



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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April 2015

APRIL	22	Rainforest plant ID Workshop with Nan and Hugh Nicholson
	28	Social Media Workshop with Veda Dante
MAY	8	Info stall at Ocean Shores Community Day
	13	Garden weeds workshop with Mark Evans
	16	"Why Fish need Trees" Workshop
	tbc	Monitoring workshop
JUNE	6	Info stall at Old & Gold for World Environment Day

Planting for the future



The Mullum Music Festival's Nino Haggith with some of the 50 enthusiastic volunteers who planted more than 1,000 treelings at the Mullum Showgrounds on Saturday. Nino says the trees were paid for with monies raised by Koala Connections and Brunswick Valley Volunteers at the last Mullum Music Festival. 'We also donated booking fees of tickets care of the Mullum Newsagency. Other major sponsors were Uncle Tom's Pies, Council and The Mullum Showground Trust, who play a huge part in contributing to the execution and future maintenance of the planting'. Photo Jeff Dawson

Photo from the Echo Tuesday 25th March 2015

in Tyagarah, and now by the riverside at the Mullumbimby Showgrounds.

It is an important highlight in our festival event schedule, with collaboration and support from Brunswick Valley Landcare, Koala Connections, Byron Shire Council and sponsors UNCLE TOM'S PIES & THE ECHO growing from strength to strength each year.

We would like to thank the many volunteers and community members who help make each planting a success, as well as the brilliant musicians and production crew who entertain our teams at our planting concert. This year, we were joined by our 2014 Youth Mentorship Director's Pick MEGAN DONNELLY, local new comer PAMELA FREEMAN and Mullum's own WALRUS & THE CARPENTER. A big thank you also to the Mullumbimby Showgrounds trust for their support.

This planting was supported by NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

Mullum Music Festival Tree Planting

On Saturday 28th March we had over 50 volunteers come along to plant out a section of Salt Water Creek at the Mullumbimby Showgrounds.

Our annual Sustainable Festival Tree Planting, which has been running for the last 5 years, was a fantastic success at the weekend. With over 1000 trees being planted, the day was filled with a true community spirit and the continual building of awareness of the importance of such events in our community and region.

Over the years we have planted trees at the Community Gardens in Mullumbimby, Council land by the Brunswick river in Mullumbimby, Wildlife corridors

FUNDING

Environmental Education grants

- Environmental Education Program
- Eco Schools Program



Environmental Education Program

Grants of \$5,000 to \$100,000 are available for community organisations, non-profit organisations and government authorities to support educational projects that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment. EOI are due by **5pm Friday 10 April 2015**.

Eco Schools

The Eco Schools Program will award up to 100 schools grants of \$3,500 to deliver environmental management projects. 18 of these grants are available specifically for projects working with students with special needs. Applications are due by **Friday 15 May 2015**.

Application materials

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the Trust's website: www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

Farm Innovation Fund – NSW Rural Assistance Authority



The Farm Innovation Fund provides loans to meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works that will have a significant beneficial impact on the land, long term profitability of the enterprise and address adverse seasonal conditions. Applicants must be the owner or operator of the property where the work is to be carried out. Additionally the farm must provide at least 50% of your total gross income and applicants must not have off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000.

For information about the Program and criteria which may apply go to the [NSW Rural Assistance Authority](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund) website <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund> .

Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

The next round of Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program is expected to open in August 2015.

Aim of the program

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program is to facilitate projects run by community organisations and government entities working to prevent or reduce environmental degradation of any kind. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

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

Do you have a winning idea for high school sustainability education?



The annual Zayed Future Energy Prize (ZFEP) is now accepting submissions for the 2016 Global High School Prize. US \$100,000 will be granted to the school with the most innovative educational project focusing on renewable energy and sustainability. The prize money can be used to fund a proposed educational project or to complete an ongoing project.

The Global High School Prize is awarded to a high school in five global regions - Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and our region Oceania.

For online submissions, or for more information, please contact Oceania's schools coordinator, Ms Kirsten Powell at kirsten@businessoutlook.com.au or mobile +61 402 111 627 or visit the website www.ZayedFutureEnergyPrize.com Applications close 22nd June 2015.

Working Together For a Healthy Land

All Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustain us.

This is the vision the team at Landcare Australia is working towards – and to be able to achieve this vision we need to continue to explore new ways of raising funds and support for the Landcare community.



A big part of this drive is our new fundraising strategy, which we have been working on since the beginning of the year. As a not-for-profit organisation with a big vision we need to connect with supporters who can help us fund projects that will have a positive and lasting impact on the sustainability, productivity and health of our land and water.

We will be undertaking a range of exciting fundraising campaigns this year to raise funds for Landcare and to tell people about the invaluable work being undertaken by Australia's biggest environmental volunteer community.

This month, you can:

- Join the [Winter Blanket Challenge](#) and grow a beard to raise money for Landcare Australia.
- [Donate to the Life on the Battlefield campaign](#) and help feed the vulnerable grey-headed flying foxes, cared for by volunteers in New South Wales' Lane Cove National Park.
- Support the [Greater Sydney Landcare Network's Source to Sea challenge](#), to help raise funds for projects that will protect our waterways.

Over the year we will be launching many more campaigns, and the funds raised will go towards projects in six key areas: sustainable agriculture and improving productivity; biodiversity; children and education; climate change resilience; coasts and waterways, and iconic projects.

Keep in touch with us and hear all about our exciting calendar of campaigns by [updating your details](#) by April 22nd. **You may even win a case of Taylors carbon-neutral 80 Acres wine!** We hope that you are as excited as we are about embarking on this new journey and will join us by donating what you can, helping spread the word, or even contacting us to help you start your own Landcare fundraising campaign. Yours in Landcare, Tessa Jakszewicz, Landcare Australia CEO



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a Rainforest Plant ID Workshop

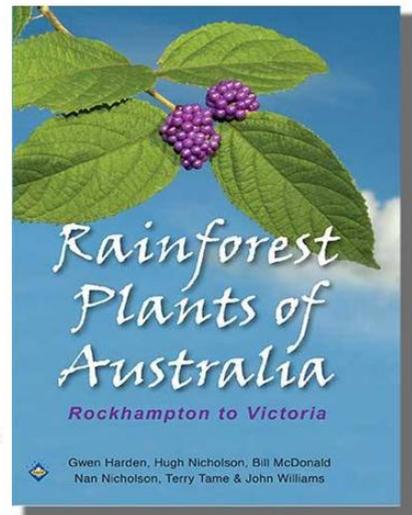
With Nan and Hugh Nicholson

Date: Wednesday 22nd April
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (now full)
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **new time**

Location: Conference Room Byron Shire Council Offices,
Station Street, Mullumbimby

Morning and Afternoon tea will be provided.

This practical workshop will help you to identify rainforest plants using the new interactive USB key and information system "Rainforest Plants of Australia - Rockhampton to Victoria".



Bring along any plant samples you would like to key out.

It would be great if you could buy the key before hand and familiarize yourself with it before the course. However the key will be available for purchase on the day if this is not possible. The key is available at www.rainforestplantssofaustralia.com along with more information about the key.



It would be great if participants could bring along a laptop and a hand lens. If this is not possible please let us know when you RSVP.

Bookings essential

Please contact Alison Ratcliffe

6626 7028

alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

*This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the
Australian Government*



**Local Land
Services
North Coast**



**Brunswick Valley Landcare
invites you to a
FREE Workshop**

Introduction to Social Media for Landcarers

Connect with the wider community

Trainer: Veda Dante
Date: Tuesday 28th April, 2015
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Conference Room Byron Shire Council Offices,
Station Street, Mullumbimby

This workshop will introduce you to:

- The main social media platforms and their respective pros and cons
- Setting up an account safely and securely
- Tips to writing and posting
- Hashtags and how they work for you

Morning tea will be provided



About Veda Dante

Based in the Byron Shire hinterland, Veda Dante is a media specialist with more than 25 years experience as a freelance photojournalist, copywriter, feature writer, magazine editor, publicist, and online content provider. Veda's work regularly appears in 10 NSW and Queensland regional papers including the Byron News and Northern Star, as well as specialist publications around the country. Veda is also a partner in Common Ground, an online magazine and media collective founded in Byron Bay.

Bookings Essential: Please contact Alison Ratcliffe
phone: 02 66267028 email: alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a
Weed Identification Workshop

With Mark Evans



Date: Wednesday 13th May

Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Location: on-site (location to be advised)

Morning tea will be provided.

This practical in the field workshop will help you to identify environmental and garden weeds. We will also provide resources to help identify and control weeds, talk about the threats weeds pose to native flora and fauna and what you can do to help.

Bring along any weed samples you would like to be identified and please wear long pants, long sleeves, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen and water.

Bookings essential

Please contact Alison Ratcliffe

6626 7028

alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

*This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the
Australian Government*



**Local Land
Services**
North Coast



WHY FISH NEED TREES!

Date: Saturday 16th May, 2015

Time: 1pm to 4pm

Location: Cook Pioneer Hall, Gordon St., Mullumbimby, followed by Fish Habitat Walk along Mullumbimby Creek

Wear: Sunsafe/wet weather clothes, covered shoes and mosquito repellent

Afternoon Tea provided

RSVP: Bela by 14th May, as numbers are limited.

Email: Bela_allen@yahoo.com Phone 02 66847113

- ❖ Discover the vital link between Trees on the creek bank and Fish in the creek
- ❖ Try your luck at identifying local native fish
- ❖ Visit a native revegetation planting site on Mullumbimby Creek
- ❖ Learn what you can do to improve Fish Habitat
- ❖ Have your questions answered by Fish Habitat expert, Scott Nichols, Fisheries NSW



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





**Local Land
Services**
North Coast

Want to know what clearing you can do without approval under the Native Vegetation Act?

Free local information sessions



Casino, Thursday 25 April

Casino Community Centre
35 Walk Street, Casino
RSVP to 6623 3900

Grafton, Wednesday 29 April

Grafton Community Centre
59 Duke Street, Grafton
RSVP to 6642 0622



Wauchope, Tuesday 5 May

Wauchope Country Club
24 King Street, Wauchope
RSVP to 6563 6700

**All sessions 9.30 am to 12.00 pm
Morning tea will be provided**

Sessions will cover: RAMAs, regrowth provisions and self-assessable codes for clearing paddock trees in cultivation and thinning native vegetation, new online native vegetation information tools.

When do I need approval? What can I clear without approval? Can I clear paddock trees or thin native vegetation? What information and advice is available?

For more information about Native Vegetation legislation visit
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation

Koala Connections milestone

50,000 trees planted as extra koala habitat

The 50,000th Koala Connections tree was planted by volunteers in Pottsville on Saturday as part of the Tweed Byron Koala Connections project.

The project, now in its third year, has seen extra habitat created throughout both Tweed and Byron Shires in an effort to halt the decline of the local koala population.

Council's Project Manager and Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity, Scott Hetherington, said volunteers, landholders and contractors have been working together to plant trees and restore koala habitat.

"This plantation is just one of an extensive network that will provide additional habitat for koalas," Mr Hetherington said. "Not only have the sites been chosen as the best to be used by koalas, they have also been designed to match their taste preferences. "Trees such as swamp mahogany and forest red gum dominate the coastal plantings to make sure the menu matches what we know koalas prefer to eat in this area. "The Koala Connections project is one of the largest koala habitat restoration projects undertaken and so this milestone is a fantastic achievement for all involved."

A swamp mahogany, one of the coastal koala's favourite feed species, was planted as the 50,000th tree to celebrate this highly significant milestone.

Mayor of Tweed Councillor Gary Bagnall said: "I would like to personally thank and congratulate all those who have been involved the Koala Connections program over the years.

"What a fantastic milestone after a huge amount of hard work. It is encouraging to see this type of environmental commitment from residents in our shire. Well done all."

Project Officer - Natural Resource Management Tanya Fountain said the efforts of volunteers will help increase and maintain highly important koala habitat.

"In addition to being a significant milestone for the broader project, this planting means we have established more than 3000 trees over 34 hectares in the Pottsville Wetland area," she said.

Tweed Byron Koala Connections volunteers will continue to create and maintain koala habitat on the Tweed Coast.

Koala Connections is also working in the Byron shire. For more information about the project, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/koalas or contact **Jo Green**

Koala Connections Project Officer,
Byron Shire Council
(Mon-Thurs)

p (02) 6626 7068

e joanne.green@byron.nsw.gov.au



Landowner input needed for new coastal vegetation mapping

Byron Shire Council has completed new vegetation mapping for coastal areas and is seeking landowner input to review the mapping on their property and provide feedback to Council.

Locations included in the study area are Broken Head, Skinners Shoot, Suffolk Park, Piccadilly Hill, Byron Bay, Ewingsdale, Myocum, Tyagarah, Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores and Billinudgel.

Council's team leader natural environment, Angus Underwood, said the specialist consultants have reviewed the maps using 2014 aerial photographs, existing vegetation survey data and on-ground inspections.

"As the landscape changes over time, the review is necessary to improve mapping accuracy by updating changes to vegetation cover and composition.

"The vegetation mapping provides baseline data which Council can use to identify high conservation value vegetation such as endangered ecological communities, koala habitat, old growth forest and wetlands, and to identify priority areas for conservation programs, land use planning and zoning," Mr Underwood said.

Landcare, community groups, consultants, government bodies and landholders can also use the mapping to inform planning and management of vegetation and habitats.

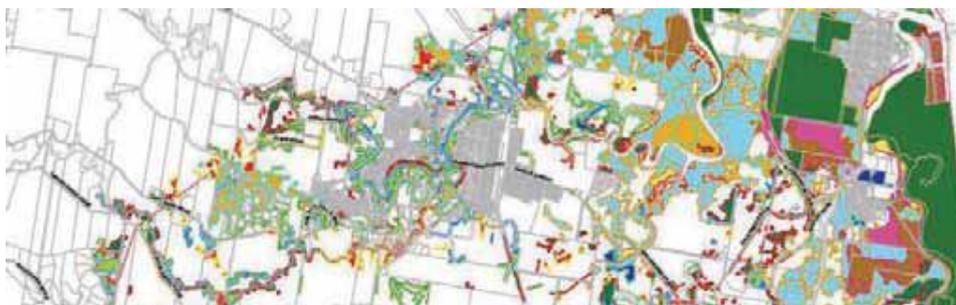
An updated Koala habitat map for the shire is also available for viewing and has been based on Koala habitat categories from the NSW Koala Recovery Plan.

Back in March, landowners within the coastal areas under review were sent letters urging their assistance to view the updated maps.

"If you believe that what's on your land is different to the maps, we'd like to hear from you so we can correct the information. This will improve the accuracy of the maps so they can be used with a high level of confidence," Mr Underwood said.

The maps can be viewed at <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition> or ring Council's Natural Environment team on 6626 7324.

Following a review of landowner submissions, Council staff will review the vegetation mapping of properties and may request an opportunity to complete an onsite inspection at a time that suits the owner. The draft vegetation mapping for the coastal area of the Shire will be on public exhibition for a period of 6 weeks between 18th March and 29th April 2015.



Submissions Close:
4.00pm 29th April 2015
Enquiries: Angus
Underwood 02 6626 7324

World Environment Day 2015 Celebrations

Shire wide student photography project



To celebrate World Environment Day in 2015, Byron Shire Council and Brunswick Valley Landcare are running an environmentally focused photographic project with Brunswick Heads Primary School.

The shire wide project will involve students learning about the local environment as part of the science curriculum. Students will then be taken on a tour of the Suffolk Park Dunecare and Saltwater Creek Landcare sites by Landcare volunteers. During the tour children will be guided to photograph the regeneration work and the local environment.

Each student will then have one image displayed as part of a walking photography exhibition around Brunswick Heads leading up to and including World Environment Day on Friday 5 June 2015 and the Old and Gold Festival on Saturday 6 June 2015.

The theme of the photography exhibition will be 'Our Environment is Golden'.

A limited edition book of the project will be created, including photographs by and of the students, and Brunswick Valley Landcare will distribute further information and resources from a stall during the Old and Gold Festival.

Further information about the project can be obtained from Melody Valentine, Secretary of Brunswick Valley Landcare at melody.f.valentine@gmail.com.

NSW Landcare Directory

The 2015 annual review of the NSW Landcare Directory is currently underway. For anyone unfamiliar with the NSW Landcare Directory, it is a database of all known Landcare groups in NSW and it is maintained by the NSW Landcare Support Team.

It provides the two performance indicators for the NSW State Plan, total number of groups and total number of Landcare volunteers, that are used to measure the activity of the NSW Landcare movement. These indicators are part of the suite of tools that is being used to monitor the success of the NSW Landcare Support Strategy.

The NSW Government made an election commitment of \$15m over 4 years for Landcare support and the directory provides baseline data so that we might be able to build a more reliable picture of participation across the state and through the life of the next program.

If your Landcare group isn't on the gateway yet, you are still welcome to join at any time. If you'd like to know more there is a page of helpful hints <http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/>

If you need any help registering or logging onto the gateway please contact:

John Perrott john.perrott@dpi.nsw.gov.au

A Social Evening

The social evening on Thursday 26th March was a great success with 42 local Landcarer's attending. Many laughs and visions for the future were shared. On arrival we asked people to answer two questions. Below is an outline of the responses.



Thank you to everyone that attended, the speakers and our MC Sandi Gandhi. We hope to hold another similar event in the future (but probably at a different venue) so I look forward to seeing you all there!



Why are you passionate about Landcare	What ideas do you have for Landcare for the next 25 years
Laughter and friendship	Get ALL the waterways in town looking wonderful
It's good for my body and soul and mind and good for the planet. Makes me feel whole.	Ensure federal and state government commit to increased funding.
It connects people to landscapes	More integral to all community issues
Tea and cake after work	Involve youth and kids
Creating habitat for birds and animals	Funding for ongoing maintenance
The land needs Landcare and we work together on the land.	Environmental repair and enhancement becomes a compulsory school subject
Want to contribute and make a difference and work with great people to learn a lot	Many happy healthy koalas living in huge forests with wide corridors wot wander through
Helps the community	Inspire future generations to be as passionate as we are
Community spirit is a great leveller	Roaming Landcare groups
I feel like a custodian of the land and it is great to be part of a group	Encourage young people to think of a future in horticulture and Landcare supervisory roles
Plants, animals and fungi	Be smart about marketing Landcare
Good people working as part of an amazing ecosystem	School education officers
It offers opportunities for young people to have interest in horticulture	Education is the answer and working with the farming community
Community spirit	Plant more trees
Learning stuff	Get schools on board
Working hard with like minded folk is so much more enjoyable than labouring alone	We need environment care – caring people and caring government
Seeing positive transformation of landscape	Committed recurrent funding
Being in contact with people, plants and wildlife	BVL to take in interns to build capacity
Community and conservation	Get rid of the abbot government
Great work spirit and great results	Work together with community gardens movement
No weeds and 900 big fat clean bottomed koalas	Get rid of chemical
I love seeing a site transformed	Prioritise food for birds and animals ahead of eco-purity
Being in nature	Get kids involved early
I love to see the landscape come back from degradation to being a thriving community of plants, animals, insects and birds..	Inspire Gina Rhinehart to become a Landcare sponsor as she needs to put something into the land after taking so much out of it for herself.
Habitat restoration. The fauna needs us	Keeping up the great work
Learning and working tougher	Take over China
Looking after the environment.	Getting community involved
Environmentally positive	Teaching our grandchildren
Restoring degraded land and working with like minded people	Proper funding and support for strategic weed control and biodiversity conservation
Biodiversity conservation	Education/schools
Collective spirit and energy to care for our country	Online resources
Community based volunteering conservation	More involvement with youth and school
Create a wildlife haven	Keep landscape area free of populations
	Recruiting new volunteers
	Lots of funding for maintenance
	Need to involve the next green guardians



Image: Mark Stevens



Image: DPI image collection

Army worms on the munch

Julie Dart, Senior Land Services Officer

Armyworms are becoming a noticeable problem in coastal pastures this March. Most calls are coming in as people notice green pastures disappearing suddenly overnight. When the edge of the damaged patch is closely observed, many dark green hairless caterpillars

can be seen rolled up at the base of the stems.

The sudden loss of pasture with an obvious damage "front" that advances across a paddock is a classic symptom of the problem and gives the common name of Armyworm. Affected pastures look brown with a heavy infestation because the caterpillars strip off all the green leaves in front of them. Light infestations are easily missed in vigorously growing pastures.

Whilst the grubs are not harmful to stock, they are a problem where standing feed from summer grasses will be used over the winter. Pasture will be much slower to recover at this time of the year and pasture bulk may not be replenished before the growing season ends.

Where winter growing species such as oats and ryegrass are planned to be sown for winter feed, farmers should monitor paddocks for signs of damage. Armyworms prefer soft, lush growth and will often selectively graze out preferred species such as Kikuyu, Prairie Grass, Ryegrass and cereals, leaving less desirable grasses untouched.

The Pest

Common Armyworms are the caterpillars of a native noctuid moth- *Leucania convecta*. There are several armyworm species in Australia, but *L. convecta* is usually the cause of autumn pasture damage on the North coast.

Lifecycle

Female moths lay many eggs in irregularly-shaped masses, in crevices and leaf folds in pasture and other vegetation. Eggs hatch within 3-7 days. The tiny larvae (caterpillars) drop from the egg mass from fine silken threads that help them disperse with the wind. The larvae feed on leaves and stems and go through six to seven growth stages (instars) with a moult between each stage. The stripes and dark olive-green colour becomes more pronounced over time. Caterpillars can reach 4cm long when fully grown. The more mature instars cause the most damage.

Once fully grown the larvae drop to the soil and pupate. It takes 17-34 days from hatching to pupa. After 10-20 days the moths emerge from the pupae to mate, and the females to lay the next batch of eggs. The whole lifecycle takes 40-60 days, depending on temperature (30 -20°C). Where warm conditions persist there may be more than one outbreak in the season.

Control

Where saving the remaining pasture bulk is a priority, insecticides can be used. All are group 1 insecticides (anti-cholinesterase compounds).

As armyworms are most active at night, chemicals should be applied in the evening as the grubs climb up into the pasture sward. Spraying should target the damage front and extend into unaffected pasture for a further 10m. It is not necessary to spray damaged areas as the pests will have moved on.

Stock will need to be excluded from treated pastures until the grazing withholding period has concluded. Feed should not be cut from treated pastures for hay or silage during this time.

<http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters/articles/army-worms-on-the-munch>



Nominations open for the 2015 NSW Landcare Awards

Local Landcarers are being encouraged to submit a nomination for the biennial NSW Landcare Awards after the State led the country with the greatest number of finalists recognised with an Award or being highly commended at the 2014 National awards.

Celebrating a silver milestone this year, the Awards have been running for 25 years and celebrate the many achievements of Landcare across a number of diverse areas, including sustainable farming, Coastcare, Junior Landcare, Indigenous land management, and more.

With nine national categories to choose from there is certain to be one to fit any kind of Landcare project or local hero, and all winners at a state and territory level will proceed as finalists to the 2016 National Landcare Awards.

Awards will be given in the following categories

- Australian Government Individual Landcarer
- Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator
- Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices
- Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare
- Coastcare Award
- Junior Landcare Team
- Young Landcare Leader
- Indigenous Land Management
- Landcare Community Group

This year applications will be made through Landcare Australia's online entry portal. <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/landcareawards>

Further information on the NSW Landcare Awards is also available from:

Colleen Farrow
State Landcare Coordinator, NSW DPI
Ph: 02 63 913238 or 0407 620408
E: colleen.farrow@dpi.nsw.gov.au

There is also a brochure with more information on the NSW Landcare Awards on the Landcare Australia website. http://www.landcareonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Entry-Brochure_NSW.pdf

Field Day Farm Tour

Wendy Gibney



On 12th March seventeen keen Landcarers boarded a bus for the Farm Tour field Day. We visited six different beef cattle farms. This tour was the fourth event for the Farmers learning from Farmers Project.

The first stop was the Mullumbimby Angus Stud. Maurie Maher showed us some of his beautiful heifers and gave us an interesting talk about his Angus breed which he has had for the last 22 years. Maurie also gave some tips on fencing and talked about the history of some of the farm buildings on his property including the old Mullumbimby sale sheds.

The next stop was a Hereford farm in Myocum. Lawrence Tulloch bought this farm in 1965 and it was originally selected in the 1880's by his grandfather. This beautiful property has some very large shade trees some were planted by Lawrence and his grandfather.

Both Lawrence's and Maurie's farm are on over 100 acres and both are profitable farms.



We then got back on the bus and visited Tina Sweeny and her Black Baldy cattle. Tina only has a small property but she and her neighbours work together by rotating all of their cattle between their properties and share other resources including water.

The fourth farm we visited was and owner Lindsay Murray gave us an interesting talk about the history and preservation of the rare British White breed. Lindsay has also done extensive plantings and regeneration on his property and like many farms in Myocum he is part of the Koala Connections corridor.

Stewart Kerr owns fig Tree Farm which is home to Murray Grey Cattle. Murray Greys are an Australian Breed which was developed in the early 1900's. As well as talking about his herd, Stewart gave us an informative talk about biosecurity and stressed the importance of managing weeds, pest animals and diseases.



Our last farm stop was to look at some Brahmans from the Helena Brahman Stud. Many farmers in our region cross the Brahmans with the British or European breeds to maximise production with F1Hybrid cattle. After the last farm it was back to Mullumbimby to a delicious lunch prepared by the Mullumbimby CWA.

Thank you very much to all of the host farmers, the CWA and to Julie our friendly bus driver for such an enjoyable field trip.



Wild Dogs

It is a common belief that the only impacts from wild dogs relate to attacks or deaths of domestic livestock. Unfortunately this is no longer the case with changing land uses and urban sprawl changing the wild dog-human interface. Many landholders now carry out control in areas under horticulture, for protection of wildlife and protection of domestic pets - particularly in the peri-urban areas. Wild dog activity levels peak during the autumn breeding season and taking action now provides a greater potential to reduce breeding populations and therefore future impacts.

Byron Shire Council and Koala Connections will soon re-commence control and trapping programs for feral animals, primarily dogs and foxes. If you have problems from feral animals and would like more information or to register to be part of the program please Jo Green, Koala Connections Project Officer at joanne.green@byron.nsw.gov.au

For more information on this article please see North Coast Local Land Services Resource Hub <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/media-releases/2015/autumn-breeding-season-signals-time-to-act-on-wild-dogs>

Plant of the Month

This month's plant of the month is **Winter Senna** also known as Easter Senna *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata* as it is currently flowering so very easy to spot. You will see it up and down many local roads as the seeds are easily spread by wind, birds and humans. The seeds can live for 3-5 years lying dormant in the soil. It is a spreading shrub to 3m and has leaves with 3-6

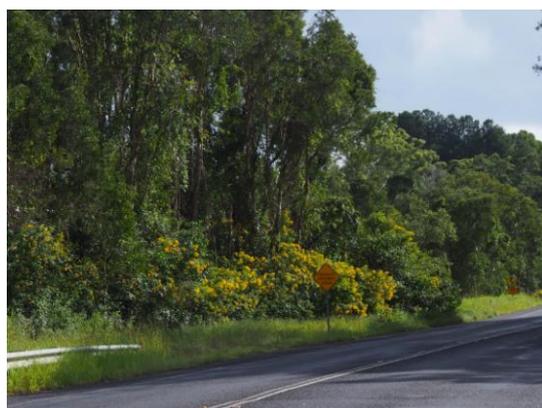


leaflet pairs. The flowers are yellow, large and showy, with protruding curved stamens (the pollen-producing parts). The seed pods are a round bean. There are similar native species *Senna acclinis*, Brush Cassia which is a Threatened Species, but can be easily distinguished by its flatter seed pods and usually has more leaflets.



For more information on how to control these weeds and other weeds in the shire please visit the Byron Shire Council website and you will find weed profile sheets:

<http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/weed-profiles>



Parliamentary Report into Landcare Released

This detailed report to the senate covers some very interesting ground. Though at times dry, it offers some great information on its terms of reference;

1. the establishment and performance of the Natural Heritage Trust;
2. the establishment and performance of the Caring for Our Country program;
3. the outcomes to date and for the forward estimates period of Caring for Our Country;
4. the implications of the 2014-15 budget for land care programs, in particular, on contracts, scope, structure, outcomes of programs and long-term impact on natural resource management;
5. the Government's policy rationale in relation to changes to land care programs;
6. analysis of national, state and regional funding priorities for land care programs;
7. how the Department of the Environment and the Department of Agriculture have, and can, work together to deliver a seamless land care program;
8. the role of natural resource management bodies in past and future planning, delivery, reporting and outcomes; and
9. any other related matters.

Get your teeth into it by visiting

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/landcare/Report

Landcare NSW Membership – free to join

To help ensure that, Landcare NSW represents all Landcare groups across the state, it needs to increase its membership base. To join go to

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=KRPS97iS8vCVgKo86z9vHw#>

Landcare NSW Resources

Landcare NSW has produced a number of resources, funded by the State Government Landcare Support Program:

- [Introduction to Landcare](#)
- [Factsheets for Landcare Groups](#)
- [Landcare Policy Templates](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Sharing Our Successes](#)
- [External Sourced Resources](#)



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
 - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
 - Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
 - Far North Coast Weeds <http://fncw.nsw.gov.au/>
 - Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
 - Green and Clean Awareness Team www.greenclean.org.au
 - 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
 - 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>
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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



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