

NOOSA OYSTER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

“Shellebration” - 7 September 2022

WELCOME TO COUNTRY (by Uncle Fred Palin)

WUNYA NGULUM (Welcome Everybody)

Before Europeans settled in this part of Southern Queensland, the Noosa River was known as Huon Mundy’s River so named after the Dulingbara Spiritual Leader and Turrawan who lived around the time of shipwrecked Elisa Fraser’s existence with the Dulingbara Tribe at Wa Wa near Elanda Point. When asked to name the collective reefs the Kabi Kabi selected the name Huon Mundy reefs in honour of this great Kabi Kabi man.

The loss of the shellfish reefs in the Noosa River represented a significant loss of ecosystem services to the River. This environmental loss has been accompanied by substantial and economic losses that has been related to declines in inshore oyster and fisheries productivity over the past 125 years. The restoration of shellfish reefs represents one of many steps to improve the water quality of the Noosa River. As evidenced by the number of oyster shell middens that once lined the foreshores. It was apparent that the two Kabi Kabi Tribes the Dulingbara and Undumbi who occupied the area relied on the oysters as a vital protein source in their diet.

Restoration of the shellfish reefs therefore represents a significant reconciliation step to renew the cultural links of the Kabi Kabi to their sea country.

As Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners it is important for us to recognise our history and continued connection to Country through the

maintenance of our past, present and future. We acknowledge and pay respect to our Ancestors who continue to exist in our Country as their traditions and Lore guide us today. As the current custodians of our water, sea, land and culture. We pay our respects to our Elders in helping and guiding us.

The Kabi Kabi vision is to unite our people and address the degradation to our traditional Country and the continuing erosion of our cultural heritage sites and landscapes. Restoration of shellfish reefs at Noosa and other waterways included in our Native Title claim is important to us.

The Kabi Kabi welcome the opportunity to work with our non-indigenous brothers and sisters who are making a valuable contribution to “Caring for Country”. Our first priority as part of the reconciliation process is to reach out to all people of South East Queensland who are interested in our Country and Culture, and to invite them to play a active role in caring for our part of this Earth.

The Earth is our Mother. As she is healed so will we be healed.

THANK YOU