveys and habitat restoration including mass plantings of the butterfly's host vine, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*.

(cont'd Page 7).



Top: Dale Chapman (image courtesy of Qld Tourism)
Centre: MRCCC Water Testing
Bottom: Martin Fingland





Mornings on Lake Macdonald have been glorious recently. Prior to sunrise the planets of Jupiter, Mars, Venus and the infrequently seen Mercury have been visible in the east north east, and after sunrise the hugely varied bird life of the area comes to life. It is quite a distraction from the rowing activities of the Noosa Boat Club to watch the Sea Eagles, Black Cockatoos, Black Swans, Magpie Geese and many others in the early morning.



The Noosa Boat Club's 1st eight

Despite the distractions rowing on the lake is growing stronger and the club has expanded in the last twelve months. The most recent addition to our fleet is an eight which has added a totally new dimension to our activities, as we can now teach new members to row "sweep" oar as well as scull. During the year a number of new members have learned to row, and some of those competed in their first regatta at the Queensland Masters Rowing Championships held in April on Coomera Lake. The club won a number of medals, but most importantly the members who attended had a great weekend, and those who had not competed before found out just how much fun a regatta can be.

Members of the club vary from highly competitive, to rowers who just want some means of keeping fit in an enjoyable manner. The club

caters for all levels and runs regular learn to row courses for new members. There is no pressure to compete for those who are not that way inclined, but for those who do wish to do so every support is given.

Members congregate at the Fish Hatchery on Collwood Road around sunrise so that people who spend a normal working day can row before that starts. It also allows rowers to take advantage of the lake at its' best, before the wind starts to ruffle the surface. Anyone interested in learning to row should contact the club Captain, Linda Grams, on 0402484614, or President Bob Upham on 54702345 or talk to us at the Noosa Festival of Water.



The Eastern Brown Snake – one of the world's most venomous snakes – is not always brown!

Reptile Awareness Displays of Australia

Allan Burnett conducts a very informative and educational awareness program to help save lives by giving information such as techniques and tips on how to avoid snake bites, the characteristics and behaviours of reptiles and most importantly the latest first aid treatment in relation to snake bites.

An Ambulance Paramedic for the past 20 years Allan Burnett made the change to save lives through educational awareness in a particular subject that most people fear and often what we don't understand we do fear.

Allan's objective is to save not only humans but also the poorly understood snake. For more information, watch the presentation at the Noosa Festival of Water, call Allan on 0427 667 903 or visit the website at www.radoa.com

Looking after Noosa's water

The Water Grid is once again proud to be a part of the Noosa Festival of Water in 2011. This year free tours of the local Noosa Water Treatment plant will be available. Visitors will learn more about the water treatment process and witness firsthand the stages that our drinking water goes through to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable water supply.

As part of the Water Grid, the award winning* Noosa Water Treatment Plant has significantly improved the region's drinking water quality, through the removal of frequent taste and odour issues, by adding an advanced treatment stage of ozone dosing and biological activated carbon (BAC) filtration.

The plant is the first large scale application of the ozone/BAC water treatment process in Australia and has the capacity to treat 45 million litres of drinking water each day.

It continually produces water of a significantly higher standard than what is specified in the requirements of the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004*, a set of best practice guidelines developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council. These guidelines provide a framework for best practice management of drinking water supplies.

Every month across the Water Grid, over 18,500 laboratory tests are undertaken to ensure our drinking water supplies are safe. In addition, daily online water quality tests are conducted across the entire region. This comprehensive testing program makes sure that your water is safe from catchment to tap.

Information about the quality of bulk water supplies in South East Queensland can be found in the *Customer Confidence Report (Bulk Water)* available on the SEQ Water Grid Manager's website – www.seqwgm.com.au

Seqwater, as part of the Water Grid, manages 46 water treatment plants along with 25 dams and 47 weirs that catch, store and treat drinking water across South East Queensland, helping to deliver quality drinking throughout the region.

Seqwater is also responsible for a range of new water infrastructure projects and initiatives, including a water treatment plant on Ewen Maddock Dam on the Sunshine Coast, a water treatment plant at Wyaralong near Beaudesert, and the fluoridation of South East Queensland's drinking water supply.

** Engineering excellence award, Institute of Engineers - Queensland division: Noosa Water Treatment Plant*



Right - Images from top:

- *Recreation Queensland teaches Festival patrons to paddle a canoe*
- *Festival visitors enjoy the free boat trips across Lake Macdonald to the hatchery and water treatment plant*
- *Seqwater's display at the 2010 Noosa Festival of Water*

Land for Wildlife on the Sunshine Coast

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program run by Sunshine Coast Council that encourages and assists rural landholders with a minimum of one hectare of bushland on their property to provide habitat for wildlife.

The program is free. Whether you manage a large farm or small bush block, Land for Wildlife can offer you advice and assistance on:

- local plants, wildlife, threatened species, and ecosystems
- weed control and feral animal management
- revegetation and habitat restoration
- incentives available to help private landholders create, improve and protect wildlife habitat
- integrating wildlife conservation with other land management activities.

In addition to individualised property advice, Land for Wildlife also offers free workshops, field days, regular newsletters and opportunities to meet other like-minded landholders.

A Land for Wildlife sign is provided free of charge to registered landholders to acknowledge their efforts in and commitment to wildlife conservation. For more information contact a Council Conservation Partnership Officer on 5475 7272.

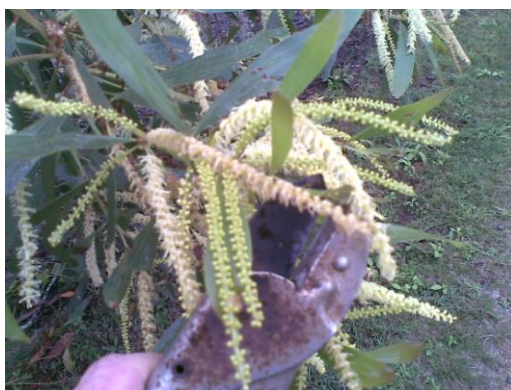


What is a Biosphere Reserve?

A biosphere reserve is an international conservation designation given by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) under its Programme on Man and the Biosphere.

Biosphere reserves are sites that demonstrate innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. They share their experience and ideas regionally, nationally and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. There are 507 sites worldwide in 102 countries. Biosphere Reserves go beyond confined protected areas, and include zones where sustainable economic development is fostered via partnerships that include local people.

Biosphere Reserves are about developing quality economies based on local community action and entrepreneurship, sound science, public-private sector partnerships and networking. Biosphere reserves also provide learning sites to experiment with and showcase various approaches to sustainable development that are culturally relevant to local communities. The Noosa Biosphere Reserve is the first in Queensland. For more information, visit the Biosphere display at the Noosa Festival of Water, check out the website at www.noosabiosphere.org.au or come to the Biosphere Day at Noosa Woods on the 18th September!



'Acacia' didn't Notice

What a wet year it has been and all the plants have grown vigorously. Lately I've been noticing the wattles, such as Prickly Moses (*Acacia hubbardiana*) which occurs mainly in the coastal areas and Black Wattle (*Acacia leiocalyx*) which occurs all over the Sunshine Coast, flowering profusely with the striking contrast of green and gold.

I love wattles! They are the scabs of the earth, which may not sound the most flattering but they are awesome at reclaiming damaged land. They provide a sheltering layer for emergent, more fragile plants and are good at extracting nitrogen from the atmosphere and fixing it in the ground.

There are around 960 acacia species in Australia. Most acacias have an adaptation to true leaves called phyllodes. Phyllodes are much more efficient at retaining water. True leaves are lost when young and sometimes come back in a particularly good season. This group of versatile beauties has numerous cultural and medicinal uses going back many thousands of years and don't forget, it is our national emblem. Go green and gold! *Ered Fox, Sunshine Coast Regional Council*

Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan

The first phase of the Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan is drawing to a close as the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee prepares a preliminary draft of the framework that will be handed over to the Federal Environment Department in early July.

The plan is the first of its kind in Australia to take a river based approach to a recovery plan under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. It has provided the opportunity to take a holistic approach to identifying the threats to key species such as Mary River Cod, Lungfish, Mary River turtle and Giant Barred Frog rather than considering the individual species in isolation from each other. Top priority actions which have benefits to these and others species are currently being identified by the plan's technical advisory group and recovery team.

Feedback from stakeholders has also reiterated the fact that there is a strong desire within the Mary River catchment to improve the health of the river and the status of species through ongoing improvement in management practices and increasing the awareness and sense of responsibility within the community for the internationally significant biodiversity that the Mary River supports.

The next phase of the recovery plan development involves completion of a final draft by the Federal Government. The draft will then go out for public comment early next year. Please contact the project officer for the plan, Dr Tanzi Smith on 07 5482 4596 or email mrcctanzi@ozwide.net.au to find out more or provide input to the plan.



Defeat Lantana with a Splatter Gun

If you live on rural land, chances are you've spent time battling Lantana, which is a Class 3 declared weed and a Weed of National Significance. This introduced South American plant now infests more than 5 million hectares throughout coastal and sub-coastal areas of eastern Australia from North Queensland to southern NSW. Lantana spreads quickly, forming dense impenetrable clumps which smother native vegetation, reduce the viability of grazing land and threaten biodiversity.

The Splatter Gun is one of the newest weapons in the arsenal of Lantana control techniques. This very effective tool allows you to control lantana in difficult to access areas whilst minimising damage to trees, shrubs and grasses.

When used on lantana foliage, the gas powered Splatter Gun distributes a low volume, large droplet and high concentration application of herbicide. The "gun" is easily portable and useful in difficult to access areas. The Splatter Gun technique is also beneficial as it limits off target damage to grasses, legumes and native plants thanks to increased accuracy and decreased spray drift.

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) has purchased a splatter gun to assist landholders wanting to control lantana on their properties. Over the last 18 months the Splatter Gun has been loaned to over 20 landholders, and the feedback has been fantastic. Landholders have reported that the portability of the Splatter Gun has allowed them to get into lantana infestations they had not been able to treat using other spraying methods. Some landholders have also used the Splatter Gun to great effect in controlling large lantana bushes in difficult to access pasture land.

If you think the Splatter Gun could help you get on top of your lantana problem and would like to borrow one of the MRCCC kits please contact Dale Watson on 07 5482 4766. In conjunction with the loan of the Splatter Gun, the MRCCC is offering landholders the opportunity to develop a lantana management plan for their property. Landholders who have already completed these plans agree that the plan has given them a much clearer and targeted view of their weed control activities.



*The endangered Mary River Cod, a top order predator of the Mary Catchment
Photo courtesy of Gunther Schmida*



“Shakin’ it for the Dugongs Competition” - Winners announced at the Noosa Festival of Water!

Dugongs are the canaries of our catchment – the health of their populations tells us about the health of our rivers.

By Shakin’ it to the groovy Dugong Rock song, school kids, line dancers, catchment groups, government staff, zumba dancers, water and sustainability professionals and other members of the community have all helped draw attention to the interconnection of the rivers, the seagrass and the dugongs.

You can watch everyone Shakin’ it for the Dugongs on YouTube – search for Dugong Rock and sit back and enjoy the creative and entertaining entries.

Prizes in the Mary Catchment include \$500 cash donated by the International Water Centre, a \$130 voucher for kayak or mountain bike hire donated by Ride on Mary www.imbilkayakandbike.com/, a framed original image from Peter Meyer photography www.petermeyerphotography.com/, and a whale watching trip for two donated by Freedom Whale watching in Hervey Bay www.freedomwhalewatch.com.au/.

The competition winners will be announced just after 2pm at the Festival of Water, featuring Doug the Dugong!

Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to submit an entry. The Dugongs and all their cousins thank you. Keep your eye out for a compilation of all the entries. The link will be posted on the MRCCC’s website at www.mrccc.org.au.



The Blue Banded Bee
(image courtesy of Dianne Green)

Valley Bees

Focusing on the diversity of pollinators.

This is the Blue-Banded Bee (*Amegilla*), with its bands of metallic blue fur across its black abdomen - a solitary native bee which builds its nest in a shallow burrow in clay soil or in mudbricks. The Blue Banded is one of the few native species that can perform a special type of pollination called 'buzz pollination'. Some flowers hide their pollen inside tiny capsules. A blue banded bee grasps a flower and shivers her flight muscles, causing the pollen to shoot out of the capsule. She then collects the pollen for her nest and carries it from flower to flower, pollinating the flowers. Quite a few of our

native Australian flowers require buzz pollination e.g. Hibbertia and Senna, as well as food crops such as tomatoes and chillies. Want to know more? Good, because that's what Valley Bees is all about!

The commitment of Valley Bees is to nurture and maintain the population of bees in the local environment, as all are needed to pollinate the extensive diversity in native flora, and native and introduced food plants. To achieve this balance, a network is necessary to support the individuals and groups who want honey bees, and/or native social bees, and/or native solitary bees in their area (there are over 1500 bees native to Australia!) This commits us to be aware of management strategies to support the bees, and to create an environment conducive to their on-going sustainability.

Some of the threats to the sustainable maintenance of bees are the damage caused by introduced pests and diseases, and the reduction of habitat, resource loss and introduced flora.

Valley Bees is a community-centered group which supports and coordinates the protection and management of bees to benefit the environment and horticultural industries in all their diverse roles. We are calling together people who are concerned with the need to conserve all bees : for the health of our environment and on-going food supply.

It is essential that we provide habitat and other environmental requirements to ensure that sufficient numbers of pollinators are present in a healthy system. The system of food production developed by humans has necessitated the provision of large numbers of pollinators in concentrated areas of broad acreage.

Valley Bees has a commitment to these philosophies by focusing on the nurturing of the Australian native bee populations in balance with the management of the honey bee. We hold monthly meetings, regular field days and demonstrations, share information, expertise and equipment, supports those who want to manage small numbers of bees on their properties, and embrace a collective wisdom of enthusiasts and members of the community alike.

See all you wanna-bees at the Noosa Festival of Water! Valley Bees - glenbo@live.com.au

For more information on Valley Bees activities, visit www.mrccc.org.au and follow the links.

War on Aquatic Weeds Forum

The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group has received a Community Action Grant from the Caring for our Country program funded by the Federal Government to hold a forum about the prevention and management of aquatic weeds. The forum is on the 24th of June, 2011 at the Australis Noosa Lakes Convention and Exhibition Centre, Noosaville.

Over 90 people passionate about conserving the environment and preventing the destruction caused by weeds have confirmed their attendance, including representatives of councils from the NSW border to Gladstone and beyond. The Lake Mac Group has rounded up top weed experts from around the country to share their knowledge and research as well as help identify and differentiate between weeds and natives.



Phil Moran with aquatic plant at Lake Macdonald

The Noosa Biosphere region has a lot of problematic aquatic weeds which have infiltrated from South America. They thrive here because of the similar sub-tropical climate. Forums like this one help to overcome some of these problems by improving information about these species, and treatment methods including herbicide updates, physical removal and biological control option. Guest Speakers include local aquatic weed guru Phil Moran, who believes that early detection is one of the best techniques for preventing and managing aquatic weeds.



Noosa Festival of Water 2011continued from Page 1

Martin Fingland - Geckoes Wildlife is back with a presentation in the Amphitheatre where he will introduce you to some of our native fauna. Martin will also have more native species on display in the Botanic Gardens throughout the day. Also new to the Festival is the **Reptile Awareness Display** featuring Allan Burnett and a host of slippery customers.

The **free boats** will take you across the Lake to Mary River Cod Park where you can tour the Hatchery and Water Treatment Plant (no bookings required). The Noosa Boat Club will introduce you to the sport of rowing, and the Noosa Yacht Club will introduce you to the art of sailing!

The very popular **Kids Fishing Clinic** is on again supported by the experts from the Lake Borumba Fish Stocking group. At previous Festivals, budding young anglers have landed a wide variety of fish – no Mary River Cod yet though!

Over in the Botanic Gardens qualified instructors from Recreation Queensland will teach you to **paddle a canoe**, or take your aspiring young artists to the **Arting About** marquee, where decorated aquatic creatures will help to smother Cabomba on the giant Lake Mac mural.

Noosa Biosphere residents can collect **two free trees** from Noosa Landcare (bring your rate notice) and local landholders who bring a 500 ml sample of their dam, creek or bore water can get a **free water test** from the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee’s display.

There will also be a selection of local and international foods available, as well as a jumping castle and free face painting for the kids. You can even win \$450 worth of RockCote ecostyle interior coatings simply by filling out your details at the bottom of the next page, tear it off and place it in the RockCote box in the Amphitheatre at the Festival.

Park along Lake Macdonald Drive and get the courtesy bus to the Festival or park next to Mary River Cod Park at the end of Collwood Rd (off Gumboil Rd) and take the free boat across to the Amphitheatre and Botanic Gardens. Limited parking will be available within the Botanic Gardens for the disabled.



Noosa Festival of Water 2011 - Amphitheatre program

10.10 am	Noosa Pipe Band - selections of Scottish and Irish pipe music from the band wearing the ancient Lake Macdonald tartan!
10.30 am	Anatolian Rhythms - Zafer Saraç and friends play traditional Turkish music
11.00 am	Dilly Bag Bush Tucker Cooking Class - top local chef Dale Chapman demystifies cooking with indigenous foods
12.00 noon	Welcome to Country - Gubbi Gubbi Dance troupe - Lyndon Davies & indigenous artists perform traditional dances
12.20 pm	Geckoes Wildlife presentation – meet Martin Fingland’s furry and not so furry native animals!
1.20 pm	Monkey Dog – Young Cooroy four piece band playing rock classics and originals
2.00 pm	Winner of the RockCote \$450 voucher drawn
2.05 pm	Winner of the Dugong Rock competition announced.
2.15 pm	Noosa District Concert Band - 25 musicians play popular music, jazz and classical
2.50 pm	Close

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

For more information, contact the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group on 07 5482 4766 or follow the links on the website at www.mrccc.org.au where you can also view a colour copy of this newsletter.



For your chance to win a \$450 voucher from Rockcote, Australia’s foremost manufacturer of environmentally friendly architectural coatings, fill in your details below, tear off and drop into the entry box in the Amphitheatre at the Noosa Festival of Water!! The winner will be drawn at 2 pm.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number..... Email.....