




# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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MAY 14 Mullum Music Festival Tree Planting  
15 Native Stingless Bee Workshop

May 2017

## It's Volunteer Week – thank you to all our volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers for your tireless efforts helping to protect our natural environment. It wouldn't be possible without you!

### Can you bake or plant trees?

On **Mothers Day Sunday 14th May** at **9am** we will be holding our annual **Trees for Mum** Mullum Music Festival Tree Planting in the beautiful grounds of **Durrumbul Community Hall**.

Brunswick Valley Landcare we will be cooking the BBQ and organising the planting in partnership with Byron

Shire Council.

Can you bake? If so we would love some muffins, cupcakes or biscuits to offer people for a gold coin donation (please no cakes that need to be cut up). If you could bake some yummy treats, could you please bring them along on Sunday with the ingredients on the container. All proceeds will go to Brunswick Valley Landcare for future tree plantings.

Are you an experience planter? If so we need some help on the day from experienced planters who would be happy to help out those who are not so experienced. If this is you please arrive onsite at 8am for the volunteer induction.

Can't bake or haven't planted before? We would love to see you to join in this fun day for all! Plant a local native tree your mum - to celebrate mums everywhere! And enjoy the free music by Aine Tyrell and Andrew Morris provided by Mullum Music Festival.

Please bring drinking water, wear gloves, sun safe clothing and covered footwear. All holes will be pre-dug and plants laid out ready for planting. Look forward to seeing you on Sunday.  
Alison



*Photos of some of the many helpers at the 2015 Mullum Music Festival Planting*

THE 2017  
**MULLUM**  
*Music Festival* NOV 16-19



# Tree Planting

**MOTHERS DAY, SUN MAY 14 2017**  
**DURRUMBUL HALL, Main Arm 9am-1pm**

**The 7th ANNUAL MULLUM MUSIC FESTIVAL TREE PLANTING CELEBRATING MUMS!**

Join us on Mothers Day and plant a local native tree for your Mum.

This year will see another 1000 trees planted by the Mullum Music Festival and it's team of wonderful sustainability supporters.

Enjoy free live music from the incredible **ÁINE TYRRELL & ANDREW MORRIS**.

**Brunswick Valley Landcare** will provide a delicious BBQ brunch (gold coin donation).

**Planting commences at 9am, Music and refreshments until 1pm.**

The **DURRUMBUL HALL** site will be a special location with the planting of trees for all mums, past, present and future.

**Bring drinking water and wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants, with protective shoes.**

**Trees will be provided and laid out ready for planting at the site.**

**Proudly Supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare, Byron Shire Council  
Durrumbul Hall, The Byron Shire ECHO & The Local Green Army Team**

**For more information Contact Jo Green on 6626 7068**







# Free Workshop

## Australian Native Stingless Bees as Pollinators

This free workshop will focus on native bees as pollinators in various local crops, their use in the environment to aid sustainability and biodiversity and how they are used in society to improve our lives.



**Monday 15th May 2017 9.30 am – 1.30 pm Ewingsdale**



This will be an informative session presented by Steve Maginnity, local native stingless bee expert.



Following the talk there will be a Q and A session.

Lunch will be provided.

**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*





The May issue of Village Eco News is now available with a great article on the health risks of mould.

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



## CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

June- September 2017

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au/>

We're excited to announce that the **2017 Threatened Species Children's Art Competition** will be open for entries from all primary aged children in NSW and the ACT from June 5 to August 4. The competition brings to the attention of our next generation the need to protect species of native plants and animals that are currently under enormous threat.

Last year's competition was a huge success, with over 600 children participating. Images of the finalists' inspiring, creative and thought provoking artworks can be viewed at

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au/threatened-species-artworks.html> and

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au/finalists-2016.html>

This year's competition is shaping up to be even bigger. A prize giving will be held on **September 7, Threatened Species Day**, with a **two week exhibition** following.

## Green Globe Awards

Don't forget nominations for the [Green Globe Awards](#) are now open. There are several categories for organisations and individuals working to enhance natural ecosystems including native flora and fauna, habitats, soils and biodiversity.



## 2017 Landcare Awards

It's time to recognise the commitment of those Australians working to protect the environment and delivering more sustainable agriculture.



We are urging all Landcare groups and volunteers to nominate those hard working, passionate people for recognition in the 2017 Landcare awards. If you or your group are involved in protecting or improving your local environment, farm, coastline, bushland, wetland, waterway, school, region, catchment or backyard, there is a category in this year's awards for you.

To nominate, please [click here](#) to submit an entry. You will need to set up an account to do this, which will allow you to save your entry as you go and finish it later. Nominations for NSW close **16th June 2017**.

To find out more about the Awards process, including key dates and categories, [click here](#).



## Inner Pocket Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management



NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Office of Environment & Heritage

The *Inner Pocket Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management* is being exhibited in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Inner Pocket Nature Reserve (220 hectares) is located 10 kilometres west of Brunswick Heads and is managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), part of Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

You are invited to make a written submission on the draft plan of management. The draft plan of management can be viewed at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au> and at the Billinudgel Post Office. Copies of the draft plan may also be obtained from the NPWS office in Murwillumbah at 135 Murwillumbah St or by phoning 02 6670 8600.

Submissions need to be received by **31 July 2017**.

## Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction Fact Sheets

Find out more about wetlands and disaster risk reduction – the 2017 World Wetlands Day theme. The Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Energy has produced a series of Fact Sheets on resilience to natural hazards, water flows and mangroves and saltmarshes.

Follow the link to find out more

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/wetlands-australia/national-wetlands-update-february-2017>



Wetlands Australia



## NSW Rivers at Work

'Your river at work: Finding the balance' is the title of a new video produced by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. It tells the story of NSW rivers and the important role they play in sustaining local communities of plants, animals and people. Follow the link to find out more

<http://www.riverspace.com.au/item/nsw-rivers-at-work-finding-the-balance/>

## North Coast Regional Plan Released

The NSW Government has released the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036*, providing a 20 year blueprint for the future of the North Coast.

The NSW Government's vision for the North Coast region is to create the best region in Australia to live, work and play.

[Read more...](#)



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## STORIES to inspire and give you hope

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### Restore and Renew

Throughout Australia, landscapes are in need of restoration and rehabilitation, to support healthy bushland for animals, plants and people. *Restore & Renew* is an ambitious and important project that responds to the need for bush regenerators to incorporate the latest science into their toolkit, restoring healthy ecosystems that are diverse, resilient and adaptable.



The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney is Australia's oldest scientific institution. *Restore & Renew* is one of Australia's most future focused research projects, applying the very latest genetic technology to conservation in a way that could revolutionise bush regeneration practices.

The *Restore & Renew* team have already started collecting thousands of plant specimens from hundreds of species across NSW, for genetic analysis. This information will be used to create a publicly available online resource where plants can be selected to suit specific sites. The recommended species will be genetically-appropriate and suited to the user's location and conditions. Climate modelling will also allow practitioners to plant according to future forecasts, increasing the likelihood that the species will cope with a changing climate.

The four main goals of *Restore & Renew* are:

- Provide maps showing where genetically suitable seed can be collected for restoration projects.
- Give information about how to create genetically diverse plantings for maximum health and longevity.
- Help habitats to be adaptable to climate change.
- Support creation of seed production areas that can be harvested for use in bush regeneration

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

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Science-Conservation/Restore-Renew>

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### Funding for innovation in pest animal and weed management

The nation's farmers and land managers can look forward to new pest animal and weed control technologies such as automated traps, thermal sensors and weed spraying robots, with 23 innovative projects to share in \$10.5 of Australian Government funding.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, said the funded projects under the Control Tools and Technologies for Established Pest Animals and Weeds Programme would strengthen the management of some of Australia's most significant agricultural pest animals and weeds.

Note: this funding is part of the \$50 million investment in the Established Pest Animals and Weeds measure of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. It is separate funding to the \$20 million allocated for the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

[ [Read the Minister's full statement...](#) ] [ [Find out more about the 23 projects funded...](#) ]

## Renewfest by Alison Ratcliffe

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May myself and 9 volunteers attended Renew Fest at the Mullumbimby showgrounds to show case our work to conserve and restore our biodiversity and share resources and information.



We held a raffle to win an owl nest box – kindly donated by OwIBNB. If you would like to buy tickets we will be selling more at the Mothers Day Planting on Sunday as well as announcing the winner.



Over the last nine months, Intrepid Landcare has been researching and designing a way forward for local communities to come together to co-design exciting and inclusive environmental projects and

programs with young people for young people.

Supported by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, we officially launched our new workbook *Tips & ideas to support young people to create change*, through a series of *Intrepid Way* workshops which were rolled out in four locations across NSW through March and early April 2017.

The workbook and workshop package aims to fill one of many gaps when it comes to designing youth engagement opportunities for young people. The objective of our package is to overcome the lack of young people contributing to the design of project, as most often, youth engagement opportunities are designed without young people contributing to the story.

Backed by the latest research, we have designed this workbook for young people and people who support young people so they can walk through some simple and creative steps which help young people create change. This involves identifying where young people are in the community, busting assumptions we hold about young people, through to the power of storytelling and crafting your *why* for powerful engagement, and how to string project ideas together that have no boundaries or limits.

The workbook is designed to be walked through via an *Intrepid Way* workshop, but is also useful as a stand-alone tool to guide you through these processes step by step!

To deliver the package across NSW, co-founders Naomi Edwards and Megan Rowlett travelled 2113 km to Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Nambucca Heads and Sydney, facilitating four one-day workshops sharing their passion for supporting the next generation to create change.

[Read more here](#)

Thank you to NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for making this project happen.

Words by Megan Rowlett + Naomi Edwards, Co-founders of Intrepid Landcare

#intrepidlandcare #intrepidway

[Click here to download the workbook](#)



## Land for Wildlife



### Cane toad sausage on the menu for native wildlife

by The Office of Environment and Heritage

They might not prove to be the next big thing in human culinary circles but our native wildlife will soon be dining-out on cane toad sausages as part of an innovative new plan in northern New South Wales, which aims to protect threatened species and stop cane toads in their tracks. [Read more](#)

*Photo: Professor Rick Shine holding a Cane Toad. Image credit: T.Shine*

### Stop the miners: you can help Australia's birds by planting native gardens

by The Converstiaon

Some Australian birds are pushing out other species, and even damaging trees. Noisy and bell miners are two of Australia's most aggressive bird species. Found throughout eastern Australia, in recent years their numbers have increased at the expense of our smaller birds.

Both species are spreading to new areas, largely due to human destruction of habitat. Noisy miners are able to invade areas where habitat has been modified, particularly gardens.

Bell miners, meanwhile, can invade areas that have invasions of weeds in the understorey such as blackberry and lantana that they use for nesting.

The good news is we can help stop the spread of these birds, by putting native plants in our gardens.

#### Good birds gone bad

Both species of these miners (genus *Manorina*) have been found to reduce bird diversity through their aggressive behaviour, and have been associated with eucalypt dieback.

Human disturbance [has been linked](#) to increasing numbers of noisy miners. [One study](#) in the box-ironbark forests of southeast Australia, found that noisy miners an move into areas of smaller fragments and unhealthy trees. They then chase away other birds, reducing the number of species and potentially having [knock-on effects on ecosystems](#). The problem is so serious that noisy miners are listed as a [national threatening process](#).

More research is needed to find out why bell miners are becoming more common. But [our research](#) has found that bell miners show similar behaviour to noisy miners. They have a [distinctive call](#) that travels for tens of metres through the forest. Bell miners cause [Bell Miner Associated Dieback](#) in trees. It is thought that their feeding and breeding behaviours lead to the death of eucalypts on the east coast of Australia. They also [take over](#) habitat that would be used by other birds.



*Masked mobster: noisy miners are increasing in number and spreading at the expense of smaller birds. Kathryn Lambert, Author provided*



## **Are the birds to blame?**

Where miners are normally found in lower numbers, disturbances by people can tip the balance in their favour. This includes [increasing noise levels](#), removing corridors of connecting native vegetation, creating gardens with exotic plants, building cities, houses, parks, logging and introducing invasive species that create thick understories.

These disturbances increase the habitat available for these two species, allowing them to increase in number and drive out the smaller birds that compete for their food sources.

Noisy miners particularly favour open areas that don't have thickets of shrubs or smaller trees underneath the canopy. Conversely, bell miners prefer thick understoreys, particularly those created by introduced weeds such as lantana.

So if we are causing these birds to increase in number, how can we reduce their numbers and re-create the original habitat where all species could co-exist?

## **Build a bird-friendly garden**

You need to create a multi-layered habitat of ground covers, small and medium shrubs, and trees that provide food and shelter locations all year for a variety of species.

These plant species need to have diverse structures, and should be close together to form dense, protective thickets, including climbers within medium-to-tall shrubs and trees, nectar-bearing and seed-bearing plants. Mulch can also encourage insect life for insectivorous birds. Plants should also be local species that grow naturally in the area and are suited to the climate. Native birds that live in the area will then visit your garden as another food source in their territory.

Reducing weeds in your garden and neighbouring bushland (many weeds are derived from garden plants) can help native species. General natives can also be planted if you can't find local natives in your local nursery.

Even in gardens where noisy miners dominate, smaller birds can survive in a [dense understorey](#).

Meanwhile, a thin midstorey with fewer leaves may help to reduce bell miner abundance, as suggested by our [recent study](#) near Kyogle, New South Wales. You should also consider the timing of flower and fruit production, to ensure that there is always food available for birds. You should also remove fruiting plants such as cotoneaster and blackberry that attract predators such as [currawongs](#), to help reduce predation on smaller bird species.

Using chemical-free weed and pest control and mulching garden waste can also increase the food available for birds. Lawns can also be replaced with native grasses that produce seed to attract finches and other seed-eaters such as crimson rosellas. Birds also need fresh water, which you can provide with a pond or bird bath. This should be placed within vegetation to ensure birds feel safe from predators.

## **Why are native gardens important?**

Local biodiversity can be maintained by [native gardens](#), ensuring long-term ecological sustainability. Small birds and other wildlife benefit from planting native species.

Many species are negatively affected by the current structure of gardens such as lawns, few scattered trees and the placement of concrete and houses without any access to nesting habitat.

Gardening in Australia needs to be changed to favour more native species and provide structure on a landscape scale that includes a variety of gardens.

[http://theconversation.com/stop-the-miners-you-can-help-australias-birds-by-planting-native-gardens-49998?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=facebookbutton](http://theconversation.com/stop-the-miners-you-can-help-australias-birds-by-planting-native-gardens-49998?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton)

## 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/>

### Eco Schools grants

The Eco Schools Grants Program is now open. The Eco Schools Grant Program aims to provide learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community, through hands-on curriculum-based environmental projects that focus on strong student participation.



The program will fund school environmental management projects aimed at one or more of the following objectives:

- Environmental benefits,
- Student participation,
- Teacher engagement and
- Managing for sustainability in school and the community.

The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools Grant Program is the development of environmentally sustainable schools.

Grants of \$3500 are available. Applications close **3pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017**.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm>

*Suitable for schools doing environmental projects*

### SUEZ Community Grants

The SUEZ Community grants program is now open. The program will provide grants of up to \$15,000 to community groups that encourage local participation in social and environmental projects to help create a more sustainable future.

Grant applications close on Monday **19<sup>th</sup> May 2017**.

<http://suezcommunitygrants.com.au/>

*Suitable for environmental projects under \$15,000*



### AMP Tomorrow Fund Grants

AMP is giving amazing Australians doing great things the chance to share \$1 million in grants. Individuals of all ages, walks of life, interests and abilities who are working towards a goal that will have a positive impact



AMP Tomorrow Fund grants will be awarded for a diverse range of activities. The money could be used for training and travel costs associated with competing in a sport, study assistance while you work on research or small business funding for an innovative idea. Applications close 4pm (AEST) on **18<sup>th</sup> May**.

<https://www.ampstomorrowfund.com.au/>

*Suitable for individuals who need help to pursue project that will have a positive impact on their community*



## Weed of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Kahili Ginger or the Toilet Brush Plant *Hedychium gardnerianum*. A perennial bushy herb originating from the Himalayas it can grow to 2m tall rising from thick branching rhizomes. It can also grow as an epiphyte in trees.

The leaves are alternate, large, long and glossy. They are bright green and 20-60cm long and 8-18cm wide.

The flowers are large spikes of showy, fragrant yellow flowers with red stamens in summer to autumn. The seeds are bright red and conspicuous in autumn to winter and stick to animals and birds.

Similar native species are all the native gingers *Alpinia spp.*

It impacts by forming dense colonies, displacing other plant species. Rhizomes form thick mats preventing native seed germination. Kahili Ginger is also very poisonous to livestock.

Widespread in forest understoreys and edges, it prefers wet shaded habitats and fertile soils. The seeds are spread by birds, rhizomes by water, and in dumped garden refuse. The plant spreads rapidly by way of rhizomes with new stems produced annually.



## 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://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 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

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



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