



In the Valley

Rainforest News and Views



Newsletter evolution

For the first time, our newsletter is appearing as an insert within the Byron Shire Landcare and Dunecare newsletter that is sent out electronically every month by Brunswick Valley Landcare. Thanks to our Community Support Officer Alison for facilitating. A few people have notified a preference for continuing to receive hard copies. We hope no-one misses out, let us know what works for you (email wilsonscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au, write to PO Box 678 or drop off a note at 1016 Wilsons Creek Road, providing address and number of hard copies required, or other suggestions). Please talk to any new neighbours who would like to be connected. As has been recent practice, newsletters will also be available from our Facebook group page.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on 2 November 2016.
Congratulations to elected office bearers:

President: Barbara Stewart
Vice-president: Darryl Larkin
Secretary: Julie Gardner
Treasurer: Robyn Berrington
Public Officer: Robyn Berrington
Web manager: Vicky King
Newsletter: Paul Hudson
Additional committee members: Louise Lilley, Paul Hudson, Graham Watson, Marg East, Suzi Lechner

Excerpt from the President's report to the AGM

Barbara Stewart

What a great landcare year it has been!

There has been an air of excitement in our valleys as our Coral Tree eradication project has proceeded through its second of three years, while the Bush Connect project, in conjunction with Goonengerry Landcare and Byrangery Reserve Trust has commenced. Both projects are funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

The Coral Tree project faced the first test of our project approach when a major flood event occurred last June. Large amounts of dead Coral Tree wood moved through the creek systems and, after the events, were left stranded in piles extraordinarily high on the creek banks and sometimes in trees. We are not aware of any major problems created for residents, most of whom appreciate that dead wood is replacing the very problematic live Coral Tree trunks and fragments that usually become stranded after a flood. We are happy to note that the dead trees are breaking down quickly.

The Bush Connect project operates on a landscape scale to convert Camphor Laurel and Lantana to biodiverse subtropical rainforest, connecting habitat within our valleys and to the surrounding National Parks. A field day was very well attended and left the Environmental Trust officer highly impressed with the quality of our regeneration and weed management and our environment. We do not take the values of our work and our creeks, forests and National Park neighbourhood for granted, but it is so inspiring to take a new look through the eyes of a visiting funding body representative and view his real enthusiasm for what we are doing.

Our smaller projects have been proceeding successfully, with work continuing on three sites selected for benefit from our Pozible-Landcare

crowd funding project "Help Alberts Lyrebird". We have distributed and planted trees funded by a NRMA community grant for "Foresting the Floodplain", complementing the Coral Tree project and improving the floodplain and upper reaches of Upper Wilsons Creek. Again, major flooding proved a challenge.

We are very happy to be viewing the results of Byron Shire Council's work, on the Pioneer Bridge regeneration site. WCHL works with Council's regenerators from time to time.

It has been gratifying to see a steady sign up of local properties for Land For Wildlife (program now managed by BVL and a contributant to the recent field day.) Is all the interest in private land conservation due to a desire to see our own properties better protected than National Parks?

Here's to another successful year to come!



Expressions of Interest for future projects invited

Earlier this year, our committee decided not to apply for further large projects for a while, as our group has quite a lot on its hands. But we are now looking ahead, and, in view of the lead time required for planning and preparation of funding applications, it is time to consider again. Huge impetus for a new thrust came from the recent Bush Connect and Land for Wildlife field day, which was attended by Stephen Hardy of the NSW Environmental Trust. Stephen checked out a number of Trust-funded projects in our valleys and was especially impressed by the rate and quality of regeneration following weed management. As we know, some spectacular results can be achieved when Lantana and other weeds are removed and seeds from our rich and extensive forested surrounds are dispersed into the sites. Stephen encouraged us to keep up the momentum and plan for more projects.

We already have lists of enthusiastic landholders. But please feel free to check in again and give us an update. (We hope everyone understands that

not all potential projects will instantly match up with a funding opportunity, and funds are always scarce.)

For future projects, we will be particularly looking out for:

Forest restoration opportunities that will create large blocks of habitat and corridors (e.g. adjoining National Parks, adjacent to forest on your own or your neighbour's private land).

Blocks of Lantana or Camphor Laurel (these can be converted to subtropical rainforest using very cost effective techniques).

Let us know by email, phone or in person.

Coral Tree Eradication Project Year 3

The growing season is underway and treatment of the remaining trees on creeks and tributaries is about to kick off. More info soon but in the meantime, any questions or feedback please contact:

Marg East
Project Manager
Coral Tree Eradication Project
0402513554
terrafocus@bigpond.com



WCHL is on Facebook.

To become a member of our group, go into Facebook, search for Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare and request to join. Any member can approve you. Alternatively you can go to the URL below: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/551428364915585/?ref=ts>
Once accepted as a member, feel free to post photos and stories, ask and answer questions and check in regularly.

Local Contacts

Landcare: Barbara 66840378, Julie 66840242
Fire Brigade: David 66840093, Bob 66840181
Wilsons Creek Hall: Robyn 66840299
Wires: 66281898

Highlights of the 20th Australian Weed Conference, Perth, September 2016

Barbara Stewart

The conference was inspirational and a great chance to experience viewpoints from both agricultural and environmental weed perspectives.



Great news....a biological control agent for Trad is on the horizon.



I got to pat Sally, the weed sniffer dog!



It was wonderful to hang out with Hank Bower, former Byron Council ecologist and now Lord Howe Island World Heritage Manager. Hank models a LHI Weed Eradication t-shirt.



Sue Bower, known by many for her bush regeneration works in our valleys, presented the keynote address.



My own paper was well received, documenting the recovery of an endangered rainforest herb *Isoglossa eranthemoides* following 20 years of weed management in a rainforest remnant. Once, the floor of the forest was knee-deep in Trad and Madeira Vine, and there were possibly a few hundred specimens of *Isoglossa*. Today, we estimate there are about 150,000 plants and weeds are very sparse. It was important to emphasize that, in a floodplain situation, weeds will constantly re-invade and ongoing maintenance is vital. (*Isoglossa* is not, so far, known from our valleys but is found close by. It is best detected during the October flowering season. Photo Hugh Nicholson.)