

Noosa Biosphere® Reserve Foundation Ltd

**MEDIA RELEASE – MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021**

## **Noosa Biosphere wins prestigious international award**

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve has been awarded the coveted UNESCO Michel Batisse Award for excellence in biosphere reserve management.

Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) Executive Coordinator, Sharon Wright prepared the application in January this year, putting forward the *Keeping it Kin Kin* project as an exemplary case study of people living in harmony with nature. The application was endorsed and submitted to UNESCO by the Australian Man and the Biosphere National Committee.

“We are incredibly proud to have won this international accolade. It is a first for Australia and highlights the Noosa community’s dedication to improving and protecting our natural environment,” Ms Wright said.

The Noosa Shire was awarded UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status in 2007 and is one of over 700 Biosphere Reserves globally and just four in Australia.

“This award is the highest UNESCO accolade for biosphere reserve management and truly represents what makes Noosa special – our people. The award recognises the importance of community groups, governments and individuals working together to find local solutions to the global challenges of sustainable development.”

*Keeping it in Kin Kin* is an erosion remediation project improving agricultural productivity, waterway health and water quality within the Noosa Catchment.

“I would like to thank Phil Moran and the wonderful team at Noosa & District Landcare who implemented the *Keeping it Kin Kin* project, and project partners Noosa Shire Council, Healthy Land & Water, Noosa Parks Association, The Thomas Foundation, Kin Kin Community Group, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association and Country Noosa,” said Ms Wright.

“It is this multi-stakeholder effort that drives the NBRF to continue to facilitate big ideas for the future protection of our special place.”

Noosa Mayor Clare Stewart said the international award recognised the efforts of everyone involved.

“It’s a great achievement. Congratulations to everyone who helped make the *Keeping it in Kin Kin* project possible, and all of our community groups, their volunteers, and other agencies that readily work together to enhance our environment and make Noosa such a special place to live and visit,” said Mayor Stewart.

Noosa & District Landcare Group General Manager, Phil Moran, says they are very pleased to have played a leading role in this outstanding project.

“The number of partners involved reflects the community and organisational buy-in the project has attracted. We commend and congratulate the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation for supporting the project, and receiving this recognition,” said Mr Moran.

The Foundation will launch its inaugural Noosa Biosphere Awards program this month to celebrate excellence in sustainability as part of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Winners will be recognised at the Noosa Biosphere Gala on 2 November 2021. For more information, visit

[www.noosabiosphere.org.au](http://www.noosabiosphere.org.au).

Ends.



### **Media enquiries**

For more information, interview or photos, phone Alison Cooper, NBRF media liaison on mobile 0416 288 054 or email to [alison@alisonjanecommunications.com](mailto:alison@alisonjanecommunications.com)

### **About Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation**

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) is a not-for-profit organisation established by the Noosa Shire Council to support projects and ideas that align with the aims of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program. In 2007, the Noosa Shire achieved global recognition for the high values of its natural environment with the designation of our Shire as the Noosa Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). [www.noosabiosphere.org.au](http://www.noosabiosphere.org.au)