



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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APRIL	21	Farm Forestry Field Day
MAY	1	Tree Planting at Gondwana
	6-7	Renew Fest
	14	Mullum Music Festival Tree Planting at Durrumbul
	15	Native Stingless Bee Workshop

April 2017

How to Fix Flood Damaged Plantings

I hope those of you who were affected by the floods are well on your way to recovery. Our thoughts are with you.

I've had a few enquiries from landholders wanting to know the best way to help their plantings recover from flood damage. Richmond Landcare put together this great information on **how to fix flood damaged plantings**.

Wait for water to recede and soils to drain - you don't want to do further root or soil damage by sloshing about on an unstable bank. Remove any large debris holding down trees, caught in branches, or collected around stems. Keep as much of this on your site as you can, for the flood waters will have taken your organic matter from the soil surface and this debris will help to start restoring biological function and OM cycling.

Carefully stand up bent trees if appropriate, and consider options for staking or propping them up until their roots re-establish. There are several schools of thought as to whether you should stand up flattened trees. Some species will adjust to their new angle "as nature intended", and re-shoot or coppice (eg Sandpaper Figs). Other species may not cope so well lying down, and while the soil is soft they can be carefully staked and gradually 'lifted' using slings to a more vertical angle. The ability of a flattened tree to readjust will largely depend on the degree of damage, soil loss and local conditions. The best approach is to 'give it a go' on your site, and take note of what works for next time!

- Trim any broken branches or snapped stems
- If possible, hose off the worst of the silt to allow maximum photosynthesis
- Consider giving your plants a boost with a seaweed solution
- Re-plant washed out lomandra root balls, and give their leaves a trim to help reduce water loss
- Check the site regularly for new weed incursions courtesy of the flood.

Remember to take it easily and work carefully in flood affected areas: the water could have brought all manner of refuse and effected the stability of the soil on your site. If you are at all unsure about your safety, always seek advice from professionals.

You may also be thinking about fencing and how to minimise fencing losses in areas that flood. This great leaflet gives some design options for low-maintenance, flood damage resistant fencing.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Riparian-fence-brochure-v2sfs.pdf>



Photo by Tweed Landcare's Gary Bagnall

Landholders urged to report damage

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and North Coast Local Land Services are urging primary producers to report damage, including stock and fodder losses, as well as damage to farms, fencing and other farm infrastructure following significant flooding from ex-tropical Cyclone Debbie in northern NSW.

As producers are starting to gain access to their paddocks to assess the extent of the flood related damage they are urged to report impacts to North Coast Local Land Services.

North Coast Local Land Services and NSW DPI will use this information to gain an understanding of the full extent of the damage and provide ongoing support where it is needed most.

So far approximately 155 landholders have reported stock losses and agricultural damage however, as flood waters continue to recede and farmers can get back into their paddocks, it is expected that the number will increase.

We have a team of people on the ground who can provide advice and assistance and landholders who need help with emergency support for their livestock, emergency fodder and stock water should contact North Coast Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

Visit [NSW DPI's website](#) for information on a range of topics including feeding and health related issues in livestock, managing flood affected pastures and aquaculture issues.

Primary producers can find out where to get help <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/help-for-storm-and-flood-affected-primary-producers>



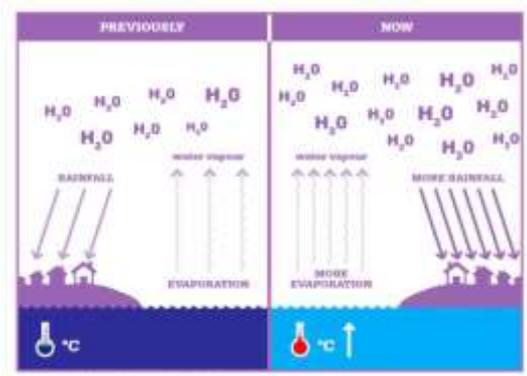
Byron Shire Council are seeking support with its appeal to the Commonwealth government to include our flood affected communities within the the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (DRP) and Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA), we need your help in collecting information.

If your property or personal effects have been impacted in the flood affected areas of Billinudgel, Mullumbimby, South Golden Beach, New Brighton and the lower lying areas of Ocean Shores and Brunswick Heads, please take this short survey. <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/flood-survey>

Businesses affected by the floods are also encouraged to complete the following survey to help assess the impact. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthCoastFloodsBusinessSurvey>

2017 NSW floods not the same

Almost all of NSW's flood-causing rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie fell within 24 hours, unlike severe flooding in the region in 1954 and 1974 which was due to sustained La Nina conditions. A rapidly warming climate means that storms are now occurring in a "super-charged" atmosphere. As temperatures increase, so does the water-holding capacity of the lower atmosphere. The oceans are also warming, especially at the surface, driving up evaporation rates. Global average surface temperature has already risen by about 1° above pre-industrial levels, leading to an increase of 7% in the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere.



<https://theconversation.com/northern-nsw-is-no-stranger-to-floods-but-this-one-was-different-75701>



Farm Forestry – Plan for the Future

Come along to a free practical field day:

- Visit a property where Farm Forestry has been integrated into an overall plan to protect and enhance biodiversity values,
- Learn from experts in the fields of Farm Forestry, Soil Science and Natural Habitat Restoration.

Friday 21st March 2017 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm Myocum

This is a practical, active field day and talks by experts will be interspersed at intervals while walking to different sites on the property.

PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

12.30 – 1.00	Arrival and walk to starting point (approx. 150m)
12.30 - 1.15	Lunch provided
1.15 – 1.30	Welcome, introduction and orientation to property given by property owner
1.30 – 1.45	Dr Joanne Green (BSC): farm forestry issues at a local level
1.45 – 2.00	Walk to cabinet timber area
2.00 – 2.30	Dr Kevin Glencross (SCU): farm forestry topics and questions from participants
2.30 – 2.45	Walk to soil demonstration site
2.45 – 3.15	Dr John Grant (SCU): soil science related to farm forestry and questions from participants
3.15 – 4.15	Guided walk through areas of the property illustrating different planting techniques, plant ID and lessons learnt, guided by the property owner and Dr Joanne Green
4.15	Return to starting point

Bookings are essential please contact: Bela Allen 6684 7113 bela_allen@yahoo.com

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program





THE 2017
MULLUM
Music Festival NOV 16-19

The 7th Annual
Tree Planting

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

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

Join us on Mothers Day and plant a local native tree for your Mum!
This year will see another 1000 trees planted by the Mullum Music Festival
and it's team of wonderful sustainability supporters.
Enjoy the free entertainment, with Brunswick Valley Landcare providing a
delicious BBQ brunch (gold coin donation).
Planting commences at 9am, Music and refreshments until 1pm.

The DURRUMBAL HALL site will be a special location with the planting of trees for
all mums, past, present and future.
Bring drinking water and wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants, with protective
footwear. Trees will be provided and laid out ready for planting at the site.

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



Tree planting at Gondwana

Volunteers needed for a tree planting day at Gondwana, Grays Lane, Tyagarah.

Monday 1st May 10.30am onwards, Lunch provided.

For details Email: bela_allen@yahoo.com, Phone 02 66 847 113

Native Stingless Bee workshop

Monday 15th May, 9.30am to 1.30pm

This workshop will emphasise the important role of native bees as crop pollinators and their value in Agriculture. You will have the opportunity to see and observe native bees and have your questions answered with local native bee expert Steve Maginness.

Bookings essential: Email [bela_allen @yahoo.com](mailto:bela_allen@yahoo.com), Phone 02 66847113

19th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference

The conference will be held at the prestigious University of New England campus, Armidale from 16 – 19 October 2017.

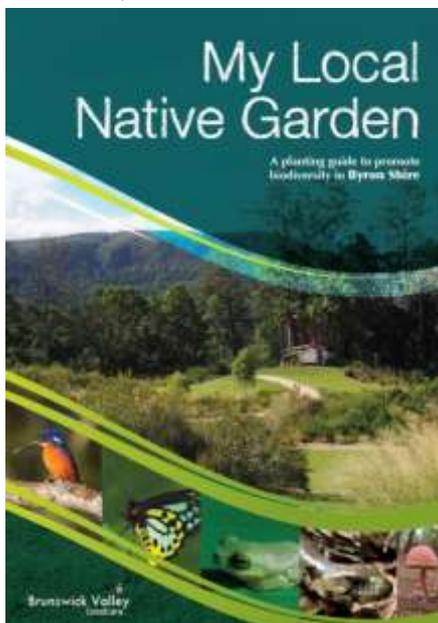
The Conference is a unique opportunity for the State's weeds professionals and related industry representatives, researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policy makers to showcase their work, network ideas and share in a vision for the future of the weeds industry. The theme of the Conference is "Experience the Highs – working smarter together".

[More information here. http://conferencecompany.com.au/weedsconference/](http://conferencecompany.com.au/weedsconference/)



My Local Native Garden

Buy a new updated My Local Native Garden Booklet for \$10 including postage and go in the draw to win 2 weekend passes to Renew Fest of which BVL are a proud sponsor. Winner will be announced on the 1st May 2017.



To buy a booklet please contact Alison on 6626 7028 alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au with your postal address and phone number.

To find out what's happening at Renew Fest visit <http://www.renewfest.org.au/>





The April issue of Village Eco News is now available with a great article on which bank to choose and the Patrons to the Environment initiative.

https://issuu.com/villageeconews/docs/village_eco_news_issue_9_april_201

Community Planting at Byron Creek Saturday 8 April - 8.30am to 10.30am



Wear appropriate footwear, clothing, a hat and gloves if you have the, but some will be available. Please contact Liz for more information: 6687 1309

The Landcare Australia newsletter **Landcare in Focus** can be downloaded from the NLN website. It is a special edition on farming innovation and best practice land management, featuring case studies and innovations.: <http://nlm.org.au/publications/>



\$100 Million for Landcare - Some News Via National Landcare Network

We have finally have some new on the additional \$100 million for Landcare that was announced in the MYEFO in December! In the last few months the NLN, together with Landcare Australia, has been in discussions with the Australian Government and the Australian Greens to try and ensure that this money is spent in a way which will bring benefits to landcarers and farmers on the ground. We have now had confirmation that:

- A first instalment of the funding will be available this financial year after budget announcements in May.
- Support for on-ground Landcare projects and small grants for sustainable agriculture and environmental projects will be prioritised in allocating this funding.
- \$15 million will be allocated to new Indigenous Protected Areas.
- Money will be available to support the Landcare Australia in delivering the State and National Landcare Awards which celebrate the achievements of landcarers.

The NLN and Landcare Australia met with Finance Minister Mathias Cormann's office at the end of March to confirm these allocations and to discuss various aspects of the budget. Our thanks to the Australian Government and Australian Greens for their ongoing commitment to Landcare! This article appeared in the National Landcare Network's March 2017 newsletter read it [here!](#)

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

World Water Day by Alison Ratcliffe

World Water Day on the 25th March held at the Cavanbah Centre with guided tours through the West Byron Wetlands was a great success. It saw around 300 people turn out to hear many speaker talk about Water Sensitive Coastal Living including Jerry Coleby-Williams who gave a very interesting talk on water sensitive homes and gardens and his home Bellis in Wynnum, Brisbane.



Photo from left to right: Alison Ratcliffe, John Turnbull, Jerry Coleby-Williams, David Filipczyk, Bela Allen, Jo Green, Greg Shanahan.

My Local Native Garden booklet

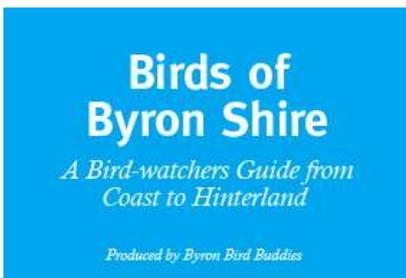
The new and updated version was launched and copies are now available for a donation from the Byron Shire Council Offices in Station Street Mullumbimby or by contacting Alison on 6626 7028.



Birds of Byron Shire brochure

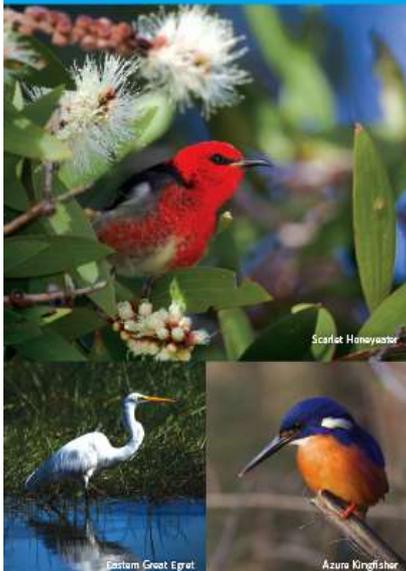
Byron Bird Buddies have produced their third brochure 'Birds of Byron Shire'. This useful printable pamphlet provides a tick list of over 300 birds as well as information on 25 birding hot spots from the coast to the hinterland for bird-watching around the Byron Shire. The brochure provides GPS coordinates and details on accessing sites with some examples of likely birds for each site. The bird list includes most birds observed in the shire over the past 15 years, vagrant species have been omitted.

The brochure was launched at Saturday's World Water Day held at the Byron Wetlands on the March 25th and hard copies of the fold out 12 panel brochure are available at participating local outlets. To make it convenient for home printers it has been reworked into 4 A4 pages or 2 back and front downloadable from the Byron Bird Buddies website www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au



Perfect for exploring the shires natural areas, to give to your birding visitors and also to keep it handy on your digital device.

Other brochures produced by Byron Bird Buddies include 'Shorebirds of Byron Shire' and 'Birds of Byron Wetlands'



Happy birding!



Photo. Gardening Australia's Jerry Coleby-Williams with Jan Olley and our resident Pied, the Oyster-catcher

Rainforest of Subtropical Australia Symposium



Bela and I attended the Rainforests of Subtropical Australia Symposium in Robina on the 23rd and 24th March. It was great to see a good contingent from Northern NSW there! It was interesting to hear Tim Low talk about how protecting and buffering refugia is the way to protect species against extinction rather than creating corridors.

It was mind blowing to hear from Philip Moran from Noosa Landcare who have over 20 staff including Rachel Lyons their business development manager who's sole job is to work on joint projects and apply for funding!

The stand out talk for me was Dr Peggy Eby from the University of New South Wales who told us all about how grey headed flying foxes are moving into smaller camps from larger ones. Previously they would do this in times of stress or low food and then move back into their larger camps but this has not happened for the last few years. They have remained in their smaller camps, many located close to suburban areas. You can find a great article here: <http://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/business-law/not-my-backyard-how-live-alongside-flying-foxes-urban-australia>

I also enjoyed the talk from Maximo Bottaro from Southern Cross University who has compared the genetic diversity between remnant rainforest trees and nursery seedlings. His findings showed that the best way to give your plantings the greatest genetic diversity is to buy you plants from a number of nurseries. Maximo took samples from 3 local northern NSW nurseries – but he wouldn't tell us which results were for which nurseries 😊

Koala Connections Conference Videos

Videos of presentations from last years Koala Connections Conference are now live on the Tweed Shire Council YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/tweedshirecouncil>



Land for Wildlife



The Fear Factor: How the Peril of Predators can Transform a Landscape

by Jom Robbins Yale Environment 360



Biologists are developing a deeper understanding of how the terror felt by prey creates a major — and greatly under-appreciated — behavioral dynamic that ripples through all kinds of ecosystems.

On a beach in the Gulf Islands off the coast of southern British Columbia, biologist Liana Zanette lashed speakers to a tree for a special broadcast. It wasn't music, and it wasn't played for people. It was the sharp sound of barking dogs — aimed at a population of bold raccoons.

Instead of being nocturnal, as raccoons usually are, these animals had also grown accustomed to feeding during the day. Wandering away from the security of forests, they traveled far out onto the exposed tidal flats to look for worms, clams, and other food, unconcerned about being eaten because predators in the area are rare. Bears and wolves had long been extirpated. Only the occasional dog brought there by locals threatened their utopia. So for two months, Zanette blasted out two sounds — barking dogs, and, as a control, barking seals and sea lions, which posed no predation threat.

The effort to restore a semblance of fear to this raccoon nirvana enjoyed marked success. As Zanette reported in a paper in *Nature Communications*, the raccoons spent two-thirds less time feeding in the tidal zones when the electronic dogs barked, which resulted in 81 percent more fish being found in the pools and some 60 percent more worms and red rock crabs.

Welcome to the ecology of fear. Many biologists think that the terror felt by prey creates a major — and greatly under-appreciated — behavioral dynamic that ripples through all kinds of ecosystems. In fact, it likely has more impact on an ecosystem than the actual predation itself, because one snarling predator can change the feeding behavior of many individuals without killing them.

<http://e360.yale.edu/features/the-fear-factor-how-the-peril-of-predators-can-transform-a-landscape>

FUNDING

Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants

Landcare and volunteer based community groups are invited to apply for a grant of up to **\$10,000 (ex GST)** to fund projects that focus on improving biodiversity through the restoration of habitat for Australia's native flora and fauna.



Projects must directly restore, protect or enhance habitat for Australia's native flora and fauna. Applications close: 19th April 2017 (5.00pm EST)

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/funding-opportunities/2017-habitat-restoration-grant/>

Landcare Australia Sustainable Agriculture Grants

Landcare Australia's 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Grants program will open next week! These grants will support Landcare and farming groups to undertake sustainable agriculture projects and activities. Eligible groups will be invited to apply for a grant of up to **\$10,000.00 (ex GST)** to fund sustainable agriculture projects that protect or improve the environment while enhancing farming productivity, through the adoption of sustainable farming practices and / or increased knowledge and capacity. A total funding pool of **\$100,000.00 (ex GST)** will be available to support successful applications. <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/funding-opportunities/landcare-australias-sustainable-agriculture-grants-2017/>



Noxious Weeds information booklet

Rous County Council has produced a very handy noxious weed identification booklet that also includes information on control techniques.

Before a weed is declared to be noxious it must meet certain criteria and the community must be consulted about the proposed declaration. It must meet the following criteria:

Need – the weed has, or could have, serious adverse effects on agriculture.

Benefit – a significant benefit to agriculture, the environment, or the community can be expected from the declaration.

Means – there are reasonable and enforceable means available to control the weed as categorised.

Intent – there is a firm intention by the local control authority, or the government, to implement a planned program to control the weed as categorised.

Weed distribution – the weed does not occur in NSW, or is of limited distribution, and has the potential to become more widespread.

Outcome – for a species to remain categorised, the local control authority must maintain an effective control program.

The booklet is available for download at

<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/file.asp?q=RES-AVH-18-03-64>

NOXIOUS WEEDS NSW FAR NORTH COAST



Weed of the Month



This month's weed of the month is Broad-leaf Paspalum, Warrel Grass *Paspalum wettsteinii*. A tufted perennial grass to 1 m high originating from South America. The leaves have a sheath (basal part of the leaf) with fine tubercle-based hairs (swollen at base of hair) and long hairs at the orifice. The leaf blade is 20 mm wide and hairy. The flowers and seeds are held in lateral branches (racemes), 3-10. It flowers in mid Autumn and fruits in November to March. This grass will grow in dappled to low light forming a dense ground cover which will inhibit seedling regeneration. It also establishes a large seed bank in the soil.



Cecropia

Pond apple – a weed of national significance

The class 1 noxious weed, Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*), has been detected on the Far North Coast of NSW. Regarded as one of Australia's worst weeds, it has been classified as a Weed of National Significance due to its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. The weed has already had devastating effects on the wet tropic bioregion of Far North Queensland where it has invaded over 2,000 hectares of environmentally valuable mangrove forest.

Pond apple is a member of the Annonaceae family and shares the same genus (*Annona*) as Custard apple, Soursop and Cherimoya, and was originally introduced as a rootstock for these commercially valuable exotic fruits.

The tree is distinguishable by its 20-30mm diameter creamy-white to light-yellow flower, and its fruit, which is similar to a smooth-skinned Custard apple, is 50-150mm in diameter and contains around 140 pumpkin-like seeds.



If you suspect you have found an infestation or would like to learn more about Pond Apple or any of our other High Priority Species, visit www.fncw.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 6623 3847.

WORKING BEES - why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. **Please always contact the groups co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!**

Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4th Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park
CONTACT: Jordan Moore brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140
or David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay
CONTACT: Veda Turner vedaturner@gmail.com 0427 857 991

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby
CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Ian Parer ianparer@hotmail.com

Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2nd Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 rdeheer1@bigpond.com

South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden robyn.bolden@australis.net 6680 1970

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month
CONTACT: Helen Brown hellyh@bigpond.com 6685 4964

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah
CONTACT: Bela Allen bela_allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
 - Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview>
 - Bangalow River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
 - Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
 - Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
 - Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
 - Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
 - Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
 - EnviTE www.envite.org.au
 - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
 - Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
 - Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
 - Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
 - 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



This newsletter is funded by North Coast Local Land Services and supported by Byron Shire Council.

