



There are many people to thank for Noosa's biosphere reserve status.

It's no accident

I recently had the opportunity to stop and be thankful for our wonderful way of life here in the Noosa Biosphere.

Our way of life however, hasn't come about by accident.

We have many talented and active folks within our community that, over the many years, has helped Noosa become the biosphere reserve it is today.

Many people play different roles, some more than others, but

they do so mostly as volunteers, because they want to help make a difference.

The current group of 60+ Noosa Biosphere Community Sector Board members are all volunteers with that purpose in mind. You can see some of their profiles and activities on www.noosabiosphere.org.au.

And let us not forget the many volunteers within our local community groups, such as Surf Life Saving Clubs, SES, wildlife rescue etc. Too many to name.

Looking back, late in 2007 the Noosa region was officially declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. We are thankful to the following folks (in no particular order) who helped prepare the submission that resulted in this declaration:

Ian Lewis – mapping and geographic analysis; Phillip Moran – contributing author/reviewer; Dave Burrows – contributing author; Steven Poole – contributing author; Rob Fleming – contributing author/assistant editor; Ben McMullen – contributing author/coordinating editor/layout/publishing; Kerry Nagle – proofing/layout/publishing; Tony Haslam – reviewer; Raul Weyhardt – reviewer; Emma Menzies – cover design.

The following organisations and individuals provided letters, attached to the submission, supporting the establishment of

the Noosa Biosphere Reserve:

The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency; Noosa Residents and Ratepayers Association; Noosa and District Landcare Group; Noosa Integrated Catchment Association; Leightons Property Group; Paul Summers Planning Strategies; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; Hon Greg Hunt Parliamentary Secretary for Minister Environment and Heritage; Hon Glen Elmes Member for Noosa (State)

In addition, an historic agreement was signed in December 2006 by parties committed to the establishment of a Biosphere Reserve over the Noosa local government area. The agreement was signed by the following parties:

Hon Greg Hunt (then the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment); Hon Alex Somlyay (Member for Noosa) on behalf of the Commonwealth Government; Dr Michael Gloster (President of the Noosa Parks Association) on behalf of local conservation sector NGOs; Mr Tony Haslam (Secretary Noosa Biosphere Association) on behalf of the Biosphere Association; and Councillor Bob Abbot (Mayor of Noosa) on behalf of the then Noosa Local Government.

MICHAEL DONOVAN

Noosa Biosphere Ltd Chair