

Project Overview

This project engaged local junior schools and the general Noosa public in actions in practical, hands-on and on-ground activities. These activities raised awareness about the Noosa Oyster Ecosystem Restoration Project and the importance of environmental restoration and the Noosa River.

Through project activities, we took a look at the Oyster Gardening Project in real life, exploring the creatures that propagate the oyster baskets suspended in the Noosa River. We engaged artists and teachers and kids in fun art and craft activities about our waterways and generally celebrated the life of the Noosa River.

The oyster puppets, clay oyster babies and amazing mural developed by this project showing life of the Noosa River, and our interactions with it, were our biggest hits. These products will now live on and be part of future outreach actions for the Noosa River. NCBA looks forward to being part of the evolving Noosa River story.

Activities

During the first part of the project, NCBA worked extensively to develop props and products to support school events. NCBA partnered with performance arts company, Joylogy, in this endeavour.

The first trial, in-school event took place in November 2021 (see below).

A. Kin Kin State School puppet show

21 November 2021

During this event, NICA worked with contractor, Jolyogy's, Marc Bright, to put on a puppet show extravaganza. Marc had developed beautiful hand puppets, which he then wove into an insightful show about underwater life.

Figure 1: Kin State School student, Eli, in the puppet theatre. The Puppet show is part of a presentation on the Oyster Restoration project and the habitats of the Noosa River.

Photo by Megan Connell



Figure 2: The Joyology presenter Marc Bright at Kin Kin State School. Photo by Megan Connell



B. Rural Futures

27 June 2022

NICA partnered with EEhub and Noosa Council and NICA in this school holiday activity. The focus of this day was 'art' and kids got to learn about nature, oysters, and oyster gardening. They also got to do paint and make clay oysters and got to take them home (pet oysters!).

Figure 3: Dalia Mikhail (EEhub) and Noosa Councillor, Brian Stockwell, in front of the NCBA mural at Rural Futures event (27/6/22)



Noosa Environmental Education Hub
June 20 · 🌐

Our week of FREE environmentally focused school holiday activities will be kicked off on Monday 27 June at the Rural Futures Centre in Pomona by our friends at the Noosa Community Biosphere Association and NICA. Come and explore the creatures of our river system first hand with a live presentation. Make oyster sock puppets and other nature art to take home. A great way to spend the day at [Noosa and District Landcare](#) idealic hinterland location in Pomona. Spaces are filling f... See more



Figure 4: Oyster puppets featured in the school holiday program

C. Kin Kin State School

7 July 2022

NICA partnered with Noosa Council and NICA.

Noosa Councillor gave a presentation about the history of nature and our influence on it.

Matterson Brown (NICA) talked about oyster gardening and the kids got to 'touch and feel' the baskets.



Figure 5: Maddison Brown (NICA) and Noosa Councillor, Brian Stockwell, presenting at the NCBA event at Kin Kin State School

D. Noosa Sea Scouts

9 August 2022

NCBA partnered with NICA to give a presentation about oyster baskets and then went on to NCBA to make clay river critters. The kids were very well behaved and totally engaged and gave our group a real sense of energy and hope for the future.



Figure 6: NCBA partnered with the team from NICA to educate the Noosa Sea Scouts about oyster reefs and oyster gardening. The kids had a ball. Photo by John News

E. Cooran State School

16 August 2022

NCBA worked with Noosa Council and NICA to deliver presentations and hands on activities.

Noosa Councillor, Brian Stockwell, presented a geological timeline to the kids and showed them the influence how

NICA also had a display of oyster baskets that the kids could touch and learn, while NCBA ran an 'oyster baby' making table.



Figure 7: NCBA partnered with NICA to talk about marine restoration and oyster gardening at Cooran State School. Here Maddison Brown (NICA) is talking to the students about restoring 'homes for fish.' Photo by John News

Feedback from Cooran State School:

Yesterday was fantastic, we did a little discussion session after the talk and the students learnt so much. They were excited to take their treasures home. Thank you!

Shuck Don't Chuck

October - November 2022

NCBA also strongly supported the *Shuck Don't Chuck* shell washing initiative. NCBA provided equipment to the shell washing activity and helped design and build the shell washing shoot and bagging system.



Figure 8: Helen Bowyer (TNC) and John News (NCBA) constructing the shell washing shoot.

Market stalls

Various dates

NCBA also ran a stall at the Kin Kin and Yandina markets. On some weekends, kids were invited to adopt a clay 'oyster baby' and got to take them home.



Figure 9: Oyster babies made by local children

Noosa Show

10 September 2022

NCBA partnered with Noosa Council to run a kids activity event. Kids were invited to make and paint clay oysters and got to take them home to look after them.

This kind of activity is helping translating Oysters from just a food source into a living part of nature. Special thanks to Sophie Blond from Noosa Council.

Figure 10: NCBA stall set up at the Noosa Show



Volunteering

While numerous people participated in our events, we must acknowledge the contribution of specific volunteers who put who put in time above and beyond the call of duty to support project activities. In total, we attracted 24 volunteers. A breakdown is provided below.

Table 1: Volunteers

Date	Event		No. of volunteers
27/6/22	Rural Futures display		7
7/7/22	Kin Kin State School		6
9/8/22	Sea Scouts		5
16/8/22	Cooran State School		6
Total			24

Lessons Learnt

This has been a very engaging project with multiple benefits for juniors and parents. We learnt a few things during this project:

- Access to the schools was difficult. Teachers are busy and getting access took more time than forecast.
 - The intent to run outdoor events (such as having schools visit oyster gardens) was difficult to organise with the complexities of scheduling and generally average weather conditions.
 - Working with performing arts company, Joylogy, produced some wonderful products and a puppet show, which were widely loved and accepted. However, this partnership involved many more volunteer hours than originally forecast.
 - Working with EEhub and NICA was a benefit. It was great to take oyster gardening into the schools.
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