

Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/

January 2014

January

16 Submissions due changes to rural zoning (page 12)

February

- 6 Dairy Industry Grants due (page 6)
- 7 World Wetlands Day Exhibition opening (exhibition open till March) (page 7)
- 18 Media Workshop for Landcarers (page 4)

There will be lots of workshops and field days coming up in February and March – details in February Newsletter

Fascinating Field Day

In December Brunswick Valley Landcare organised a Field Day at Lorelei Drapes and Chris Best's property at Tyagerah. Chris and Lorelei have a mix of forest and grazing pastures on their property. They have been restoring the native vegetation by planting trees and extensive weed control. Additionally they have partnered with Brunswick Valley Landcare and Koala Connections in conducting a regeneration experiment on their property funded by the Dahl Trust.

Thirty five people attended the workshop which started at the trial site. First speaker was Dr Jo Green who explained the experiment and the partnerships with Sothern Cross University and Koala Connections. Andy Baker then gave a very interesting talk about fire and its importance in regenerating many ecological communities in our area. The lack of fire is a threat to hundreds of plant species in our region. Andy Baker has provided these two links for anyone interested in reading more about Fire and Restoration. Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON) and Fire & Restoration Conference (Sydney May 26-27)

The group then moved to the Biodiversity Project site and old growth forest remnant where Chris gave overview of the biodiversity project funded through by the Australian Government. Bush regenerator, George Roberts then gave detailed information about the weed control and planting methods on the site. Thanks very much to everyone involved in the field day especially Chris and Lorelei.

Continued page 5



Funding

25th anniversary Landcare grants announced

The Australian Government has announced the 25th anniversary Landcare grants. As a result, community groups and individuals across Australia will share in funding of \$5 million as part of the National Landcare Programme. A total of 291 projects will receive funding of between \$5000 and \$20 000. Of these, 148 projects will have a strong agricultural focus and 143 will focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes.

Congratulations to the groups in our region who received funding including Brunswick Valley Landcare-Tyagarah crown land endangered ecological communities restoration project; NR Fire and Biodiversity Consortium - Fire for healthy Habitats workshops and forum; Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare - Caring for Remnants of Critically Endangered Lowland Rainforest; Whian Whian Landcare - Improving Soil Health and Pasture Production with Dung Beetles; Soilcare - National Biological Farming Expo in 2015, International Year of Soil; Sub-Tropical; Dairy - Far NC Dairying Better and Better For Our Soil and Nutrients;

More information and the list of projects funded under the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants is available at www.nrm.gov.au/national/25th-anniversary-landcare-grants

Announcement of successful 20 Million Trees Round One Grants Projects

The successful projects from the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme Competitive Grants Round One 2014-2015 have now been announced. Grants totalling \$4.5 million have been approved for 57 projects in urban and regional areas around Australia. This funding is going to Landcare and community groups, individuals and organisations to enable them to plant native trees, shrubs and other vegetation in their local communities.

Congratulations to the groups in our region who received funding including Brunswick Valley Landcare. They were successful with a joint dunecare group project - *Byron Shire Coast -Community dunecare revegetation project.* This project will revegetate 3700 trees and 1200 understorey and ground plants along 4 km of coastal dunes in Byron Shire. Work will restore coastal vegetation including Littoral Rainforest and improve connectivity of vegetation between Nature Reserves and National Parks along the coast.

Big Scrub Landcare were also successful with their *Big Scrub Rainforest creating better linkage using stepping stone plantings* project.

More information and the list of successful projects is available at www.nrm.gov.au/20-million-trees

Tenders open for 20 Million Trees

The Australian Government released a Request for Tender, seeking one or more service providers to undertake large-scale re-vegetation projects across Australia.

The Request for Tender seeks Service providers to work with the Australian Government to help deliver large-scale tree planting projects across the country that will benefit both the environment and local communities. Service providers will work with community groups and landholders to deliver the Programme.

Information about the 20 Million Trees Request for Tender is available on the AusTender website.

Welcome to Alison - new Landcare Community Support Officer



Alison Ratcliffe (right) and Wendy Gibney (left)

Alison Ratcliffe is the new Landcare Community Support Officer for Byron Shire. Alison will be working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the offices at Byron Shire council. You can contact Alison on 6626 7028 or email alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au.

Wendy Gibney has worked in the role since 2008 and has decided not continue with the next contract. Wendy will be working with Alison over the next few weeks and then finishing work with BVL in March when the sustainable agriculture project is completed.

From Alison

I've been asked to write a bit about myself to introduce me, so here it is!

I grew up in England and after studying computers at Uni I did admin jobs. This allowed me to the flexibility to pursue my love of travel. I first visited this area as a backpacker in 1995 and instantly fell in love with the land and the magic of the area we now get to call home. I emigrated in 1999 and after lots of random jobs worked as administrator for Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).

I then studied Bush Regen at TAFE and worked as a team leader for CVA. I then ran two Green Corps teams at Mt Burrell. After that I worked as a bush regenerator for Envite, Bushland Restoration Services, Brunswick Valley Landcare and Wilsons Creek Landcare. I have been mum for the past 7 years to my gorgeous daughter and son. I love gardening, photography, craft and long walks on the beach. I'm very excited to be starting in the CSO role as I feel it will be the perfect combination of my love for the environment, my admin and organising skills.

I look forward to meeting you all.

From Wendy

Thanks to all the wonderful Landcarers and Dunecarers in our region. It has been a pleasure to work with so many inspirational people over the past six and a half years. I've enjoyed working with people in variety of wonderful projects throughout the Byron shire including workshops and field days, sustainable agricultural projects, tree plantings, bush regeneration and other habitat restoration activities.

I'm sure you will enjoy working with Alison in the future. Best wishes to you all for 2015.

Thank you to Byron Shire Council for supporting their continuing support for Landcare and Dunecare in our shire.



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a FREE Workshop

Media for Landcarers

Learn how to get your Landcare message out into the community

Trainer: Veda Dante

Date: 18 February, 2015 **Time:** 9:30 am – 12 noon

Location: Conference Room Byron Shire Council Offices Station Street Mullumbimby

Bookings Essential: Please contact Alison Ratcliffe Phone 02 66267028 email

Alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

Morning tea will be provided

This workshop will teach you:

The key ingredients for good media relations

- How to establish a newsworthy story angle
- Tips to writing an effective media release (headline, introduction and body copy)
- The importance of creating (and regularly updating) a media target list, and how to start one
- How deadlines work (and why it's always due yesterday)
- The value of quality photos and how to maximise their use

About Veda Dante

Based in the Byron Shire hinterland, Veda Dante is a media specialist with more than 25 years experience as a freelance photojournalist, copywriter, feature writer, magazine editor, publicist, and online content provider. Veda's work regularly appears in 10 NSW and Queensland regional papers including the Byron News and Northern Star, as well as specialist publications around the country.



Veda Dante

This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.

Tyagarah Regeneration Trial Pilot Project (from page 1)



The Project Team

Front, left to right: Property owner, Lorelei Drapes and koala Connections Project Officer, Jo Green **Back**, left to right: Ecologist Andy Baker; Property owner Chris Best; Bush Regenerator George Roberts and Southern Cross University student Michael Reading (not pictured Justin Mallee BVL Project Officer)

Details about the trial site.

The project is concentrating on testing methods to germinate native species from the seed rain in plots adjacent to remnant sclerophyll vegetation given seasonal influences and previous landuse practices. An important aspect is adapting the methods to determine the most successful outcome over the two years span of the project.

Aims of the Project

- 1. Determine the most efficient methods for the regeneration of Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and other co-existing sclerophyll species on cleared and previously grazed paddocks near remnant vegetation of sclerophyll plant communities.
- 2. Determine cost effective methods for the regeneration of Koala food trees in the coastal area where the loss of Koala habitat has been more extensive.

Methods

The project commenced in August 2014 with the building of the electric fence and the exclusion of cattle. The project utilises 15 regeneration treatments including fire, herbicide scraping tillage, seeding and watering. There are 10 replicates of each treatment giving a total of 150 plots. Each plot is 3m x 3m with a 2m buffer around each one placed along fenceline inside the paddock adjacent to the remnant edge (total distance 400 m approx. 15m wide). Random numbers were used to allocate treatments to plots.

Monitoring and site recording

- 1. Monthly measurements of germination and of percentage cover of all species, plus heights of any of the target species.
- 2. Plant species, distance to seed source, closest feed trees
- 3. Rainfall and all climatic factors such as temperature, wind speed and direction.









Sustainable Grazing on Small Farms Field Day

This Field day has been postponed.

More details will be available in the February Newsletter.

Date: 3 March 2015 (to be confirmed)

Location: We will be catching a bus from Mullumbimby, details available when booking.

Land Services.

More information: Contact Wendy Gibney 6626 7028; wendy.gibney@byron.nsw.gov.au

The Dairy Industry Fund

The dairy industry fund has been established to fund projects that will contribute to the growth and efficiency of the NSW dairy industry.

The fund commences in 2014/2015 with funds for a 5 year period or until funds are expended. The inaugural call for project applications closes on Friday 6 February 2015.

To submit an application read the Dairy Industry Fund project funding guidelines and then complete the Dairy Industry Fund application form. The completed application form is to be attached and emailed to dairyindustryfund@dpi.nsw.qov.au.

Dairy Industry Fund project funding guidelines a 72.5 KB

Dairy Industry Fund application form 245.5 KB

Agriculture Industry Action Plan

The NSW Government has launched the Agriculture Industry Action Plan (IAP) *Primed for growth: Investing locally, connecting globally.* The Agriculture IAP has been developed by industry and the NSW Government to drive continued growth of our primary industries sector and to support growth of jobs in rural and regional areas. The Government's response outlined in the IAP has supported a wide range of recommendations made by the Agriculture Industry Action Plan Taskforce, chaired by livestock industry leader, Lucinda Corrigan.



Underpinned by the NSW economic Development Framework, the IAP has been a priority action under NSW 2021 and joins a series of IAP's completed, including: the Visitor Economy; Digital Economy; International Education & Research; Manufacturing; Professional Services; Creative Industries; and Mining - currently being developed.

The Agriculture Industry Action Plan *Primed for growth: Investing locally, connecting globally* can be viewed at http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/oasfs/aiap

Celebrate World Wetlands Day



We'd like to invite you to the announcement of the winners of the WetlandCare Australia Photography Prize 2015 and the opening of an exhibition of winning and selected works from 2008 to 2015.

You can add to a wetland mural, purchase a prize-winning wetland artwork or photograph and take part in art workshops and wetland walks through February.

1 pm Saturday 7 February 2015
Northern Rivers Community Gallery
44 Cherry Street Ballina NSW

Exhibition on display until 1 March 2015

RSVP by January 16

1800 816 147

ballina@wetlandcare.com.au

Major sponsors







Local sponsors









www.wetlandcare.com.au
Working with communities to protect, promote and restore wetlands since 1991

Trees for Nestboxes for Owls

Rita de Heer

The Nestboxes for Owls project has entered its second stage. The \$7500 Pozible Crowd Funding project reached its target last year. It has been amazing and wonderful to get acquainted with the many locals, people from far flung places in Australia and even in the rest of the world all concerned about the survival of Byron Shire's owls.

We're now in the middle, planning stage. We need to find the best situations for the different owls. At least three of the species like their hollows quite high. They need thick tree canopy nearby where the owl-mate can roost during the day and the young owls (fledglings) can practice their flying. These trees need to be in or near to one of the wildlife corridors that over the years have been planted through the landscape. As nocturnal predators, owls need large hunting and foraging grounds, habitat with marsupial populations, and rabbits, and mice.

Some of our targeted owls (Sooty and Masked Owls) are reputedly shy and so we need to install some of our nestboxes in wild places with little people-traffic. Barking Owls like woodlands near wetlands. We're looking for suitable trees in all these areas.

Barn Owls often show up in towns. Barn Owls don't seem to need the height and exclusivity as the more reticent owls. For them we are looking for nesting habitat safe from feral and domestic cats. We may need to provide cat-guards on the trees.

I hope to have the nest-boxes up in the trees by round about March 2015, ready for birds and other

creatures to take note of them, and get used to having them in their habitat. A certain amount of weathering will be needed to take the newness off the boxes.

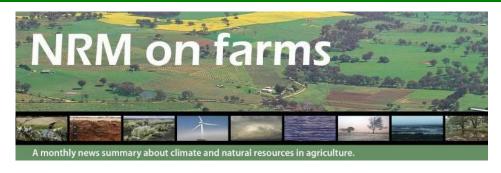
Then, come Spring, hopefully, the owls will use our boxes. I've heard a story where possums took the first option. Then a pair of wood ducks. Then a pair of galahs. Finally, when the duff (nest materials) was soft and deep, a pair of owls found it to their liking.

I'm interesting in hearing from property owners and managers who might have the right conditions. If upon reading the above you think you might have a suitable situation and are interested in helping to maintain the area's biodiversity, email me to be put on the list for Owl Nestbox Possibles. Please send your property's address and a description of the trees, or the trees' GPS co-ordinates (if possible), our nestbox and habitat experts can discuss. On-ground previewing is part of the installment package.

Rita de Heer

Email: rdeheer1@bigpond.com

Ph: 02 6684 1495



NRM on Farms Monthly Newsletter

To subscribe, email Rebecca Lines-Kelly at rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NRM on Farms is a monthly newsletter that summarises recent information about climate and natural resource management relevant to agriculture to keep farmers and agricultural and natural resource management advisors and researchers up to date. It is freely available to anyone interested or involved in agriculture or natural resource management. Here is a selection of interesting articles from the December 2014 edition.

Higher CO2 reduces plant zinc and iron levels

Elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere results in lower concentrations of zinc and iron in C3 grains and legumes, whereas C4 crops seem to be less affected, according to a new international study. Differences between cultivars of a single crop suggest that breeding for decreased sensitivity to atmospheric CO2 concentration could partly address these new challenges to global health. http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2014/05/rising-co2-poses-significant-threat-to-human-nutrition/

Catchment land use data

The 2014 catchment scale land use mapping dataset is now available. The dataset was compiled by ABARES from state and territory agencies data, through the Australian Collaborative Land Use and Management Program. This dataset can also be viewed in the NICTA national map. The land use data is listed under the 'Land' section under 'National Data Sets'. http://www.data.gov.au/

Australia's biosecurity future

This new report from CSIRO identifies the major biosecurity trends and risks that Australia may need to respond to over the next 20-30 years, including lack of food diversity. Today, just 15 plant and 8 animal species account for 90 per cent of global food energy and protein and four crops (rice, wheat, maize and potato) account for over 60 per cent of global energy intake. In Australia, commercial egg layers primarily use one of three major genetic lines of brown egg layers, and approximately 65-70 per cent of all dairy cattle are the Holst.

Information about Ticks and Allergies

If you are interested in learning about how to limit allergic reactions to ticks this video of a presentation by Dr Sheryl van Nunen is very informative. Dr Sheryl van Nunen first described the association between tick bites and the subsequent development of mammalian meat anaphylaxis - a serious conditions that affects many people in Australia. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rddOM8WJWd8

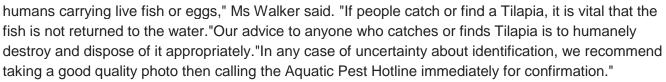
There is also information about tick allergies online at http://www.tiara.org.au/

FERAL FISH in the TWEED

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is seeking assistance from the public to help stop the spread of Tilapia, one of the world's most invasive fish species, after they were recently detected in the far north east of the State.

DPI Strategy Leader Aquatic Biosecurity Melissa Walker said community assistance is urgently needed to control the spread these pest fish, which were recently found in Bogangar Canal and Cudgen Lake, south of Kingscliff.

"The highest risk for transporting Tilapia is via



Ms Walker said "Tilapia have pale olive to silver-grey bodies, with a long continuous dorsal fin, and can grow to more than 36 centimetres and live up to 13 years. The fish are particularly threatening because they are such successful breeders." Females produce up to 1200 eggs a year and protect their young fry in their mouths for up to 14 days before releasing them. This technique, known as 'mouth brooding', ensures that even if the mother is not living, any eggs in the mouth have the potential to survive.

Once established in a flowing river or creek, these fish are almost impossible to eradicate so it is important to stop the spread of tilapia now before it's too late. Tilapia impact on native fish numbers by competing for habitat and food, behaving aggressively, disturbing aquatic vegetation and could potentially introduce disease and parasites. DPI Fisheries and Biosecurity staff are working with local council to coordinate surveys of the surrounding areas to help inform potential management options for this invasive pest fish.

Sightings of Tilapia can be reported to DPI by: Phone: 02 4916 3877 (24 hour hotline)* Online or via* Email

Changes to Recreational Fishing Rules

A total of 16 changes to the recreational fishing rules apply to fishers. This includes a changes to bag limits, one size limit and other rule changes. These changes will ensure the current rules reflect the recreational fishing community's needs and expectations, while maintaining quality recreational fishing for the future.

A discussion paper on recreational saltwater and freshwater fishing rules was released for public comment between May and August 2013. The NSW Government has listened to the feedback and issues raised as part of this comprehensive consultation process which attracted strong interest from fishers and resulted in 5,440 submissions on 43 proposals.



More information online http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/changes-to-recreational-fishing-rules-commencing-3-november-2014

NSW Landcare Gateway WEBSITE

from NSW DPI Landcare Support team

There are now 1133 groups (about 40% of groups in NSW) with developed pages on the NSW Landcare Gateway - a major expansion from the approximately 250 it had at the beginning of the year.

Other NSW Landcare Gateway achievements this year include

- Each of the NSW Regional Landcare Facilitators now has their own site on the Gateway.
- We now have a suite of <u>Helpful Hints</u>, <u>Handy Tips and Online Help</u> pages to give assistance to group members in establishing their own sites.
- The <u>mapping function</u> has been modified to allow groups to chart their boundaries on their site map. This is a first for Landcare groups in NSW and we are encouraging all groups on the Gateway to map there project or group area.
- The carousel on the front page of the Gateway and the <u>NSW Landcare Support Facebook</u> page are featuring the postings that groups make on the Gateway. We have been able to showcase many groups.

We trialed a Gateway workshop with LachLandcare in October which was a great success - we had groups creating gateway pages and mapping their group boundaries. If any other districts or regions are interested in hosting a Gateway workshop for themselves and other groups in the area please let Marita know - we may have resources over the first half of 2015 to run a few of these workshops.

Many groups have done a lot of good work in improving their sites in the past year. Among the standouts are:

- Suffolk Park Dunecare Group
- Maclean Landcare Group
- Riverina Highlands Landcare Network
- St Philips Christian College Cessnock Junior Landcare Group

Our focus next year is to encourage groups with existing sites to upload new material on them. However, if your group isn't on the Gateway as yet, you are still welcome to join at any time. If you need any help registering or logging onto the gateway contact John Perrot.

Landcare NSW Membership – free to join

To help ensure that, Landcare NSW represents all landcare groups across the state, it needs to increase its membership base.

To join go to https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=KRPS97iS8vCVgKo86z9vHw#

Landcare NSW Resources

Landcare NSW has produced a number of resources, funded by the State Government Landcare Support Program:

- Introduction to Landcare
- Factsheets for Landcare Groups
- Landcare Policy Templates
- Insurance
- Sharing Our Successes
- External Sourced Resources



New NSW Native Vegetation Codes

The NSW Government is reforming native vegetation management in NSW. Three new self-assessable codes have been released.

The three codes cover low-risk clearing activities for:

- Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area, PDF 81KB
- 2. Thinning of native vegetation, PDF 102KB
- 3. Clearing of invasive native species, PDF 202KB.

Landholders can get help with the codes from their Local Land Services: http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/

Planning Proposal

To permit Detached Dual Occupancies and Secondary Dwellings in RU1 and RU2 Zones

The Planning Proposal to amend the Byron Shire Local Environmental Plan 2014 to permit detached dual occupancies and secondary dwellings in RU1 and RU2 Zones is on exhibition and can be viewed at Council's administration offices in Mullumbimby, community access points around the Shire or on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition.

The intent of this Planning Proposal is to amend LEP 2014 so that development of detached dual occupancies and secondary dwellings can occur with Council consent in the RU1 Primary Production and RU2 Rural Landscape Zones. The Planning Proposal also sets out consent considerations for both types of development and establishes a minimum lot size for detached dual occupancies in the RU1 and RU2 zones. The Minister for Planning and Environment has issued an authorisation for Council to exercise delegation to make this LEP amendment. Submissions should be in writing and addressed to the General Manager, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby 2482 or sent by email to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au. Only submissions emailed to this address will be acknowledged.

Submissions Close: Friday 16 January 2015 at 4pm

Enquiries: Julie Francombe 02 6626 7118 or 02 6626 7126

The Marine Estate Management Act has been changed.

The new Marine Act is online at: http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+72+2014+cd+0+N

At the end of last year the amnesty on recreational fishing in certain Habitat Protection Zones of the Cape Byron Marine Park was lifted. This is with the exception of Tyagarah Beach and East Cape Byron, which the government is proposing to rezone to allow recreational fishing.

For more information the Marine Estate web site is at:www.marine.nsw.gov.au

LINKS

- Arakwal http://arakwal.com.au/
- Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greateasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview
- Bangalow River and Landcare http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/
- Big Scrub Landcare https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/
- Brunswick Valley Landcare http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/
- Byron Bird Buddies http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/
- Byron Community College http://www.byroncollege.org.au/
- Byron Shire Council http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/
- EnviTE www.envite.org.au
- Environmental Trust http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm
- Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308
- Far North Coast Weeds http://fncw.nsw.gov.au/
- Friends of the Koala <u>www.friendsofthekoala.org</u>
- North Coast Local Land Services http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/
- Northern Landcare Support Services http://www.nlss.com.au/
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/
- North Coast nature http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/
- Richmond Landcare Inc. http://www.richmondlandcare.org/
- Soilcare http://www.soilcare.org
- Tweed Landcare Inc. http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare http://wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/
- Wetlandcare Australia http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php

For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact
Landcare Community Support Officer
Alison Ratcliffe 66267028 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
email: alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



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