

February

Free

Village Eco News

A publication of Bangalow Land and Rivercare.

Welcome to Village Eco News. For more information about how you can subscribe or contribute see page 4

20 Years of Bangalow Landcare

By Liz Gander

As the year begins I am asked regularly what the Landcare group will be doing this year. I have to admit after the long summer break it is hard to get motivated to go back to weeding and maintaining the sites around town that we have planted and maintained for the past 20 years.

Yes that's right, 2018 is the 20th anniversary of our team and our work. Quite a commitment for a few of us who have been involved from the very beginning and there are many others who have been attending our working bees for a good number of years.

While some members of our group have come and gone all have made a contribution to the greening of our village and replacement of the once magnificent rainforest that dominated this landscape.

The aim of the group has always been to plant the banks of the creeks to stop erosion and improve the water quality. The work started on Byron Creek and continued to include Maori, Paddy's and Little Maori Creeks.

When working on private or public land the aim is always to get the planting to canopy closure so it can sustain itself and then be able to leave it and move on to a new area.

We have been able to leave a few plantings on private land to the landholders to manage but public land is a different story, it needs constant maintenance and this takes all our time.

The biggest problem with planting on creeks is the spread of weeds by flooding. Just when you feel the weeds are under control the water brings a new crop of seeds. Vines are the worst as they can quickly get into the canopy and bring down trees. Garden plants that seed and spread by fauna or wind are another invader.

Too much of our time is spent controlling these. Time that would be better spent planting new forests. So this year the focus is on helping the community to identify the weed plants in their gardens so that they don't spread into bushland and add to the existing weed nightmare.

This is How You Can Help the Environment

If you suspect any plant in your garden of having weed potential take a photo and send it to us. We will identify it for you, advise of control methods and even help you remove it. Many plants sold in large nurseries have weed potential, these nurseries have no qualms about selling them so don't think because you bought it from a nursery that it's safe. We can also advise on replacement native species so please go outside and have a look, help us to help our environment. 2018 we wage war on weeds! Send photos to –
E:bangalowlandcare@gmail.com or text to 0403 720 950 and we will respond.

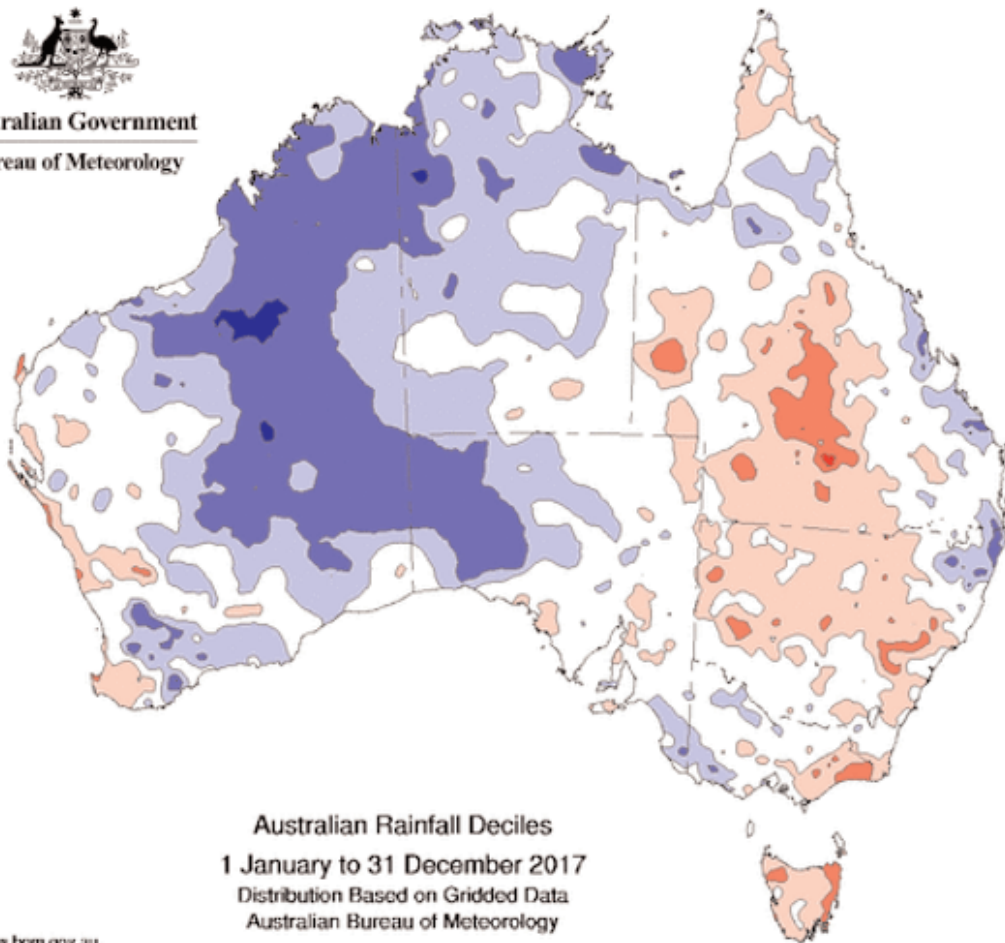
Like Us On
facebook 

Landcare Working Bee

Our team of friendly volunteers work every Saturday morning, weather permitting from 8.30am to 10.30am rotating through the various sites around Bangalow. All welcome.

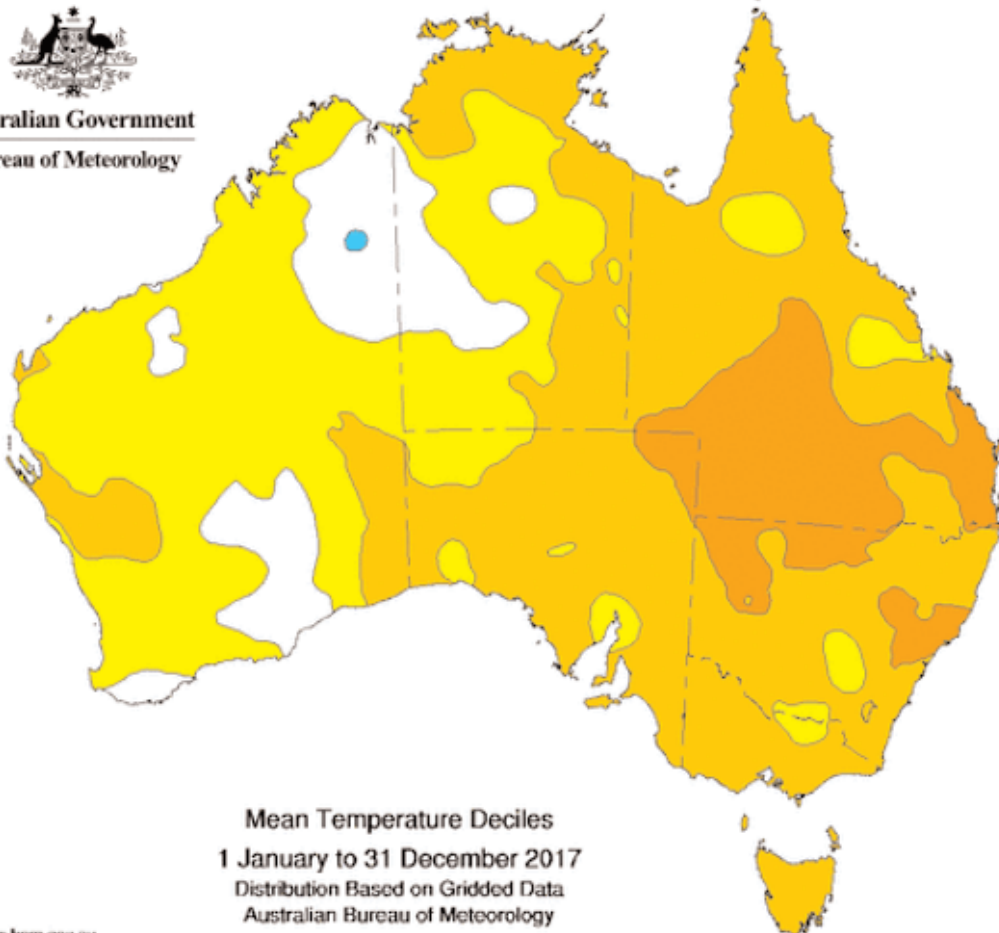
The Variations to Our Climate During 2017

Just released by the Bureau of Meteorology the maps below show the weather patterns across Australia for 2017. Definitely not pleasant reading



Australian Rainfall Deciles
1 January to 31 December 2017
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

<http://www.bom.gov.au>



Mean Temperature Deciles
1 January to 31 December 2017
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

<http://www.bom.gov.au>

It's a Toilet not a Garbage Bin

By Dawn Lotty

The toilet is a part of our daily lives, and thank goodness, but with a wide mouth and relatively powerful drainage, it's tempting to use the toilet like our own personal garbage bin: just dump, flush and it's gone forever.

There are many things that should never EVER be flushed down the toilet. And to send them to their death via the toilet drain is to risk significant plumbing problems as well as environmental pollution.

Bathroom wipes. These "moist towelette" are becoming an increasingly popular bathroom accessory. Despite the fact that they're marketed to be flushed like toilet paper, these wipes are creating clogging and backups in sewer systems around the nation

Condoms. They probably seem small and very similar to toilet tissue, but these latex prophylactics are like kryptonite for septic tanks and sewage treatment plants. What often appears to be fish on the surface of waterways are actually condoms filled with air, bobbing around.

Cotton balls & swabs. They're just cotton, right? they would just get soggy and eventually break down in the watery pipeline. No they don't. They eventually gather together in bends of the pipe, causing massive blockages.

Prescription medication. Many people feel like they're doing the safe thing, keeping medications out of the wrong hands by flushing them, but it's actually very dangerous. These drugs destroy bacteria, contaminate groundwater supplies and can have terrible effects on wildlife downstream.

Paper towels. Paper towels are extremely wasteful, and reuseable rags/napkins are much better. They are NOT designed to break down in water like toilet paper. Flushing them can cause plumbing problems not only for you but your neighbourhood sewerage system.

Cigarette butts. Not only do they look nasty when floating in the toilet water, they're full of incredibly toxic chemicals that just end up in the water supply. Also, think of all the water you're wasting to get rid of ONE tiny butt!

Band-aids. These are made from non-biodegradable plastic, which is terrible for the environment

Dental floss. Despite feeling like string, dental floss is not biodegradable. Once flushed, it loves to wrap itself around other objects in the pipeline, making tiny clogs bigger in an instant.

Fats, oil and grease. This is a tough one, and everyone has done it at one point, but cooking fats should NEVER go in the drain or garbage disposal. It seems like a liquid when it's hot, but as soon as this grease hits the drain, it cools and congeals, becoming pipe-clogging wax.

Cat litter. Cat litter is made from clay and sand, two things that you should NEVER be put down a toilet. Not to mention that cat waste contains toxins and parasites that shouldn't be in our water system.

Disposable nappies. These nappies are made from toxic plastic that's designed to expand when it comes in contact with water. In the slim chance you actually get it down the drain, it will instantly be caught in the u-bend, and cause human waste to back up.

Feminine hygiene products. Also expand when they come in contact with water and can cause the toilet pipe near the u-bend to become blocked. Tampon strings act in a similar manner to dental floss wrapping themselves around other objects in the pipeline.



**DON'T PUT ANYTHING
DOWN THE TOILET UNLESS
YOU HAVE EATEN IT FIRST!!**



Plant of the Month - Ferns

By Dawn Lotty

Ferns are a very old group of plants that came along more than 300 million years ago. They were food for the plant-eating dinosaurs and they're really great survivors.

Many people think that ferns are delicate plants needing lots of care, and some do, but there are ferns to suit every situation coming from dry arid areas to lush tropical rainforests. Its just a matter of choosing one that suits your garden and of course they make lovely house plants.

It's easy to propagate your own ferns. You need fern spors that occur on the underside of the fern leaf, a plate and wet tissue paper

Gently spread the leaves over a plate and place several pieces of wet tissue paper on top. Many spors will fall off and they will look like tiny dark spots.

If you keep the tissue wet and in good light little ferns will grow. They can be moved to small pots when they are about 2 - 5 cm tall



Return and Earn

From 1 December 2017 you can earn 10c for every eligible drink container you return as long as they are not crushed. At the time of publication the nearest collection sites are Ballina Fair, opposite Lismore Square and Casino. The system doesn't dispense 10c per container but provides you with a voucher that is redeemable at participating supermarkets.

For container types and collection sites visit www.returnandearn.org.au

Village Eco News

Our aim is to inform, interest, amuse and educate our readers on all things environmental. We welcome you to submit your contributions or to subscribe to this free Newsletter send your name and email address to:

bangalowlandcare@gmail.com

Please pass this publication on to your family and friends. Receiving our Newsletter online will help to save the environment we work to preserve.

Contact Details:

President: Noelene Plummer 6685 4470

Secretary: Liz Gander 6687 1309

Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com

www.bangalowlandcare.org.au

