



In the Valley

Rainforest News and Views



Newsletter evolution

The Byron Shire Landcare and Dunecare newsletter is sent out electronically every month by Brunswick Valley Landcare and now includes our newsletter as in insert. 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.

Myrtle Rust threatens our local natives

We had an inquiry from a landcarer who had detected Myrtle Rust on her Rose Apple. Information about Myrtle Rust is available at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust>

Myrtle Rust is a fungal disease which infects plants in the Myrtaceae family, including eucalyptus, turpentine, bottlebrush, paperbark, tea tree and lilly pilli. Since Myrtle Rust was first detected in NSW in April 2010, it has spread across eastern Australian and is well established in our valleys.



Infected Rose Apple (photo taken at Broken Head)

Rose Apple *Syzygium jambos* is an Asian tree commonly planted as an ornamental fruit tree. It is badly affected by the rust, as well as being a serious environmental weed in many tropical regions. The fruit is not of high quality, so for many reasons it is best replaced with an alternative non-invasive fruit tree or local native species. Infected garden plants add to the threat to our local myrtles.



Rose Apple in flower. A weed that is very beautiful when not infected



*Velvet Myrtle *Lenwebbia prominens* is a lovely small tree found in patches along our creeks. It is known to be particularly susceptible to Myrtle Rust.
Photo Hugh Nicholson
rainforestpublishing.com.au*

The Coral Tree Eradication Project - update

We only have a few short months left till the completion of the funding round for the Coral Tree Project in the Wilsons Creek / Huonbrook Valleys. Whilst we still have a few sites on our list to deal with, we would be happy to hear from any landowners that know of any other locations that we may have missed. It would be much appreciated if Landowners/Carers could continue to be vigilant about collecting any coral pieces in the creek or elsewhere that may have been missed and reporting any coral tree clumps that are unknown to us.

Please note that Coral Trees on roadside verges in the area have been noted for work in the future. Thanks again to all those that have assisted Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare with the Coral Tree project.

Marg East
Project Manager
0402513554



Vegetation Mapping Byron Shire Council

The link below is to vegetation mapping happening within the Shire. Stage 3 covers Upper Wilsons Creek, Upper Main Arm, Huonbrook, and Wanganui and submissions from landholders are now invited. The aim is to update and improve the accuracy of vegetation details and mapping. Council can provide support and assistance if you require.

<http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/vegetation-mapping-stage-3>

Below is an excerpt from Council's letter regarding the vegetation mapping.

*The review is being undertaken in stages with vegetation mapping across most of the Shire already completed and exhibited in 2016. However a small area remains to be finalised in the Upper Main Arm, Upper Wilsons Creek, Huonbrook and Wanganui localities (known as 'Stage 3'). Stage 3 vegetation mapping for this final area is on public exhibition for a period of 6 weeks from **2 February until 16 March 2017**.*

Council kindly seeks your help to further refine the mapping. I encourage you to review the mapping and notify Council via a written submission if the mapping does not reflect the vegetation on areas your group may have knowledge of. Please include in your submission the property address and or Lot and DP, your contact details and a description of the changes you consider are required. You may also choose to include supporting information such as previous vegetation reports or photos. Council will review your submission and may request the owner's permission to carry out a site inspection of the vegetation on the property to inform amendments to the mapping.

To enable access to maps at a property scale, they are provided electronically and can be downloaded from Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition. Internet access to the vegetation mapping is also available at the 'self-help' kiosks in the foyer of Council's Administration Building, Station Street Mullumbimby, where a large hard copy map can also be viewed. Also enclosed are some 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the vegetation mapping to assist with your review.

If you require further assistance or advice to interpret the maps or supporting information, please contact 6626 7324 or 6626 7126 to talk to Council's Natural Environment officers, Clare Manning or Joanne Green, or to make an appointment in person to review the mapping. Appointment times during the exhibition period are between 9.00 and 12.00, Tuesdays to Fridays.

I appreciate you taking the time to review the vegetation mapping as your input will ensure that the mapping reflects what currently occurs on your land.

Guard your chooks!

Paul Hudson

Fox about! Sadly I had the experience only a couple weeks ago of a fox killing my chooks. I have heard of another neighbouring sighting.

It is advisable to report any such sightings to Council 66267324, who may direct you to Local Land Services (LLS) 66599400.

I spoke to them about what I should do, to which the best advice was to 'build a better chook house!' I have to say I agree, and I acknowledge that the security of my chook house has a lot to be desired.

Council and LLS can advise you on any potential actions, such as baiting and trapping, but my information is that for small land holdings in our valley there is not much point nor success. These strategies appear to be reserved for large open farms eg with lambs being taken.

Still, protect your poultry, keep an eye out, and Council does appreciate reports of sightings.

Have a read of the Council's info regarding feral animals www.byron.nsw.gov.au/feral-animals

What purple fruit is that?

Summer is a great time to be watching out for colourful fruits on the rainforest floor.



Purple Cherry *Syzygium crebrinerve* has a big fruiting event bi-annually and the colours are particularly eye-catching. Inside, the flesh is white and mealy. It is not poisonous, but it is not very appealing as bush tucker. Inside is a single flattish seed, which is usually quickly eaten by grubs. Growing this tree from seed requires a bit of work (soak freshly fallen fruit to drown the grubs and remove the flesh before sowing) and then wait patiently. It will not germinate until next growing season.



Smooth Davidsonia *Davidsonia johnsonii* is related to the better known Davidsons Plum and the fruit are very similar. There are, however, no seeds, just empty husks. The plant reproduces by way of suckers. There are several populations around our valleys, so you may find a new population if you keep your eye out.

Landcare Field Day!

Following on from the very enjoyable recent field days, very well attended and with positive feedback, another one is being planned. Schedule to be confirmed, with a date in March or April being considered. Keep a look out for more details.

Possible points of interest/issues - carp in the creek, and a nest box observation.

Please start talking with your friends and neighbours, as field days are a great way to promote landcare interest and involvement.

Also for the calendar – World Water Day March 22 <http://www.unwater.org/campaigns/world-water-day/en/> BSC is also organising a community event to coincide with this occasion.

Local Contacts

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

Wires: 66281898

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.

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