



# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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## September 2017

- OCTOBER**    14 Rainforest ID walk at Heritage Park  
                  20 Landscape Connections field day  
                  21 Explore your local creek - Marshalls Creek clean up  
                  27 Camphor laurel as a timber resource field day
- NOVEMBER**    TBA Compost on Farms workshop

### Heritage Park by Diana Hughes

Open Day in Mullumbimby's hidden jewel, Heritage Park, **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. Join local ecologists for a walk through our own rainforest arboretum. Find out more about the plants, birds, animal and fungi that call this special park home.

Visit the Park to see the new plantings suitable for your own native garden and find out how to care for them.

Choose your time of walk: 1pm, 2pm, or 3pm. Walks will last approximately 1 hour followed by afternoon tea and a chance to chat to volunteers. Please contact Alison 6626 7028 or [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au) to book your spot.

Flowering or fruiting in mid September are two representatives of the *Elaeocarpaceae* family - the Hard Quandong and the Blue Fig, Davidson plums and Bopple nut trees with flower clusters on their trunks forming fruit to tempt our native fruit bats. Red cedars are forming seed capsules, the Macadamias producing pink or cream racemes, while the tiny flowers of the Native gardenia,

*Randia benthamiana*, can still be seen. The fabulous purple native wisteria is cloaking the pergola and the red bottlebrush trees line the boundaries.

Heritage Park was established over 30 years ago to conserve rain forest trees of this area. It is maintained by a group of volunteers who meet each Saturday from 9.00am to 11.00am. We are always happy to see new recruits. Fundraising



goes towards interpretative signage, and donations are welcome.

This walk is part of Big Scrub Rainforest Day's weekend of events. You can find more info on the flyer on the next page.

Big Scrub Landcare  
PRESENTS

the

big

14 - 15  
OCT 2017

19TH ANNUAL

RAINFOREST  
DAY

scrub



Saturday 14 October

**RAINFOREST IDENTIFICATION WALK**

1pm - 4pm: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby

**COMMUNITY PLANTING & PICNIC**

11am - 2pm: Banyam Baigham Wetlands, Lismore

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR**

10am: Nightcap National Park

**NIGHT VISION WALK**

After dark: Nightcap National Park

Sunday 15 October

**WALK, PLANT, DISCOVER & PLAY**

9am - 12noon (Tree Planting 9am - 11am)  
Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Gully, Goonellabah

**BUSHWALK TO 3 WATERFALLS**

9am sharp to approx 3pm  
Nightcap National Park

**COMMUNITY BIG SCRUB PLANTING**

9am - 12noon  
Emigrant Creek Dam, Brooklet

PRESENTED BY



Big Scrub  
Landcare

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



ROUS  
COUNTY COUNCIL

SUPPORTED BY



Program, bookings & further info visit  
[WWW.BIGSCRUBRAINFOREST.ORG.AU](http://WWW.BIGSCRUBRAINFOREST.ORG.AU)



# Landscape Connections Field Day

Learn about developments in Bush Regen techniques

Explore the new walking track at Byrangery Grass Reserve

Visit a Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement property

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 9.00 am – 3.00 pm Goonengerry**

Book in for all or part of the day. Free mini bus shuttle to the 2 properties from Goonengerry

## PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

9:00 or 9:30 or 10:00 Choose your time, park your car and hop on the free mini bus at Goonengerry

All groups have the option to finish approx. 3 hrs after you start and return to your car by minibus or walk approx. 300m down the road to the second property for lunch and an afternoon walk.

### MORNING AT BYRANGERY

**Val Hodgson** - facts about Byrangery Grass Reserve's history.

**Stuart McDonald** - walk looking at changing regen methods, eco-tones and the bush connect project work site.

MORNING TEA

**Sandy Gilmore** - geology, flora & fauna and the big ecology picture.

Option to finish and return to your car by minibus or walk approx. 300m down the road to the second property.

### AFTERNOON AT HABITAT

LUNCH and a chance to talk to volunteers from Byrangery and to Dr. Patrick Morrissey, the owner of 'Habitat'.

1:30 Walk through Habitat looking at different methods of bush regeneration used over 30 years : lessons learnt, newer challenges and new techniques. The property is a member of Land for Wildlife, has a NPWS Voluntary Conservation Agreement that covers 90% of the property and has received 6 years of funding from FNPW.

3:00 Finish and bus back to cars in Goonengerry

*A reasonable level of fitness is required as the return walk at Byrangery is approx 3km and has some steeper sections.*

*The afternoon program is open to all levels of fitness.*

**There is no roadside parking so all vehicles need to be left in Goonengerry at the school.**

**Bookings are essential** as numbers are limited. Please book with start and finish time and dietary requirements.

Please contact Alison: [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au) 02 6626 7028.



*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.*





# CREEK CLEAN UP



## EXPLORE YOUR *local creek*



### MARSHALLS CREEK, NEW BRIGHTON

Join us for a morning kayaking up Marshalls Creek and clean up any rubbish along the way. Bring your own kayak or hire one: \$35 for a double or \$20 for a single. Followed by a free BBQ lunch.

**9AM - 2PM  
SATURDAY  
21ST OCTOBER 2017**

#### BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

<https://marshalls creek.eventbrite.com.au>

For more info visit facebook or call 6626 7028:  
[www.facebook.com/events/2046895358669540](http://www.facebook.com/events/2046895358669540)  
[www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au)



This project is assisted by funds from a  
Recreational Fishing Trust Habitat Action Grant

# BYRON BIRD BUDDIES PRESENTS Birds Of The Shire Art Trail and Walks



**Meet local artist, follow the Art Trail, register for some Walks & listen to some Talks**

## Bird Week 2017 - Sunday 22 October to 29 October

### PROGRAM:

Sunday 22 October 2017 at 1pm OPENING of EVENTS at Bangalow Heritage House on Ashton Street in Bangalow. Activities include a short walk on the Byron Creek Walking Track (Brochure Walk No. 4), bird art display, guest speakers and kid's activities. Refreshments provided. A gold donation appreciated.

**\*\*Monday 23 October 2017 at 8-12pm, Mullumbimby Heritage Park and River Walk (Brochure Walk No.19).** Meet, Tyagarah St near the tennis courts and entrance to Heritage Park, for a walk along the river and later view the bird art display at the Byron Shire Council, Library & Ex-Servicemen's Club.

**\*\*Tuesday 24 October 2017 at 8-12pm, Suffolk Park Pedestrian / Bike Track (Brochure Walk No. 2).** Meet at entrance to bike track off Broken Head Road (north-end of Byron Holiday Park opposite golf course). Later, view Bird Art Display at the Byron Bay Library. **CAUTION: limited parking and busy road. Consider parking at Golf Course and walk back.**

Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 10-11am, Byron Bay Library presentation "Birds of Byron Shire" and art display. Includes a short bird walk in the nearby bush.

**\*\*Thursday 26 October 2017 8-2pm at Goonengerry National Park (Brochure Walk No 22).** **5km guided walk.** Meet at the national park car park, end of Garrong Road (access off Coolamon Scenic Drive at the top of the range into Mill Road). Car pool, if necessary, at Goonengerry School.

Friday 27 October 2017 8-2pm at SeaPeace Property, Ewingsdale. A morning of bird monitoring. Participation only by request or invitation. Later, view art display at the Cavanbah Centre.

Saturday 28 October 2017 at 10am, Murwillumbah Community Centre, Knox Park. "Birds of Tweed Shire" presentation by BBB - Jan Olley for Tweed Landcare celebrating 20 years. View Jeff Gant's art class near the venue entrance.

**\*\*Sunday 29 October 2017 8-3pm, Byron Wetlands (Brochure Walk No 9).** Morning walk & afternoon presentations. Gate will open at 7.45am for an 8am meet. For the presentation the gate will be opened between 1.45pm & 2pm - if you are late please phone 0428 864 378. Light refreshments provided but please also bring a plate of nibbles to share and/or bring your own lunch, if staying all day. View Art Display at the Cavanbah Centre.

**\*\* Bookings essential as numbers are limited \*\***

Please book via email at: [byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com) or call 0428 864 378

**What to Bring** wear covered shoes, a hat and bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Unless otherwise stated **please bring your own food and beverages.**

For more information go to [www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au](http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au)



# BYRON BIRD BUDDIES PRESENTS Birds Of The Shire Art Trail and Walks



## BIRD ART EXHIBITION VENUES

Byron Shire Council – 70 Station St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 - (02) 6626 7000

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/q75zaoGPKjD2>

Opening Times - 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday

Byron Bay Library - Middleton St & Lawson Street, Byron Bay NSW 2481 - (02) 6685 8540

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/cB1vXW9r95N2>

Opening Times - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am– 5.00pm - Thursday 9.30am – 7pm  
Saturday 9.00am–12 noon

Bangalow Heritage House - Address & Contact - Deacon St & Ashton Street, Bangalow NSW 2479 - (02) 6687 2183

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/PibrpL3bv3u>

Opening Times – Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 03:00pm. Note – Closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday – but special opening on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm for BBB Bird Week Opening

Cavanbah Sports Centre - 249 Ewingsdale Rd, Byron Bay NSW 2481 (02) 6685 5911

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/VzfBtD6BRJG2>

Opening Times – Monday to Friday -8am–9:30pm - Saturday-9am–4pm & Sunday-9:30am–4pm

Mullumbimby Library - 70-90 Station St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 - (02) 6684 2992

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/B6bNris2Fom>

Opening Times - Monday to Friday 9.30am–5pm - Saturday 9:00am–12 noon

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club Art-Cube - 58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 – (02) 6684 2533

Map Ref - <https://goo.gl/maps/C26rWAj7vLr>

Opening Times - 7 days a week 10am–11:30pm



Aussie Backyard Bird Count supporting BirdLife Australia. Become a citizen scientist and survey your own backyard, local park or favorite open space.



Byron Bird Buddies will also be contributing to Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

For more information go to:  
<http://aussiebirdcount.org.au>





# Free Field Day

## Camphor Laurel as a Timber Resource - plan to turn weeds into dollars

Learn of an innovative staged approach to convert a camphor laurel stand into a profitable timber resource and eventually into a sustainable mixed native timber plantation.

Become part of a group of interested landowners who wish to participate in this project and further explore this new approach to an invasive environmental weed.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm Eureka**

This field day is suitable for farmers on all soil types, farm managers, forestry students, bush regenerators, landowners and new residents of Byron Shire.

### PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 12.30 - 1.00 Lunch
- 1.00 – 1.30 Introductions and outline of the topic
- 1.30 – 2.30 Guided walk through an existing camphor laurel stand with Joe Harvey-Jones and other experts
- 2.30 – 3.30 Walk to inspect a 20 year old mixed native timber plantation where sustainable harvesting is being carried out.
- 3.30 – 4.30 Afternoon tea and detailed discussion for landowners interested in participating in the project.



**Bookings are essential** please contact: Bela Allen 6684 7113 [bela\\_allen@yahoo.com](mailto:bela_allen@yahoo.com)

*This project is supported by funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program*



**Farm Co-operatives  
& Collaboration**  
*Pilot Program*



Spring has well and truly sprung, and birds are singing and nesting – ready to be counted for BirdLife Australia's fourth annual [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#).

The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard, no matter where your backyard might be — a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, a farm, down by the beach, or the main street of town. Your backyard can be anywhere you find birds.

It only takes 20 minutes and the data collected helps BirdLife Australia to better understand the birds living where people live. And as a little extra incentive, there are some [incredible prizes](#) to be won!

**It's easy to get involved. You can:**

- Register your interest as a Counter now through the [website](#)
- Download the free *Aussie Bird Count* app from [Google Play](#) or the [iTunes](#) app store
- If you already have the *Aussie Bird Count* app from last year, there's no need to delete it – an update is available on 1 October
- You can also submit your counts through the [website](#) if you prefer not to use a smartphone or tablet to take part
- And if you're a teacher, check out our Bird Count curriculum-based [lesson plans](#) to get your students (or the whole school!) involved.



The October issue of Village Eco News is now available with a great article on native frog or toad and why balloons are so bad for our environment.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-15-Oct-2017.pdf>

## Landcare Coordinator position



Well established Landcare organisation in the Bellingen Shire is looking for the services of a proactive Landcare Coordinator to join their team. You will utilise your great project management and organisational skills and liaison with landholders, government agencies, and other NRM stakeholders is central to the role.

Project management, including grant applications, project development and stakeholder engagement will keep you challenged and rewarded. If you are proactive, can work to conflicting deadlines, are a professionally presented person and want to be part of a growing organisation, this could be your next long term role. Please email the chairperson at [cicadas@bigpond.com](mailto:cicadas@bigpond.com) for a position description. Applications close 20 October 2017.

## Richmond Floodplain Project – service provider required

North Coast LLS in partnership with Lismore, Ballina and Richmond Valley councils [are seeking](#) a qualified service provider to deliver a one year project that will achieve sustainable and productive agricultural outcomes. <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/financial-assistance/richmond-floodplain-management-project>

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – have your say

The NSW Government is reforming the way Aboriginal cultural heritage is conserved and managed in New South Wales and is seeking your feedback to help refine the proposed new system. The public consultation is open until 18th December 2017. To find out about the series of information sessions and webinars being held to explain the new system <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Topics/Aboriginal-cultural-heritage/Legislation/Draft-Aboriginal-cultural-heritage-legislation-2017-consultation> .



## Invasive Species Plan

Consultation is now open for the Invasive Species Plan draft and will run until 13th October 2017. Access the plan here and have your say

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say/draft-nsw-invasive-species-plan/>



## National Landcare Program 2

The Australian Government's National Landcare Program Phase 2 has been announced. The program is intrinsically linked to the work of Landcarers in NSW.



There are several streams to the \$1.1 billion investment, which includes the additional \$100 million announced earlier this year (as part of the so called backpacker tax arrangements) .

The major streams of interest to Landcarers will be the Regional Lands Partnerships Program and Smart Farms. Information is now available at [follow this link](#). There is an online survey in relation to the Regional Lands Partnerships Program and is available on the [web site](#) and closes 23 October 2017.

## Invasive Species Photos

The Invasive Species CRC is once again running the [Feral Photo Competition](#) as a way of raising awareness of the impact of feral animals. The competition offers five prizes each worth \$300 in a number of categories.



The competition closes at 12.00pm on Friday 27 October

## Youth4Sea Project

Are you between the ages of 18 and 24 years and have an interest in making a difference in the environment?

### YOUTH4SEA

Welcome to Youth4Sea – Young People working with Young People in Reducing Marine Debris in Byron Bay

**Southern Cross University** is working in collaboration with the **Cape Byron Marine Park** and **Positive Change for Marine Life(PCML)** on an Australian Geographic Society-funded project to work with young people in researching and reducing marine debris in Byron Bay during Schoolies week.

The project is being led by Professor Amy Cutter-McKenzie and a team of researchers who form part of the Sustainability, Environment and Education (SEE) research cluster at SCU.

Register your interest for the upcoming **Youth4Sea** project <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Youth4Sea>  
<https://youth4sea.wordpress.com/>

## STORIES to inspire and give you hope

**There are hundreds of thousands of camphor laurel trees growing across the NSW north coast, but do you know how they got there?** by Kim Honan, ABC north coast

Kim Honan from ABC North Coast attended our field day recently on sustainable management of Camphor Laurel. You can read the full story at the link below but here are a few excerpts from the interview.



Photo: Jo Green from Byron Shire Council ABC Rural: Kim Honan

"People noticed Camphor laurel was growing really quickly and then the currawongs started to spread it as well," Dr Green said.

"At that time they'd cleared all the land and there was a real need for trees, so people thought it was fantastic.

"This tree was the answer to everything. They even noticed it was growing faster than the native figs, and they were planting it everywhere."

"It probably is a tree that has stirred up more

emotion than anything," Dr Green said.

While eradication of camphor laurel might have been a past focus in controlling it, Lindsay Murray of Dingo Lane Farms has now adopted a different management approach.

"My approach to managing it has evolved as I've learnt over time. I suppose I'm much more lax where I'm not trying to eradicate camphor laurels," he said.

"I manage them differently according to different parts of the farm, so while I see that they are something that have value, obviously I don't want

my whole farm covered in camphor laurels.

"About 15 per cent of the farm is under regeneration projects, either direct planting or natural regeneration projects, and using the camphor laurel as a nursery tree to assist in natural regeneration has been a big part of the project."

But Mr Murray said under the project, the camphor laurels were being gradually eradicated as native trees replaced them and formed a native canopy.



Photo: Lindsay Murray stands on a camphor laurel stump on his cattle property ABC Rural: Kim Honan



Photo: looking at some of the native plantings on the farm Alison Ratcliffe

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-04/curious-north-coast-why-were-camphor-laurels-introduced-nsw/9007682>

# Land for Wildlife

## Creating Habitat by Backyard Buddies



The Backyard Buddies website has some great information on how to create habitat on your property for all types of wildlife – birds, bugs and insects, mammals, frogs, reptiles and plants. As it's bird week soon I thought we'd take a look at how to create habitat for birds.

### Habitat for Big Birds

Large birds such as parrots, cockatoos, kookaburras, honeyeaters, birds of prey and others will add colour and excitement to your backyard.

With a few simple steps, you can transform your garden into a haven for big birds. Big birds need:

- **Hollows:** Leave larger trees, especially old eucalyptus trees with hollows. It takes 75 to 100 years for trees to develop hollows, which make excellent nesting and shelter sites for many native species. As more large trees get removed, competition gets fiercer between all types of birds and animals that need them. Buddies that use hollows include kookaburras, owls, parrots, pardalotes, possums, gliders, phascogales, microbats and many others.
- **Fallen branches, rotting logs, and old stumps:** On the ground, as they can contain hollows which birds such as parrots, owls, Kestrels and other birds can nest in. Hollow logs will also attract lizards, insects, and other animals which will be a food source for larger birds.
- **Leaf litter, fallen bark, sticks and mulch:** Throughout your garden, as this will encourage lizards and insects, which birds love to eat. It will also provide some good material that big birds can use to build their nests.
- **Local native plants:** You can ask which plants are native to your area at your local nursery, by ringing your council, or by getting in touch with the nearest Landcare or Bushcare group. Plant your local natives in patches, rather than individually in isolated spots.
- **A range of native plants:** as the greater the plant diversity is in your garden, the greater variety of birds you'll see.
- **The right kind of food:** different big birds eat different things.
- **Nectar:** Honeyeaters and some Parrots, such as Red and Little Wattlebirds, Rainbow Lorikeets and so on, eat nectar from flowers. Plants such as Banksia, Callistemon (Bottlebrush), Eucalyptus, Grevillea, Hakea, and Melaleuca (Paperbark) are great for them.
- **Fruits and berries:** Fruit eaters such as Satin Bowerbirds, Common Koels and Wonga Pigeons love Lillipillies, Quandong and Figs. Many bigger birds will eat from native as well as introduced fruit trees.
- **Prey:** Big birds such as currawongs, Laughing Kookaburras, butcherbirds, owls, and other birds of prey eat meat. Any reptiles, frogs, small mammals or other birds you encourage to your garden could become a meal for these birds.
- **Water:** Provide a water source such as a bird bath for birds to drink from and bathe in. Freshen the water regularly, and refill when empty, and you will have many a happy visitor to your backyard. Water: in a cat-proof, elevated bird bath, that is placed next to a spiky, dense bush.
- **Nesting materials:** Including leaf litter, sticks, bark and grasses.



*Photo: Tawny Frogmouth-Back Yard Buddies*

Try to:

- Put up a nest box. Different birds have different requirements about what size and shape box they will nest in, so do your research before buying or building a nest box, if you want to attract or help a specific species that you've seen around your area.
- Keep your cat indoors: as they are natural hunters and will go after birds.

## Avoid:

- Feeding birds. Throwing some bread, scraps or seeds to the cockies may seem like harmless fun at first, but when a bird discovers a good food source, it often returns with its friends. What started as one visitor can soon turn into a whole flock. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos who have been fed can return and cause problems by stripping wood from decks, window frames, and trees as they wait for someone to come and feed them. It is best to avoid creating this problem by letting birds find their own food, and planting local natives that will provide food for them. Birds will be much healthier, and less dependent, this way.
- Letting unwanted species use your nest boxes! While you may put up a nest box suited to a Kookaburra or Parrot, competition for hollows is so fierce that you may find another creature using the box. Inspect the nest box regularly, and if introduced mynas or other unwanted predators take up residence in it, humanely evict them so that native birds get a chance. Be careful though as you never know what could be found in a nest box, and it may not want to leave.

## Habitat for Small Birds

By making your garden a friendly place for small birds, you will create a good habitat for them to live, feed and nest in. Making your patch a thriving place also helps to reconnect habitats across the landscape. This means that when small birds fly from place to place in search of food, shelter and nesting trees, they have an easier task ahead of them. Making your backyard into a safe and friendly place will help more small birds overall to survive.



*Photo: Superb Fairy Wrens- Back Yard Buddies*

When you look out your windows, what do you see? Too often, the answer is Indian Mynas, Noisy Miners, or only a few types of birds.

This is because the manicured gardens we have in our suburbs encourage those birds. Mynas love areas with open spaces, like lawns or paved areas without many plants, or with only a few tall trees scattered around. Sound familiar?

These common, suburban gardens don't provide the habitat that small birds need. They don't have an understory or many plants of different heights and densities for smaller birds to hide in, and so they easily get chased out of the area by more aggressive birds like Mynas.

### **But you can help! Let's get started.**

You don't need to dig up the whole garden and start again. You can simply make a few additions to fill up your garden a bit more, and make it more suitable for small birds.

Small birds need:

- **Local native plants:** You can ask which plants are native to your area at your local nursery, by ringing your council, or by getting in touch with the nearest Landcare or Bushcare group. Try to get a mix of plants that will flower in different seasons, and provide food year-round. Plant your local natives after the first good rains in autumn or winter. Then you won't have to spend much time watering them next summer.
- **Diversity:** A garden with plants of many different heights and densities, with upper, mid and lower layers.
- **Shelter:** A dense, closely planted, central area of 1-2 metre tall shrubs in which to roost, possibly to nest in, and to shelter from weather and predators in.
- **Food:** Within and outside of the central tall shrubs, small birds need a diverse mix of smaller shrubs, grasses and ground covers in which to forage for food. Plant these about 6 inches apart. Native plants can provide different kinds of food, such as nectar, fruits or berries, and seeds, so try to include species that will provide a range of foods. Grevilleas, Banksias, Hakeas, and Eucalyptuses will provide lots of nectar, as will Correas and Kangaroo Paws.
- **Protection:** To keep small birds safe, you might like to encourage a vine to climb over some of your shrubs to provide extra cover from predators such as cats, and larger birds.

- **Water:** in a cat-proof, elevated bird bath, that is placed next to a spiky, dense bush. This gives small birds somewhere close by to hide if a predator appears.
- **An understory:** Made up of small shrubs, grasses, herbs, vines, fallen branches, hollow logs, and rocks.
- **Spiky plants:** densely planted spiky natives that can act as a bit of a buffer to prevent bigger birds and predators from coming in easily. They will also provide food, shelter and nesting sites for small birds. Great species to use include Hakeas, Bursarias, Banksias, Lambertias, Woollisias, Styphelias, Epacrises, Daviesias, Dillwynias, and the Acacia ulicifolia.
- **Native grasses:** allowed to grow tall, native grasses will provide lots of seed for small birds like finches to eat, and good places to hide. Native grasses include Kangaroo Grass, Walaby Grass and Poa Grass, among many others.
- **Nesting materials:** Including leaf litter, sticks, bark and grasses. Nest material is often bound together with spider web, so leave any webs or spiders you find around the garden alone. Having leaf litter, mulch and bark around the garden will also encourage skinks and insects for small birds to eat. Nests are often lined with soft downy fibres from plants, or strips of moss or lichen, so if you can include these in your garden, all the better.

#### Try to:

- Keep your cat indoors as much as possible, so that they don't attack small birds.
- Plant spiky shrubs between or near your existing plants to fill up the area, and make it more attractive to small birds.
- Be patient as it may take time for your garden to develop, and for small birds and new visitors to discover that it is a reliable source of food, shelter and water.
- Start slow - maybe pick one corner of your garden to build up first, and add to it over time.
- Encourage the creation of more native gardens for small birds around your area. It could be a great project for the local primary or high school, or even for a local group who would like to improve the verges in your area. Before planting a verge or other public area, gain permission from the local council or appropriate authority.
- Take a walk around your nearest natural area with high quality bushland. Observe what kinds of small birds are around, and what kinds of plants they are using. Observe how the plants small birds are feeding from and sheltering in are distributed - for example, in a large group of the same plant, or scattered amongst many different plants, or both. What you want to do in your own garden to encourage small birds and copy what you see in your local bushland.

#### Avoid:

- Feeding small birds with bread or seed. Small birds can find their own food, and get much more benefit out of food that comes from native plants, as this is what they are used to. Small birds can get sick or die if they eat the wrong foods, or food that has gone bad.
- Using chemicals and pesticides in your garden to control bugs. This removes a food source for small birds, and can make small birds sick or cause them to die if they eat a poisoned insect.
- Clearing bushy areas of the garden because they appear messy or overgrown. This is just what small birds love best!
- Using plants that are known weeds to your area. Check with your council or nursery for more information.
- Using hybrid plants such as hybrid Grevilleas with large flowers, as these attract Noisy Miners. Go for local native plants with smaller flowers, that smaller honeyeaters will be able to feed from, but which Miners and Red Wattlebirds can't.

<http://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/create>

## Frogs of Australia by Australian Geographic



Running, jumping burrowing or even tree-climbing, frogs can be found in almost any Australian landscape – desert claypans, freezing mountains and inner-city suburbs. This stunning selection from more than 220 named Australian species includes common frogs and others so rare you should contact wildlife authorities if you find one.

Australian Geographic has compiled information on 20 of the most stunning and interesting.

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2017/10/australian-frogs>

## FUNDING

### Do you have a great project and need funds to make it happen?

You can find more information on available grants on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website including a calendar of all grants expected to be available during 2016. There are also some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/funding/>

### NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants – change of dates



The NSW Environmental Trust usually calls for applications to its Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program in August / September each year.

The **call for applications** will now commence in **November 2017**, with **applications closing** in early **February 2018**.

Any questions please contact the Trust Administration on (02) 8837 6093 or via [email](#).

### Stronger Country Communities Fund

To support councils and community groups in delivering crucial local infrastructure to improve quality of life. This fund will support local projects such as upgrades to community facilities and playgrounds.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/>

### Wettenhall Environment Trust

Do you have a project that needs funding around flora and fauna conservation, threatened mammal conservation, and landscape restoration and education?

These projects should involve any of the following:

- monitoring, recording and sharing data
- delivering community education
- providing community capacity building (e.g. training)
- research and science

**Note:** There are only opening dates, no closing dates. The round closes when a suitable number of applications and spread of applications have been received.

<http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/>

### The Tucker Foundation

The Tucker Foundation supports projects that further the protection of wildlife and habitat, and to preserve natural reserves of forest, oceans and wilderness and for the rehabilitation of flora and fauna. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be considered. Applications close 30th October 2017. Apply now!

<http://www.tuckerfoundation.org.au/>



## Weed of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Privet. There are two types locally - Small Leaved Privet *Ligustrum sinense* and Large Leaved Privet *Ligustrum lucidum*

**Small Leaved Privet *Ligustrum sinense*** is a shrub to small tree to 3 m high originating from China.

It is flowering now so it's easy to spot. It has white highly fragrant flowers in late winter to spring and black berries in spring.

It's flowering parts, young branches and new growth are all covered with short, soft hairs. The leaves which are green on both sides are elliptic to ovate, with a midrib and on the lower surface pubescent (downy, covered in fine hairs).

It colonises disturbed sites and intact rainforest communities, especially in fertile soils and swamps.

The seeds are spread by birds, bats, water, and it will regrow from cut stems in rubbish dumping.

Similar Native Species are Coffe Bush *Breynia oblongifolia* which has alternate, lighter coloured leaves. And Lilli Pillis which have oil dots in the leaves.

**Large Leaved Privet *Ligustrum lucidum*** is a shrub or small tree to 10 m high originating from China and Japan.

It is hairless and the branchlets have conspicuous white lenticels (white dots). The leaves are ovate to narrow-ovate, with the upper surface dark green and the lower surface paler.

It's white flowers appear in spring / summer and fruits in Summer with blue-black berries.

It colonises disturbed sites and intact rainforest communities and it's prolific germination outcompetes native species. It grows in fertile soils, swamps, rainforest regrowth and roadside vegetation.

The seeds are dispersed by birds, bats, water, and regrows from cut stems in rubbish dumping.

Care must be taken to correctly identify before injecting large trees.

For more information on how to control these weeds and other weeds in the shire please visit the Byron Shire Council website and you will find weed profile sheets: <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/weed-profiles>



## WORKING BEES - why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. **Please always contact the groups co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!**

### Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am  
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park  
CONTACT: Jordan Moore [brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com) 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

### Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am  
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140  
or David Kemp [dnkemp77@gmail.com](mailto:dnkemp77@gmail.com) 0427 650 861

### Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 9:00am  
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay  
CONTACT: Veda Turner [vedaturner@gmail.com](mailto:vedaturner@gmail.com) 0427 857 991

### Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am  
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby  
CONTACT: Diana Hughes [bromspot@gmail.com](mailto:bromspot@gmail.com)

### Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: Ian Parer [ianparer@hotmail.com](mailto:ianparer@hotmail.com)

### Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer  
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 [rdeheer1@bigpond.com](mailto:rdeheer1@bigpond.com)

### South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm  
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.  
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden [robyn.bolden@australis.net](mailto:robyn.bolden@australis.net) 6680 1970

### Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
CONTACT: Helen Brown [hellyh@bigpond.com](mailto:hellyh@bigpond.com) 6685 4964

### Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am  
WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah  
CONTACT: Bela Allen [bela\\_allen@yahoo.com](mailto:bela_allen@yahoo.com) 6684 7113

## LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greasternranges.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](http://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>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
- Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
- 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>
- Suffolk Park Locality Group (BVL) [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group)
- Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://www.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 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

email: [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



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Local Land  
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North Coast

