



# *In the Valley*

## *Rainforest News and Views*



### Newsletter evolution

Once again, our newsletter is appearing as an insert within the Byron Shire Landcare and Dunecare newsletter that is sent out electronically every month by Brunswick Valley Landcare. Thanks to our Community Support Officer Alison for facilitating. A few people have notified a preference for continuing to receive hard copies. We hope no-one misses out, let us know what works for you (email [wilsonscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wilsonscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au), write to PO Box 678 or drop off a note at 1016 Wilsons Creek Road, providing address and number of hard copies required, or other suggestions). Please talk to any new neighbours who would like to be connected. As has been recent practice, newsletters will also be available from our Facebook group page.

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### Taking our Coral Tree eradication project to the world!

We are excited to announce that news of our local eradication project will be delivered to an upcoming conference "Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate: Restoring Ecological Processes, Ecosystems and Landscapes in a Changing World" to be held in early February in Armidale. The Local, national and international audience will include restoration scientists, land managers, landholders and community personnel.

The abstract for our presentation has been accepted and is reproduced below. We hope our readers find interest in the history and context of our project, all of which will be accompanied by our maps and local details in the presentation itself. It will be an exciting and inspiring get together – more news to follow in newsletters next year.



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#### **Approaching local eradication of Coral Tree *Erythrina x sykesii* at Wilsons Creek and Huonbrook, north east NSW**

*Barbara Stewart and Marg East, Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare Inc*

Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare (WCHL) is nearing the end of a three year NSW Environmental Trust-funded project that aims to eradicate Coral Tree *Erythrina x sykesii* from two tributaries in the headwaters of the Richmond River, north east NSW

The draft Australian Weed Strategy identifies eradication as a cost-effective management goal, generally referring to permanent removal of early incursions of weed species. Established and widespread weed species are more usually candidates for containment and asset protection approaches. In 2005, WCHL received funding to develop a weed management strategy, based on surveys of accessible public land on roadside and creeks. We identified a suite of species for which local eradication was feasible (no seed set and typically dispersed by floodwaters and machinery).

Coral Tree was prioritised. A widespread horticultural hybrid that does not set seed, Coral Tree spreads vegetatively from trunk and stem fragments. Inexpert management rarely kills the wood and typically produces sprouting debris. In waterways, fallen trunks grow into dense thickets, diverting watercourses and competing with high conservation value native vegetation.

Our general approach has been to start at the top of the catchment and work downstream. We have raised awareness of Coral Tree and other weed management issues, provided landholders with advice about how to manage the trees (and how not to), invited information about private land occurrences and engaged stakeholders. Minor tributaries and other private land sites in the subcatchments are now being treated.

Progress has been beyond expectations and the challenge will be to maintain momentum.

### Message from our project manager

This is our last year of funding (finishing March 2017) so if you would like Landcare's assistance to get rid of coral tree on your property this is the last chance to get in touch. Please ring as soon as possible so we can prioritise work sites for this season.

You can also continue to assist the project by checking the creek regularly for any signs of live coral trees or branches that may have been missed and either remove them or let us know about them.

Its been a great community project to date. Once again thanks to all those landholders who have participated. Please contact me if you have any queries or info regarding the project.

Marg East  
Project Manager - Coral Tree Eradication Project -  
Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare  
0402513554 [-terrafocus@bigpond.com](mailto:terrafocus@bigpond.com)

### Local Contacts

*Landcare:* Barbara 66840378, Julie 66840242  
*Fire Brigade:* David 66840093, Bob 66840181  
*Wilsons Creek Hall:* Robyn 66840299  
*Wires:* 66281898

### Why are you growing Toilet Brush Plant in your garden?

It can be hard to explain that some of the prettiest garden plants are also very serious environmental weeds. Here is one suggestion – give them an unattractive name.



Toilet Brush Plant, formerly known as Kahili Ginger, is listed as noxious in Queensland and is very problematic in New Zealand and Hawaii. There is far too much spreading around our valleys.

If you really want to keep Toilet Brush Plant in your garden, the responsible thing to do is to remove all spent flowers before they set seed.

That is a lot of work, so please consider taking them out before your friends and neighbours question your judgment and ask about that plant with the yucky sounding name.



### WCHL is on Facebook.

To become a member of our group, go into Facebook, search for Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare and request to join. Any member can approve you. Alternatively you can go to the URL below: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/551428364915585/?ref=ts> Once accepted as a member, feel free to post photos and stories, ask and answer questions and check in regularly.