

## Care beyond 'goodbye'

Most mornings, Noosa Council Cemeteries Officer Troy Andreasson is the first one in the office. He opens the shed at Cooroy Cemetery and eases into another day – though even after 32 years he still reckons no two days are ever the same.

"I start by checking the emails, never quite knowing what I'll find," Troy says. "Some days it's straightforward office work, other days I'm out topping up graves after heavy rain, cutting up fallen branches, or preparing for a burial.

"I might be placing ashes or walking with a family as they choose a site for someone they've loved deeply. Those are the moments that remind me why I'm here and why what I do really matters.

"Even the small tasks, like tidying up around grave sites so the mozzies don't take over, they matter more than people realise.

"Every job, whether it's big or small, is part of caring for this place and the people who are connected to it.

After all these years, I've learnt to see it simply - I'm just taking care of families. That's what motivates me, every single day."



Council Cemeteries Officer Troy Andreasson at the Tewantin Cemetery.

## Community feedback shapes Botanic Gardens

**Residents have made the most of surveys, written submissions and pop-up events to have a say on the future of Noosa Botanic Gardens**

More than 120 contributions helped refine the Draft Master Plan, highlighting protection of natural character and improved accessibility.

Noosa Council ran two engagement phases to guide development of the Master Plan. Phase 1 explored how people use and value the Gardens, helping inform the Draft Master Plan and its 25-year vision.

During Phase 2, the draft was shared with the community, with feedback gathered through surveys, written submissions, a Cooroy pop-up and Garden events.

Community feedback helped refine the plan, including improved recognition of the botanical collection and improvements to arrival areas, pathways, shaded seating, signage and

spaces for learning and play.

Director Infrastructure Services Shaun Walsh said, "The engagement ensured the Master Plan will reflect what the community values most, while guiding improvements to the Gardens over the next 25 years."

Friends of Noosa Botanic Gardens President Jill Brownlee said community involvement had been important.

"The Friends have long advocated for a Master Plan. It's encouraging to see the community helping shape a vision that protects the Gardens' character and botanical collection."

The Draft will be updated following community feedback and presented to Council mid-year. For more details go to [yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au](https://yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au)

## Going the extra mile for microbats

A typical day at work transformed into a discovery Pete Roberts will never forget, when the Noosa Council Technical Officer hit 'play' on some routine CCTV footage from inside a damaged stormwater pipe at Castaways Beach.

"Low and behold a bunch of bats began flying at the camera," he said. "You usually get cockroaches or the odd rat in a pipe, not a species of microbat. It was pretty special." The unexpected find this time last year, triggered months of monitoring by Council to ensure essential drainage renewal work could proceed without harming the approximately 1500 Common bent-wing bats who'd taken up residence inside.

"We monitored these microbats almost weekly from when they were discovered in the stormwater pipe," Conservation and Environment Coordinator Rachel Lyons said. "We thought they'd migrate west for maternity season around the beginning of summer but they didn't, which was really unusual and interesting.



Noosa Council Technical Officer Pete Roberts viewing footage of bats flying at the camera.

"We needed to find out if they were a breeding colony, which would've ruled out any works taking place until the pups were able to leave the pipe on their own. "Our priority was making sure no bats were harmed."

The species, protected under Queensland legislation, is a powerful natural mosquito controller, with individuals feasting on up to 800

mozzies a night. Working with local bat experts, Council was able to determine that the colony wasn't breeding and careful steps were taken to commence the pipe repairs in February.

"The collaboration between our Environment and Infrastructure teams has been brilliant, ensuring both the bats and the project were protected," Ms Lyons said.

## Strong liveability survey response

**Insights to strengthen planning for local priorities**

The 2026 Liveability Survey, developed to understand what residents value most and help guide future planning across the region, saw a strong increase in participation this year. More than 1800 people took part - an uplift of 10% compared with 2021.

Delivered in partnership with Place Score, the survey focused on gathering representative feedback to ensure Council decisions reflect the needs of communities across the hinterland, where township identity, access to services and rural character remain high priorities.

Demographic representation strengthened across several groups. Participation among 25-64-year-olds moved closer to target levels, while representation from residents aged 65+ increased significantly, from 28% to 41%. Youth engagement declined slightly, and gender balance improved with a rise in male participation.

Principal Strategic Planner Michelle Tucker said, "Kin Kin stood out with a major jump in responses, and many other hinterland villages came close to their targets, ensuring hinterland voices are strongly represented. Thank you to everyone who participated."

Survey results are now being analysed to determine



The Liveability Survey will help strengthen future decisions for the Noosa Hinterland.

liveability scores for each locality and the wider Shire. Once finalised, the results will be shared with the community. More details are available at [noosa.qld.gov.au](https://noosa.qld.gov.au).

## In Brief

**Holiday fun**



Council's Easter School Holiday program offers a wide mix of fun, creative and active options for kids and families across Noosa.

With hands-on workshops, art and craft, library sessions, sports, outdoor adventures and cultural activities, there's something for every age and interest.

Held across multiple Council venues, many activities are free or low cost, helping kids stay active and learn new skills.

Visit Council's website for more details.

## Time to check your dog rego

Noosa dog owners whose pet registrations expired between 1 June and 30 November 2025 are urged to renew them now or advise Council of any changes.

Local Laws Manager Clint Irwin said about 590 registrations remain unpaid and a quick update could prevent a \$333 fine.

Owners who've moved, or whose pets have passed away, are encouraged to let Council know.

Details can be updated online at [noosa.qld.gov.au](https://noosa.qld.gov.au) using the Animal Update Form or by calling (07) 5329 6500. Up-to date registrations also help reunite lost dogs faster.