

Annual Highlights 2022–2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Plastic Free Noosa acknowledges the ongoing connection to country of the traditional custodians of this beautiful region, the Kabi Kabi people.

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION WITH **PLASTIC FREE NOOSA**

As the sun sets on another year, we are thrilled to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable journey we've embarked on together through the Plastic Free Noosa program. This year has been a testament to the power of community, determination, and the unwavering commitment to a regenerative future.

When a community unites behind a common goal, anything is possible.

From the very start, our mission was clear: to create a healthier, plastic-free environment for our beloved Noosa. With every passing month, we've witnessed incredible strides, meaningful collaborations, and heartwarming changes that have collectively made a world of difference.

Some key outcomes have been reducing plastic waste, inspiring change, helping to preserve marine life, collaboration, innovation, and empowering future generations.

As we close this chapter and step into the new year, let's remember that the journey to a plastic-free Noosa is ongoing. Every small action we take, every plastic item we refuse, and every choice we make matters. Let's carry the spirit of Plastic Free Noosa with us, celebrating our achievements while also embracing the challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you to each and every individual and business who has played a part in this inspiring journey. Your dedication, passion, and commitment have transformed a vision into reality. Together, we've shown that when a community unites behind a common goal, anything is possible. I would particularly like to thank the Noosa Council for their commitment to the program and their ongoing support.

Here's to another year of progress and positive change with Plastic Free Noosa.

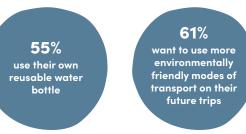
JUANITA TERRY-BLOOMFIELD



2023 BOOKING.COM SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL REPORT

This survey covered over 33,000 customers across 35 countries and has again proven that most travellers are focused on more sustainable travel. 66% of travellers want to leave the places they visit better than when they arrived and 76% are aiming to travel more sustainably over the next 12 months.

Plastic Free Noosa in conjunction with Tourism Noosa's Tread
Lightly program are working with local operators and suppliers to
help make their businesses more sustainable and attractive to this growing market.



KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration between Tourism Noosa and Noosa Council is a strong approach to driving change. This partnership encourages businesses to adopt more sustainable practices, particularly by phasing out single-use plastics. This not only aligns with environmental goals but also presents the opportunity for businesses to realise cost savings.

The fact that 191 local businesses have become members of the Plastic Free Noosa program highlights a significant level of engagement from the business community. Additionally, the impressive figure of 17,653,281 single-use plastics eliminated from circulation since February 2018 underscores the program's tangible impact on reducing plastic waste.

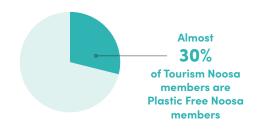
17,653,281
Pieces of plastic eliminated



The active involvement of the Noosa community and local businesses in initiatives like Plastic Free Noosa underscores their dedication to preserving the natural beauty of the area for future generations. This commitment is likely to resonate positively with tourists who are increasingly seeking destinations that prioritise sustainability.

By fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship, the Noosa community and its partners are setting the stage for long-term success. This forward-looking approach positions the region to remain attractive to tourists while maintaining the integrity of its environment.

Overall, the integration of sustainability initiatives like Plastic Free Noosa within the tourism industry not only benefits the environment but also enhances the overall appeal of Noosa as a responsible and conscious travel destination. This holistic approach reflects the understanding that preserving the area's natural beauty is not just the responsibility of the community but also an asset that sustains the local economy.



NOOSA BIOSPHERE AWARD 2022

Plastic Free Noosa is thrilled to have been honoured with the People & Economy award at the Noosa Biosphere Awards for 2022. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all those who were part of the annual Noosa Biosphere Gala and Awards ceremony. It was a remarkable day dedicated to celebrating the individuals and groups whose exceptional work in the environmental sphere has made a profound impact on Noosa.

The gala lunch, held at Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas, was a delightful occasion that celebrated local cuisine. It also featured a Food and Agriculture Industry Panel, which engaged in discussions about building resilience in our region and cultivating a vibrant, sustainable future for our food industry. The event showcased eco fashions created by Sunshine Coast TAFE students and the avant-garde designs of Noosa-based costume designer Teddy McRitchie, in addition to offering exciting prizes to attendees.



Plastic Free Noosa winning the Noosa Biosphere Award 2022.



The deserving winners in various categories included:



Land category

Rosecliffe Boutique Farm Cottages, Noosa Hinterland



Water category

NICA Waterwatch Team, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association



Wildlife category

Megan Halverson



People and Economy category

Plastic Free Noosa



Young Eco-Leader Award

Jarrah Small and Spencer Hitchen



Expert Food and Agricultural Industry Panel.





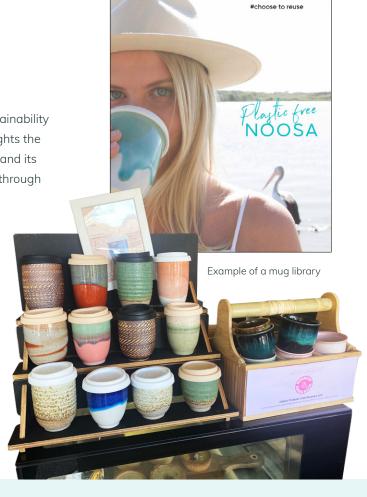


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Plastic Free Noosa (PFN) is at the forefront of driving sustainability initiatives within the Noosa community. This report highlights the organisation's engagement with local community groups and its contributions to promoting environmental consciousness through various campaigns, competitions, and events that focus on the Choose to Reuse concept.

IN Noosa Magazine Spring Edition Launch:

The Spring Edition launch of the IN Noosa Magazine featured a presentation on the Choose to Reuse movement and the innovative concept of a "mug library." This event emphasised the importance of adopting reusable alternatives and showcased the broader use of reusables in various contexts.



#ChooseToReuse Campaign:



at Peregian Beach editorial and a strip vertical advertisement in the Spring Edition of the magazine. This initiative aimed to encourage residents to opt



Peregian Beach Community Association Event:

The Peregian Beach Community Association organised an event centred around sustainable practices, specifically focusing on "foodprints for the future." This event featured presentations by Cr Tom Wegener, PFN, and Ben from Entity Coffee, discussing the impact of food choices on the environment. Trivia sessions were held after each presentation, making the event both educational and interactive. The event took place on October 28, 2022, and saw participation from 30 individuals.

The Noosa area has seen a series of commendable efforts in promoting sustainability and the Choose to Reuse movement. Events such as the magazine launch, the #ChooseToReuse campaign, the QICA Competition, and the Peregian Beach Community Association event have collectively contributed to raising awareness and fostering a more environmentally conscious community. These initiatives serve as inspiring examples of how local communities can come together to address environmental challenges through innovative and engaging activities.



Sustainable market stall

COMMUNITY AND MEMBERS TRAINING

Training and mentoring members was a comprehensive approach to raising awareness, educating the public, and fostering sustainable practices within the community.

Red Cross Plastic Free Noosa Talk:

We engaged with over 25 volunteers from the Red Cross. During the talk we addressed questions related to waste, recycling, and educational aspects. This interaction helped spread awareness and knowledge about waste management and recycling practices.

Buzz Night Presentation with NICA on Tread Lightly:

PFN collaborated with Richard from the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA) on a presentation about responsible and sustainable practices (Tread Lightly). Such presentations contribute to increasing community understanding of environmentally friendly behaviours.

Noosa Biosphere Sustainability Forum:

Attended and collaborated with various stakeholders at the Noosa Biosphere Sustainability Forum. PFN contributed to discussions on topics such as education and community engagement.

Eco-Gifting Display and Campaign:

Showcased an eco-gifting display at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) during the holiday season. Featured products from 12 local PFN member businesses. Utilised QR codes to direct the public to member business websites for direct purchases. This initiative not only promoted sustainable gift options but also led to



increased PFN membership, website traffic, and social media engagement.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

The continued growth of the Plastic Free program across the Noosa Shire and beyond is proof of its success. The uptake of volunteers through beach cleaning events and educational messaging in partnership with Tourism Noosa and Noosa Council continues to highlight the need to further expand on this project.

We continue to hold a key presence at local events. This involvement and input is crucial for future event planning to maintain consistency across the waste management requirements.



Sunshine Coast University stand with Plastic Free Noosa

Highlights included:

- Plastic Free July beach clean-up at Peregian Beach
 = 130.2kg of waste, 40+ people (local families/ businesses)
- Plastic Free July Mug Libraries at Peregian Beach with 7 businesses
- University of the Sunshine Coast Students as Partners Program August 2022
- Noosa Classic cycling event
- Partnered clean-up event Sunshine Coast Clean Up Divers (SCCUD) throughout the Noosa River
- World Clean-up Day clean-up
- IN Noosa Magazine Spring Edition launch
- Peregian Beach Community Association 'Foodprints

- Noosa Biosphere Reserve Awards PFN won gold in the 'People & Economy' category
- Tread Lightly Noosa launch 13 December 2022
- Buzz Night in Feb at the VIC presented with Richard from NICA on Tread Lightly.
- Tread Lightly Plastic Free Noosa beach clean-up with ANZ corporate group = 53 people
- Tread Lightly: Plastic Free Noosa beach clean-up – Fun Over 50 Holidays tour group = 18 people
- Stand at EV Expo partnering with Tesla Transfers



BEACH CLEAN-UPS

It's fantastic to see the success and engagement of Plastic Free Noosa's clean-up events! The numbers we have shared showcase a significant effort by volunteers to address the issue of plastic waste in the local environment. Community involvement, especially from local groups, clubs, businesses, and corporate organisations, is crucial in driving awareness and action towards a more sustainable and plastic-free future.

This kind of grassroots involvement not only helps in physically cleaning up the environment but also spreads awareness about the importance of reducing plastic waste. Engaging both local residents and corporate entities such as ANZ and holiday organisations like Fun Over 50 Holidays demonstrates a multi-faceted approach to tackling the problem, as it involves individuals from various sectors of society.

Efforts such as these are not only about cleaning up the mess but also about fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership among the community for the environment they live in. The willingness of community members, businesses, and organisations to participate in such initiatives indicates a growing recognition of the need to address plastic pollution.

Continued engagement and support from these stakeholders will likely contribute to long-term changes in behaviour, promoting sustainable practices beyond just clean-up events. It's a positive sign that more people are getting involved in these types of programs, which ultimately leads to a healthier environment and a more conscious approach to plastic consumption.





130.2kg

8 July 2022 Peregian Beach 40+ Volunteers

PLASTIC FREE JULY

32kg

27 August 2022 Noosa River 7 Volunteers

SUNSHINE COAST CLEAN-UP DIVERS

27kg

15 September 2022 Main Beach 15 Volunteers (children with parents)

ALBERT PARK GROUP

87kg

17 September 2022 Sunshine Beach 35 Volunteers

WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY

33.4kg

28 February 2023 Noosa Main Beach 53 Volunteers

ANZ CORPORATE GROUP

20.7kg

21 March 2023 Noosa Main Beach 17 Volunteers

FUN OVER 50 HOLIDAYS GROUP

11.5kg

8 June 2023 Sunshine Beach North 8 Volunteers

BEN & JERRY'S NOOSA TEAM

UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

Plastic Free Noosa's involvement in the USC "Students as Partners Program" on August 8, 2022 reflected a positive and meaningful engagement between Plastic Free Noosa and the USC students, highlighting the importance of community involvement and environmental awareness.

Key points from the event include:

Representation and Engagement: Amanda Pummer and Peita Otterbach represented Plastic Free Noosa at the USC Students as Partners Program. This demonstrates Plastic Free Noosa's commitment to engaging with educational institutions and sharing their mission with students.

Student Participation: Over 20 USC students attended the event, indicating a strong interest in volunteering and community engagement among the student population.

Networking and Engagement: The session provided an opportunity for Plastic Free Noosa to engage with the students, answering their questions and promoting the benefits of volunteering in the community. This kind of interaction is vital for raising awareness and inspiring action.





Sunshine Coast University student marquee

Follow-up and Registration: The networking session led to tangible outcomes, as several international students registered to become Plastic Free Noosa Volunteers. This reflects the success of the event in motivating students to take concrete steps toward involvement.

Practical Involvement: The engagement extended beyond the event, as two new Plastic Free Noosa Volunteers (Josie and Lisa) participated in the Noosa Classic event on August 14. They helped with waste disposal at waste sorting stations, contributing to the event's sustainability efforts.

International Insights: The two new volunteers from Germany provided valuable insights into sustainable practices from their home country, contributing to a diverse perspective on environmental efforts.

Future Involvement: Both students expressed satisfaction and personal rewards from their experience, indicating their intention to continue volunteering for Plastic Free Noosa at future sustainable events in Noosa.

Overall, this event showcases the positive impact of collaboration between environmental organisations such as Plastic Free Noosa and educational institutions such as USC. It's heartening to see how these interactions lead to practical actions, cross-cultural exchange, and a commitment to sustainability both locally and globally.



LOCAL MATTERS

Plastic Free Noosa took out top spot as voted by visitors and community in the Grill'd Local Matters Campaign in December 2022—a simple yet delicious way to support amazing community projects. The campaign gives customers the chance to vote for their favourite initiative by putting a token into a jar. At the end of the month, Grill'd splits the \$500 winners' money among the three groups, based on how many tokens they have. Thank you to the Grill'd Local Matters Campaign, a generous \$300 donation was received, allowing the program to invest in much needed clothing, waste pickers and gloves for our Plastic Free Noosa Waste Warriors.





SUSTAINABLE EVENTS PROGRAM

Our partnership with Tourism Noosa's Sustainable Events team helped us connect with event organisers to provide one-on-one mentoring to encourage them to become more environmentally sustainable in their practices including monitoring their energy, water and waste, and for events to become plastic free. Our Plastic Free Noosa Waste Warriors were on hand to educate visitors, eliminate any waste, and also helped to capture recyclable containers, with close to 100% of events using the Containers for Change scheme.

The Wild Women Adventure Race in October was celebrated for the fourth year as a zero waste event which has now become event best-practice and an events role model for others.

The Noosa Festival of Surfing in March was a carbon positive event again after being the first event in Noosa the previous year to achieve this result.

Sponsored events and other donations contributed to the Trees for Trees program, raising \$15,568 in 2022-2023. This made a grand total of \$57,498 = 6,459 trees planted = 801 tonne of carbon sequestered to-date since the program started in 2019.



Report total activities waste data

	1 200						
Results 2019 - 2022/2023				SCORE			
Event	Community and commitment	Energy	Water	Waste	2019	2021	2022/2023
Sounds of Noosa Foreshore	19	0	3	0	n/a	n/a	36.67%
Noosa Enduro	81	45	31	84	n/a	53.00%	87.32%
Noosa Alive	69	36	30	72	21.00%	26.00%	78.41%
Noosa Classic	72	31	24	81	21.00%	60.00%	86.67%
Italian Food & Vino Festival	31	7	15	25	n/a	n/a	28.26%
Wild Women Adventure Race	69	9	48	72	88.00%	95.00%	97.06%
Noosa Jazz Party	0	1	0	3	n/a	n/a	16.67%
Noosa Triathlon	52	21	46	72	47.00%	65.00%	66.32%
Noosa Ultra-Trail	66	24	19	26	n/a	n/a	45.00%
Noosa Festival of Surfing	61	38	22	36	46.00%	75.00%	56.88%
Runaway Noosa	60	3	9	69	n/a	n/a	73.40%

WATER BOTTLE CHALLENGES

The last 12 months have seen some challenges around the expansion of the Noosa Water strategy. BlueSky Beverages has seen an increase in demand but have been unable to handle the supply due to factory size and bottling capability. This has prompted BlueSky Beverages to expand their operation via a multi-million-dollar development in Coorparoo in Brisbane's south-east to increase production to approximately 15,000,000 bottles per year (8,250,000L). This expansion is set to be complete by late August to mid-September in 2023.

We have also seen the expansion of another local company into the aluminium canned water market.

OK Boocha / Water based in Coolum has hit the market running with 6 distributors, 4 supermarkets and 31 stockists in the Sunshine Coast region. We look forward to working with this new product within Plastic Free Noosa in the coming year.



Locally produced Sunny Coast Water.



NOOSA branded aluminium water bottles.

www.plasticfreenoosa.org/order-noosa-bottled-water

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITYWATER

Plastic Free Noosa continued our partnership with Unitywater in 2022:

 New O Fountain in Noosaville commissioned and launched – Unitywater Manager Communications and Engagement Jana Dore said "Our Water on Tap program encourages people to stay hydrated and protect our local environment by avoiding single-use plastics and filling up from the tap".

"It also supports our target zero commitment to sustainability, and we're thrilled that the O Fountain has been installed just ahead of Plastic Free July." • Back to TAP water van at Noosa major events





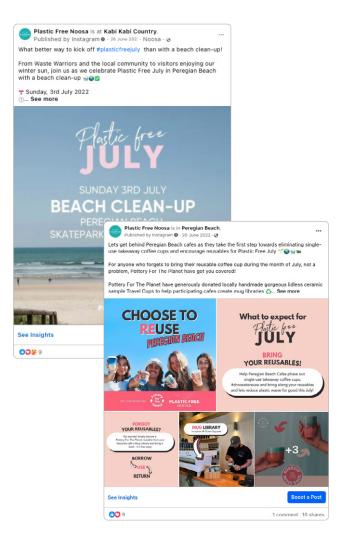
Unitywater Water on Tap van.

PLASTIC FREE JULY: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



Plastic Free July is an international movement that challenges individuals, communities, and businesses to reduce their plastic consumption and waste throughout the month of July. Originating right here

in Australia in 2011, this initiative has grown into a global phenomenon, inspiring millions to rethink their reliance on single-use plastics. Participants are encouraged to make small, sustainable changes in their daily lives, such as refusing single-use coffee cups, bringing reusable bags and containers, and choosing products with minimal packaging. By engaging in Plastic Free July, individuals become more mindful of their plastic consumption and contribute to the broader goal of minimising plastic pollution.





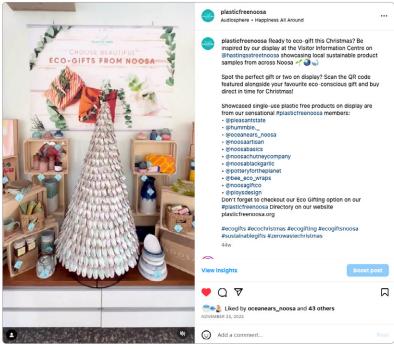




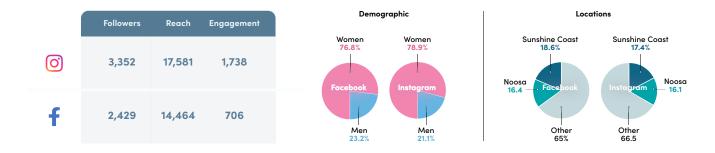
SOCIAL MEDIA

The data highlights the plastic-free movement's impact in Noosa via our social media. Impressively, 16.4% of Facebook and 16.1% of Instagram followers are local, reflecting strong community engagement. This aligns with Noosa's eco-conscious image. A gender trend emerges: 76.8% on Facebook and 78.9% on Instagram are women. Adapting content to this demographic could amplify our message. Solid reach and engagement on both platforms demonstrate effective awareness about plastic reduction, fostering an impassioned community for environmental preservation. In summary, these statistics underscore impactful Noosa engagement in the plastic-free initiative across platforms.









GREEN TRAVEL FOR VISITORS ON VISITNOOSA.COM.AU

Tourism Noosa helps promote our Plastic Free Noosa information and page through the Green Travel section of the popular and highly visible visitnoosa.com.au. Approximately 594 unique visitors and 741 total visitors to this page during the 2022-2023 year.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Supporting Noosa's vision to be plastic free, Tourism Noosa's International Trade and Marketing Manager provides beautiful handcrafted keep cups from Pottery For The Planet to media, trade and travel agents from around the globe. These pottery travel cups are not only a great replacement for single-use coffee cups but a great way to showcase Noosa's efforts to create a circular economy.





GREEN TRAVEL

Here in Noosa, we have a long and proud history of protecting, preserving and looking after our natural environment - after all, it's one of the main reasons why people love holidaying and living in Noosa, and why the Noosa region is a globally recognised.

When you visit our beautiful region, follow our lead and discover the best ways to holicity sustainedly in Notes 8th you are isseen your green nederation in chack on your holice including you green the following the sustainedility progress that enemy server to evenuage lead businesses, make dust, and visitors to do their bit to enemy that thourism is austained businesses, make dust, and visitors to do their bit to enemy that thourism is austained part of Nobood's March — including reducing region—see placing, othering your to by it denoting to bood control most if progress, doing you but to make our load events sustainedile and placin field, or any analysis of the appreciation have delinearies.









BLOG







THE CONSCIOUS
TRAVELLER'S
GUIDE TO
NOOSA

Author: Celeste Mitchell
If there's crything
Covid-'9' has gifted us,
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YOU NEED TO BOOK IN NOOSA Author: by Celeste Mitchell One of the eosiest steps you con

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NOOSA ESCAPES
Escape to a lesserknown Noosa, with
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ECO LUXURY
MEETS
ADVENTURE
TRAVEL IN
NOOSA
Author-Melisso Findley
Melisso Findley is o
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nature and trivel

SWIM, BIKE, RUN AND.... PLANT A TREE!

RUN EXPLO









10 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOT PRINT Here in Noosa, we have

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ling offer our

THE BEST WAYS
TO EXPLORE THE
NOOSA RIVER
You may be well
acquainted with
Historings Street and
Noosa Main Beach but





THE BEST SPOTS
TO SEE WHALES
IN NOOSA

With record numbers of humpback whales
(\$0,000+) migrating up
Queensland's coast and back to Antanction
through Noosa's waters



PROGRAM FOCUS FOR 2023-2024

Plastic Free Noosa is looking forward to the positive growth in the Containers for Change program with the expansion into spirit and wine bottles commencing on 1 November 2023. Working with key stakeholders, businesses and the wider community on this program will ultimately deliver an increased awareness and provide solutions to the challenges faced with storage of large collection bins, pick-up locations and contamination.

Plastic Free Noosa will be working hard to continue to grow our membership and expand further into different industries and professions on better waste management strategies and solutions to single-use items. With these redefined/expanded categories and a business focused approach to the program we are looking to expand this membership by 15-20%.

We are looking forward to continued education and promotion of the circular economy via our partners at Aspire, the circular economy marketplace and the positive messaging around utilising our existing resources to extend the life of products in our local community.

