



# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire



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

April 2020

Once again I've pulled together some resources to keep you and the kids busy while we are all at home. There are also lots of links to some great articles to read. Enjoy!

## Create some habitat in your garden

Brunswick Valley Landcare's [My Local Native Garden](#) booklet has a great section on creating wildlife habitat in your garden.

**Build a nest box** – below you will find some of the best resources.

[LLS Build your own Wildlife Nest box](#)

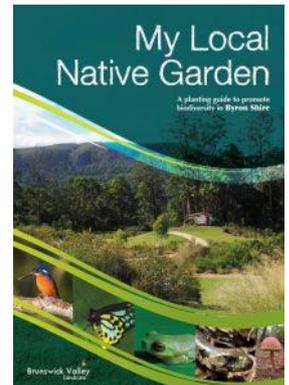
[Bird Life Australia Nest Box Plans](#)

You don't even need to be good on the tools, this great info sheet from [Hollow Log Homes](#) tells you how to make Possum and Bat boxes from every day things you'll find around the home.

## Create a Frog Pond

[Gardening Australia Backyard Frog Ponds](#)

[Landcare Australia creating a frog pond](#)



## Inspire a new generation of ecologists

With plenty of little ones to keep occupied, now is the perfect time to pique your children's interest in conservation.

- The **Australian Reptile Park** have put together an amazing program of livestreams and educational videos for you to watch at home. Watch the live streams on Facebook [@AustralianReptilePark](#) or visit their YouTube Channel by clicking <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXEA-bmkdoOnx-YnziNLDSQ>
- With **ABC Kids** Early Education you will find articles, audio and video aligned to curriculum areas: <https://www.abc.net.au/abckids/early-education/curriculum-areas/11980110>
- **BBC** is also doing daily lessons including some top names such as David Attenborough teaching geography and Professor Brian Cox teaching science. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- **Steve Backshall** from Deadly 60 fame, has started a YouTube channel and at 6.30 pm on Wednesdays he is doing live question and answers. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm-URP49TgSgyIU1rgh2m7A>
- **Saving our Species** has plenty of resources to get your kids actively learning about our threatened species, from fun colouring-in pages and masks to engaging educational fact sheets, which are all available online for free:
  - Threatened animals [colouring-in pages and masks](#)
  - The southern bell frog story – [follow the frog's journey](#) from tiny egg, to tadpole, to a young frog leaving its summer wetland

- Riverina Grassland Ramblings – [explore the grasslands](#) and meet the enigmatic and endangered plains wanderer
- [Saving the southern bell frog](#) – an educational resource for students from Years 3 to 6
- Koala Kids – help your kids learn [why koalas are so special](#)
- The mountain pygmy-possum: on the edge – [an interactive teaching resource for Stage 6 geography students](#).

## Plant a native tree

You're probably spending more time in the garden now than ever before, finally getting around to all those chores you've put off for years. You could use this downtime to help provide both habitat and food for our threatened wildlife, by planting a native tree, shrub or flower.

If you've got the room for them, forest red gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and swamp mahoganies (*Eucalyptus robusta*) make great food trees for koalas and nectar-feeding bats and birds, and tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) will keep koalas satiated in years to come.

If you would like to plant native plants in your garden but aren't sure what species would work then why not check out the [Native Species Planting Guide](#) which has all the locally occurring native species for the Byron Shire. <https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/NativeSpeciesPlantingGuide> You can choose features such as growth height, flower colour, bird attracting to create your own planting list. Don't forget to click on availability – easy to make sure you will be able to find them in our local native nurseries. Yes the good news is that nurseries are classed as essential services so are still open – but do call ahead to see if they have any special social distancing requirement.

[Flora for Fauna](#) is a great resource to find out what species to plant to attract wildlife to your garden.

And if you don't have a garden, don't worry. Wildflowers like the everlasting daisy (*Xerochrysum spp*) can thrive in pots on your balcony, introduce a pop of colour and attract birds, bees and butterflies.

**Native Plants to attract Pollinators** The image shows a t-shirt by [Kit Prendergast](#) showing Native plants that will attract and provide valuable habitat and fodder for our native insects and birds. [Bees in the Burbs](#).



## Watching from your balcony

Found yourself with a bit more time on your hands than usual? **Birds in Backyards** are interested in learning what unusual or unexpected birds are turning up in your backyard this autumn, after the summer bushfires displaced countless animals across the country. Your data will help bird scientists to understand where birds hang out and what they get up to... The survey is running until the end of April and you can report your sightings from home.

[Birds in Backyards Survey App](#).



Want to test your bird knowledge? Take the "Are you a Bird Nerd?" Quiz by clicking [here](#)

Costa is asking kids **"What's in your backyard?"** Get the kids out in the garden with a camera and upload your photos for a chance to win <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/campaigns/whatsinyourbackyard/>

**Find our what butterfly is that** - take part in a citizen science project and download the [Butterflies Australia App](#) and download a free app that helps you to identify and record sightings of butterflies.

**Why are there so many butterflies?** The [Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens](#) Facebook has lots of great information, including this write up. “You may have been witnessing large numbers of these beautiful blue butterflies around the coast recently and wondering what they are and where they came from.



Blue Tigers (*Tirumala hamata*) are one of the longest lived species of butterflies often surviving for up to 6 months. Older butterflies are recognisable by their faded wings with frayed edges.

In drought times adults tend to congregate in large numbers along sandy gullies or creek-beds in north-eastern Queensland. Then after rain in spring and summer they disperse and migrate south down the coast searching for new foliage of their larval food plant the corky milk vine (*Secamone elliptica*) to lay their eggs. This vine contains a number of poisonous chemicals that help protect the immune caterpillar and butterfly from predation. As the weather cools during March-May, the butterflies begin their long migration back up north to central and northern Queensland. It's only on the occasional year when a long drought has been followed by rain at the right time that we witness the spectacular mass migration and dispersal of these beautiful creatures.

Thank you Dr Lisa Ryan, Environmental Education Officer, Sunshine Coast for this article and thank you Judy Leitch for this beautiful image!”

**Watch the clouds** and learn about what different clouds can tell us about the weather.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-20/a-guide-to-what-each-cloud-formation-means-for-weather/12157826>

<https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/clouds/cloud-types>

Learn all about the **earth, space and the stars** from NASA

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>



## Listen to a new soundtrack

Did you know that if you hear frogs calling where you live, it's a sign that your area is healthy and unspoilt? And because each species of frog has its own unique call, it's possible to discover which frogs live nearby.

If you're not a frog song specialist, that's OK – just download the [FrogID app](#) and Australian Museum and Audio DNA experts can help you identify the species. You'll also be contributing to Australia's frog count, so scientists can learn more about where frogs are and how they're doing.



Birds in Backyards also has sound files for the [TOP 40 Bird calls](#).

## Be an armchair detective

Yep, there's a way to put your true crime obsession to use and help threatened species. You can do it all online using DigiVol, which is kind of like a conservation 'Where's Wally?'. Anyone can log on to tell us what threatened species they see in the tens of thousands of images that have been captured by the remote cameras Saving our Species has set up to monitor [koalas](#), [Mallee fowl](#) and other species.



# Webinar

## Forecasting Australia's livestock future

Northern Tablelands and North Coast Local Land Services invite sheep and cattle producers to a **FREE webinar** with internationally recognised market analyst Simon Quilty.



### Two part webinar series

**1** **Wednesday 13 May 2020 7:30 pm**  
**Register at:** [https://dpensw.adobeconnect.com/e4jgm2plropp/event/event\\_info.html](https://dpensw.adobeconnect.com/e4jgm2plropp/event/event_info.html)

**2** **Wednesday 20 May 2020 7:30 pm**  
**Register at:** [https://dpensw.adobeconnect.com/emqkkyv9k22/event/event\\_info.html](https://dpensw.adobeconnect.com/emqkkyv9k22/event/event_info.html)

As many livestock producers move their business forward from one of the worst droughts on record Northern Tablelands and North Coast Local Land Services have engaged market analyst Simon Quilty.

**SPEAKER:** Simon Quilty - Simon has extensively researched the factors that have driven livestock prices higher over many years. He has just returned from an extensive North American research tour, meeting key industry stakeholders.

**He will discuss:**

- Global demand and supply factors
- African Swine Fever
- Covid19
- Competitor trade agreements

and outline how these will impact future Australian livestock prices and present his own forecasts for the next three years.

### For more information contact the webinar hosts

**Max Newsome:** Northern Tablelands LLS Land Services Officer (Livestock)  
T: (02) 67301900 M: 0427 007 190 or E: [max.newsome@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:max.newsome@lls.nsw.gov.au)

**Nathan Jennings:** North Coast LLS Senior Land Services Officer (Agricultural Advice)  
T: (02) 6623 3926 M: 0437 083 147 or  
E: [nathan.jennings@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nathan.jennings@lls.nsw.gov.au)

**Brant McLeod:** Northern Tablelands LLS Senior Land Services Officer (Sheep)  
T: (02) 67301900 M: 0413 884 710 or E: [brent.mcleod@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brent.mcleod@lls.nsw.gov.au)



National  
Landscape  
Program



This project is jointly funded through Local Land Services and the Australian Government's National Landscape Program.



Local Land  
Services

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/news/learn-how-to-film-your-landcare-project/>

## National Landcare Conference - new event date

As you are aware, the National Landcare Conference was scheduled this year for November 11 to 13. Due to COVID-19, the National Landcare Conference Steering Committee have announced the conference will now take place on March 10 to 12, 2021 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. The committee would like to take this opportunity to extend the deadline for the Call for Abstracts to July 1, 2020.



We are calling for submission for the below four conference streams:

**Sustainable Agriculture:** Innovation and technology, soil health, adaptation to climate change, integrating productivity and conservation.

**Environment & Climate Change:** How to encourage individuals to take positive action to mitigate climate change with Landcare?

**Community Partnerships in Action:** Building community capacity and resilience, communication and storytelling, volunteering, partnerships, building and sharing knowledge.

**Landcare Impact:** Landscape, biodiversity, community resilience, mental and physical health of individuals, community wellbeing, agriculture productivity, economy.

For more information or to submit an abstract go to <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/call-for-abstracts>



The April issue of Village Eco News is now available.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-41-April-2020.pdf>



## Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

Available for comment 24 March to 15 May 2020

Byron Shire Council has just revised and updated its original Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and Council is now welcoming public submissions on the draft. The Strategy outlines how Council, in partnership with the community, can protect and enhance our unique biodiversity – this is particularly important here, in one of the most biologically diverse parts of Australia.



To develop the Biodiversity Strategy, we have spoken with local expert ecologists, aboriginal stakeholders, the community, and other local councils, to ensure we develop a strategy that reflects good science, facilitates productive partnerships, and provides practical and achievable actions to help both Council and the community look after our natural environment.

The Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges and celebrates the huge amount of work done by local conservation volunteers in Byron Shire, and there is a strong focus on how Council can help support, partner with and grow our environmental volunteers. So we are particularly interested in hearing from local environmental volunteers during public exhibition.

To find out more about the strategy, view it on line and make a submission, please go to [www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/biodiversity-strategy](http://www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/biodiversity-strategy). For further information or to make an appointment, call Liz Caddick, Biodiversity Officer 02 6626 7126.

## Green Innovation Awards

Our youth have big ideas for addressing local environmental issues and the Green Innovation Awards, backed by the NRCF Chairperson's Grant, are providing a platform for them to be heard. The awards are open to school kids across the Northern Rivers



Expressions of interest are currently open, with final entries due by 19 June 2020. Given many children are now learning from home, they will be looking to support students and schools with online learning resources from Term 2. Organisers have also made a provision to extend the due date if required. To register your school visit [www.greeninnovationawards.com.au](http://www.greeninnovationawards.com.au).

## Our trees are dying

Article courtesy of Soilcare Inc.

The effects of the drought keep on mounting and it would seem the most recently casualties have been many of our native trees. Many Landcare and community members have reported dead and dying trees, and most have observed it seems to have intensified this year.



Saving our trees is not easy. Dr Crane explained "ground cover is the best help. Ground cover helps conserve moisture and regulate soil temperature".

For the future, when revegetating is back on the agenda, prioritise protecting as many trees as possible.

Our resilient landscape has its limits. We can no longer take trees in our landscape for granted.

[Read the complete article here](#)

## Australia's Pyrocene Future

Were our recent bushfires the equivalent of an ice age? What does this mean for Australia and the rest of the world? Will the after effects have a prolonged impact on our future?

We're in conversation with Stephen Pyne, Emeritus Professor at Arizona State University, specializing in environmental history, the history of exploration, and especially the history of fire. Also the author of *Burning Bush: A Fire History of Australia*.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/nightlife/fires/12151958>

## Giant trees have towering role in protecting forests

**Study highlights importance of biodiversity as part of strategy to stop planet overheating**

The authors said their study highlights the importance of forest protection and biodiversity as a strategy to ease global heating. They say it should also encourage [global climate modellers](#) to shift away from representing all the trees in a forest as essentially the same.



The scientists grouped the 282 different species of tree into five categories determined by growth, reproduction and longevity. This showed the relative roles of "fast" species that grow and die quickly, "slow" species that grow slowly and reach an old age, "infertile giants" that live long and reproduce over a long time, and "fertile dwarfs" and small shrubs and low treelets that grow slowly, die young, but produce a large number of offspring. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/09/tolkein-was-right-giant-trees-have-towering-role-in-protecting-forests>

## Australian forest study may challenge climate change optimism

As Australia's forests burned earlier this year, people around the world worried about the impact of all that smoke on our climate.

At the same time, researchers in New South Wales were finalising a study looking at the capacity for forests to consume and store carbon from the atmosphere.

The results were not comforting. In fact, they cast doubt over many of the climate models being used to predict carbon levels into the future.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-04-11/forest-carbon-study-climate-change-optimism-sequestration-uws/12136118>



## STORIES to inspire and give you hope

### FREE online TAFE courses

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TAFE NSW, in conjunction with the NSW Government, is offering a number of fee-free\* short courses that can be completed in just days or weeks, offering practical skills and experiences across a range of industries.

- Develop Administration Skills
- Enhance Your Digital Impact
- Grow Health and Medical Knowledge
- Improve Leadership Performance
- Practical Business Skills

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses>

**COVID-19  
SUPPORT**  
FEE-FREE\* COURSES

### Urban land could grow fruit and vegetables for 15 per cent of the population by Science Today

Growing fruit and vegetables in just 10 per cent of a city's gardens and other urban green spaces could provide 15 per cent of the local population with their 'five a day', according to new research.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200317130713.htm>



### Learn how to film your Landcare Project

Have you ever wanted to make a short movie about your Landcare project but haven't the foggiest where to start?

Landcare Australia have put together an exciting new resource to help Landcare groups capture their amazing projects in the best light. You don't need any fancy equipment – just your recording device and a lot of enthusiasm. In this video, our producer Matt explains all about the best angles, shots, content, sound and graphics. When you're done, there are lots of simple and free-to-use editing software available to stitch your footage together. <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/news/learn-how-to-film-your-landcare-project/>



## REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

### Transitioning to rotational grazing on mixed-species pastures

**A property in transition to cell grazing and diversity in pastures.** Courtesy of Soilcare Inc.

*Photo: The Reids plan to rest paddocks for three to six months at a time to ensure groundcover.*



Livestock operations are often positioned as having a negative impact on the environment but some argue livestock forms an integral part of regenerative farming.

Ben and Jane Reid have begun to transition from a traditional mixed-farming operation to solely livestock, now running their 2000 first-cross ewes and 170 Hereford cows under the principals of regenerative agriculture, rotationally grazing their stock on mixed-species pastures.

[Read the Reid's story here](#)

### Dung beetles and biochar can help increase farm production and help the environment

Courtesy of Soilcare Inc

*Photo: Dung beetles help bury nutrient-rich cattle manure into the soil profile.*



One cow can drop up to 7.2 tonnes of dung on pasture each year. By burying this dung in the soil, dung beetles have been shown to improve soil health and improve pasture dry matter production.

At the same time, they are burying tonnes of carbon and nitrogen that would otherwise have gone into the atmosphere and water bodies. With the additional innovative method of feeding biochar to animals, dairy, beef or sheep, the animals health and feed conversion is improved.

Biochar can improve soil fertility, which stimulates plant growth. Healthier plants are able to consume and convert more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), thus improving air quality. Due to its ability to retain soil nutrients for long periods of time, biochar reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

[Read the full article here](#)

### Measuring soil active carbon, not just total carbon

Courtesy of Soilcare Inc.

*Photo: This multi-species cover crop was planted to lift microbial diversity and increase active carbon*

Active Carbon punches above its weight. Sometimes, it may only be a small percentage of the total carbon, but active carbon is the most important for soil fertility. We know soil carbon is important for soil health. But not all soil carbon is the same. When we assess only total soil carbon, we miss vital information for improving yield. Instead, the biologically active part of soil carbon is much more insightful for soil fertility and productivity.



What is active carbon? [Read all about it here.](#)

## Podcasts - Link between soil wealth and cover cropping with Dr Kelvin Montagu

Courtesy of Soilcare Inc.

Get inspired by this podcast with Dr Kelvin Montagu who gives a good overview on cover cropping, the key benefits for using it on your farm - for your wallet and for your soil health - as well as some handy tips and methods for doing it successfully.



Dr Kelvin was part of the project VG16068 supported by Hort Innovation Vegetable Fund.

[Listen to the cover crop overview here \(9 minutes\).](#)

Continue learning about the benefits of cover cropping with Dr Kelvin Montagu. In this follow up podcast Kelvin explains how cover crops integrate with the vegetable production system and how keeping your soil healthy plays a big role on the wellbeing of your crops.

[Listen to the continuation of cover crop benefits here \(12 minutes\).](#)

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## Unbroken Ground | A New Old Way to Grow Food

This link is for a 4 -Part video produced by Patagonia, USA, and covers four interesting topics;



1. Research into diversifying grasslands with "old" native grasses and legumes.
2. A very interesting film on a conversion from a big cattle feedlot, to grass fed and grass finished native Bison, practicing principles of Regenerative Agriculture and indigenous land management;
3. Bringing back genetic diversity and harvesting "old" grains for breadmaking and distillery uses;
4. Restoring salmon fisheries as a component of Regenerative Agriculture and aquaculture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ezkp7Cteys>

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## Third time lucky for Australia's newest migrant, the French 'eater of cow dung' beetle

by ABC News

Despite our history with introduced species, farmers and scientists are celebrating as a new dung beetle makes itself at home.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-04-23/new-dung-beetle-for-south-east-australia-after-previous-attempts/12156614>



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## We have to wake up: factory farms are breeding grounds for pandemics

by The Guardian

The link between factory farming and increasing pandemic risk is well established scientifically, but the political will to curtail that risk has, in the past, been absent. Now is the time to build that will. It really does matter if we talk about this, share our concerns with our friends, explain these issues to our children, wonder together about how we should eat differently, call on our political leaders, and support advocacy organisations fighting factory farming. Leaders are listening. Changing the most powerful industrial complex in the world – the factory farm – could not possibly be easy, but in this moment with these stakes it is, maybe for the first time in our lifetimes, possible.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/20/factory-farms-pandemic-risk-covid-animal-human-health>

## Meet the nocturnal moth stealing nectar from your fruit so it rots while you sleep by ABC News

To their puzzlement and dismay, gardeners and growers in Queensland have been waking up to discover their fruit on the ground, ruined.

The nocturnal fruit-piercing moth penetrates ripening fruit, then feasts on the nectar inside. The surge in numbers may be due to heavy rains following prolonged drought conditions.



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-21/fruit-piercing-moth-blamed-for-ravaged-orchards/12166932>

## Land for Wildlife



## Love calls of powerful owls ring out along eastern Australia

*Photo: Powerfull Owl Nick Bradsworth*

Mating calls of Australia's largest owl — the powerful owl — are now being heard along eastern Australia.

And this noisy kick-off to the breeding season gives vital clues to scientists trying to track and protect this magnificent bird. It turns out our big cities are an important refuge for the owl — especially since the recent fires burned much of its natural home. And researchers want our help in finding its urban haunts.



The powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*) is named for its strength. "They are the only bird in Australia that carries more than its own body weight in food when it flies," conservation biologist Beth Mott from BirdLife Australia, says.

The thing is, it's very hard to see these owls because they are very well camouflaged and only come out at night for activities like 'possum shopping'. But their calls are a dead giveaway. They're the only Australian owl that makes a classic owl sound — a double-note 'whoo-hoo' that can be heard up to two kilometres away. Click on this link to listen to what you can expect to here if you have Powerful Owls near you <https://soundcloud.com/abc-science/powerful-owl-male>

To read the rest of the story <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-04-19/love-calls-of-powerful-owls-ring-out-along-eastern-australia/12132824>

## FUNDING

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

On the Brunswick Valley Landcare website there are 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/>

## inGrained Northern Rivers Large Grants Program

Established by Stone & Wood, the inGrained Foundation supports grassroots environmental and social charities. In 2020, their Large Grants Program is focused on projects based in the Northern Rivers region, on the theme of 'regeneration and social connection'. Grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 are available.

Applications close Thursday 21 May.



## WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief & Recovery Grants



The Landcare Australia and WIRES partnership is all about implementing immediate response, recovery and resilience building projects for wildlife in bushfire and drought impacted communities across Australia. The grants program will provide networks and groups additional support to coordinate and fund projects to maximise the impact of their contribution to recovery efforts and strengthen outcomes for wildlife.

### Objectives:

- Improved outcomes for wildlife following devastating bushfires and drought across Australia, aligned with key government response priorities
- Local communities supported to undertake priority short to medium-term wildlife support and associated habitat rehabilitation projects

A total pool of \$1,000,000 of funding is available, eligible applicants are invited to apply for grants of **up to \$20,000 (ex GST)**

*For projects that require funding over \$20K, larger joint projects, and major landscape-scale recovery projects, please contact Landcare Australia to discuss your options. [grants@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:grants@landcareaustralia.com.au) or (02) 8440 8819.*

Applications close: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 (3pm AEST)

A full copy of the Guidelines and Criteria is available <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/wireslandcaregrants>

## Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

The Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program open competitive grant opportunity is now open. Up to \$12 million is available under the program.

The grant opportunity will be run in at least two tranches. If there are unallocated funds remaining at the end of Tranche 2, there may be a third tranche.

To ensure organisations are given enough time to apply, grants will be staged over two tranches, with the first opening on 1 April, 2020 and closing on 22 April, 2020. Tranche 2 is anticipated to open on 23 April, 2020 and close on 28 May, 2020.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/bushfire-recovery/open-grant-program>

## AABR Post-fire bush regeneration



WORKING WITH NATURAL PROCESSES

Finally - it looks like some important opportunities coming up to attract funding for post-fire regen.

AABR are asking you to please read the three opportunities below and email [president@aabr.org.au](mailto:president@aabr.org.au) if you know of any post-fire sites that need work employing bush regeneration contractors over the next 6-12 months.

1. This week AABR is putting in a bid to the Federal Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program to cover a few site clusters involving Threatened species and communities.
2. This month the Global Evergreening Alliance will confirm its plans to make substantial investment in agricultural landscape recovery but also involving post-fire regeneration work.
3. Possibly coming up. PEW Charitable Trusts have been lobbying governments to direct economic stimulus packages towards conservation and land management.

## Fencing Grants

The NSW Government has committed \$209 million to help bushfire-affected landholders with the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands.



Local Land Services

Private landholders who share a boundary with public land and were impacted by the Northern and Southern fires of late 2019 and early 2020 are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per kilometre to contribute to the replacement of damaged boundary fences.

Note that for the purposes of this grant, public lands includes:

- National parks
- Forestry Corporation land
- Traveling stock reserves
- Crown reserves, tenured roads and leases
- Roads managed by Roads and Maritime Services or Local Government.

<https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/supporting-our-neighbours-public-land-boundary-fencing-program>

## Macpac Fund for Good

We're completely in love with the outdoors... completely and utterly. It's vitally important to all of us at Macpac to play our part in preserving our wilderness, and its wildlife, for generations to come. We recognise the impact that simply doing business can have on our precious planet – so we're constantly working to reduce our own environmental footprint. We use the Macpac Fund for Good to support projects working hard to preserve our natural environment, restore and protect habitats, and to look after the creatures that call them home. Wherever we can, we do our bit to ensure we all continue to enjoy them for many years to come. **Closing: 30 April 2020**



Available: grants of between \$2,000 - \$10,000 <https://www.macpac.com.au/fund-for-good.html>

## News Corp Bushfire Fund Grants

News Corp has partnered with FRRR to provide support to not-for-profit community organisations delivering locally led projects and activities that endeavour to support people in their recovery as a result of the 2019/2020 bushfires. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available.



Round 1 applications close 5<sup>th</sup> May

## FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants

Grants to help rural communities tackle the issues concerning young people across rural, regional and remote Australia. Applications close 26<sup>th</sup> May

## Westpac Foundation Community Grants

Westpac Foundation has partnered with FRRR to offer Westpac Foundation's Community Grants to rural and regional communities. These grants provide support for community organisations creating opportunities through education, training and employment.

The Westpac Foundation Rural Community Grants program will offer grants of \$10,000 for community-driven initiatives in regional, rural and remote Australia that enhance, develop or provide education and training opportunities for those who are most vulnerable. Applications close 13<sup>th</sup> May.

[https://www.frrr.org.au/grant\\_calendar.php](https://www.frrr.org.au/grant_calendar.php)

## Weeds of the Month

This month's weed of the month is focusing on 2 trees that are currently flowering so easy to spot.

**Winter Senna** also known as Easter Senna *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata* as it is



currently flowering so very easy to spot. You will see it up and down many local roads as the seeds are easily spread by wind, birds and humans. The seeds can live for 3-5 years lying dormant in the soil. It is a spreading shrub to 3m and has leaves with 3-6 leaflet pairs. The flowers are yellow, large and showy, with protruding curved stamens (the pollen-producing parts). The seed pods are a round bean. There are similar native species *Senna acclinis*,



Brush Cassia which is a Threatened Species, but can be easily distinguished by its flatter seed pods and usually has more leaflets.

For more information on how to control this weed visit

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WinterSenna>



**Golden Rain Tree** *Koelreuteria elegans* subsp. *formosana*. Also known as Chinese flame tree, Chinese rain tree, flame gold, and flame golden rain tree it is an extremely fast growing medium-sized tree usually growing to 5-12 m tall but capable of reaching up to 25 m in height.



Its main trunk is covered in rough greyish-brown bark. Its twice-compound leaves are very large (25-60 cm long and 15-44 cm wide) and have numerous leaflets (5.5-10 cm long). Its large branched flower clusters are 30-50 cm long and are borne at the tips of the branches in late summer. Its bright yellow flowers usually have four or five yellow petals and the same number of stamens. Its three-

sided papery capsules form in early Autumn and turn from bright red to

pink and then eventually brown as they mature.

A native of Taiwan it is not on the Byron Shire Council's list of weeds however it is starting to populate large areas of our suburban areas. It is locally naturalised in south-eastern Queensland (e.g. around Brisbane and near Noosa) and in the coastal districts of north-eastern New South Wales (e.g. near Lismore). Also naturalised in south-eastern USA (i.e. Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida) and on some Pacific islands

(i.e. Hawaii and Guam).

A potential weed of roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, parks, urban bushland, riparian vegetation, gullies, forest margins and open woodlands in the sub-tropical, tropical and warmer temperate regions of Australia. For more information please visit

<http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/golden-rain-tree>



## **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!**

### **Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow**

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am  
WHERE: find out from Liz Gander  
CONTACT: Liz Gander [bangalowlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:bangalowlandcare@gmail.com) 66871309

### **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)

### **Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby**

WHEN: last Sunday of the month  
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer  
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 [ritadeheer7@gmail.com](mailto:ritadeheer7@gmail.com)

### **Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores**

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 – 11.00 am (8.00am DST)  
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: David Kemp [dnkemp77@gmail.com](mailto:dnkemp77@gmail.com) 0427 650 861

### **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@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robyn.bolden@optusnet.com.au) 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

**Can't find a group near you?** We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us for more details) or if there isn't an existing group in your neighbourhood or you are interested in looking after a particular area, BVL can help you to form a locality group under the BVL umbrella.

## LINKS

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- 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>
- Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
- Local Land Services [www.northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au)
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare [www.brrvl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brrvl.nsw.gov.au)
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
- North Coast Nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
- Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
- Soilcare <http://www.soilcare.org>
- Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>

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For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact

**Landcare Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe**

6626 7028 0421 244 640 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) [aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)

**Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith**

6626 7201 (Friday) [rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au)



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