

# Newsletter Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore NOVEMBER 2023

# **GREETINGS LANDCARERS**

Wow what a busy month we've had! Plus there's more events which may interest you. We have three events organised between now and Christmas and you'll find more detail in the first pages:

- The Message of the Lyrebird film fundraiser at Brunswick Picture House Wednesday night 15 November
- Weed Identification Field Workshop Saturday afternoon 18th November
- AGM and Christmas party Sunday 10th December

We'd love to hear from our members/ subscribers which events they've enjoyed in the past few months and which they would like to see again in 2024.

We hope you enjoy the collection of articles we've put together this month.

From the BVL team



Harry Hackett (BVL - back) and Cindy Picton (Dourroughby Environmental Education Centre) at Seeds of Hope workshop in Grafton recently.

# **BVL NEWS - Upcoming events**

# Weed Identification workshop - Saturday 18th November

Saturday 2 - 5pm 18th November Mullumbimby Cemetery \$5 ticket price includes afternoon tea

Do you have weed questions? What weed is that? How can we control or manage this weed? Then this workshop is for you.

- Environmental weeds and their impact on the forest.
- What are weeds, What are environmental weeds.
- Weed Identification.
- Impact of weeds on the forest when left untreated.
- Discussion of the impact of the different growth forms (Groundcovers, Vines, Shrubs, Trees)
- Weed Control: Techniques both with and without herbicide.

Register here <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/weed-identification-field-workshop-tickets-739154068717?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/weed-identification-field-workshop-tickets-739154068717?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>



#### The Message of the Lyrebird - final film fundraiser

#### **Brunswick Picture House - Wednesday, November 15th**

Includes - A short talk from a Local Lyrebird expert Sandy Gilmore Price - \$25/ticket

Tickets - https://brunswickpicturehouse.com/the-message-of-the-lyrebird-15-nov/

Trailer - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKEXI4kILyI&t=10s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKEXI4kILyI&t=10s</a>

Overview - No other bird on the planet can do what the lyrebird can do. In 1998, wildlife filmmaker Nick Hayward captured The Life of Birds sequence, in which Australia's most creative song-bird imitates the sound of a chainsaw chopping down a tree. The bird was filmed in captivity, but ever since then, the world of birding enthusiasts have wondered, do lyrebirds imitate man-made sounds in the wild?

This question begins a journey deep into the native forests, where a cast of characters help us not only understand the sophistication and complex artistry of the lyrebird, but what its message may be for humanity.





# **BVL NEWS**

### **BVL AGM and Christmas Party - Sunday 10th December**

Brunswick Valley Landcare members and valued contractors are invited to attend the Brunswick Valley Landcare Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Xmas party for 2023.

When: Sunday 10th December, 2023

Time: 11.00am – 3.00pm

Where: The Mullumbimby Showgrounds Food Hall

Please RSVP so we can cater for the numbers attending to

jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

It would be great if a representative from each BVL locality group could attend the AGM - we love hearing what you've been up to! Some refreshments and food (BBQ) will be provided but feel free to bring a plate.

If you would like to nominate for a management committee position, please contact the Secretary by email <u>brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com</u>. Nominations need to be signed by the nominee and supported by a proposer and a seconder, all of whom need to be financial members of Brunswick Valley Landcare.

### **New Landcare Enabling Program**

Brunswick Valley Landcare is one of 11 Landcare networks collaborating with North Coast Regional Landcare Network on a new 4-year funding program being delivered by Local Land Services and Landcare NSW. The program enables local and regional landcare coordinators to be employed across NSW. These positions enable improved facilitation and delivery of local, on-ground projects and meet the growing needs of local and regional communities. The progam focuses on collaboration, encouraging partnerships and supporting NSW Landcare groups to become more sustainable and self-reliant. Further information https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/nsw-landcare-enabling-program-2023-2027-<u>local-and-regional-coordinators</u>

Brunswick Valley Landcare recently hosted some staff from Hotel Brunswick to learn more about what we do (to help promote the Publinc program).

Thanks to Ocean Shores locality group for showing them the ropes and for our President for his excellent morning tea!



# **BVL NEWS**

#### **Seeds of Hope**

Brunswick Valley Landcare held "Regenerative Agriculture in a Changing Climate: Seeds of Hope 2023", a workshop field day for Year 9-10 students in the Clarence Valley on 20 October.

Topics covered included: Soil - that amazing ecosystem!; Traditional Land Management; Native Pollinators; Keeping water in our soils; Water quality monitoring and water bug ID; and Stopping cane toads at the Clarence.

We'd like to thank all our program partners.



We'd sincerely like to thank all the presenters who provided valuable time and input into the program .Thanks also to Aunty Robyne Bancroft and daughter Dannielle Gorogo for welcoming us to Bundjalung Country.









#### **Locality Group Bus Field Trip**

On Sunday 22 October a small bus load of enthusiastic landcarers toured Gondwana at Tyagarah, Friends of Lilli Pilli landcare site and Maslen Arboretum in Mullumbimby. We finished with a BBQ under the shade of giants and a good time was had by all. We'll be running more of these field trips in 2024 with information in this very newsletter.









# **BVL Film Fundraisers**

#### What a great night! Black Cockatoo Crisis film fundraiser

Full house! We are absolutely blown away with the incredible response to our second fundraising film Black Cockatoo Crisis that we screened at the Brunswick Picture House on 25th October. The audience was very engaged in helping to save our own Northern Rivers Glossy

Black Cockatoos.





#### Planet Fungi film generated a great Q&A

BVL presented Planet Fungi - North East India at the Brunswick Picture House. To an enraptured audience, the film outlined amazing features of fungi - a whole new plant kingdom. The Q&A after the film with the filmakers was intelligent and inspiring. Thank you to those that came.

#### **FOLLOW THE RAIN**

During the Q&A at the film, the filmakers talked about their soon-tbe-released film - Follow the Rain. They are crowdfunding for the final \$10,000 towards launching the film early in 2024. You can contribute via the link in the title above.

Did you know humans are only just starting to understand how important fungi are to life on our planet and how critical they are in protecting us from the impacts of climate change? Now we realise that without fungi, the world as we know it would not exist - forests would not exist, and we would not exist. The push is on to document as many species as possible, as fast as possible, and then to understand what they do in the ecosystem. Raising awareness about fungi is critical to achieving that goal. Your contribution will assist in achieving that mission.



# **Landslips Workshop - Saturday 25 November**

Local landcare networks are working together to hold this event for landslip0-affected landholders. It's a day for people all across our region to come together, share their experiences of landslip remediation, and learn from experts, so that together we can recalim some stability and resilience in our landscapes.

If you have been impacted by landsips, we'd love to see you there!



Registrations essential <a href="https://events.humanitix.com/reclaiming-stabliity-navigating-landslip-recovery-together?">https://events.humanitix.com/reclaiming-stabliity-navigating-landslip-recovery-together?</a>

# Byron Bay Bird Buddies - November/ December

Below is Byron Bay Bird Buddies November/ December schedule.

To register please email <a href="mailto:byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com">byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com</a> unless otherwise stated.

November – December update 2023 -		
BBB – continue monitoring of Pied Oystercatcher & Beach Stone-curlew breeding sites and record site visit		
on BBB online Excel spreadsheet.		
Commence Annual Report of BBB activities October 2022 to end of September 2023		
Note – October 15 <sup>th</sup> – vegetation surrounding the wetlands was burnt – peat fires continue. Access to		
wetlands will be prohibited until fires are put out. Bittern survey for October 27 <sup>th</sup> is cancelled.		
Date & Time	Where	Why
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	BBB – Snipe Count – Belongil Ponds, Byron	BBB
07.00 start	Wetlands & Seapeace. Access to Wetlands to be	Belongil Ponds - 7.30
	confirmed. Please register	Wetlands – uncertain
	<u>byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com</u>	Seapeace - 7.30
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Vallances Road - Mullumbimby - Must register -	BBB – Morning survey – for
07.00 start	off Coolamon Scenic Drive (Mullum/Ocean Shores	BSC reporting -
01100 011111	end) - Drive to the pond at the bottom of hill & wait	Must Register - Contact: Vicki
		davvix1@gmail.com
Wednesday	Film - Message of the Lyrebird & Presentation	
15 <sup>th</sup> –	Fund Raising for Brunswick Valley Landcare Tickets at; Brunswick Picture	
18.30(6.30pm)	Theatre - \$25.00	
	www.brunswickpicturehouse.com	
Tuesday 21st	Mullumbimby – Coastal & ICOLL Meeting	BBB Representative
14.00		
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Brunswick Heads – Private Property	BBB
07.00 start	Must Register byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bittern Survey - Byron wetlands -	BBB
18.45 -20.00	Register with Vicki davvix1@gmail.com	
(6.45-8pm)		
December	Byron Wetlands – to register with Vicki	DDD Marring gurrery for
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	davvix1@gmail.com	BBB – Morning survey – for
07.00-13.00		BSC reporting -
Merry Xmas Everyone and Wishing you all a fantastic 2024		
BBB First outing in 2024 – will be a snipe count on January 13 <sup>th</sup>		
Other Groups		

# **BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS**

#### Free desexing for cats in the Byron Shire

Byron Shire Council together with Pets for Life, RSPCA NSW, and NSW Government are happy to offer free desexing for cats in the Byron Shire. "As the weather warms up, cats start breeding, so now is a great time to desex your cat to avoid unwanted kittens. To encourage cat owners in the Shire to do this, we are happy to offer free desexing," said Sarah Nagel, Byron Shire Council Manager of Public and Environmental Services. "We know that this has been beneficial in reducing unwanted kittens in the past.

"While there is a high rate of desexing in the Byron Shire, according to a <u>recent consultation</u>, RSPCA NSW are still having to take in approximately 13,000 cats, of which around 70 per cent are kittens, a year. This means there is still work to be done with getting cats desexed as soon as possible," she said.

Free desexing is being offered as part of the <u>Keeping Cats Safe at Home Project</u>, which encourages responsible pet ownership by desexing, microchipping and keeping your cat safe at home. If you are a cat owner that is interested in free desexing please visit <u>Council's website</u> for more information. The program is especially recommended for anyone who has found a stray cat or kitten they would like to adopt. This offer is limited, so get in quick.

#### **Expansion of recycling services at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre**

Since July this year recycling services at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre (BBRC) have expanded to include mattresses, concrete, timber, and plasterboard. So far, it's been well received with 146 mattresses, 151 tonnes of concrete, 7.5 tonnes of plasterboard and 1.22 tonnes of timber being diverted from landfill.

"Concrete is sent to a recycler at Alstonville, where it is crushed into aggregate for reuse which is a local solution to a local problem," Danielle Hanigan, Council's Manager Resource Recovery, said. "In another exciting program North East Waste, which represents councils in the Northern Rivers, is working with the NSW Environment Protection Authority, on a pilot project to process plasterboard," she said.

Clean, uncontaminated plasterboard is reprocessed into gypsum which is then used in the manufacture of new plasterboard and cement products, as well as agricultural products. Mattresses are sent to Cootamundra in regional NSW where they are stripped and components, like steel, repurposed. "There is a charge for people to bring in their materials for recycling, but we have reduced the fees to \$35 per mattress and \$250 a tonne for concrete, timber and plasterboard, but people would be paying to dispose of these things anyway," Ms Hanigan said.

"Whilst recycling comes at a cost, we try to make it cheaper than sending it to landfill, where possible - and it is better for the environment. "Previously these materials would have been sent to south east Queensland for disposal to landfill," she said.

Council also has free trailers for residents to hire to assist with transporting materials to the Resource Recovery Centre. Information about <u>recycling</u>, and the free trailer hire service, is on Council's website.

# **BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS**

#### Byron Shire Council moving to phase out single-use packaging

In its own war on waste Byron Shire Council has drafted a Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy to phase out single-use waste from its operations and facilities and in the open spaces it manages. The draft Policy, which is on public exhibition until 28 November, is targeting a wide range of single-use items such as cups, plates, cutlery, and straws. This includes items deemed as 'compostable' or 'biodegradable'. It will apply to staff, Councillors and people using or hiring Council halls or spaces which will include events and markets.

The policy also aims to eliminate the use of balloons and decorations such as glitter and confetti at Council facilities and in parks and road reserves.

"Single use items are created without considering what happens to them at the 'end of life'. They are used for such a short period of time but their impact on the environment lasts for decades," Danielle Hanigan, Manager Resource Recovery, said.

"Items like disposable cups (especially coffee cups) will be phased out in Council buildings, which includes our offices, pools, and sporting facilities. We want people to look at reusable alternatives which will result in less waste going to landfill, less emissions and importantly, less litter being washed into our waterways.

People can find more information about the <u>Draft Single-Use Packaging and Materials Policy</u> and make a submission on Council's website.

### **Guide to Restoring Native Vegetation in Byron Shire**

Zero Emmissions Byron have formed a 'Replant Byron Alliance' and developed a very useful guide which is intended for anyone planning to restore native vegetation in the Byron Shire, whether in a backyard or on acreage, with references to existing resources. Planting and regeneration projects, as small as a backyard garden or as big as a whole valley, achieve two major goals: they sequester carbon and restore the ecological function of our beautiful Byron Shire landscapes. Download the guide here <a href="https://zerobyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Replant-Byron-Native-Restoration-Guide-3.pdf">https://zerobyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Replant-Byron-Native-Restoration-Guide-3.pdf</a>

Brunswick Valley Landcare also has a range of resource materials on our own website which you may also like to check out here <a href="https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/">https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/</a>

#### Life in the Hollows

North Coast Regional Landcare Network, in collaboration with Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network are finalising an extension project supported by funding from WIRES. The project seeks to promote the use of nest box projects for native wildlife and share the best-practice knowledge that has been built up during recent nest box programs across the North Coast. The project aims to create greater awareness in the community of hollow-dependent wildlife, the use of nestboxes in conservation, and how artificial hollows can best be used to get the greatest benefit for native wildlife. View the video <a href="here">here</a>

#### Creating artificial tree hollows in Queensland for endangered gliders

Amid ongoing threats of urban expansion, bushfires, and deforestation, habitats suitable for hollow-dependent wildlife species are rapidly diminishing due to the decline in old-growth trees. But are nest boxes the answer?

Creating artificial habitats for wildlife is essential for preserving biodiversity, and it often involves installing nest boxes or carving hollows in trees. The key to success is ensuring that artificial hollows and nest boxes closely emulate natural hollows.

Specific hollow requirements have been well-documented for Australian arboreal fauna. Increasing the number of hollows in an area is crucial for enhancing habitat quality for species like greater gliders (Petauroides Volans) and yellow-bellied gliders (Petaurus australis). These species can utilise up to 20 hollows, and hollow abundance plays a pivotal role in providing suitable habitat. Wildlife Queensland has adopted a multifaceted approach by installing nest boxes to create artificial habitats and, more recently, by carving hollows.

#### Nest boxes vs natural hollows

Nest boxes are the most employed form of artificial habitat, crafted from wood or recycled materials meticulously designed to match the specific needs of the target species. While the success of nest boxes varies among species, documented results for species like the yellow-bellied glider and greater glider in the wild have been somewhat limited.

Natural hollows exhibit higher humidity and better temperature regulation than nest boxes, mainly due to differences in wall thickness. The thermal properties of nest boxes need to be improved to mitigate the predicted heat-loss challenges during hot weather.

Additionally, the height at which nest boxes are installed is vital, as both greater gliders and yellow-bellied gliders prefer higher den sites. Traditional nest boxes can become uncomfortably warm for gliders, particularly greater gliders, emphasising the importance of using live wood. Wood acts as an insulator, closely mimicking natural hollows.

#### Carved tree hollows can home greater gliders

Outside of Queensland (as we have found locally), the use of carved tree hollows has yielded positive results, with greater gliders, squirrel gliders, yellow-bellied gliders, sugar gliders, brushtail possums, ringtail possums, and feather tail gliders all finding refuge in these artificial dwellings. Interestingly, chainsaw-carved hollows have been shown to offer more stable microclimates than artificial nest boxes and hollow log boxes1. The superior thermal insulation they provide closely mirrors the conditions in natural hollows.

Further reading <a href="https://wildlife.org.au/wildlife-queensland-creates-artificial-tree-hollows-for-endangered-gliders/">https://wildlife.org.au/wildlife



#### BIOCONTROL WORKHSHOP

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE

#### **Local Land Services**



# Biological Control Workshop-Coffs Harbour

Biological control is an environmentallyfriendly and cost-effective weed management tool, which is playing an increasingly important role in managing weeds in Australia.

This workshop is suitable for everyone from council weed officers to landholders, or anyone interested in local weed biocontrol options.

Topics covered during the workshop include:

- An introduction to biocontrol theory.
- Current research and availability of local biocontrol agents.
- Best practice for rearing and releasing biocontrol agents.
- Assisting with the monitoring of your local biocontrol agents in the field.

#### Presenter

Dr Andrew McConnachie (Senior Research Scientist, Weeds Research Unit - NSW Department of Primary Industries).

#### Date and time

7 December 2023

The presentation will run from 9:30am -12:30pm followed by lunch.

#### Location

Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens - Hardacre Street at the corner of Coff Street, Coffs Harbour

#### **RSVP**

Registrations are essential.

Scan the QR code to register or click here





Image: Harrisia Cactus with Cactus Mealybug at work (photo courtesy of Geoff Riley Inverell Shire Council).

For more information, contact Ashley Donges ashley.donges@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0488 712 132



lls.nsw.gov.au

# RICHMOND RIVER ECOLOGICAL HEALTH PROGRAM Report Card - Autumn 2023

The Richmond River Ecological Health Program, funded by a Southern Cross University VC Flood Recovery Grant, with support from the Richmond Riverkeeper Association and River Ecology Australia, aims to provide ongoing riparian and ecological river health information for the Richmond River and its waterways.

A major component of the program is examining the type and number of macroinvertebrates (water bugs) collected. This can tell us a lot about how healthy or unhealthy a river is because different macroinvertebrates have varying sensitivity to pollution.

Some macroinvertebrates will survive pretty much anywhere others require the most pristine waters. Monitoring macroinvertebrates over time can help assess the effectiveness of restoration efforts. Improvement in macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance indicates positive changes in water quality and river habitat conditions. This feedback helps guide future restoration actions and adaptive management strategies.

You can download the Report Card here <a href="https://richmondriver.org.au/report-card">https://richmondriver.org.au/report-card</a>

The overall ecological health grade of C- from the data collected in the first round of sampling for the Richmond River Ecological Health Program in Autumn 2023 reflects the recent extreme conditions (significant flooding events in February 2022) and historical land management and use of the Richmond River catchment. Results indicate that the lower catchment sites tend to have poorer water quality and low macroinvertebrate diversity. However, even for our upper catchment sites, where the water quality is better, macroinvertebrate diversity is still quite low.

This indicates that aquatic habitat is compromised throughout the catchment, including in the upper reaches. Aquatic habitat can be impacted by reduced riparian vegetation, which in turn increases the risk of sediment entering our water ways. Widespread landslides occurred throughout the upper catchment because of the 2022 floods, and this sediment load may have a significant legacy impact on aquatic health in the Richmond River catchment into the future. The ecological health grades decline further down the catchment. The low ecological health grades in the lower catchment are likely due to a combination of reduced riparian condition as well as urban and agricultural nutrient and sediment inputs.

Across the catchment our citizen scientists observed poor bank condition (e.g., bank slumping, exposed tree roots and undercutting), and poor bed condition (active erosion and smothering of the bed substrate by high loads of fine sediment). This is reflected in the lower-than-expected macroinvertebrate grades, especially in the Upper Richmond and Wilsons catchments, which indicates that the upper catchments are suffering from impacted aquatic habitat.

While this first set of data collected in Autumn is valuable for establishing a baseline assessment and identifying immediate issues, our continued sampling every six months will improve data accuracy, enables trend analysis, and it will allow for a more comprehensive understanding of river health and facilitates effective management of our rivers in the long run. A comprehensive report card will be released with each new data collection.

#### **New: Tubestock Guide**

Rivers of Carbon are excited to announce the launch of <u>Riparian Restoration Management</u> <u>Tubestock Guide</u>! This comprehensive guide has been developed to answer the concerns and questions we commonly get asked by landholders, including:

- How can I assess the condition of my riparian area?
- What can I do to help my waterway get better, and what does better look like?
- The site seems so big, where and how can I start?
- Which plants and where?
- How do I plant, maintain and care for my tubestock?
- Some of my plants are dying, what am I doing wrong?
- I have lost my plants to drought and flood, is restoration worth it?

These are just some of the questions we answer in this guide, which has been designed as a resource that you can come back to depending on the stage you are at in your restoration project. Access the Guide here <a href="https://riversofcarbon.org.au/riparian-management-tubestock-guide">https://riversofcarbon.org.au/riparian-management-tubestock-guide</a>

#### **Backyard Bee Keeper Exodus**

Australia's decision to abandon efforts to eradicate varroa mite is triggering an exodus of backyard and hobby beekeepers. Thousands of beekeepers across the country are expected to sell their bee smokers and hang up their bee suits, with an exodus already happening in varroa mite hotspots in New South Wales.

NSW Amateur Beekeepers Association president Lamorna Osborne said about a quarter of the association's members had to euthanase hives as part of the varroa mite response. "Of the 4,500 amateur beekeepers, it's probably about 1,000 people that have had their hives euthanased," she said.

Stuart and Cedar Anderson revolutionised backyard beekeeping with their Flow Hive invention eight years ago. They estimate hundreds of Flow Hive owners had to euthanise their hives as part of the varroa mite response, but hope those beekeepers will restock their colonies.

"They had to destroy the brood section, which is usually the bottom box, but they didn't have to destroy the Flow super," Stuart Anderson said. "The colony itself was destroyed but the gear which is the more expensive part of the hive — as far as our customers are concerned, the flow frames themselves — didn't have to get destroyed.

"So we hope we can encourage them back into beekeeping, and we know there's many that are keen because we're getting requests from those now orange zones — 'when can I keep bees again?'"

Stuart and Cedar Anderson launched their Flow Hive invention onto the market in 2015.(ABC Rural: Kim Honan)

Cedar Anderson hopes people continue to keep bees. "We now have an agricultural system that relies on this species Apis mellifera, the European honeybee, which does an extraordinary amount of pollination," he said. "A single hive can pollinate 50 million flowers in a day and we just don't have anything to replace that. "It's going to be more important than ever to be a beekeeper and look after your bees."

Further reading <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-09/prediction-varroa-mite-could-lead-to-exodus-of-amateur-beekeeper/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-09/prediction-varroa-mite-could-lead-to-exodus-of-amateur-beekeeper/</a>

#### WE NEED URBAN TREES MORE THAN EVER

(From Greener Spaces Better Places)

With a hot summer coming on, ecophysiologists hold grave concerns for our urban trees. <u>New research</u> has found which urban tree favourites are more or less at risk:

- Species vulnerable to heat-related dieback or death included red maple (Acer rubrun), tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), coast banksia (Banksia integrifolia) and water gum (Tristaniopsis laurina).
- Species less vulnerable to heat included Chinese elm (Ulmus parvifolia) and ash (Fraxinus excelsior), weeping bottlebrush (Callistemon viminalis) and kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus).

Read more <a href="https://theconversation.com/we-need-urban-trees-more-than-ever-heres-how-to-save-them-from-extreme-heat-211414">https://theconversation.com/we-need-urban-trees-more-than-ever-heres-how-to-save-them-from-extreme-heat-211414</a>

# Free seed libraries illustrate the power of the community gardening movement

Australia heavily relies on imported seeds for growing crops including vegetables. That brings increased biosecurity risks as the spread of seed-borne pathogens expands globally.

"People don't realise that we import so much seed and the thing with the import of all that seed is that seeds get treated," Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis said.

"I think it's really important that these seed libraries are maintained for people that do not want their seeds pre-treated with pre-emergent chemicals," Mr Georgiadis said.

"If something happens as we saw a few years ago, and there's a drought or floods or a combination of both, or a pandemic and panic; when you have a local seed bank, you have food certainty."

Ms Cauley shares an abundant spray-free vegetable garden with her neighbours. She has coordinated seed library trials at Kawana Library on the Sunshine Coast and Maleny Library in the hinterland and runs a monthly Maleny Seed and Harvest Swap. Library visitors can take up to two packets of seed for free, and deposit seeds as well.

Katrina Nielsen from Sunshine Coast Libraries said the six-month trial was so successful, the program has been extended. "We've had around 3,000 seed packets taken from our libraries and all the feedback that we've received has been really great," Ms Nielsen said.



Read more <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-09-12/seed-library-vegetable-gardening-community-lifestyle-food/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-09-12/seed-library-vegetable-gardening-community-lifestyle-food/</a>

#### **BGCI** publish The Red List of Timber Trees

Timber is the most common and economically important use of tree species around the world, supporting the livelihoods of many people. And yet, until now there has not been a comprehensive study of the extinction risk to the world's timber species, which has limited conservation prioritisation efforts. The Red List of Timber Trees, a report published recently by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), provides the first comprehensive global overview of the conservation status of the world's tree species that are utilised for timber.

The report compiles information from 4,945 tree species assessed on the IUCN Red List and used for timber. It finds that a third of these tree species (1,664) are threatened with extinction. The timber use, such as logging and wood harvesting, is identified as the most common threat to these timber trees affecting 59% of species. Other major threats include agricultural expansion, urbanisation, changes in fire regime, mining, climate change, and invasive species.

The report also contains a conservation gap analysis, and shows a conservation gap for many timber species. The ex situ survey found that 46% of timber species are not held within an ex situ collection (such as in a seed bank, botanic garden, arboretum etc.). Out of the 1,664 threatened species, 64% are not found in ex situ collections. With 2,219 species (45%) experiencing significant population decline, there is a need for greater conservation action for timber trees.

Read more <a href="https://www.bgci.org/news-events/bgci-publish-the-red-list-of-timber-trees/">https://www.bgci.org/news-events/bgci-publish-the-red-list-of-timber-trees/</a>

Scientists predict 3 in 4 of the planet's undescribed plant species are already threatened with extinction, says new report

Royal Botanic Garden Kew's fifth State of the World's report, published recently, lays out the current condition of the world's plants and fungi globally. Based on the work of 200 international researchers and covering the content of more than 25 cutting-edge scientific papers in its 11 chapters, the new report examines global drivers and patterns of biodiversity as well as critical knowledge gaps and how to address them. Plants and fungi underpin all life on Earth, providing valuable ecosystem services that support our livelihoods and provide us with food, medicine, clothing, and raw materials. But the natural world is in a state of imbalance, driven by the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. In this year's report, with the theme, 'Tackling the Nature Emergency: Evidence, gaps and priorities', scientists take an in-depth look at what we know and don't know about the diversity of these fundamental building blocks of ecosystems and the threats they face.

Further reading <a href="https://www.bgci.org/news-events/scientists-predict-3-in-4-of-the-planets-undescribed-plant-species-are-already-threatened-with-extinction-says-new-report/">https://www.bgci.org/news-events/scientists-predict-3-in-4-of-the-planets-undescribed-plant-species-are-already-threatened-with-extinction-says-new-report/</a>



# CSIRO has released: The Natural Capital Handbook – a practical guide to corporate natural capital accounting

Much of the value that flows from our economy is drawn from natural resources including clean air, water, soil and living things.

Many industries depend on natural resources, particularly those that own or control significant natural capital assets (e.g., forest growers, farmers, mining companies, government, and non-government organisations with substantial landholdings).

While nature underpins our economic growth, the value of nature is excluded in dominant financial analysis tools and rarely factored into decision-making by businesses.

This failure to account for nature in decision-making has had serious consequences over time and today nature loss is increasingly recognised as a material risk to business.

How we report on all fronts of nature-related activity is now being recognised as a critical component in helping to reverse environment decline, and in future, is expected to become a mandatory requirement for businesses globally.

But how companies track and measure its impacts and dependencies on nature is challenging as standard measurements are complex.

Building on previous work, CSIRO has developed a practical how-to handbook that delivers a practical step-by step guide for Australian companies and landowners on how to measure and incorporate natural assets such as clean air, water, soil and living things into their financial books.

Drawing upon existing standards and frameworks for national-level accounting under the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework, the handbook aligns with existing corporate financial reporting equivalents to identify environmental loss and gains.

It also connects the concept of natural capital accounting – a systematic accounting framework to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital that recognises the economic, ecological and social value of the environment.

Read more and download the Guide: https://www.csiro.au/en/research/ natural-environment/natural-resources/ Natural-capital-accounting/Handbook

The Natural Capital Handbook will guide businesses – including farmers, forest growers, mining companies and non-governmental organisations – on how to report and account for their natural assets to better protect our environment.



# New national recovery plan to save world's only wild macadamia trees from extinction

A plan of action is adopted to help save the world's only wild macadamia plants from extinction.

The origin of the global \$1.58 billion macadamia nut industry, Australia's wild population has been decimated by clearing, with three species listed as vulnerable and a fourth critically endangered.

The Macadamia Conservation Trust estimates as few as 8,800 wild trees remain in small pockets of remnant sub-tropical rainforest in a thin strip along the east coast from Gladstone in central Queensland to northern New South Wales.

Trust founder Ian McConachie said he doubted many Australians understood the native plant's precarious position in the wild. "At least 80 per cent of the wild macadamias that existed when European settlement started have been lost, and we're continuing to lose wild trees, and we're losing their specific genetics," Mr McConachie said.

"The easiest way to think about it is that macadamias love to live where people live, so they like rich red soils, ideally within 50 kilometres of the sea, with a view, if you like," Macadamia Conservation Trust executive officer Denise Bond said.

"That's the area between Northern Rivers and Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast that has been very heavily cleared for people to live and grow crops. The result is that less than 20 per cent of macadamia habitat remains."

Further reading <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-23/wild-macadamia-threatened-species-conservation-recovery-plan/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-23/wild-macadamia-threatened-species-conservation-recovery-plan/</a>

#### How to build a house that can survive extreme weather

This innovative illustration looks at rating Australia's resilience by Local Government Area. You can see as you move through the website how changes in climate may affect your area. The article goes on to look at what a resilient house is.

Read here <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-23/house-bushfire-resilience-star-rating-app-launched-prepare/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-23/house-bushfire-resilience-star-rating-app-launched-prepare/</a>

### **Survey on Experiences of Awe in Nature**

Ella Shriner is an American studying in Australia for the semester while studying Sustainability and Environmental Action. "I am conducting an independent research project for university on the emotion of awe in nature and how these experiences can affect, motivate and sustain environmental action." If you're interested, please take 10-15 minutes to fill out this <u>survey</u>

If you have any questions or want to know more, please reach out at <a href="mails:ela.shriner@mail.sit.edu">ella.shriner@mail.sit.edu</a>
Ella is also looking for people who would be willing to participate in a 30-45 min interview about their relationship with nature and experience of awe.

### **Nominations Now Open!**

Now in its 32nd year, the State and Territory Landcare Awards stand as a prestigious biennial national Landcare Awards program.

The objective is to honour individuals, groups and organisations that are making outstanding contributions to caring for the environment in their local communities for the benefit of all Australians today, and for generations to come.

In each state and territory, the Landcare Awards will be granted to recognise the achievements that encompass climate action, environmental leadership, sustainable agriculture, First Nations, Women in landcare, youth, Coastcare and children.

Nominating is free. You can nominate yourself, or you can nominate someone you know who should be recognised for their work to restore, enhance and protect the natural environment in their community.

Nominating is easy. If you know an individual, group or organisation in your community making a difference to the environment and sustainable land or water use, nominate them for a Landcare Award.

The winners of the nine national Landcare Award categories will advance as finalists to the 2024 National Landcare Awards.

You can learn more about the 9 National categories or start your nomination or read about the additional categories in your State or Territory here <a href="https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landca

### **Newly Redrafted EPBC Act**

The National Landcare Network is looking forward to reviewing the newly redrafted Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). A revised EPBC Act offers a pivotal opportunity for our country to have stronger, more sustainable nature laws that help us better protect the environment, promote sustainable land use, and boost the impact of our landcare work. To educate landcarers and our members on the impact of the Act, <u>read our explainer HERE</u>.

#### **New Aboriginal Engagement Manager with Landcare NSW**

Den (Dennis) Barber has been appointed as the new Aboriginal Engagement Manager with Landcare NSW. An Aboriginal descendant of the Traditional people from Mudgee of the Wiradjuri, Den will help steer the Landcare NSW Working Together Program through the next stage of growth. Read more about the appointment and Den's expertise <u>HERE</u>.

# REGENERATIVE FARMING

#### **Taking Stock - Planning or dry times.**

As cattle prices dip feed gets low and things become dry it can be a time of hard decisions if you haven't planned far enough ahead with feed budgeting you may have to make some tough calls.

The general line of thinking is to avoid having to bring feed in as it can be a costly exercise financially and has ecological implications for your land. Here are some webinars that may give some insight.

Webinar: Livestock Market Update with Simon Quilty

Presenter: Simon Quilty (Global AgriTrends) When: Wednesday 18th Oct – 7pm-830pm

To register: <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6435562937922401632">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6435562937922401632</a>

Webinar: The big question: Do I keep and feed or sell in a falling market?

Presenter: Phil Graham (Graham Advisory) When: Wednesday 25th Oct – 7pm-830pm

To register: <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2193562415567281504">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2193562415567281504</a>

Webinar: Feeding cattle in dry times

Presenter: Jeff House (Jeff House Livestock) When: Wednesday 8th Nov – 7pm-830pm

To register: <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1915780698414502741">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1915780698414502741</a>

World Soils Day Competition Win a comprehensive Soil assessment Valued at \$5000.00

In the lead up to World Soil Day (5 December 2023) the Soil Innovation Hub is running a competition where we are asking landholders to make a social media post (on LinkedIn, Facebook or X/Twitter) which highlights the importance of soil health to managing drought & showcasing examples of practices to improve soil health.

Competition closes December 4th 2023. The three prizes are a comprehensive soil assessment at four sites on the property. More details in the attached document and full terms and conditions at: <a href="https://www.unisq.edu.au/research/sqnnsw-hub/blogs/world-soil-day-2023">https://www.unisq.edu.au/research/sqnnsw-hub/blogs/world-soil-day-2023</a>

### **New Farmer Story**

A great example of a small-scale farmer taking a regenerative approach to their land, becoming a custodian leaving it better than they found it. Improving animal health productivity and own sense of well being improving their whole lifestyle. Quite an inspiring story with 3 episodes on youtube.

<u>Upper Hunter Farmer's Whole Farm Transition to Improve Productivity and Profitability ep 1 - YouTube</u>

# MORE REGENERATIVE FARMING

# Multispecies cover cropping in subtropical horticultural plantations, Zentveld's Coffee Farm.

Take a virtual stroll through Zentveld's Coffee Farm and Roastery! Hear expert advice from Professor Terry Rose, Dr Christopher Carr and Dr Karina Griffin as they discuss their research into multispecies cover cropping in subtropical horticultural plantations. This research was conducted by Southern Cross University and funded by the Australian Government and Landcare.

Watch <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QbjBleFdHw&t=3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QbjBleFdHw&t=3s</a>

# Hewitt and MLA heading up Australia's largest red meat sustainability study

AUSTRALIA'S largest supply chain sustainability research study of the national meat and livestock industry is underway, driven by a partnership between Australia's leading organic global meat producer Hewitt and Meat & Livestock Australia.

Both a research and practical education program, Food for the Future: Sustainability and Australia's Red Meat Industry will involve and engage hundreds of producers and farmers nationally to review current and emerging trends within the meat and livestock supply chain to implement future-driven, sustainable practices.

The study aims to deliver industry-wide emission reduction planning, enhanced biodiversity projects, improved natural capital outcomes, and expanded regenerative agriculture techniques.

Further reading <a href="https://www.beefcentral.com/carbon/hewitt-and-mla-heading-up-australias-largest-red-meat-sustainability-study/">https://www.beefcentral.com/carbon/hewitt-and-mla-heading-up-australias-largest-red-meat-sustainability-study/</a>

Farm Incubator Program Applications Open.

After a successful pilot program and many learnings the next Farmer Incubator program is open for applications to start next year. This is a great opportunity for new budding farmers to get hands on experience and knowledge from other farmers and educators in the area. This is a great collaboration of community resources to help grow growers in our region and vital for building a more resilient productive community.

For further details and applying: <a href="https://thefarm.com.au/adult-workshops/2024/01/01/incubatorapplication">https://thefarm.com.au/adult-workshops/2024/01/01/incubatorapplication</a>

#### Workshop: Imagining the future of regenerative agriculture

#### 10.00am-3.30pm, Tuesday 21 November Namabunda Farm, 110-112 Whites Lane Alstonville NSW 2477

What might a regenerative food system in Australia look like? What parts of the current system would you like to keep? Which ones should we change? And what is the role regenerative agriculture could play?

The workshop will begin with a tour of Namabunda farm, an organic mixed farming and regenerative agro-forestry operation owned by Bundjalung Tribal Society. Participants will then come together to discuss the potential future pathways of regenerative agriculture in Australia in a facilitated session.

This workshop is open to farmers, agriculture students, agriculture sector workers, and those working in agriculture and environmental policy.

For more details and to register visit: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/workshop-imagining-the-future-of-regenerative-agriculture-tickets-737711674477">https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/workshop-imagining-the-future-of-regenerative-agriculture-tickets-737711674477</a>

# Zentvelds Coffee Farm Field Day

We will hear about their farming story and their move to regenerative practices incorporating cover crops and bio stimulants as well as the farm gate sales and local distribution.

Coffee is a highly valued crop in our local area with plenty of opportunity given its ability to grow so well organically in our region. A great chance to learn more about regenerative practices within an orchard setting as well as coffee itself as a potential crop and a chance to bump heads with other farmers and landholders.

WHEN Friday 3rd November 8.30am-12pm

WHERE: Newrybar

COST: free

Spaces are limited. Please RSVP to <u>agriculture@byron.nsw.gov.au</u>

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### 3-Day Holistic Grazing Workshop at The Farm

Dig deep into the understanding of managing livestock as a positive tool to restore environments. By using the principles of Holistic Management, we can get our grazing animals to mimic nature, constantly moving onto fresh pasture thereby creating high levels of litter and more uniform manure distribution with a resultant increase in soil carbon levels.

WHEN: 14-16 NOVEMBER 2023 WHERE: The Farm Ewingsdale

COST: \$690

Register: <a href="https://thefarm.com.au/adult-workshops/2023/11/14/holistic-grazing-workshops/">https://thefarm.com.au/adult-workshops/2023/11/14/holistic-grazing-workshops/</a>

fbclid=lwAR3LFsdicsdKWZgStt2BluXz-TVkRjRgHlwMd8doyGUWNcd52u9ljb8AX38

#### **Farm Yarns**

Join us for Byron Shire Council's first Farm Yarns event, exploring the fascinating ways that locals in our community are working with mycelium to regenerate ecosystems, improve water quality and our health.

Whether you're a grower, nature enthusiast, food lover or simply curious about the wonders of mycelium, this is an opportunity to connect with like-minded community and gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which fungi can continue to support a healthier future.

Ticket sales will go to supporting the next generation of local farmers through the Northern Rivers Farmer Incubator Program. Some light tea and nibbles will be provided.

WHEN: Wednesday November 22nd

WHERE: The Farm Byron Bay

Book Here: Farm Yarns: The future of fungi Tickets, Wed 22/11/2023 at 5:30 pm | Eventbrite

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#### **Small Water Cycle and Soil Carbon**

Get to know the health of your soil through simple DIY tests in this practical field day lead by Soil Scientist, Philip Mulvey. We'll discuss the importance of mending and maintaining the small water cycle and how to build and track soil carbon on your farm.

WHEN: Thursday 23rd November WHERE: The Farm Byron Bay

Book Here: Ewingsdale Field Day: Small Water Cycle and Soil Carbon | Humanitix 4.

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### **Community Lead Climate Solutions Grant**

Some funding available that may be relevant to some of the groups out there looking to support sustainable agriculture.

The Community Led Climate Solutions Grant Program supports not-for-profit organisations across remote, rural and regional Australia to drive local climate solutions that reduce emissions through education, engagement and action on sustainable agriculture and food systems, amongst other things.

Read more <a href="https://frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/community-led-climate-solutions/">https://frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/community-led-climate-solutions/</a>

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### **Farmers Set up Their Own Dung Beetle Nurseries**

Farmers in Western Australia begin breeding their own stocks of the bugs, which are proving hugely beneficial to farm and animal health. The beetles provide more than just manure management — they help fight parasites and fertilise soil.

Further reading <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-05/farmers-set-up-dung-beetle-nurseries-on-their-property/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-05/farmers-set-up-dung-beetle-nurseries-on-their-property/</a>

# Mary River restoration project benefits environment and Great Barrier Reef

Like our own Bringing Back the Bruns project, restoration work on a severely eroded Queensland river is stopping tens of thousands of tonnes of sediment from smothering the Great Barrier Reef. The rehabilitation work has shown that rivers can be repaired by successfully tackling erosion.

Read more <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-31/mary-river-restoration-catchment-care-landcare-erosion-reef/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-31/mary-river-restoration-catchment-care-landcare-erosion-reef/</a>

# Hemp's potential to become major Australian agricultural industry for manufacturing building products

What appears to be a small square of ordinary wooden, 20-millimetre-thick chipboard is actually made of hemp — one of the toughest plants on the planet. Only this material is heavier and startlingly stronger. Bulletproof in fact. During a recent test in the United States, it withstood even a burst from a high-powered AK-47.

"It's phenomenally tough. We're making products that are even way in excess of the hardest hardwoods, very high impact resistance as well," said Mr Boag, who manufactures construction materials at a factory east of Melbourne.

Read more <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-08/hemp-potential-as-major-agricultural-industry-building-products/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-08/hemp-potential-as-major-agricultural-industry-building-products/</a>

# Bush foods application improves traceability, benefiting Indigenous communities and consumers

Just like Indigenous art, for a long time, those benefiting from the sale of bush foods were not always Indigenous people. As more Australians seek out native foods, plant and products, their origins and the ability to verify their authenticity is becoming increasingly important. Now, Indigenous communities are playing a leading role in developing the technology that will allow consumers to be confident in their purchases. Director of the University of Queensland's Australian Research Council Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods, Yasmina Sultanbawa, said a new app using blockchain (database) technology would allow the history of a product from harvesting to the end user to be traced.

Read more <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-31/bush-foods-app-improves-traceability-for-indigenous-communities/">https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-10-31/bush-foods-app-improves-traceability-for-indigenous-communities/</a>

#### **EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

# Sustain's Urban Agriculture Forum and Community Gardens Australia National Gathering 2023

17-19 November | National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern, Sydney

How can urban agriculture create more nourishing cities and towns and foster more socially and ecologically just urban environments? This is an opportunity for policy makers, practitioners and innovators to explore these questions, while networking and exchanging knowledge about leading practice in the urban agriculture sector.

For more information and to register <a href="https://events.humanitix.com/sustain-s-urban-agriculture-forum-and-community-gardens-australia-national-gathering-2023/tickets">https://events.humanitix.com/sustain-s-urban-agriculture-forum-and-community-gardens-australia-national-gathering-2023/tickets</a>



### **Bee Friendly Farming**

Learn about the principles of successful integrated pest and pollinator management in a webinar this Australian Pollinator Week. Hear from experts as they discuss the key steps to managing pests in a way that protects pollinators and promotes biodiversity on farms. This free webinar is on Wednesday 15 November at 12pm AEDT. Register for the webinar at

https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/event/integrated-pest-management-for-farm-and-garden-2/

### **Discover Bees Through Photography**

Learn from experienced bee photographers as they share their tips for capturing the perfect picture. Panelists include 2022 Pollinator Photography Competition finalist Bruce Malcolm, research apiculturalist Michael Duncan and beekeeper and botanist Anna Carrucan. The winners of the 2023 Pollinator Photography Competition will be announced in this webinar. This free webinar is on Thursday 16 November at 7pm AEDT.

#### Register at

https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/event/discover-bees-through-photography-webinar/

# Discover Bees Through Photography

#### **Webinar:**

Thurs Nov 16

⟨ 7pm AEDT



#### **Introduction to Biodynamics**

WHEN: November 27th and 28th WHERE: Conscious Ground Myocum Cost: Early bird tickets are \$660.

This introductory workshop brings together the art and science of biodynamics, the 'how and why' biodynamic preparations work, and the practical skills you need to start applying them as soon as you get home.

Link for more information:

https://events.humanitix.com/two-day-intro-to-biodynamics-or-conscious-ground-27-and-28-november



#### **World Soil Day discussion**

Come along to Southern Cross University's Lismore campus on Monday, December 4, in the leadup to World Soil Day for this free event.

At this panel discussion, you will hear from soil researchers, industry experts and recent graduates about current and future career opportunities in soils.

#### Register your interest





# **FUNDING**

WIRES has relaunched its Water for Wildlife program, supplying up to 800 water feeders for arboreal wildlife.

Eligibility guidelines are as follows:

- Private and public landowners can apply.
- The applicant must be the owner of the land or have the authority to approve installation and ongoing monitoring of drinkers on the land.
- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents.
- Each drinker must be a minimum of 500 metres away from any other drinker/source of fresh water.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement confirming their commitment to the program.
- All applicants are expected to agree to: prompt installation, supplying pictures postinstallation, completing ongoing long-term maintenance and providing ongoing monitoring feedback.

Further information, including applications may be found on the following link.

#### **FUNDING FRIDAY!**

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000). <a href="https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-small-vital/">https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-small-vital/</a>





### **WEED OF THE MONTH**

Thanks John and others who pointed out a few problems with last month's Weed of the Month. The newsletter described Coral Berry as *Rivina humilis*. Locally the more common Coral Berry as *Ardisia crenata*. It seems that both these plants share the same common name but are obviously different species and have different scientific names.

Below we have provided updated pictures of *Ardisia crenata* and added recommended methods of treatment.

#### **Coral Berry (Ardisia crenata)**

(From Brisbane City Council Weeds)

A small upright evergreen shrub with glossy dark green leaves. Its alternately arranged leaves are relatively thick and have finely toothed margins. Its fragrant flowers are white to deep pink in colour and are usually covered in numerous minute black spots. Its showy bright red berries, which hang down in clusters, can remain on the plant for months.

Coral berry (Ardisia crenata) is regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales and Queensland and as a "sleeper weed" in other parts of northern Australia. This species prefers rich, well-drained, soils in partially shaded positions (e.g. in closed forests, near forest margins and along waterways). It is a weed of tropical, sub-tropical and warmer temperate regions.

Brisbane City Council Weeds website recommends foliar spray to eradicate <a href="https://weeds.brisbane.gld.gov.au/control-methods/foliar-spray">https://weeds.brisbane.gld.gov.au/control-methods/foliar-spray</a>







Come along to our Weeds Identification workshop on Saturday 18th November to learn about this weed and others, their environmental impact and how to eradicate them. Register here <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/weed-identification-field-workshop-tickets-739154068717?">https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/weed-identification-field-workshop-tickets-739154068717?</a> aff=oddtdtcreator

#### Pests and Weeds - feedback sought

North Coast Regional Landcare Network are seeking information from the ground about pests and weeds. As we know, weeds have become quite an issue since the February 2022 floods. If you have any feedback re weeds we'll keep the information handy for future grants, etc. For example what's your worst weed? Are you aware of any current weed projects happening?

If you are involved in a weed or pest project, please send an email to jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au by Friday 17th November with the project name, project budget and funding body. In addition, if you have any pictures or expanded stories, please also send that through.

# **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 group 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

CONTACT: Noelene Plummer <u>bangalowlandcare@gmail.com</u> 0431 20 0638 6687 4470

Frends of Lilli Pilli (Byron Bay)

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month 3:30pm - 5:00pm

WHERE: At entrance to Lilli Pilli (contact Deb).

CONTACT: Deb Jorgensen <u>deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com</u> 0434 254 802

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am

WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay

CONTACT: Peter Farmakis <a href="mailto:peter.farmakis@gmail.com">peter.farmakis@gmail.com</a> 0488 715 565

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby

CONTACT: Diana Hughes <u>bromspot@gmail.com</u>

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month

WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: lan Parer <u>ianparer@hotmail.com</u>

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Morning of last Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from John Tann

CONTACT: John Tann johntann99@gmail.com

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Thursday at 8.30 – 11.00 am (8.00am DST)

WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: David Kemp <u>dnkemp77@gmail.com</u> 0427 650 861

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 8.30 - 10.30 every fourth Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from:

CONTACT: Rebekah O'Flaherty <u>rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com</u> 0428 942 903

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare, Tallowood Ridge Mullumbimby

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month from 3pm (winter), 4pm (summer).
WHERE: Gathering Tree Pocket Park, Cockatoo Cres Tallowood Ridge Estate

CONTACT: Joanne McMurtry <u>jmcmurtry@bigpond.com</u>

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am

WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah

CONTACT: Bela Allen <u>bela\_allen@yahoo.com</u> 6684 7113

Can't find a group near you? We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us

# LINKS

- Arakwal http://arakwal.com.au/
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <a href="http://aabr.org.au">http://aabr.org.au</a>
- · Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greateasternranges.org.au/border ranges/overview/overview
- Bangalow Koalas <a href="http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/">http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/</a>
- · Bangalow River and Landcare <a href="http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/">http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/</a>
- · Big Scrub Landcare <a href="https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/">https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/</a>
- · Brunswick Valley Landcare <a href="http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/">http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/</a>
- · Byron Bird Buddies <a href="http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/">http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/</a>
- · Byron Community College <a href="http://www.byroncollege.org.au/">http://www.byroncollege.org.au/</a>
- Byron Shire Council <a href="http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/</a>
- EnviTE <u>www.envite.org.au</u>
- · Environmental Trust <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm</a>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Federal Landcare Inc <u>federalandcare@gmail.com</u>
- Local Land Services <u>www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au</u>
- North Coast Local Land Services <a href="http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/">http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/</a>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare <u>www.brrvln.org.au</u>
- · Mullumbimby Community Gardens <a href="http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/">http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/</a>
- North Coast Nature <a href="http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/">http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/</a>
- · Richmond Landcare Inc. <a href="http://www.richmondlandcare.org/">http://www.richmondlandcare.org/</a>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <a href="http://rous.nsw.gov.au/">http://rous.nsw.gov.au/</a>
- Soilcare <a href="http://www.soilcare.org">http://www.soilcare.org</a>

Landcare

- Tweed Landcare Inc. <a href="http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/">http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/</a>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <a href="http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/">http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/</a>

For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact Landcare Coordinator, Alison Ratcliffe 0421 244 640

info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry 0409 925 330

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