



A publication of Bangalow Land and Rivercare for March 2020.

Rainforest Tree Planting

Where:

231 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow

When:

First planting

9am, Saturday 4 April, 1,200 rainforest trees

Second planting

9am, Saturday 25 April, 800 rainforest trees

We are looking for volunteers to help plant our 2,000 rainforest trees.

There is NO weeding,

No digging,

No whipper snipping,

Just planting trees in pre-dug holes and mulching.

If you can spare an hour or so please see above for details.

As a thank you for your time Mullumbimby

Rotary Club will be onsite offering

a Free (meat or veg) Sausage Sizzle!

What you need to bring and wear:

Trowels, drinking water, sunscreen.

Wear long sleeves, gloves,

fully enclosed footwear

and a hat.



RSVP zan.hammerton@zoho.com



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.

See back page

Want to help save wildlife after the fires? You can do it in your own backyard



People living in towns and cities far from the unprecedented bushfires this summer may feel they can do little more to help beyond donating to organisations that support affected wildlife. But this is not necessarily the case:

Providing for urban wildlife

Planting flowering, native species in your backyard is also the best way to provide food for visiting wildlife. Many species feed on flower nectar, or on the insects the vegetation attracts. Putting out dishes of fruit or bird feeders can be useful for some species, but the best way to provide extra food for all is by gardening.

Plants also provide shelter and nest sites, so think twice about removing vegetation, leaf litter and dead wood. Fire risk can be managed by selecting rainforest plants such as Lilly-Pillys that are fire-suppressing.

Urban gardens also provide water for many thirsty creatures. If you put out a container of water, place rocks and branches inside so small critters can escape if they fall in. Backyard ponds can provide useful habitat for some frog species, particularly if you live near a stream or wetland. Native fish are ok but please don't add goldfish!

The best frog ponds have plants at the edges and emerging from the water, providing calling sites for males and shelter for all. Insecticides and herbicides harm frogs, insects and plants, so it's best not to use these in your garden.



Native fish pond

Piles of rocks in the garden form important shelters for lizards and small mammals.

Reducing threats

It's important to consider threats too. Cats kill native wildlife in huge numbers. Keep your pet inside. When driving, think about killing your speed rather than wildlife – especially while populations are moving out of fire-affected areas in search of food. Slowing down can greatly reduce animal strikes. With the loss of huge areas of forest, species like grey-headed flying foxes will need to supplement their diet with fruit from our backyards. Unfortunately, they risk being entangled in tree netting. If you have fruit trees, consider sharing with wildlife by removing nets, or using fine mesh bags to cover only select bunches or branches.

Living with the new visitors

People have different levels of knowledge about our native wildlife. Some of these critters are small and quiet. Others are more conspicuous and may even be considered a nuisance. It is important to tolerate and co-exist with wildlife, by acknowledging they might not conform to neighbourly conventions.

Given the unprecedented extent and intensity of the fires, it is difficult for scientists to predict how wildlife will respond and what might show up in your yard. If you do see an animal that seems unusual, injured or in distress it's best to contact a wildlife rescue organisation such as WIRES (NSW).

How Changes Brought on by Coronavirus could help tackle Climate Change

by Research Director Glen Peters

Center for International Climate and Environment Research - Oslo

There is a strong link between economic activity and global carbon dioxide emissions, due to the dominance of fossil fuel sources of energy. This coupling suggests we might be in for an unexpected surprise due to the coronavirus pandemic: a slowdown of carbon dioxide emissions due to reduced energy consumption.

Worldwide events are being cancelled and travel plans dropped. A growing number of universities, schools and workplaces have closed and some workers are choosing to work from home if they can.

Even the 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change' has cancelled a critically important meeting and will instead hold it virtually. 'The International Energy Agency' had already predicted oil use would drop in 2020, and this was before an oil price war emerged between Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The unprecedented coronavirus lockdown in China led to an estimated 25% reduction in energy use and emissions over a two-week period compared to previous years (mostly due to a drop in electricity use, industrial production and transport). This is enough to shave one percentage point growth off China's emissions in 2020. Reductions are also being observed in Italy, and are likely to spread across Europe as lockdowns become more widespread.

The emission-intensive airline industry, covering



Grounded QANTAS Planes

2.6% of global carbon dioxide emissions (both national and international), is in freefall. It may take months, if not years, for people to return to air travel given that coronavirus may linger for several seasons. Given these economic upheavals, it is becoming increasingly likely that global carbon dioxide emissions will drop in 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic will not turn around the long-term upward trend in global emissions. But governments around the world are announcing economic stimulus measures, and the way they're spent may affect how emissions evolve in future.

There is an opportunity to invest the stimulus money in structural changes leading to reduced emissions after economic growth returns, such as further development of clean technologies.

Also, the coronavirus has forced new working-from-home habits that limit commuting, and a broader adoption of online meetings to reduce the need for long-haul business flights. This raises the prospect of long-term emissions reductions should these new work behaviours persist beyond the current global emergency.

The coronavirus is, of course, an international crisis, and a personal tragedy for those who have lost, and will lose, loved ones. But with good planning, 2020 could be the year that global emissions peak.



Working from home



Members of our Saturday working bee.
 Left to right: Val, Robert, Poppy our Landcare dog, Hugh, Liz and Don. Absent is Cici, Chris, Enid and Shane

Changes to our Newsletter, Raffle and Working bee

We will be changing the size and frequency of our monthly *Village Echo News*. Currently it contains four pages and is published monthly. In future the number of pages will vary and be published anywhere from monthly to quarterly depending on the articles available.

Our raffle was held on the third Saturday of each month at the Bangalow Farmers Market. The current guideline for the COVID-19 virus stipulates that everyone should keep a distance of one and a half metres from each other socially. This is not possible when you handle money and raffle tickets. So we have decided to defer our raffles until further notice. The winner of our February/March Raffle was Bernie who lives in Bangalow.

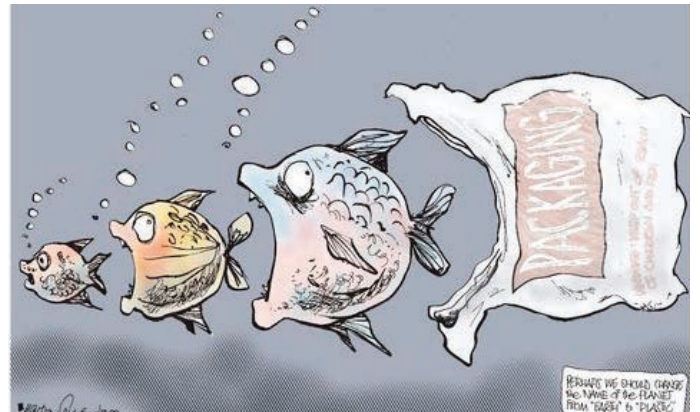
The Bangalow Landcare working bee held each Saturday from 8.30am has also been postponed. The decision was made in light of the same COVID-19 guidelines and in consideration of the groups own age, health and that of their families.

Richmond River Update

by Noelene Plummer

After the story in our January newsletter about the recent fish kill in the Richmond river, I am happy to say there is some progress being made. A trial to improve the river's health is being piloted, say the NSW department of Primary Industry (DPI), as part of the NSW Government's Marine Estate Management Strategy.

NSW DPI Program Leader Coastal Systems, Marcus Riches said, "Over \$3.4 million has been invested in the past 18 months to support water quality improvements under the strategy. Part of this funding has been provided to the North Coast Local Land Services, and in 18 months they have delivered 18km of riparian vegetation protection and enhancement activities (fencing, weeding, planting); 600m of bank erosion protection, and a further 900m is underway at Emigrant Creek sub-catchment; and nine upgraded road crossings and the sealing of 4.1 km of gravel roads to reduce sediment input into the Richmond estuary". Mr Riches added that more works are planned this year.



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.

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